



Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

April 2017



Gratitude for Creation & Evolution

Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray

As Spring comes into fullness in the desert, we turn our attention to the theme of Creation and Evolution. This month, we will honor Earth Day and witness the first ever Scientists March on Washington. What times we live in! At UUCP, we are in our own time of creation and evolution as our Board of Trustees imagines a set of long-term strategic goals that will help us live into our vision of being a spiritual community for our time, *for this time*.

Another way to think about the theme of creation and evolution is as change and how we respond to change. I have been thinking about this in the context of the dramatic changes we are experiencing in society and globally. Our world is more connected now than ever before and yet, in

this time, we see a dramatic rise in nationalism in the U.S. and many countries. At a time when people are working, talking, connecting, doing business more readily across borders, politicians are emphasizing border walls and travel bans. Is it denial or fear motivating these responses? Spiritual teachings tell us that denial and resistance just create more suffering—that awareness and acceptance are the path to liberation from suffering, the path to compassion.

Of course, it is complicated. The internet and social media help us connect to people and events all over the world. It also provides unprecedented access to information (and misinformation) at one's fingertips. It fuels creativity and new ideas and opportunity. But, just like the printing press is seen as partially responsible for the Protestant Reformation,

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The Financial Keys to an Evolved Congregation

Richard Plattner

Chair, Capital Planning Committee

Our Combined Stewardship & Capital Campaign:

Every year we raise money to make our ministry possible—to nurture our Children's Ministry program, our worship and music ministries, to being a community people can count on to speak out for human rights. That's Stewardship. (Some of y'all didn't need that explanation, but I'd be embarrassed to tell you how many years I didn't understand that after I started at UUCP by singing in the choir.) Without the stewardship pledges (and payments; don't forget the payments!), our ability to serve our mission and realize our vision would dry up and blow away. With the ongoing financial support of our members,

UUCP has been steadily growing and expanding the scope of our ministry—doing more things for more people, and even doing them better.

Every now and again we need to confront challenges beyond the scope of our annual budget—extraordinary building maintenance, expanding our staff, new construction, that sort of thing. When this happens we run a Capital Campaign, and gather pledges (and payments) over and above our annual Stewardship giving. Some folks make one payment, but most pay their Capital pledge over three years. Some are able to make stock donations toward a Capital pledge; others make an additional cash donation above their stewardship pledge.

2017 is one of those years with some extraordinary challenges. The current political situation

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The Evolution of a Congregation

Benjie Messer

Music Director

Our congregation just turned 70! “First Unitarian Church of Phoenix” was officially incorporated on March 2, 1947.

The records of how our congregation was created, and how it’s evolved over its 70 years, are its archives. The UUCP archives include documents from throughout our history, starting before our founding and continuing through the present, and they’re updated and added to every year. In the spirit of April’s worship theme of Creation and Evolution, I’d like to tell you a little about the archives, the library that describes the creation and evolution not just of UUCP’s music program but of the congregation itself.

Archives don’t just appear out of thin air, and central to any good library is a good librarian. Charlotte Carl-Mitchell has been our official archivist and historian since 2006, when she inherited the position from Gretchen Manker, wife of minister emeritus Ray Manker. Gretchen was the first to collect and organize the archives. Trained as a librarian, Charlotte has done quite a bit of research into our congregation’s history. She acquired documents related to UUCP’s founding from the Unitarian Universalist Association’s collection at the Harvard University Library. She filed a freedom of information request with the FBI to find out if they had created files on UUCP or on Rev. Manker during the McCarthy era, when we were regularly accused of being a communist front. (They hadn’t.) With Dale Fisher, Charlotte created the photo set of UUCP’s ministers that hangs in our main hallway, and she’s completing a 36-page illustrated history of UUCP’s last 70 years.

That illustrated history isn’t available yet, but much of our archives are online and easy to browse. On the UUCP website under the “About” tab is a page titled “Our History,” which includes a four-minute video and a timeline describing the congregation’s founding and the key events in its

history (<http://www.phoenixuu.org/about-us/our-stories/history/>). Also under “About” is the “Founding Family” essay, which tells the life stories of Isabelle Johnson (the namesake of our Johnson Room), Isabelle’s daughter Frances, and Frances’ husband William Bishop. (Find this at <http://www.phoenixuu.org/about-us/our-stories/history/founding-family/>.)

Most of us will never need to dig deeper into the UUCP archives than these summaries, but they do go deeper. Back issues of all our recent publications are under the “Publications” tab of our website. These include our weekly newsletter, *Compass*; our monthly journal, *Horizons* (which you’re reading right now); our yearly program catalog, *Connections*; and our Annual Reports, the year-in-review reports of every UUCP ministry and committee. Of course, for the bulk of UUCP’s history, nothing was digitized, and our paper archives include minutes of board meetings, membership directories, newsletter articles and obituaries, building plans, records of programs and committees, scrapbooks, photographs and more. The paper archives are not available for browsing freely, so if you ever want to find something in them, Charlotte would be your best guide.

Many of us are interested in learning and telling the stories of our own creation and evolution—what our life and our families have been like, where we come from, and how we got to where we are. To learn and tell the stories of UUCP has required not just the disciplined organization of a librarian but a love for the congregation and a curiosity about history. Thank you, Charlotte, for bringing all of these strengths to your work as UUCP’s archivist! And if anyone reading this article has similar strengths and is looking for another way to contribute to the congregation, talk to Charlotte—there’s room for more than one person on the archives team. It’s good work, and it helps all of us understand the creation and evolution of the congregation. □



The Stories We Tell

Katie Resendiz

Director, Children's Ministries

This year, our children's ministry curriculum has focused on the stories we tell. We know that stories are important and have learned that the stories we tell shape the lives we live. We've made story cubes, performed skits, listened as historical figures came alive through biography and learned to convey what is most important to each of us. We dug deeper examining the fallacy of hero and villain tropes, the strange aspirations of princesses, and what it means when a whole community embraces a story as part of their history. Our journey has been textured by local actions, national politics, and world news. In the year of "fake news," we been sorting through our narratives.

Our high school group, YRUU, has spent the year renewing and refreshing their program. The class has grown from 5 to 14. The group has come together—most often writing, debating, playing, and more than anything else, sharing their own stories. This year we implemented "curriculum overnights." The first was a night focused on money, money, money. We talked personal finance, global banking, and learned a whole lot about ourselves through an intense game of mock horse races. In February, the students spent a night hearing cross-

and indigenous activists whose faith guide their actions. The following day, our YRUU youth joined with UUs from across Arizona at the state legislature, meeting with the representatives, hearing from UUs in office, and proudly representing UUCP.

Our middle school Coming of Age class explored the stories that guide faith for UUCP congregants and other religious communities in the valley. Working closely with UUCP member mentors, the students examined their own beliefs of truth, creation, death, and community. They have delved into the tension of holding and honoring multiple narratives. They visited a Catholic Church, a Buddhist Temple, and the Islamic Cultural Center. At each they met with and learned from its members. They close their year giving words to their own credo as they become full members of our theologically diverse, radically inclusive, and justice-centered community.

As teachers we have had an amazing year—creating space to hold story upon story, to honor myth, and honor the value our specific congregation places in science. We've watched the students and families learn to navigate a political climate different than what many were expecting. We've keenly felt narratives pushing and pulling against one another, working always to ensure that the prevailing story of UUCP not be one of harm, fear, or pain.

Next year we shift from storytelling to building a sense of Home. We want the children of UUCP to feel ownership, stewardship, and love for the congregation and the campus. We want them to be grounded here in their faith community, feeling safe and confident. We'll heed our minister's advice to "not be alone right now," by working with families to explicitly build community. As teachers, we will shift our structure to create teams focused on learning modalities. We'll continue to grow and shift and grow and shift as the children, families, and community calls us to generate hospitality and vitality. And as we move forward, we'll continue to listen, live, and shape the stories we tell. □

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sector approaches to political activism: small businesses making community change, civil defense models that both fit and didn't with our UU values,



Creating & Evolving Movements for Justice

Emrys Staton

Director of Pastoral Care & Justice Ministries

As we all find ways to grapple with the quickly changing political and social landscape under Trump, I find it hard to keep up with all new political and activist groups springing up. A new era is unfolding that finds a lot of us wanting to deepen current engagements with justice work, and others coming to meetings and events for the first time.

For me, I have a short list of questions I ask myself as I get involved with a new group (or help start a new group). I offer some of these reflections as a guide, and would enjoy hearing if you have any criteria of your own.

1. Is anyone else already doing something similar? In a large metropolitan area like Phoenix, it is nearly impossible to know about all the activist groups that exist, especially with a major university with multiple campuses in the mix. But I want to know if a new effort is duplicating existing effort, or would even be in competition. I also want to know if I could plug into existing work; however, some groups might not have the capacity to handle new people. In that case, can we find ways to collaborate?
2. Who is in leadership, and does it include those directly affected by the issue? This was always an important discussion during my years in Tucson, where I was involved with No More Deaths doing humanitarian and political work along the border. Our core group was comprised of a majority of white U.S. citizens. We often sought input from the immigrant community to guide our work, and over the years built partnerships with immigrant-led organizations. Recently, I was at a meeting of a group working on a prison divestment campaign, and nearly everyone in the group had some personal or family experience with incarceration. My role is really to learn from and support their work and follow their lead in

developing the campaign strategy.

3. How are oppressions dealt with in the group? We hear a lot about racism, sexism, patriarchy, homophobia, and other forms of oppression that are very present in our society. Those oppressions don't magically disappear in justice-oriented groups. So I look for concrete ways that a group acknowledges and deals with oppression when it comes up. For example, does the leadership of a group ignore someone who brings up an issue, or are they willing to engage and, if necessary, intervene? Simply put, is there a system of accountability in place?
4. Finally, how does this group help me grow? I often ask myself: "Why am I here?" Is it because it makes me feel better about myself? Or can I identify how my skills and knowledge contribute to the group's ability to work on its mission? I find there is a balance that includes both, but ultimately, I need to be aware where my ego is calling for validation and have a way to keep that in check. One thing that I have seen some groups do well is make space for some kind of processing and reflection. There's a great opportunity for personal growth that can happen in justice movements. Another thing I look for is a group that is multigenerational—when a group includes children through elders, I feel better about its health and stability.

...justice is not just an external goal, but must be part of the internal process if it is real.

Just as I wrote this list, several more ideas came to my mind. I personally tend to favor groups that operate on consensus decision making and with horizontal leadership structure—as well as groups

that can articulate feminist, abolitionist, and anti-racist principles. I think that justice is not just an external goal, but must be part of the internal process if it is real. We create and model the justice we seek in the world by our own activism, which means that many of the most cutting edge movements today look and sound different than those of the past. Even our UU congregations are evolving our philosophy/theology as a response to the lessons learned in activist campaigns founded on feminist, abolitionist, and anti-racist principles.

I believe that many of our justice and religious ancestors have fought really hard for us to learn the lessons from the past and bring them into our present movements. So ultimately, I feel an obligation to keep pushing myself and the organizations I'm with to be as thoughtful and intentional as possible. Which is the basis of Unitarian Universalism as a covenantal faith—we place a high value on being in right relationship with one another while we walk the path together. □

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has caused a surge in new visitors and members, along with an increased urgency to participate in more social justice action in the community. Now more than ever our members and our neighbors need the work that UUCP does. And so part of our Capital Campaign is a bridge-the-gap fund to help invest in our Director of Justice and Pastoral ministry to help our congregation meet the needs of the time, while our operating budget grows to fully fund it.

We also have an old, obsolete, inefficient HVAC system, that not only wastes water and electricity, but is expensive to maintain and one of these days may become impossible to repair. Healthy congregations live far longer than any of the members, and our congregation is growing and thriving in our 56-year-old building. We need to show the building some love so it remains a comfortable, welcoming place.

And we need to make it an even more welcoming place. Although we have added accessible entrances in recent years, we still have too many barriers to be welcoming to folks with mobility issues. We need a smooth, gently graded path that will allow everyone access to the front door, as well as a smooth paved surface to the northwest parking lot and a new entrance to the sanctuary's west door.

And we have a stretch goal, to transform the patio area into a more comfortable, shaded space that will be more useful, beautiful and better allow activities for children and adults.

Why do we have a deadline for pledges?

We need deadlines because we have to know how much we can spend in the foreseeable future. Probably obvious to many folks, but I remember not understanding and thinking "I'll just give when I'm ready to. UUCP will appreciate all gifts whenever they come—but we can't sign construction contracts in the dark. The bank will loan us the money to start building based on pledges, but "If we build it, they will give" is not a slogan that moves even the most generous banker to action!

What do we need and when do we need it?

For Stewardship, we need to increase the budget a modest 5% to \$540,000. For the Capital Campaign, we need to raise \$1.5 million (and we might need another \$200,000 to fully realize our stretch goal). The good news is, at the time of this publication, we have already raised \$171,479 toward Stewardship, and \$995,940 for the Capital Campaign. That's a great start!

Please turn in your pledge forms before April 16 so we can announce the totals that day at our one-service Celebration Sunday. Thank you for your generosity. Together we are living into our vision of being a Spiritual Community for Our Time. □



Breathe In, Breathe Out

Jim Allen

Member, Board of Trustees

Breathe in, Hold your Breath,
Breathe out.

Breathe in, Hold your Breath,
Breathe out.

This is a calming exercise sometimes performed as part of a time of meditation at UUCP. During this practice, Reverend Susan may mention that plants produce the inhaled oxygen and plants take up the carbon dioxide that we exhale as part of a geochemical cycle. Beyond this cycle, the presence of oxygen in our atmosphere has had a very broad impact on our global ecosystem. We can see this impact when we travel through the Grand Canyon and the striking layers of colors. As you travel down to the canyon floor to the Colorado River, you can examine fossils and minerals formed in the past.

By carefully characterizing radio-isotopes in geological formations from throughout the world, scientists have determined that the Earth is 4.5 billion years old. The Early Earth was inhospitable to life except for simple early bacteria as the atmosphere contained very little oxygen. However, the Earth evolved and the geological layers formed since 2.5 billion years ago show a sudden burst of reds due to the presence of iron oxides (rust). This Archean signature reflects the evolution of simple bacteria into organisms that could perform the photosynthetic process of converting water into oxygen. These

photosynthetic organisms thrived and made the atmosphere rich in oxygen, allowing the evolution of mammals, and eventually humans.

Without the evolution of photosynthesis, our atmosphere would have remained devoid of oxygen and the development of life as we know it would not have happened. For the last several thousands of years, the atmosphere has been poised in a constant state as the production and use of oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide has been balanced. However, this balance has been disrupted since the industrial revolution by the increased production of carbon dioxide by human activity. Since carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, this increase has started to disrupt weather patterns and is increasing the overall temperature of the Earth.

Breathe in, Hold your Breath, Breathe out.

Breathe in, Hold your Breath, Breathe out.

Next time you perform the calming exercise, be mindful of how our lives are coupled with all life forms, bacteria, animals, and plants as well as the entire geosphere. As you breath in, consider how the oxygen in your lungs reflects the balance of oxygen and other gases in the atmosphere established by the evolution of organisms in the past, and how breathing out will influence the outcomes of evolution in the future. □

There is a grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms, or into one, and that whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning, endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being evolved.

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*

Welcoming vs. Othering

Sunday, April 30, 9:00 AM

In this time of growth for our congregation, how do we welcome visitors in a way that our vision calls us: as radically inclusive? How do we bring a sense of belonging to our new members? This workshop will deep dive into what it means to Welcome. Members of the Welcoming Ministry (greeters and ushers) as well as previous or current STARS are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in learning more.

Contact Janine.gelsinger@phoenixuu.org to sign up. A minimum of 6 participants is needed.



You may notice these red “Safety Stars” on member name tags around the congregation. Some members of our Welcoming Ministry’s Usher and Greeter teams have been working together on awareness around safety and preparedness. In the unlikely event of an emergency, members with red stars will be trained to keep you safe. Follow their directions, and look to them for help. Thank you, Safety Stars!

Unicare News

Please lift up in your thoughts those in our community who share their transitions, sorrows, celebrations and wishes—that they may find strength in your love and friendship. For more information, or to get involved, contact Vicki Myers, Unicare Coordinator, at unicare@phoenixuu.org.

Milestone Celebrations:

- Sky Williams, child of Tim Allen and JoAnn Williams, shares the joy of having been accepted into the Starr King School for the Ministry. Congratulations, Sky!
- Sylvia and Jagdev Sharma welcome with joy the birth of their second grandson, Simon Lawrence Gilbert, born February 16 to their daughter Susan Sharma Gilbert and her husband Nick of Colorado Springs.

Healing Wishes & Transitions:

- Please keep in your thoughts or prayers those in our community who are preparing for medical procedures, and those who are providing healing support to loved ones.

Other News:

- Stephanie Hart shares the joy of a new job in Victoria, BC, and that after two years, she and Wynstan will reunite with her husband David Johnson. □



Traveling 2nd Friday

Syrian Refugees Landing in Greece with Claude Guldner

April 14, 7:00 PM in UUCP Sanctuary



Join us for a one-hour presentation of Traveling 2nd Friday on April 14 (Good Friday). Claude Guldner will share his experience working with the World Health Organization's commission on Exploitation and Abuse of Children since 1984, dealing with a variety of issues related to children while visiting 175 countries. Refugee issues are not just recent—for 20+ years, we have seen refugees from areas that were once part of the Soviet Union, from sinking islands in the Pacific, from civil wars in much of Africa and the Middle East, etc. The WHO strives to address issues that include trafficking, child prostitution, overcrowded schools, exploitation in labor fields, forced marriage, early pregnancy, orphanages, and understaffed day care facilities, in addition to standard activities to provide adequate medical services, vaccinations, clean water supplies, food and shelter.

Please join us! Everyone is welcome. Questions: call Barbara Cawthorne at 480-994-1452.

Everything in the world began with a **yes**.

One molecule said yes to another molecule and life was born. Clarice Lispector

Pathway to Membership



Thursdays, April 6 + 13, 6:45 PM

Pathway to Membership is a class that invites you to meet with other folks considering membership, and hear more from ministers, leaders, and recently joined members about what it means to be a member of our congregation. You will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and UUCP, get to know each other in groups, and ask questions.

The class ends with an invitation to join by signing the membership book and pledging your support. There is no pressure to join. We recognize membership is a commitment and we hope people will take their time before joining.

To register, stop by the welcome table in the lobby, register on the UUCP website, or contact Janine Gelsinger at janinegelsinger@phoenixUU.org.

Community Night Dinners

This April, we continue our Community Night tradition. Every Thursday evening, join us at 6:00 PM in the Johnson Room for food and friendship. Each week features the talents of the fabulous cooks in our congregation: two main dishes (one vegetarian), as well as sides, salad and bread. A donation of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child under ten, or \$10 per family, covers the cost of the meal. If you'd like to join, but have dietary restrictions or preferences, you are welcome to bring your own meal.

Following our community dinner, Thursday evenings feature many activities: small groups, adult faith development, Pathway to Membership, and more. Check out the UUCP website to sign up. Chalice Kids childcare is available 6:30-8:30.

April Menu:

4/6: We are firing up the grill on the patio to make hot dogs cooked to order! Find buns and all the fixins, accompanied by southwest-style mac and cheese, with homemade bread, and salad with a fresh lemon vinaigrette from Chef Judith Breuer.

4/13: Teri & Donna Talbot, our community night coordinators, will finish off the year making one of our favorites: Beef Stroganoff! A vegetarian pasta dish alternative will be available. Served alongside a Spring Greens & Veggies Salad with Cheese & Nuts.

4/20: Come enjoy a hearty breakfast for dinner: including waffles, pancakes, scrambled eggs, home fries, and cereal. Vegan and gluten free options available! Kids (and those who feel young at heart) wear your Pajamas! Chefs Amanda Rogers & Emrys Staton will be in the kitchen.

4/27: Community Night End-of-Year Celebration and Chef Appreciation Night! What is a Navajo Taco? Come experience the tradition with Chef/Artist/Community Organizer Mario! Dine on traditional Frybread, with choice of beef chili beans or

vegan chili beans. Top with optional mixed cheeses, greens (spinach/arugula), diced tomatoes, sliced onions, sautéed shishito peppers, picante style salsa or vegan creme salsa. Add a side of blue corn mush (grits), and end with pine nut cookies or a chipotle brownie. We will also celebrate our chefs for the year this evening, so don't miss it!

If you have questions about Community Night, or you'd like to contribute as a Sous Chef (sides, salad, or bread), contact JanineGelsinger@phoenixuu.org. If you enjoy contributing, but are unable to commit in advance, bringing a dessert to share is always welcome.

Memorial Garden

*friends whose ashes were interred
in our Memorial Garden
this month in past years
are still remembered*

Jesse O. Allen
Lucy Burrell Allen
Irv Bezman
Virginia Ann Bliklen
Bruce H. Clayton
Eleanor Dana-Mast
Edward Ellison Davis
Hanna B. Parker
Robert William Riddle
Lucy Buckner Wells

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mation—as people took the access to information to question monarchy and religious orthodoxy—today there is upheaval as the world opens up and people see new possibilities. This may be especially true in the Muslim world. Added to this upheaval of ideas, we see increasing extreme weather and rising water levels that are displacing communities and forcing migration, creating more change and instability.

And yet, one of the most important spiritual lessons we can learn is how to honor grief and our own suffering. It is said that “change is the only constant in life.” And change almost always comes with grief. Even good change like a new opportunity means saying goodbye. The longer we live, the more we face loss. Relationships end, death takes loved ones from us. We lose sometimes at work, in politics, in life. In time, we lose our youth, our health, we have to say goodbye to things we can no longer do. This is another way of looking at one of the four noble truths of Buddhism—that all life is suffering.

Of course this is only part of the story. The longer we live, the more opportunities we have to enjoy our loved ones, to make new connections. We also experience success in moments, fall in love, maybe have children and watch them grow. We know love, we see beauty, we gain wisdom and experience more awe and gratitude. And the better our capacity to experience the losses helps us to see the gifts more clearly.

I share all of this to invite us to reflect on how we experience change in our lives. Some people seem more predisposed to look for opportunity within change, while others are more likely to feel anxiety, fear or despair. But given that change is the constant, learning to better develop our ability to honor our fear, our grief, to be more aware of our responses to change is an important spiritual practice for this living. There is wisdom in learning to welcome these emotions as they are, to see them clearly and make room for them.

Maxine Hong Kingston writes, “In a time of destruction, create something.”

Here is an invitation to think about not just

the calls to resistance at this time (which are necessary), but also the calls to create and to creativity. As I navigate my own responses to the uncertainty of the times we live in—sometimes fear, sometimes clarity, sometimes heartbreak, sometimes commitment—I think about this call to create, to respond to change and loss with creativity. To move with the spirit. To see change as an opportunity ourselves to create, to change, to evolve. As a religious community for our time, it is about creating a community that reflects and models the present we want to see unfolding—diverse, inclusive, practicing compassion, joyful, caring, empowering.

As we dive into this theme of creation and evolution, I invite you to think about how you navigate and welcome the changes, the losses that are always a part of living—and consider ways to strengthen your own capacity to welcome these experiences, as they are, without denial or resistance, instead learning and creating from them. □

Life is always a rich and steady
time when you are waiting for
something to happen or to hatch.

E.B. White

*Love is the only reality and it is not
a mere sentiment. It is the ultimate
truth that lies at the heart of
creation.*

Rabindranath Tagore

April Worship Theme: **Creation & Evolution**

April 4 & 9 at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

April 4: *Money & Real Life*

Service Leader: Rev. Roger Jones

How we handle money can be a source of insight about how our spiritual approach to life developed and how it has evolved for us over the years. With stories about family life and overlooked inheritances, Roger Jones invites us to think about our personal relationships, our sense of self, our money, and those funny places where they overlap.

April 9: *In the Valley of the Shadow: Grace*

Service Leader: Rev. Roger Jones

What sustains you during a time of wandering or confusion? What stays with us when we feel alone or lost? The Jewish Passover story is one of many about times in between security and clarity, times when confusion, hardship, or doubt are weighing us down. Spiritual writer and therapist David Richo suggests that in the midst of a journey through shadows and rocky places, can we find grace in curiosity, patience, and presence.

A native of Indiana and Illinois, Rev. Roger Jones is the senior minister of the UU Society of Sacramento, where he began serving as family minister in 2008. Before that he served 10 years in Sunnyvale, CA, and one year as interim minister in Bloomington, MN. Current volunteer work includes the Board of his local YMCA and Susan Frederick-Gray's campaign to be UUA president.

Move to one-service schedule at 10:30 AM

April 16: *Celebration Sunday!*

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Come celebrate and be a part of the Combined Stewardship and Capital Campaign! Listen as we share testimonies of the difference this congregation makes, in our dreams for our future and a very special telling of one of Rev. Susan's all time favorite stories (especially for Easter!).

April 23: *When Humans Become Gods...*

Service Leader: Emrys Staton

Artificial intelligence, genetic modification, and today's questions about the capability of human creation.

April 30: *Flower Communion / Youth Sunday*

Service Leaders: Katie Resendiz & High School Youth (YRUU)

Community members are asked to each bring a flower to service. Flower Communion celebrates the beauty, strength, and diversity of community and marks the end of our Sunday School year. Our youth members will reflect on a year of education, organizing, action, resistance and our Sixth Principle, the affirmation and promotion of peace, liberty, and justice for all. We will also honor the transition as our high school seniors depart and rising 9th graders are brought into the circle.



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