

# St. Cloud UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship

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## February 2023

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, February 5: How the Women Got In: A Continuing Story of Balance and Joy – Rev. Myo-O Habermas-Scher**

For the first five years of the Buddha's teaching career, there were no women in his community. Then his father, King Śuddhodana, died, following which his aunt and fifty of his clanswomen descended upon him to strongly request, nay, demand, to be allowed to practice his teachings. Because of them, Myo-O can share this story with us today. The implications of this story filter through our lives twenty-five hundred years later. The implications ask that we examine how we understand who we are, and how we name each other and how we function together.

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, February 12: "Love is the power that holds us together"** (title taken from proposed UU values)

Our musicians host this Valentine program of songs and stories. You are invited to contribute by sharing poems, songs, readings – or anything else that might fit – for Valentine's Day. Contact Greg Erickson at [whiteray@charter.net](mailto:whiteray@charter.net) by Feb. 5, with your ideas or offers for participation. If you have a song to sing but need (simple) backing, the UUF musicians might be able to help, so don't be bashful! Everyone is invited to join us and enjoy a morning focused on love, in all its many forms. (Note, the Membership Committee will sponsor a waffle brunch after this program!)

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, February 19: Indigenous Rights and Climate Justice – Rev. Terri Burnor**

In this legislative year, we have an amazing opportunity to build a local renewable economy that supports vibrant Native and non-Native communities living in right relationship with the land. Rev. Terri Burnor, a UU minister on staff with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, will invite us to join the "green road" grounded in our values and our dreams for greater equity and justice in Minnesota.

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday, February 26: We Are: Promises Kept And Broken – roddy biggs, UUA ministerial candidate**

We are many things: Connected, Stronger Together, Loves Hands In The World, Creating Justice, and Caring For One Another and The Earth! These are the promises we make, the promises we strive to keep, and the promises we are known to break. In this service, we explore Who We Are as Unitarian Universalists in the 21st century. Join us as we ask ourselves what promises we keep and break as we strive to live our best lives grounded in and by our living faith tradition of Unitarian Universalism.

**Sunday services are presented in the Fellowship building and on Zoom.**

*See article on page 4 regarding whether presenters will be in person or on ZOOM.*

Visit [www.uufstcloud.org](http://www.uufstcloud.org) for information to join on Zoom.

Masks are recommended in the building. Coffee/tea will be served following the services.

#### **To contribute to SCUUF:**

- 1) Send a check to SCUUF, PO Box 805, St. Cloud, MN 56302, or
- 2) Make a contribution by debit/credit card or PayPal by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/Donate-SCUUF>

## **Waffles after the program!**

From the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is excited to announce it will be sponsoring a **Valentines Waffle brunch** after the service on **February 12**. This has been approved by the Board as long as the COVID numbers remain low. It will be good to be getting the next step back to “normalcy”.

## **President’s Corner**

*By Pam Peterson*

Greetings to you, Beloveds.....I’m so happy to see many of you face-to-face and others on their Zoom faces! It’s exciting to get back to Circle Dinners, Book Club, and other Fellowship activities. I truly appreciate everyone who lends a hand to the work of the Fellowship. Together ALL OF US can keep this boat afloat!! You are appreciated.

I feel that we had a very successful World Religion Day on January 21<sup>st</sup> that we co-sponsored with members of the Baha’i Community of Central Minnesota. It was held at the St. Cloud Library and was attended quite well by a diverse group. There were participants representing these religious groups: Catholic, Jewish, Islam, Buddhist, Baha’i, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, and Unitarian Universalism. Each group presented for about 5 minutes and a great deal of conversation took place after the event. We had a UU closing reading at the end of our gathering which I would like to share with you. It’s not in our hymnbook, but I found it on UUA site.

"Go now in peace. Deeply regard each other. Truly listen to each other. Speak what each of you must speak. Be ready in any moment to disarm your own heart, and always live as if a realm of love has begun. So be it. Blessed be." — by Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway

On January 15th, Kay Slama from Willmar gave a presentation about the UUA’s process of reviewing and updating Article II. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to see this; but, we talked about it at our Board meeting and plan to have a Congregational Meeting about this likely by April. (FYI: If it passes the General Assembly delegate vote in 2023, it will require a 2/3 majority vote at General Assembly in 2024 to become the new Article II of the Bylaws.)

Kudos to Brenda Graves for initiating “Cheerful Conversations” centered round pleasant topics. It occurs on Zoom every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. You can contact Brenda Graves if you would like to participate.

It’s wonderful that we continue to have visitors nearly every week. Please make them feel welcome as you make connections with them through conversation. I look forward to seeing growth in our community and having input from visitors and new members.

I continue to share information from the book **GROWING A BELOVED COMMUNITY** by Tom Owen-Towle. The 7th hallmark of a healthy congregation is “Look Back, Around, and Ahead.”

“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die. Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.” —George Bernard Shaw

“In pursuit of the Beloved Community, the past is cherished, the present is celebrated, and the future is charted.” (p. 51)

Genuine community doesn't just live in the present. We need to appreciate what has come before us and build on that foundation. As well, we need to have aspirations and plans for the future. “May our Unitarian Universalist congregations be sacred sites marked by our own distinctive symbols, programs, and spirit—the thin place that creatively merges the past, present, and future.” (p. 52)

We are stewards of the living tradition for which we draw inspiration and nourishment. We also want to have a welcoming circle where all ages interact in a positive and respectful manner. As a parallel to golfers who look at their next shot as the most important....In the Fellowship, what we're doing now is the most important, whether it be a Sunday service, social justice project, circle dinner, etc.

I love this description of our UU Faith: “Unitarian Universalism is faith in people, hope for tomorrow's child, confidence in a continuity that spans all time. It looks not to a perfect heaven, but toward a good earth. It is respectful of the past, but not limited to it. It is trust in growing and comfort with change. It is spiritual responsibility for a moral tomorrow.” (p. 54)

## **Article II Report to UUA Board**

By Judy Foster

As a follow up to the Jan. 15 Program on Article II, I watched the presentation of the final report to the UUA Board. I was extremely impressed with the members of the Commission (including college student Satya Mamdani from First Universalist in Minneapolis) and the members of the Board (including Kathy Burek from Michael Servetus in Fridley). I say “final,” but the report can be amended at General Assembly. It will come up for a final vote in 2024 and must receive a two-thirds majority for approval. You can read the report here: [https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc\\_rpt\\_01172023.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf).

We can choose two of our members to serve as delegates to General Assembly this year who can vote on the report and any proposed amendments. Delegates can attend online or in person in Pittsburgh.

Please review the current report and consider serving as a delegate. As a congregation, we need to decide if delegates should vote according to instructions from SCUUF or if they can vote their conscience.

## **Emergency Notification**

When inclement weather or other unsafe conditions make it necessary to cancel a hybrid Sunday Service and switch to Zoom only, we will:

1. Send a message to everyone on the email distribution list, and when possible, post on the Fellowship website [www.uufstcloud.org](http://www.uufstcloud.org) and Facebook page.
2. Call individual members who have requested to be contacted by phone. This option is for members who don't have ready access to email or internet. Unfortunately, these members will not be able to access the service via Zoom.

When in doubt about the weather or the event, members should check for an email message. Use common sense and stay home if weather or road conditions look bad.

## Program Committee News

Starting in February there are two changes regarding our use of Zoom for Sunday Services. We have set up a recurring link that will be used every Sunday from now through May. You can find it on our website and in the weekend email message from Judy. We also have activated the Closed Caption option, and it's available during Sunday Services and for all other meetings on our Zoom account. Individuals who want to use the Closed Caption option during a SCUUF Zoom program or meeting can click on the CC button at the bottom of the Zoom screen. We thank Brenda Graves and Jane Ellison for enabling this option.

Our musicians are hosting the February 12 Valentine program of songs and stories. You are invited to contribute by sharing poems, songs, readings – or anything else that might fit – for Valentine's Day. Contact Greg Erickson at [whiteray@charter.net](mailto:whiteray@charter.net) by February 5, with your ideas or offers for participation. We thank the musicians for hosting this program and we look forward to seeing how others will answer the call to participate.

In February we expect that presenters will be at the building except on February 28 when roddy biggs joins us on Zoom from Fredericksburg Virginia where he is an intern minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. On other dates winter weather and other circumstance can cause a change in plans. When that happens we will attempt to have that included in the weekend email announcement from Judy.

## Guidelines for Announcements

By Judy Foster, Communications Committee Chair

The Communications Committee recently approved the following revised policy for use of our email distribution list:

“Use of Newsletter Email Distribution List. When possible, all Fellowship announcements and articles should be submitted to the newsletter editor for the monthly newsletter. The newsletter deadline is usually during the last week of each month and an email reminder is sent to all those in leadership positions and to those who submit regularly. If an important announcement does not make it into the newsletter but needs to be sent to some or all of our membership, there are two options:

A. The person can email the announcement on their own to those people they feel should know. (Email addresses are in the directory) **or**

B. The announcement can be sent to all the people on the newsletter email distribution list by contacting the Communications Committee Chair. The Committee discourages overuse of the email list and would need to approve the item before it could be sent using the following criteria: 1) Importance 2) Time Sensitivity and 3) Fellowship relevance.”

We are working on guidelines for oral announcements on Sunday mornings, but in general we recommend that all oral announcements be sent to the President (Pam Peterson: [pamelda4@gmail.com](mailto:pamelda4@gmail.com)) in advance, that they be short (no more than a couple of sentences), and that they be UU related (SCUUF or other UU organization). Information about community events may be posted on the Community Bulletin Board in the foyer.

## **Meditation**

**Meditation will be held at the UU Fellowship at 10:30 AM on Saturday, February 4.** Masks will be optional. This will be a walking meditation, using the canvas floor labyrinth at the Fellowship. The Labyrinth is an ancient circular pathway that has appeared in many cultures. There will be an opportunity to walk the labyrinth and reflect on our experience. Tea will be available after meditation for those who wish to stay and visit. If you would like any further info, you can contact either Helen Manion ([hmanion@yahoo.com](mailto:hmanion@yahoo.com)) or Lucinda Hudson ([lucindahudson9@gmail.com](mailto:lucindahudson9@gmail.com)).

## **Announcement: UUA General Assembly (GA) is in Pittsburgh, PA this June**

Our UUA Annual GA is scheduled for June 21-25, 2023 in Pittsburgh, PA, and our congregation is able to have two delegates attend bringing their voices to the decisions. And, any number of attendees are also welcome. There are both In-Person and Virtual Registration options. Early registration ends February 28<sup>th</sup> and represents a large savings. There are numerous conference workshops to participate in on a wide array of topics, as well as volunteer opportunities. Details about this year's GA can be found at [UUA.org](http://UUA.org). Depending on how many of our members attend, our Fellowship can assist with some help with funding. Please contact Pam Peterson via email at [pamelda4@gmail.com](mailto:pamelda4@gmail.com) with any questions or if you want to be a delegate.

## **Free Red Cross CPR/AED Training Here Soon**

Our Fellowship is purchasing an AED machine and will be offering a training course for AED, CPR & Pediatric CPR in March or April. The combined course is 3.5 hours long and will be scheduled for a minimum of 8 participants (including youth) – more are welcome. The Red Cross will offer this class at our Fellowship Building. Please email Julie Peters of your interest in joining this class at [jkpeters33@gmail.com](mailto:jkpeters33@gmail.com) so you can be informed of the date offered to us. The cost of the training will be covered by the Fellowship.

## **Celebration of Life for Chuck Head**

from the Caring Committee

Lois Head has scheduled memorial events for her husband, Chuck Head, who died on December 17. A Celebration of Life service for Charles ("Chuck") Head will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Calvary Community Church at 1200 Roosevelt Rd. St. Cloud MN followed by a dinner at the St Cloud Country Club at 301 Montrose Rd. St. Cloud. On Wednesday, April 19, a Committal Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Committal Hall at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery. Before this service, there will be a Memorial Volksmarch from 9:00 a.m. to Noon starting at the Camp Ripley Town Hall with lunch to be provided starting at 11:30 a.m. For more information about the Memorial Volksmarch, please see the [AVA.org](http://AVA.org) Web site.

Contact Lois if you can help with ushering on April 15. The complete updated obituary is available at:

[Charles \("Chuck"\) Wayne Head Obituary - St. Cloud Times \(sctimes.com\)](http://sctimes.com)

## "Cheerful Conversations"

By Brenda Graves

On zoom: Tuesday, February 21st, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The topic for discussion this month is, "Where were you born, and where did you grow up?" If you would like to attend, e-mail Brenda Graves, who is in the directory, for the zoom link. This event is sponsored by the Caring Committee.

### The Caring Committee

The Caring Committee has been formed for the times in each of our lives when we need help from another person. The members of the Caring Committee are available to help members and friends of the St. Cloud UU Fellowship in a variety of ways.

Feel free to contact any member of the committee:

Linda Saupe (chairperson), Marge Bates, Hanni Epp, Doug Polley, Chris Smith,  
Charlotte Stephens, and Ron Syme.

For anyone with emergency needs, a wide range of services is available from agencies and organizations in the community. These can be accessed by calling 211 (or 800-543-7709).

## Calendar Reminders

**AVOID ZOOM CONFLICTS:** We encourage you to use the Zoom licenses for video conferencing, but please follow the standard reservation process to ensure the Zoom "meeting room" (license) is available at the time you would like to make use of it and to allow others to see planned meetings on the calendar.

Please check the online calendar on our website for scheduled in-person and Zoom meetings at [www.uufstcloud.org/calendar](http://www.uufstcloud.org/calendar). A meeting event/room reservation button to submit a form for reservation requests can be found below the calendar on the website. This same button can be used to schedule in-person and Zoom meetings. Please send an e-mail to [calendar@uufstcloud.org](mailto:calendar@uufstcloud.org) if you have any questions.

*Tom Hergert has agreed to be the contact for the Zoom license and will provide a tutorial for anyone needing to learn how to host a Zoom meeting. His contact information can be found in the UUF Directory.*

**WELCOMING CONGREGATION:** We are a welcoming congregation that seeks to be a spiritual home for people of free faith. We value the full range of human diversity, including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, affectional/sexual orientation, age, national origin, socioeconomic status, and ability.

St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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