

Outer Circle

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK NEWSLETTER

May 2016 Vol. 65 Issue 5



1818 Reservoir Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227
www.uuclr.org uuclr@uuclr.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to build a beloved community through shared worship, responsible spiritual freedom, exploration and reverence.

We are a welcoming congregation, embracing our interconnectedness, engaging with others by living our principles in our community, and working to transform our world and ourselves.



Rev. Jan Nielsen

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

It was a year ago this week when you all voted to call me to serve as your minister, a joyous day for me and the beginning of our journey

together. Over these past months, we've been getting to know one another as we walk along this path – together we've questioned and explored, laughed and cried, sung and sometimes even danced, but always we have walked together in the spirit of love.

A year ago, Roger and I began the work of moving our household from New England, a place we had grown to love, back to Arkansas, this place that throughout our years away never stopped being home to our souls. This week, Roger and I are taking another big step toward settling in here among you. Tomorrow, we will purchase a house here in Little Rock. We plan to move sometime in June, to allow the family living currently there to keep their children in place until the end of the school year. In the meantime, we again are living amid stacks of boxes, though quite happily so.

Here at your church, we are getting ready for a celebration. I hope you will join us when we gather on **May 22 at 11:00 a.m.** for the **Installation** of your seventh settled minister. My dear friend and colleague, the **Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich, Senior Minister of the All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City** will preach the sermon. There will be wonderful music from our choir and musicians and I'm told that we will share delicious food. The most important part of our worship together on that day though will be the vows we will say to one another, the promises we will make as we step forward together on our journey of

(Continued on Page 2)

Sundays in May

Join us for Sunday Worship
Our May worship theme is "Authenticity"

Thought for the month:

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

-Dr. Seuss

Questions for thought and conversation:

What does it mean to you to live an authentic life?

What would it take for you to live more fully authentic life?

What holds you back from living a fully authentic life?

Are there situations in which you find it harder to "be who you are and say what you feel"?

What might be the costs of living an authentic life?

What might be the benefits or blessings of living an authentic life?

Services

May 1 Music Sunday - Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

May 8 Mother's Day - Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

May 15 Guest: Linda Vanblaricom - "Finding My Way"

May 22 Service of Installation of the Rev. Jan K. Nielsen as our seventh settled minister Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich, Senior Minister, Preaching, All Souls Unitarian Church, New York City

May 29 Guest: Rich Roy - "Favorite Hymn and Folk Song Sing-A-Long"

In the Life of the Church

A Note from Our Board President

May is certainly one of the busiest months of the year here at the church. The annual Memorial Day Buffalo River floating weekend will be here soon. It is a family friendly event and there's lots of information on the website. Something new this year will be the Girl Scouts working on merit badges. It's not too late to sign up to come and play with us on the Buffalo.

Your church board has done yeoman work. We have a budget ready to present to the congregation this month ahead of the June annual meeting.

Wonderful things are happening at UUCLR and they will continue to happen for years to come, if we continue to grow and possess the energy and joy we have today.

It is an honor to serve this congregation.
John McNee, President

Minister's Message (continued from Page 1)

ministry. I hope you all will plan to be among the gathering as we mark this special day and honor the values that are at the core of our shared ministry.

Thank you for your trust in me. I am both honored and grateful to serve alongside you in this ministry we share. And thank you for welcoming us back home.

Love and blessings, Rev. Jan

Exploring UU Class - May 1

Want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Rev. Jan Nielsen will lead our next Exploring UU Class on May 1, at 12:30. We highly recommend this class for anyone who is considering becoming a member of UUCLR. Lunch begins at 12:30 in the Pehrson Room, and the session ends no later than 3:00 pm.

Please register for the class by emailing uuclr@uuclr.org and put "Exploring UU" in the subject line. Include your name, address and contact information. Please indicate if you need childcare or have special dietary needs for lunch that day.



Youth Luncheon Fundraiser May 15, 2016

The youth will offer their May luncheon fundraiser on **Sunday, May 15**, just before the Community Conversations. Suggested donation \$5/adult, \$3/child. Please stay for lunch, enjoy sharing a meal with your friends, and

Game Nights are Back

Sponsored by UUCLR
Interweave (LGBTQ and Friends)



Bring a favorite board game, card game, etc., or just come and play along. Also, bring your drink of choice and snacks to share.

Mark your schedule for the following dates: May 14 and June 18 at 6:30 pm, and more dates to follow.

Please feel free to bring a friend that you would like to introduce to UUCLR, in a different and fun way!

Interweave will host the game PICTONARY, set up tables for playing, and be responsible for cleanup. If you would like to volunteer to help, please email uuclr@uuclr.org.

UUCLR Girl Scouts Need Support

We are looking for assistant troop leaders and volunteers. We meet every other Wednesday at 6:00-7:00 at UUCLR. We break for winter and summer holidays, so meetings are only during the school year. Fun and educational! Please help support our wonderful young women. Please contact Warigia Bowman at 505-690-4033 or Warigia@gmail.com

Socks! Socks! Socks!

Spring is here so time to spring into action and buy socks for the sock basket. You probably planned on buying socks every month for the sock drive, but now a quarter of the year has gone by and you are saying, "I need to buy more socks to meet my personal quota."

So go ahead and buy socks for the months you missed, and top it off with extra socks for that warm moment when you know in your heart that you have really helped someone during a difficult time of life. It's okay, go ahead and give yourself a little hug.

In the Life of the Church

Community Conversations



The Transitions Task Force invites you to an afternoon of **Community Conversations** on Sunday, May 15, immediately following the Youth Fundraiser Lunch.

For the past few months the Transitions Task Force has been discussing possible scenarios for handling the anticipated future growth of UUCLR, and we want to bring you into the conversation to hear your questions, concerns and suggestions about the present situation and the future possibilities.

We've been worshipping in Thomson for several months and by now you're probably wondering what's coming next. Questions are being asked: Are we moving? Why can't we go back to worshipping in the old sanctuary? What about expanding our present facilities? Is worshipping in Thomson a forever thing? Is the growth in membership really there? Questions need to be asked, concerns need to be voiced, and suggestions need to be heard.

On May 15, we'll gather in Thomson, then break up into smaller groups, each with a facilitator and a scribe, and then we'll come back together in Thomson to hear what each group talked about.

No decision will be made this day. This is a time for talking, listening and considering what we want for the future of UUCLR as we work towards finding a solution. Feedback from these discussions will help the Task Force determine what the next step should be.

As a congregation, whatever future choice we make will work only if the majority of us are on board with the decision, so please join us and participate in the community conversations on May 15.

Your Transitions Task Force: Jerry Blackburn, Patrice O'Donoghue, Caitlin Wade, John Hill and Nancy Kimpel, Chair

The Executive Committee: John McNee, Cas Rifkin, Kater Reynolds and Rev. Jan Nielson



Young at Heart

Dear Friends,

The Young at Heart program for **May 10** features Linda Van Blaricom, who will share her experiences on her recent extraordinary adventure in Spain. You'll want to hear about and see her challenges and triumphs. \$5. lunch will be served at noon.

Please come early to visit, and to participate with a warm, friendly group of alert minds and young at heart hearts! Helpers of good will are invited to step forward and join in keeping the kitchen thriving and programs coming.

See you there!
Selma

Share-the-Plate Report

2nd Sunday

Ark Coalition for Peace & Justice \$247.59

4th Sunday

Our House \$302.00



Meditation Room

The Emerson Room in the religious education building (first door on the left) is now available as a meditation room on Sundays during the 11:00 to 12:00 hour.

This idea for a meditation space was discussed during a recent meeting of the Transitions Task Force and the Strategic Planning Committee.

Rachel Finley, Director of Religious Education (DRE), has ordered cushions for the room.

In the Life of the Church

Faith Development Offerings led by Rev. Jan Nielsen

"Listening for God": Explorations of Short Stories

Join Rev. Jan for **Listening for God**, a monthly, "drop-in, come when you can," Wednesday noontime short story discussion group. The group will probe contemporary short fiction for insights, both spiritual and intellectual, about what it means to be human. The format is based on a long-used adult faith development model called "Listening for God" but "Listening for Life" also could be an apt title. Stories will be taken from the just-released volume, **The Best American Short Stories of 2015**, edited by T.C. Boyle. We will meet from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Thomson Hall. Newcomers will always be welcome.

May 25 *You'll Apologize If You Have To*
by Ben Fowlkes

June 8 *The Fugue* by Arna Bontemps Hemenway

"How Do You See It?": Explorations of Essays

Join Rev. Jan for a monthly gathering devoted to exploring contemporary essays taken from the recently released volume, **The Best American Essays**, edited by Ariel Levy. As we read each essay on our own, we will ask, "How do I see it?" and then when we gather, we will invite one another to answer the question, "How do you see it?" We will bring our brown bag lunches and gather on Wednesdays in Thomson Hall from 12:15 to 1:15. Newcomers will always be welcome.

May 18 *My Daughter and God* by Justin Cronin

June 1 *Difference Maker* by Meghan Daum



May 8
9:00am - noon
Join Us!

We need leaf raking, mulching debris on property, other outside chores. Too big for you? There are always small jobs available.

FORUM

May 1 Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty - Furonda Brasfield

May 8 2nd Sunday Share the Plate - Just Communities of Arkansas, Ruth Shepard

May 15 Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure - Tim Carlock

May 22 6th Source of our Living Tradition - John Mize

May RE-Questors

Discussing Ruling Classes and Underclasses

Primary Reference:


The Son Also Rises: Surnames and the History of Social Mobility

By Gregory Clark

10:00 AM Sunday in the Pehrson Room

Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be.

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!



The Between the Lines Book Club will meet Monday, April 4 at 7:00pm to discuss:

Camp Nine by Vivienne Schiffer

For information: Contact Allan Ward
664-5921 or e-mail alward@ualr.edu

In the Life of the Church



Book Exchange & Recycle Sunday, May 1 Book and Children's Swap

Please bring CFL light bulbs, 4 and 8 ft. fluorescent bulbs, empty ink cartridges, and old/outdated electronics (computers, copiers, DVD players, paper shredders, printers, TVs, VCRs, phones, stereos, radios, fax machines, and microwave ovens).

Remember to bring your aluminum cans and metal every Sunday, Lance will recycle all cans collected in April.



Call for Recycle Team Volunteers

The Recycle Team is in need of one or two new volunteers. Our small team takes turns hauling home the recyclables accumulated at the church. We rotate on a monthly basis, and include the material in our recycle bin at home.

There are currently three people rotating this job, so, with one or two additions, each person would need to do this job only about three times a year. We also write a quarterly article about recycling for the Outer Circle. With four people rotating that duty, each person writes one article per year. Anybody interested in participating in this volunteer opportunity can talk to Jan Bowen at church, by phone at 803-0089, or by email at jabowen38@sbcglobal.net. Thanks in advance.

The DRE's Corner

**May 22 marks the last day
of our RE program year!**

This has been a wonderful church year, filled with a great spirit of love, growth, and learning. We don't stop gathering and growing when summer comes! We still need each other, and we still need to be the inviting church where wanderers and worshipers can land.

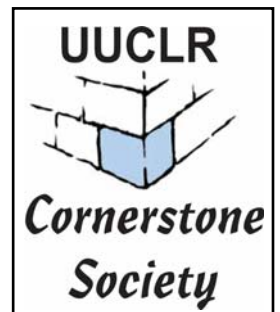
In between your summer travels, I hope you will continue to come to church and participate in RE on Sundays. We will be doing a biodiversity survey of our church woodlands, exploring various artistic media and techniques, working for social justice, and more!

If you have a passion or talent that you are interested in sharing by leading a session or two with our children this summer, contact Rachel Finley to discuss what that might look like and what support you would need.

Rachel Finley, Director of Religious Education

Cornerstone Society

The UUCLR Cornerstone Society recognizes long-time members of the church who have provided generous support by their active presence, their leadership, and their commitment to the goals of the Church.



To be eligible for nomination, the member must be at least 70 years of age and must have been a member of the Church for at least 20 years. Deceased persons who meet the above criteria may be nominated posthumously.

ANY UUCLR MEMBER may submit a letter of nomination and brief biographical sketch to the President of the Board.

These nominations will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and submitted to the Board for approval. Please contact any member of the Board for further information about a nomination.

In the Life of the Church

Memorial Day Weekend UU Gathering at the Buffalo River May 27-30

Family group camping under the stars and enjoyment of Arkansas's crown jewel, the Buffalo River National Park, has been a UUCLR tradition for more than 30 years. April is the time to place your reservations for camping and canoes for Friday, May 27 through Monday, May 30.

Go to www.uuclrbuffaloriver.org for more information, prices, suggested equipment and supplies, and a schedule of activities. Make your plans today and send your reservation in now to ensure you get a canoe or kayak. This is the recreational kickoff weekend for Arkansas summer play.

May 15 is the FINAL deadline for reservations - boats for the river can be in short supply, so please don't wait. Below is a testimonial from Linda Vanblaricom telling about all the fun to be found at the Buffalo.

Questions? Contact Nell Matthews at uuclrnell@gmail.com

☆☆☆☆ Testimonial ☆☆☆☆

"My family has been going to the Buffalo River on almost every Memorial Day weekend for over 30 years. Now my oldest son and his wife and children plan their calendar to include this ritual. It's not just about the floating on the most beautiful river in Arkansas. It's about the economy silly!!!! Where else can you get the community of souls, the music, the peace, the meditation, the laughter, the potluck, the snoring, the 'baptism of the tump,' the stars, the campfire, the s'mores, the memories, the love, for the price of a canoe rental and a small camping fee?" Linda Vanblaricom

Welcome New Members at UUCLR



Rachael Sardin and Mary Mesquit

Rachel Sardin was born in Sherwood, AR and comes from a very large family. She gives a lot of credit to her "great parents" and enjoys her family very much. She attended the Culinary and Hospitality Institute of Chicago to pursue her passion for cooking. You can find her cooking in the Heights at *Taco and Tamale* and at *Skye's Little Bistro*.

Mary Mesquit was born in Victorville, California, and since her dad was in the military, her family moved around a lot. Arkansas was their final move, so this became her home. She followed in her father's footsteps and spent some time in the military herself, then went to college. She met Rachael while working at the Olive Garden. She and Rachael were married in Eureka Springs in 2014 and then again last year at the courthouse when it became legal! Mary is now pursuing a career in the insurance field.

Mary enjoys gardening and Rachael obviously loves to cook. They both enjoy being with friends, family, and their animals. They also love spending time at UUCLR. In their words, "This is the first church we have become members of and are so excited to be a part of it!"

We welcome them both to UUCLR—we are lucky to have them here with us!

In the Life of the Church



May Birthdays



Virginia Arouh..... 4	Mindy Morrell 15
Serena Fuller..... 9	Claire McCullough . 17
John Anderson 12	Gail Roberson..... 18
Barbara Fuhrman ... 14	Hannah Scott..... 20
Dianne Scott..... 14	

Contact the church office at 225-1503
With corrections or additions.

Caring Coordinator

Sue McDonald is the Caring Coordinator.



If you need assistance or know of someone who needs help in any way, please contact Sue at sue6696@gmail.com or 501-442-6623.

May Calendar

Sunday, May 1

8:00am Recycle Sunday and Book and Kids' Exchange (Thomson)
8:00am YoUUth Lock-In
10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary) (New Members)
12:30pm Exploring UU Class (Pehrson)

Monday, May 2

6:45pm Board Meeting (Thomson)
7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)

Tuesday, May 3

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Wednesday, May 4

2:30pm Facilities Team meeting (Office)
3:00pm Membership Meeting (Pehrson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 6

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Saturday, May 7

9:00am Work Days - Rain or Shine

Sunday, May 8

9:00am Mother's day
10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Thomson)

Monday, May 9

5:30pm Program Council Meeting (Thomson)

Tuesday, May 10

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
12:00pm Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)
1:30pm Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)

Wednesday, May 11

6:00pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 12

6:30pm Worship Team Meeting (Thomson)

Friday, May 13

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
7:00pm SGI Buddhist Group (Pehrson)

Saturday, May 14

6:30pm Game Night by Interweave

Sunday, May 15

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15pm YoUUth Luncheon (Thomson)
1:00pm Community Discussion (Thomson)
OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

Monday, May 16

5:30pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting (Thomson)
6:45pm Board Meetings (Thomson)

Tuesday, May 17

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
4:00pm Our House Meal (Offsite)

Wednesday, May 18

12:15pm "How Do You See It?": Explorations of Essays
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 20

Installation Weekend
Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Sunday, May 22

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Installation of Rev. Jan / Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00pm 4th Sunday Covenant Group (Pehrson)

Tuesday, May 24

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Wednesday, May 25

12:15pm "Listening for God"-Explorations of Short Stories (Thomson)
6:00pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 26

4:00pm Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Wine and Cheese (Thomson)

Friday, May 27

Buffalo River Float Trip
Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Saturday, May 28

Buffalo River Float Trip

Sunday, May 29

Buffalo River Float Trip
10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 30

Buffalo River Float Trip

Tuesday, May 31

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Visit the church web site for the most current calendar listings: uulcr@uuclr.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

Rev. Jan Nielsen
Office 501-225-1503
revjan@uuclr.org

Office Admin

Sue McDonald 501-225-1503
uuclr@uuclr.org

Director of RE

Rachel Finley 501-225-1503
finley5@yahoo.com

Music Director

John Perez 501-225-1503
jwperez1@yahoo.com

Board President

John McNee jmcmnee@aol.com

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Alexander "Scotty" Meek
a.meek@att.net

STAFF HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9 am - 2 pm
Call 442-6623 before coming
Church Phone 225-1503
E-mail: uuclr@uuclr.org

Program Council Team Liaisons

Communication	Sue McDonald
Facilities	Miranda Keith
Faith In Action	vacant
Fellowship	Nell Matthews
Lifespan Faith Development.	Joe Meehan
Membership	Debbie Goolsby
Worship Arts	Margaret McLellan



Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock
1818 Reservoir Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227
Phone: (501)225-1503
www.uuclr.org



Outer Circle Policy: The Church Office reserves the right to edit all Outer Circle articles for content and length. Deadline for publication usually falls on the **15th of the month** *unless holiday considerations apply*. No articles will be accepted by telephone or verbally. **Articles must be submitted in writing** in the church office by fax (423-6666) or via e-mail (uuclr@uuclr.org) by **5:00 p.m.** on the deadline date. Any articles received after the deadline may be omitted due to limitations of time and printable space.

