



Outer Circle

April 2016 Vol. 65 Issue 4

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,

Spring has come to Arkansas, bringing warmer air and greener paths. Each morning as I walk, I see something new. Trees that not long ago offered only buds now spill their blossoms all around. Springtime invites us to venture outside, to look all around, to take in, as food for the soul, all the color, the growth, and the warmth the season offers.

Springtime also invites us to look into the soul, to ask ourselves if we are living the lives we are called to live. This question takes us outside ourselves, as we look at how we are living in the world, and can raise more questions. Do my actions match my words? Do I work and live with integrity? Am I as loving and kind and respectful to my partner and to my family, as I try to be with everyone else? Do I live my values and my faith, not just on Sundays, but seven days a week? What is one thing I can do today that will still matter to someone else ten years from now, or after I am gone? Our questions are not easy ones, to be sure, but they are questions that can wake us up, and keep us on track, in our quest to live faithful lives. Here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock, you can sit side by side, week after week, with someone else who struggles with questions not all that different from your own. There aren't too many places in today's world where we can gather together to do this work of keeping our lives on track, something I call the *work of the spirit*.

This *work of the spirit* is the essence of what we do here together as a people of faith. I have said before that our work together is all about transformation – finding our way back to our best selves, striving to become more than we were yesterday, and going back out into the world to make a difference. Our work is all about transforming ourselves, one another, and our world.

There are some big questions about our work as a

(Continued on Page 2)

Sundays in April

Join us for Sunday Worship
When our Theme will be "Happiness"

Thought for the month:

"We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same."

- Anne Frank

Questions for thought and conversation:

What brings you happiness?

What gets in the way of happiness?

How has your perspective on happiness changed over time?

What in your life so far has taught you the most about happiness?

Services

April 3 Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

April 10 "Happiness is a Word"
Guest: Liz Mackenzie

April 17 Rev. Jan K. Nielsen

April 24 Blessing of the Animals
Speaker: Saraj Goldberg
Leading Worship:
Margaret McLellan

In the Life of the Church

A Note from Our Board President

Celebrating Children at UUCLR

To the Parents of Young Children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in our church. All are welcome!

Sit towards the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads. Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc. Sing the hymns, pray, meditate, voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back.

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, the Holy and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

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)

congregation on which I would like to hear your thoughts:

What is different because the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock is here? What is different in the lives of the people who are a part of this faith community? What is different in our community? What is different in our world?

Write to me at revjan@uuclr.org or set a time for us to meet over coffee or tea. I want to hear from you. Spend some time outside in the spring air, and then share with me your thoughts.

Love and blessings, Rev. Jan

Rev. Kenn Hurto Workshop

In February, Rev. Kenn Hurto, Lead Executive of the UUA Southern Region, gave a workshop at UUCLR. At the request of the Board, his focus was on "growth." Here are a few of the things he outlined for us. A full set of notes is available through the office. He had amazingly helpful things to say!

GROWTH – Rev. Hurto laid out the *Five Kinds of Congregational Growth* that need to be addressed in order to grow smoothly: Organic (the grunt work), Maturation (faith development), Incarnational (walk our talk/values), Associational (UUA, Systems), and Numerical. Moving to a larger, program-size Church will mean that the 'programs' (faith development, social justice, etc.) will drive the church's activities.

There will be a big change for us in the *Minister's role*: Instead of the minister being involved in all the activities of the church, the minister must now: 1) teach others to do some of the jobs (such as Caring for members); and, 2) the minister guides us in the directions we need to move to achieve our desired results. The minister is the coach.

CHANGE - Power and Authority in the church functions like this: the CONGREGATION delegates AUTHORITY, which permits the use of POWER. Power is *The Ability to Achieve*. Kenn also addressed the authority structure and flow in the church through the Types of Governance. He emphasized that Trust is essential.

In addressing the possibility of moving to two services, Rev. Hurto suggested some questions to ask when undertaking a change. Specifically: "What for Whom in order to Do..." Good questions for many situations!

Rev. Hurto also identified some likely threats to the church during change and suggested we ask ourselves: What are our historic patterns and practices of Trust in our Leaders? What can we do to help our Leaders to succeed (to be in Fellowship)? How do we transcend the "Church of Me?"

MISSION – Rev. Hurto addressed the need for a strong Mission many times. Not just a mission statement, but a focus for the church inside and outside in the wider community. He stressed that to grow in a healthy manner, we must be out in the community walking our talk, not just hoping that people will come into the church. Our mission must be at the core of all that we do.

Kater Reynolds, Immediate Past President

In the Life of the Church


MARADE - January 18, 2016

UUCLR's participation in the Martin Luther King Jr. Marade (march and parade) did not turn out the way we had planned. Mother Nature decided that it was the right time for one of our Little Rock ice storms, albeit a small one.

Bill Goolsby and I were able to pick up the trailer and then we each crawled our way to Interstate Park. Bill said the Roosevelt hills were scary with the trailer – I thought that the big arching bridge on Arch Street was the most harrowing challenge for me. When we got to the park, there were few decorated trailers or trucks around. I decided to not risk anyone else in their attempt to get to the Park, so I called off our participation for this year.

Luckily Reservoir Road was clear! People were to gather at the church and then carpool down to the parade and there were 10 – 12 adults and at the church waiting to leave. But we had set up hot cocoa and coffee, pastries and hard boiled eggs so folks stayed and had a good time. Later many of them drove down to the Capitol for the noon rally. It was a good gathering for all of them and a nice 'dry run' for next year's event!

Kater Reynolds, Immediate Past President



Arkansas UU Cluster April 29 & 30

Fellowship and strengthening of Unitarian Universalism in Arkansas are a couple of the many perks that you will "receive by attending the Spring AR UU Cluster in Hot Springs.

Everyone is invited to attend whether you have been to UUCLR once or 1000 times. The cluster consists of most of the UU congregations in Arkansas and is held twice a year.

Cas Rifkin is the representative for UUCLR to the steering committee of the AR UU Cluster and invites questions about the weekend or the cluster. Contact her at casrifkin12@gmail.com. The registration form and lodging information is available on the church web site: www.uuclr.org



Young at Heart

Dear Friends,

You won't want to miss Our Young at Heart gathering on Tuesday, April 12, when Margaret McLellan will talk with us about her spiritual journey from Presbyterian ministry to Unitarian Universalism. Lunch (\$5) will be served at noon, and helpers are invited to come earlier for setting up and preparation or to stay afterward for cleanup. Also, if you have suggestions for programs for the coming year beginning in September, or would like to volunteer in any other way, please let me know! I look forward to seeing you, guests, and friends on the 12th.

UUCLR Recycling

The activities of UUCLR in addressing environmental issues including the efforts of the Recycling Committee are, of course, related to our traditions and principles which are printed on the back of the order of service each Sunday. The relevant tradition is "Spiritual teachings of earth centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature ". Our Seventh Principle is "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part ".

As important as our individual and organizational efforts are, more will be required.

Environmental problems know no boundaries. Implementation of our Sixth Principle "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all " is likely to be necessary for our survival. That world community must be able to establish programs and standards on a global scale to protect and restore the environment. We are all responsible for that objective.

In the meantime, let's continue and enhance our individual and organizational efforts. Remember we accept electronics for recycling on the first Sunday of the month

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.

Apr. 13 *The Big Cat* Louise Erdrich
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.

Apr. 27 *Vision* by Tiffany Briere
May 18 *My Daughter and God* by Justin Cronin

June 1 *Difference Maker* by Meghan Daum

Blessing of the Animals Service April 24

This annual service is dearly important to UUCLR members, friends, and the wider community. We invite you to bring furry friends (leashes and carriers are encouraged), or toy animals or pictures as symbols. They will be blessed during the service.

Volunteers are needed to set up the Sanctuary the night before. Contact Liz Mackenzie if you would like to help: 501-773-4521

FORUM

- April 3** Martha Beck, PhD, Faculty Member at Lyon College, "Nurturing Democracy in Indonesia"
- April 10** 2nd Sunday Share the Plate: AR Coalition for Peace and Justice
- April 17** Theme Sunday - Happiness
- April 24** 5th Source of Our Living Tradition- Dawn Harris

April RE-Questors

Discussing How Humans Came to Rule the World

Primary Reference:

The Third Chimpanzee by Jared Diamond

10:00 AM Sunday in the Pehrson Room

Learning To Be The Best That We Can Be

You do not have to read the book to join in the discussion

Expand Your Mind, Read a Book!

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



The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry
by Gabrielle Zevin

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

In the Life of the Church



Book Exchange & Recycle Sunday, April 3 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

The month of April is a time when our 7th UU Principle is reinforced in the secular world. Schools teach *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* and there are special Earth Day events across the country. Did you know that our April Ambrose,

mother of baby Luna and daughter of UUCLR Board President Cas Rifkin, founded Arkansas Earth Day?

Earth Day is officially celebrated on April 22nd, but many UUs work to care for and honor the earth every day of the year. We recycle as a matter of course, we might choose to consume ethically in some manner, and we consider the ways in which our way of life impacts the life around us. This month especially, I would like to hear about your acts of devotion and care for the earth and all of its inhabitants. Send your thoughts to me in an email or come and talk to me during coffee hour. They will be shared, as appropriate, with the children in their religious education classes.

Do you have an altar or a chalice that you use at home? Find a blue or green gem or marble and place it in or beside your chalice or on your altar in honor of the earth and the life that inhabits this planet.

Rachel Finley, Director of Religious Education

Game Nights are Back

Sponsored by
UUCLR Interweave
(LGBTQ and
Friends)



Plan now to join your friends and church family at UUCLR for some fun times on GAME NIGHTS.

What?

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

Where?

UUCLR Thomson Hall (new sanctuary)

When?

Mark your schedule for the following dates:

April 23 6:30 pm May 14 6:30 pm
June 18 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.

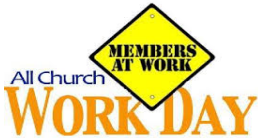
In the Life of the Church

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 deadline for reservations**, but boats for the river can be in short supply, so please don't wait. Linda Van Blaricom, John and Valerie McNee, and Nell Matthews will provide more information and enthusiastic testimonials for the fun to be found at the Buffalo.

Questions? Contact Nell Matthews at uuclrnell@gmail.com



**April 2
9:00am - noon**

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

April Share-the-Plate Report

2nd Sunday (Feb 14th)	
Literacy Action of Central AR	\$448.89
4th Sunday (Feb 28th)	
Our House	\$291.75

Welcome New Members at UUCLR



Joan Williams

Joan Williams
Joan is a Northern transplant, originally from Cleveland Ohio and has also lived in Maryland, Mississippi, and Louisiana. After high school she attended Lakeland College and then joined the Air Force. She has followed a varied carrier path, from working at a Nuclear Power, as a real estate broker and

currently in the banking industry.

She has lived in North Little Rock since the 1980's with her cats Abby & Mimi. She enjoys travel, antiquing, movies, art, yoga & has worked on several political campaigns.

Joan is so happy to have found a church home at UUCLR.

Bailey Barnes

Bailey has spent most of her life in Basel, Switzerland, but returned to Arkansas (where most of her family is from) to get her undergraduate degree at the U of A Fayetteville. She moved to Little Rock to attend UAMS and is now in her second year of medical school.

She serendipitously discovered UUCLR in October of last year, and has decided to officially make it her spiritual home.

She is so excited to join a community of such wonderful, inspiring, compassionate folks!



Bailey Barnes

In the Life of the Church



April Birthdays



Margaret McLellan	1	Vicky Kessel.....	13
Rachel Finley	1	Williams Goolsby	14
Terra Elledge.....	2	Devin Keith.....	15
Ali Ngaruiya.....	4	Anne Bell.....	16
Ruth Ward.....	7	Joanne Kriehn.....	27
David Ngaruiya	12	Teresa Knight.....	28
Andrew Kessel	13	Greg Barr	29

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.

April Calendar

Friday, April 1

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Saturday, April 2

9:00am Work Days - Rain or Shine

Sunday, April 3

8:00am Recycle Sunday and Book and Kids' Exchange (Thomson)
10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Chapel)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 4

7:00pm Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)

Tuesday, April 5

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Wednesday, April 6

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

Thursday, April 7

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Friday, April 8

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)

Sunday, April 10

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Thomson)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm Exploring UU Class (Pehrson)
12:30pm Vegetarian Potluck (Thomson)

Monday, April 11

5:30pm Program Council Meeting (Thomson)

Tuesday, April 12

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

Wednesday, April 13

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

Thursday, April 14

9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
6:30pm Worship Arts Team

Friday, April 15

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
9:00am AARP Tax Aide (Thomson)
2:00pm OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE

Saturday, April 16

10:00am Annual Fellowship Dinner

Sunday, April 17

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Chapel)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Book Signing During Service
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 18

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

Tuesday, April 19

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

Wednesday, April 20

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, April 22

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Saturday, April 23

6:30pm Game Night by Interweave

Sunday, April 24

10:00am Children-Youth Programming
10:00am Forum (Chapel)
10:00am RE-Questors (Pehrson)
11:00am Worship (Sanctuary)
Blessing of the Animals

Tuesday, April 26

Prison Literacy (Offsite)

Wednesday, April 27

12:15pm "How Do You See It?": Explorations of Essays
6:00pm Girl Scouts (Thomson)
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, April 29

Prison Literacy (Offsite)
6:00pm AR Cluster Meeting (Offsite)

Saturday, April 30

9:00am AR Cluster Meeting (Offsite)

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister

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John McNee jrmcnee@aol.com

Minister Emeritus

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

STAFF HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
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Call 442-6623 before coming
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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



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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.

