
UUTC UPDATE

Mothers of Unitarian Universalism

Rev. Sally Beth Shore – Facebook Livestream at 10:00am, Sunday

On the day that we honor Mothers, we think about some of the historic mothers of our faith-- the women who nurtured Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism— we'll look at the lives, times, and what it meant to them to be part of a "free" faith, and how they were allowed (or not) to contribute to its development.

In many instances, these were the same women who worked for Independence, the abolition of slavery, votes for women, education, etc. What role did their faith have in leading them to become advocates for societal change? What role for us today?



Social Action—The Votes Are IN

Lisa McHenry



The tally is in for our choices for FY 20-21 Charitable Giving. It is always difficult to decide which of these organizations will get our votes, knowing that those that are eliminated are also very deserving. The three that did not make the cut this year are Free Rein, Forward Together, and Augustine Literacy Project. The numbers show that even the organizations with the fewest votes had strong support from our congregation. Here is some food for thought. A couple of us who feel we do not really need our stimulus checks were considering donating our checks to the three organizations that did not win. This would be done on an entirely personal basis, not on behalf of the Social Action Team or UUTC.

Tally: Bread of Life	Tally: The Haven	Tally: Pisgah Legal Services	Tally: SAFE	Tally: El Centro	Tally: Sharing House	Tally: Meals on Wheels	Tally: Free Rein	Tally: Children's Center	Tally: Backpack Buddies	Tally: Forward Together	Tally: Augustine Literacy
77	72	67	67	57	80	62	44	59	66	36	50

We had a good number of participants in our on-line vote, and we thank you all for taking part in this process.

Note from Board President

Hello, All!

I continue to hope everybody is staying healthy and safe at home! I also continue to be grateful for all of you who are working to keep UUTC moving forward!!



The Board, along with Rev. Shore and RK, have had several meetings working on a “Re-Opening UUTC” Plan. We are all very anxious to be able to get together in person again but want to help keep the number of COVID-19 cases down and keep all of our members and friends safe. After much discussion and consideration, it was decided it is best to keep the UUTC building closed through the month of July. We will, of course, continue to be working “outside” of the building and will continue with services via Facebook live. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make adjustments as necessary.

We are moving forward in preparing our official mail-in ballots for both the Annual Congregational Meeting and the Settled Minister Candidate. These will come to you in two separate mailings, both of which will have a self-addressed stamped envelope for you to easily return your ballot. The definition of a quorum is *“the minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid.”* Even though we can not be present together at this time, we feel it is **essential to hear your voices** on these UUTC matters. We will be

requiring that we receive mailed ballots equal to or above our normal “quorum” in order for it to be a valid vote. How about 100%? That would nicely meet quorum!

Members will receive the official ballot to call Rev. Bob Renjilian as Settled Minister first. It will be mailed out on Friday, May 15. We ask that you watch the services that Rev. Bob will be conducting both on May 17 and 24 and attend a Zoom session to get to know him a little better. Then please vote after the service on the 24th and mail back in ASAP. We need these ballots back in to UUTC by Friday, May 29 so that we may tally them and let you know the outcome during the Sunday service held on May 31st. PLEASE fill these out and mail back in as soon as you can!

On Thursday, May 21 we will mail the official ballot to vote for the 2020-21 UUTC Board of Trustees, Nominations Committee and 2020-21 Annual Budget. Once again, we need to have a “quorum” respond so please fill these ballots out and return to us by Friday, May 29. We will print the results of this vote in the newsletter on Friday, June 5.

A reminder - For the past couple of years, we have offered meetings at UUTC for you to attend to see the proposed budget and ask any questions you may have. We want to continue to give you that option so Dave Roberts (Finance Committee) and Gail Meyers (Treasurer) will host two Zoom Budget Meetings. These are scheduled to be on Wednesday, May 20 at 10:00am and Thursday, May 28 at 7:00pm. **Remember that you can dial in with just a phone to ask questions and be answered. That number will be sent to you in the notification.**

As I have been stating, I realize this is all a little different than we planned, and I ask for your patience as we try to move forward as accountably we can. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at joyce.henneberry@gmail.com. We will get through this all!

— Joyce

ZOOM WITH REV. BOB RENJILIAN!

UUTC Search Team

Do take a look at www.RevBob2020.com each week for additional material. This week Rev. Bob activated a short page about Ceremonies, and a longer one about Pastoral Care (and how he sees that as a shared process, especially as we grow). These are added to previous releases which give background on his Biography, Lifespan Religious Education, and Worship, and he has included sermon links. Combined with the upcoming Zoom conversations, these resources should help everyone get to know Rev. Bob even though COVID-19 keeps us from being together in person. The time for voting is drawing nigh!



We are using SignUp Genius to let you choose a time to "meet" Rev. Bob through a Zoom meeting in small groups of no more than eight. The first meetings start this Sunday, so do not delay in making your "reservation." Use [THIS LINK](#) to choose a time that works for you!

HOW ARE YOU, REALLY?

The **COVID Response Team** wants to remind you to reach out!

- For any resource needs (including food, housing, childcare, and more), the Transylvania Resource Hub is a great place to start. Call the Library at 828-884-3151 x4.
- Feeling stressed, down, or finding it hard to cope? Meridian has gone virtual and is offering telehealth visits and other resources: call [631-3973](tel:631-3973) to get started. Our own LHHH team and Rev. Shore are here for you, as well.
- If you are looking for social connections to others in UUTC, you can use the [Survey sent out earlier by the COVID Response Team](#). Currently, we have a book club nearing completion with the possibility of a future one, and buddies talking to each other by phone. Reverend Shore and Carter Heyward will co-lead a mini (6 sessions) Chalice Circle beginning in late May— there are a few spaces left. Please email revshore@uutc.org for more info.
- [The Survey](#) also provides you an opportunity to make other suggestions for ways to stay connected. (Note: even if you filled it out back in March, if your situation changed, or you have a new idea, it is ok to send it again.)

If you are experiencing a problem or unmet need that UUTC may be able to assist you with, please send an email to covid@uutc.org. We will try to help.

Be well!

Note from Rev. Shore

Dear Friends—

I've just returned from recording music from John Austin, his granddaughter Willow, and Mark Wingate, for our Sunday Worship Service. Their sweet gift of music—amidst masks and hands-off distancing, moved me to tears. I hope you'll be with me and your church online on Sunday to hear it. I also hope you'll sign up for one of the Zoom calls to meet your ministerial Candidate, Rev. Bob Renjilian. I know he is doing his best, despite these trying circumstances, to get to know you and let you know him—please reward him with your presence.



At the time of this writing, North Carolina will move into “Phase I” of reopening; when the state will move into Phase II (or III) is an open question, but for us, the safety and well-being of all of you and our staff is our top priority. While the UUTC Board has moved to keep our building closed through July, please know we are looking into the question of whether we might be able to hold an outdoor gathering in late June. We can’t make that decision yet, but if it seems that we can do so safely, we will have plans ready. Whenever we meet face to face again, it will be wonderful! And in the meantime, chin up, keep loving life, keep loving self and those dear to you. Keep loving even those who seem to be falling short in this time. If you need help, UUTC is here—please reach out (see our COVID Response Team’s article in this newsletter.)

Yesterday, I was on a Zoom Call follow-up with some of the people who participated in UUTC’s Complaint-Free Lent (remember that?); one of the participants said this: “our brain is a muscle, and muscles need exercise—we have to exercise hope to have hope.” What a great quote, and so true—hope doesn’t just happen, we have to create it, and by doing so, we get better at it. This is our call as Unitarian Universalists—people of open hands, open minds, open hearts. No better time than the present.

See you soon! Love, Rev. Shore

PS: Although I will be taking some much needed down time next week, know that I will be available for any pastoral emergencies... clearly, I won't be traveling!

Light to Connect Us—The Chalice Project

RK Young

It’s Spring. Want to play in the Mud?

We are making ceramic chalices. They will be unglazed stoneware, which makes them impervious to water (or wax, or flame). They will not be large. Any child and nearly any adult will be able to create a successful form for the cradling of a tea light. Once fired, a twilight lighting will be staged and filmed so that we can all enjoy the glow. We have tentatively scheduled this ceremony for June 21st.



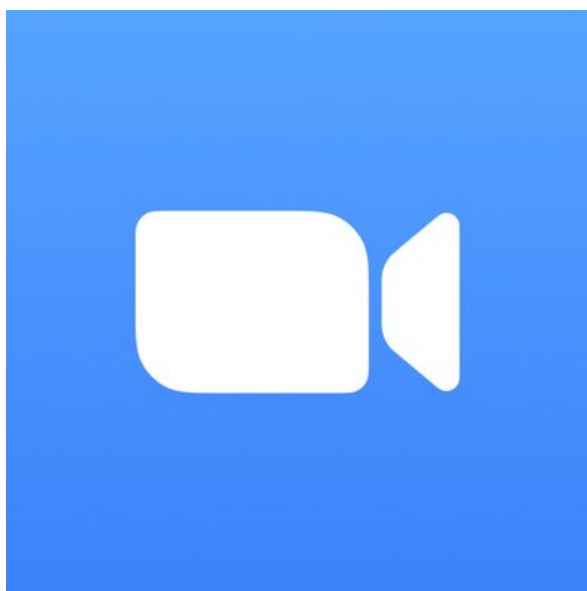
To begin, you must follow the link at the end of this article and let us know if you a) want to participate, b) can pick up clay from the church sidewalk, and c) have more than one person in your household who wants to play. This link will collect the necessary information we need to prepare adequate clay for pickup. Select a date from the form that comes up that tells us which day you will

arrive at the church to pick up your clay. If you do not have Internet, please email eloise@uutc.org — she will take care of the rest!

Two days after you complete your chalice, it must be delivered back to UUTC, before it gets too dry and fragile. Place your work inside the Vestibule on the walnut shelf— we will ready them for delivery to Mud Dabbers. The pieces will be fired after all are collected. However, we are opening up this project to our larger community, and with a date set for the ceremony, please feel free to invite your friends to take part in the project!

Due to the nature of this project, the work will not be glazed (though it could be in the future if you wished to make an arrangement with Mud Dabbers or Brevard Clay). When the pieces are completely fired, we will pick them up, load them with tea lights, and have a livestream ceremony that will be made available as a video on our website for those who cannot attend the Facebook livestream. **Fear Not.** Margaret Kimble's video instruction is superb and is included in the link below!

Ready to get started? [CLICK HERE.](#)



Happy Hour Zooming

Today (Friday, May 8th) between 4 and 5:00pm, drop in to an informal zooming session with Rev. Shore and other scalawags.

THERE IS NO HOMEWORK. Come enjoy each other — maybe you can get Joyce Pearsall to recommend monarch plants!

From a landline (or if you just prefer voice only), dial **312-626-6799**. From a smartphone or an internet browser on your computer, go to [THIS LINK](#). Follow the instructions on your screen, and go! Smartphone is the easiest route if you are new to this. Prop it on an

easel or in your open laptop to keep it steady. Set it at eye level. Turn it sideways if you are Zooming with your partner!

Is it like being in the same room? Of course not. But seeing all those smiles? Worth every bit of trouble. Join us at 4:00! Those of you using Realm on your phone will see this link under Events... scroll up to get to the description, where you will find the link and password.

See you soon!