

UUTC UPDATE JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

If You Look For a Fence, You Will Find It

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

You recall the old directive, “assume good intentions,” which seems rather trite in the face of bigotry or misanthropy, if not dangerous. On the other hand, if we aren’t assuming good, then what are we to assume? Because we are always making guesses about the world around us, it is what are our brains do—take in information and try to turn it into actionable data. Let’s examine the process of our assumption making, and see how we can use it to create connection, not barriers, with each other.

This Sunday, we also congratulate all of our young people for completing their school year, and in particular, our High School graduates. We are proud of you all!



June Is Pride Month

"We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity."

--George Takei



With each passing year, Pride grows, and becomes more and more normal. Indeed, that is the call of all the special months-- to draw attention but thru that attention, to have the subject become absorbed into the culture so that a special focus is no longer needed.

In this month of Pride, I hope you are proud and affirming of yourself and others, **and I also remind you to be proud to be a Unitarian Universalist, a faith that stands strongly for the inclusion and wonder of all people**-- LGBTQ, any skin color, any ethnicity, anywhere.



golden chalice rainbow flame (c) 2005 a baldwin

This month, I am reminded of and acknowledge the efforts of UUTC's Welcoming Renewal team, who worked diligently to renew UUTC's commitment and certification as a Welcoming Congregation this past year. The team has now renamed itself to DIG (Diversity and Inclusion Group), and had hoped to offer a worship service with you this month, but the realities of online worship now were too daunting for now (believe me, I understand!) They hope to reactivate in the coming year.

Speaking of Worship-- we'd love you to light a chalice, or at least share some words. You can find many chalice lightings by doing a search on line, or [by looking here](#). Get out that smart phone, and film yourself doing it, complete with lighting a chalice if you have one, but no worries if not. Then send it my way so I can add it to our growing library of film clips.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, UUTC!

Stewardship Team

Who's feeling a bit stir crazy? Has anyone out there been whining or complaining about life? Here's a chance to celebrate UU's birthday month **AND** provide a treat to our neighbors who count on Bread of Life **AND** support one of our local businesses. Win to the third power! UU members have been very involved in Bread of Life from its early days and they could use our help now more than ever. Your Stewardship Team is working with the Blue Ridge Bakery to deliver 150 scrumptious cupcakes to the Bread of Life at the end of June. The Bread of Life serves roughly 150 people individual lunches 5 days a week – and we'd like to make one



of those meals even more special. The bakery is giving us a special price, and the profits will stay right here at UUTC. At \$5 a cupcake, everyone can help to sponsor this event!

Everyone deserves a Blue Ridge Bakery cupcake from time to time, and it will be nice to provide Katina at Blue Ridge with an opportunity to make those cupcakes!

Look for a special email next week with the magic “Donate” button.

Staying in Touch (Be Sure You Read This!)

RK Young

Lots of calls come to the church, but usually no one is home, so to speak. Amy is popping in once a week, Eloise twice, briefly. Rev. Shore is there at least one day a week, usually two, plus Sundays. Me – I’m back and forth, but not predictably.

As we near the time Rev. Shore reaches the end of her contract (June 30th), we will have a month where activity will hit a low spot. Your new Board will begin its work in July, but building activity will be even more sparse. I’m even taking a week off!

To make it easier for you all to reach your Administrator, I’ve established a work number through Google Voice. I believe Rev. Bob has something similar, and we’ll release that after his contract is active. Since all of your main UUTC staff have G Suite functionality through the church account, this is the absolutely most cost effective way of creating “multiple lines” without any additional devices. **My work number is 828-435-2899.** This will allow *me* to not answer on weekends, but allows *you* to be able to call and leave a voice mail while whatever is on your mind is still fresh.

A final step in the works is replacing our “no long distance without a code,” \$50 a-month landline at UUTC with a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) desk phone that Eloise can access remotely to check messages... from her own personal phone, as transcribed text (or audible). This will cut our monthly fee to Comporium and save us \$30 a month. Eloise is evaluating options and learning the lingo so she can find the option that works best for her. We may lose our current number in this process (this is what a monopoly does), so be prepared to reprogram your cell phones!

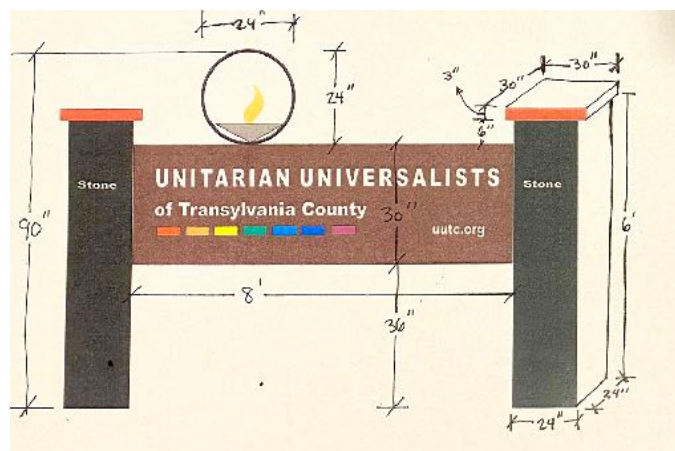
Note from Board President

EXCITING NEWS!!!! You will see some changes to the front of UUTC very soon. This coming week the Facilities Team will begin taking down our current sign and removing some of the ground cover to clear way for our new UUTC sign, on which we will begin construction the week of June 21st!

FIRST - We are NOT getting rid of our current sign! There is too much history with this wonderful sign - it is just moving to the Fellowship Green so that the community will better



be able to see that it is part of UUTC property. Our wonderful Facilities Team is going to rebuild some necessary parts to keep this sign usable! Bob Bennett was seen this week disassembling the roof!



Rough drawing for scale only—colors not accurate

With how many cars drive by our location every day, we realized we have the best “free” advertising available to sooooo many people! Our hope was to replace our current sign with a sign that would be a bit larger and light in a way that it would draw attention to us 24/7, in a more environmentally-friendly way. After many years of painting and repainting (thank you so much, Shirl Thomas) we felt it was time to go to a more maintenance-free sign which will also have down-lighting to better comply with [Dark Sky](#) standards.

A big thank you to Bill Denton, of the Property Committee for his incredible amount of leg work researching other signs around town and sign companies!

A big thank you to our Resident Artist (RK) who created ideas for a new, impactful sign.

A big thank you to our UUTC Aesthetics Team (Roberta Carver, Bruce Kirkman, Chris Rogine, Lisa Sheffield and Tanne Traywick.). This group got together quickly and held a Zoom session to discuss the overall appearance, etc. They had wonderful discussions and great ideas!!!

Much consideration has been put into designing a sign that would keep a very classical look and match our building, yet, be easily seen for all who drive by each day. We have been watching the growing number of people that are hitting our website to get more information about us since we have been doing live Facebook services. This new sign is going to be very simple, and have our website listed so that people driving by can easily read it and hopefully remember UUTC.org when they get home to look us up. This, along with a revamp of the home page listing our service times, etc. should help us get introduced into many new homes and hopefully, new members/friends!

We are very fortunate to have a few people who had donated to UUTC for a special use who were behind the new sign idea 100%. So - we are going to be able to add this new sign with absolutely no money coming out of our General Operating Fund! I am so thankful for these generous donors to back this idea so that we could move forward! Thank you - thank you - thank you!!!!!!

The sign will be held by a 6' stone pillar at each end. The stone will be matched as close as possible to the stone on our building. The sign itself will be a patina metal on each side of a Lightbox with our lettering cut out of the metal to let the light through. There will be a small rectangle for each color of the rainbow below our name that will let the light through, as well—a common “flag” display you might have seen on bumpers of cars that support LGBTQ rights. On top of this metal sign there will be a chalice which will have a soft light on the underside of the top of the ring that will shine down onto our flame to give the appearance of a glow. (See drawings below)

So - now we anxiously await “ground breaking” day! I am very excited to see how all of these efforts have come together! THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED who have helped to get this project from initial idea to this point. Each and every one of you have been an integral part of this coming together and I am so very grateful for you all! — Joyce

History of UUTC's Sign

For those unaware of Shirl Thomas's life before retirement, you should know that she was a Master Carpenter, and her work on our sign was not even her first UU church sign!

Shirl and Bill Thomas joined UUTC in 2002, according to our Membership book. Before that, they had met and married (in 1982) at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Raleigh, NC. Shirl was the designer and builder of that Fellowship's first sign, as well. Our sign is crafted from wood, with a router used to carve out the lettering and logo. These boards then slid into a channel created in the upright posts. Shirl has been touching up the paint for years!



Shirl Thomas, on a non-rainy day by our trusty sign

After a period of time, when it was apparent that rain was going to accelerate the decay of the sign, Dan Carter crafted the copper-covered roof that now protects the sign. Shirl says, “There is no way the sign would have lasted this long without that roof!”

Bob Bennett, from the Facilities Team, has begun a careful deconstruction of Shirl's well-crafted sign and is moving it to the Fellowship Green. Roof and sign will be retained, but new posts will be added.

Fourth Friday Happy Hour on June 26th

Join a final Happy Hour with Rev. Shore [HERE](#). Help RK fill the screen with your faces so Sally Beth has something wonderful to remember as she leaves us! You don't have to stay — this is a drop in — but just be there to let her know you appreciate her commitment to us this year.

Happy Hours will move to once a month, on the 4th Friday of the month, starting on the 26th. This is just one of the ways we are going to be providing opportunity to stay connected. More on this soon!

Light to Connect Us Progress Report!

RK Young

What Diversity!

The photos below, taken during the unpacking process, give you a taste of what the 84 people who signed up to participate brought to the project— so much playfulness, beauty and thought put into the work!

All the pieces will now be fired twice — the first is what is called a bisque firing, the second would ordinarily be a glaze firing. The second firing is what helps make the clay become more like stone, and removes the ability of wax or water to soak in to the clay.

Rev. Shore and Kevin and John Austin are now planning the closing ceremony, which take place the evening of June 21st. Some of our older youth will be involved in lighting all of these chalices, and the ceremony will be short— about 20 minutes. We will stage the ceremony on the shaded drive beside the church on its east side, with the chalices all lined up on the retaining wall. Time to be determined!

