

UUTC UPDATE

JANUARY 12TH, 2018



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

OUR LEGACY OF TOLERANCE

by Rev. Ilene Tompkins-Gillispie

Sunday, January 14th at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

This Sunday, we will join with Unitarians around the world in honoring the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda, the world's first declaration of religious tolerance. The Edict was proclaimed by the world's first and only Unitarian king, who ruled (you guessed it!) Transylvania, Romania. Come and learn about our radical legacy as freethinkers and promoters of freedom and tolerance!

Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am!

THE FUNDS ISSUE

In this issue of the newsletter you will find data on our Funds usage, so you will have a better understanding of how each is used. Also, notes from your Board President. Thanks for reading!

“
**The whole
purpose of religion
is to facilitate
love and compassion,
patience, tolerance,
humility, and
forgiveness.**”

Dalai Lama

COMING UP at UUTC

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY

Men's Group — Tues 1/16 @ 9:00am

Living with Intention — Tues 1/16 @ 5:30pm

SMART Recovery — Tues 1/16 @ 6:00pm

Eclectics — Wed 1/17 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 1/17 @ 4:00pm

LIVE@UUTC — Wed 1/17 @ 7:00pm

Rainbow Alliance — Thurs 1/18 @ 5:00pm

Growing Younger — Fri 1/19 @ 11:00am

OWL LOCK IN — Fri 1/19 @ 6:00pm

LIVING
with
INTENTION
PARENT CIRCLE

A new Living with Intention Parent Circle is kicking off at 5:30pm on Tuesday, January 16th at UUTC. Parents will meet monthly for inspiration, reflection and sharing. All other meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month 5:30 to 7:30 pm— **childcare is provided**. Email Rabbit at keliirabbitkrueger@gmail.com for more information.

SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY FOR JANUARY—THE HAVEN

The Haven is Transylvania County's two-building shelter for homeless families and individuals of all ages. The Haven works with other community agencies to prevent long-term homelessness and to promote sustainable outcomes for its residents. Your donation will support our fellow citizens as they work toward reaching self-sufficiency and permanent housing. *This is an opportunity to give, not an obligation.*



Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County

presents

MATT VENUTI

songs from

The Rhythm Of Life

“A self-styled, modern day Rumi”
Midwest Records

“Awe-inspiring and unforgettable”
Music Industry News Network

“A soul-stirring Maestro who invokes the essence of love into his music”
Jill Lawson, Huffington Post

Wednesday, January 17th
Doors at 6:30 pm Concert at 7:00
Suggested donation: \$15.00
24 Varsity St. (across from Cardinal Drive-In)
828 877-6121

Music, Videos and Further Info:
WWW.MATTVENUTI.COM

This concert is best suited for adults
(young and older)
Thank you!



2018 MLK CELEBRATION & MARCH

Sue Null

The Human Relations Council for Brevard & Transylvania County is pleased to announce that the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be held on Saturday, January 13th and Monday, January 15, 2018.

The Human Relations Council's Mission is, in part, to work to have a community in which dignity and worth of the individual **are** respected. Additionally, the Council's mission is to develop, improve and encourage fair treatment, mutual understanding, respect and good will among all citizens.

The Celebration will kick off at a Community Brunch open to all to be held at 10 AM at Bethel A Baptist Church, 290 Oakdale Street. On Monday, January 15th, the evening will commence with a walk to stress "Unity In The Community" from Bethel A Baptist Church. Marchers are to assemble at Bethel A at 5:30 PM with the march to Porter Center beginning at 6 PM. Wear your yellow "Standing on the Side of Love " t-shirt if you have one, or your UUTC softball shirt. (Smaller sizes of the teal shirts are available in the office.)

After the walk to the Brevard College Porter Center, there will be a celebration commencing at 7 PM. Shuttle buses will be available for those who need transportation from the Porter Center back to Bethel A Church. If you need further information, please call Ed Buckley at 828-606-9486.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND — FUNDING OUR FUTURE WORK

Italicized text from Endowment brochure, 2015: An endowment supports an enduring investment in the long-range stability of UUTC. Operating funds, capital funds and reserves plus endowment funds are the legs of the stool upon which a healthy congregation balances its work and service.

At the beginning of this fiscal year (July 2017), the balance of our Endowment Fund stood at \$44,955.94. Currently, the fund stands at \$57,986.59. These monies *are invested in the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund. Here they are pooled with funds from other UU congregations and placed in socially responsible investments. Future uses of the Fund income (not the Principle) could include community outreach, social justice, educational and spiritual exploration programs. Endowment funds are not intended for operating or capital expenses. No income will be drawn until the principle of the Endowment reaches \$100,000.00.*

"Gerry and I have donated to the fund already and we have named UUTC in our wills. We feel honored to be able to leave this as a part of our legacy. We hope you will consider it, too."—Peg Hall

INNOVATIONS FOR SPACE USE

Our new table closet began with an idea from Jim Hardy, who wondered if we couldn't build a countertop in the social hall under which we would stash the tables, since that's where we always used them. A vision was born!

The Aesthetics Arm of the Facilities Team worked with this problem for awhile. Jill Roberts, with her design background, decided that the best place to steal square footage would be from the front office—a space that had allocated more than the space necessary to do the work. This decision ensured that we lost no floor space in our most used room—the social hall.

From there the new design was born—by placing the



tables up

on their short ends, we would use the minimum amount of floor space and use vertical space, instead.

The interior of the closet was framed with plywood rather than drywall so that the banging of tables would not cause continual damage. Sound proofing was used in the wall to prevent noise traveling into the office itself. The threshold and trim around the entrance to the closet are hardwood, and the door itself is constructed from three sheets of plywood. It

should be very durable!

Every single folding table we have will fit in the closet, making it much easier to stash them all away when it is time for Chalice Camp in the summer.

When using the table closet, keep an eye out for the handles— they provide a safe space to grip the door for pushing or pulling it open and closed. The closet was paid for with monies from the Sponsored Projects Fund and cost \$1561.19.



SPONSORED PROJECTS UPDATE — FIRST HALF OF THE FISCAL YEAR

Since the turn of the fiscal year in July, we have made a few significant capital-type improvements to our facility. Two of these help to meet the needs of the hearing impaired—a replacement battery pack for our headsets and the new boom microphone that is used with the choir.

2017-2018 Sponsored Projects		9/20/2017
Starting Balance, August 2017		\$6,219.62
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS, 2017-2018		\$12,706.62
August		
September		\$880.00
October		\$207.00
November		
December		\$5,400.00
	Expenditures	Estimated Actual
Nursery - Recessed shelving	-\$850.00	-\$805.88
Ace Hardware (shelving related)		-\$4.90
Nursery Flooring	-\$1,386.70	-\$1,537.04
microphone for choir	-\$700.00	-\$598.99
Vestibule: electrical/lighting	-\$434.00	-\$383.00
Vestibule: flooring	-\$1,100.00	-\$1,096.34
Table closet in social hall w/sliding door	-\$1,600.00	-\$1,561.19
replacement PPA hearing assists (1)	-\$100.00	-\$111.00
	Current Balance	\$6,608.28

The microphone has proven to be a real help for our sound technicians, in that it can cover more than one musician at a time—which benefits everyone, in terms of creating an accurate “mix” of sound. The Eclectics performance in November was an excellent example of how helpful that microphone has been.

The Nursery got new flooring and recessed shelving to maximize the space available for tiny bodies. Our vestibule got a makeover that started at the tail end of June but was completed in July—new flooring and lighting that make our entrance safer and more welcoming.

Wrapping up this list is the new Table Closet, which utilized some largely-unused square footage from the office to provide all table-setter-uppers with greater accessibility of tables now located in the space that most needs them—our social hall and foyer.

Projects recommended by Teams and under consideration by the Board are: removal of white pines on the edge of the property, banners for the sanctuary, LED lighting for the classrooms and the nursery, installation of book racks for choir chairs, expansion of memorial structure in the Memorial Garden and the installation of a Peace Pole.

Anyone can make recommendations for the Sponsored Projects list. The list is presented to Teams for evaluation because of their intimate knowledge of the workings of UUTC. Their votes are then passed on to the Board for final selection and sequencing, when funds are available.

NOVEMBER BOARD DOINGS

Carol Moore

Like many other hard-working folks, the UUTC Board took a December break. This report summarizes our last meeting, which was held on November 28.



Rev. Ilene highlighted the progress and needs of several ministry teams and the success of Muffins with the Minister. She updated us on plans for her **formal installation to be held on April 13, 2018** at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, with a dessert reception to follow at UUTC. As planned, she and Dustin have moved from our property on Varsity Street to their new home in Mills River.

Dave Roberts' Treasurer's Report was accepted. A separate fund is in place for the Dignity Project. Dave met with Terry Andersen of Carland and Anderson, CPAs, to discuss the scope and timing of an outside financial review of UUTC's finances. The review will take place in January or February. The Board added a line item of \$1750 to the operating budget to cover visiting speaker's fee and travel, an honorarium for use of the Lutheran church, childcare, and other incidental expenses for Rev. Ilene's installation.

Two issues from the **Finance Committee** were addressed: (1) plans for the Finance Committee to introduce the UUA "Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge" to the congregation were approved and (2) the Board approved a policy regarding the placement of undesigned contributions to UUTC. Thus:

- Contributions of less than \$500 will be applied to the General Operating Budget
- Contributions between \$500 and \$5000 will be designated by the Finance Committee for placement in an existing fund that it deems best at the time
- Contributions that exceed \$5000 will receive a recommendation from the Finance Committee for placement in an existing fund and require Board approval

The "Membership" portion of the **Property Committee's** proposed Operating Guidelines were edited to bring them into compliance with the 2017 Edition of the UUTC Organizational Structure.

The **Varsity Property** discussion that began in our October meeting continued. After considering all the various proposals and projections it received, the Board unanimously **decided to raze the blue house, #52 Varsity Street**, as funds become available to cover the costs, including a civil

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6. . .

engineering study of drainage issues and minimal landscaping.

The **Rental Agreement** with Fisher Realty to rent and manage #46 Varsity was approved.

The Board selected two submitted entries for each of the houses to be named in the **Name that House Contest**: Community House or Chalice House for #46 and Beacon House or Olympia Brown House for #74. The final name for each house will be determined by congregational vote.

The Board reviewed its **Calendar** for the coming months. Carol will contact Committee Chairs to request the names of Chairs-Elect for the coming fiscal year. In January she will also send a memo to the Nominations Committee regarding that process. Early in 2018 the Board will review its policy manual and the Board Secretary and Church Administrator will certify UUA membership. There was consensus that the UUA Stewardship Webinar was disappointing. The Board will bring its concerns to Dawn Cooley, our regional UUA representative, when she meets with Board members in early 2018.

The Board reviewed the **Team Assessments of Building Improvement Projects**. The projects receiving consensus as most needed were: (1) Banners for the sanctuary, (2) a Peace Pole and lighting, (3) LED lighting for the classroom and nursery, and (4) removal of 21 white pines.

The Board approved utilization of on-line **First-Aid Training** for staff and volunteers and agreed to participate in **Charity Tracker** during a free six-month trial period.

After agreeing to forego a December meeting, the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will take place on January 23 at 5:00 pm.

Friends,

Before Christmas and the bitter cold weather set in, you generously donated warm clothing to the women of Oxford House. They are so grateful to have the warm sweaters, coats, hats, etc. that you donated and we took to them on the Friday night before Christmas. Many of them were going to see their families for the weekend and were so happy to have decent, warm clothing for the holidays.

They continue to use your warm gifts as they all go to work everyday in this freezing weather. They and I thank you for your compassion for our sisters who are working hard to build new, productive lives. Your clothes warmed their bodies but I think even more, your concern and support of them warmed their hearts. Thank you! Roberta Carver



REPORT FROM ARE

Jeanie Bernard

The Adult Religious Exploration team (ARE) conducted an interest survey in December. The results indicated that one of the topics our congregation is interested in is death and living. ARE has put a comprehensive course offering plan together of various ways to explore this theme.

First, our initial offering will be *Facing Death with Life*, a UUA curriculum that frames a process of personal reflections, learning, and spiritual growth. It is an intellectual study of death which includes information, narratives, journaling, practical preparation. Jim Null will be facilitating this 8-session course.

Second, *Embracing Death/Living Life Fully*, an in-depth exploration will delve into how to live each moment, each hour, each day more mindfully—as if it were all that was left. Preparing for death is one of the most rational and rewarding acts of a lifetime. It is an exercise that gives us the opportunity to deal with unfinished business and to enter into a new and vibrant relationship with life. The emphasis is not on death but on living fully. Hilly Bernard will facilitate an on-going, small group discussions using books such as Stephen Levine's *A Year to Live* to launch this process.

Third, there are practical matters that need to be addressed, decisions to be made, forms to fill out. Jim Null has addressed this in a Making Plans session that he will offer again .

Fourth, knowing what outside resources are available can be helpful. I have invited our local hospice and palliative associates, Care Partners and Four Seasons, to come again and provide an overview of services they offer and how to access what is needed.

Please look for upcoming announcements of these ARE offerings in the newsletter. Signing up will be necessary for the facilitators to plan.

Oh! A few more things!

ARE wants to identify those of you who are interested in facilitating other groups and topics. We have an incredible cadre of “faculty” at UUTC and by working together we can grow that even more. Jean Rowe has agreed to lead a conversation between those who have already been facilitating and those who want to learn more. Please look for this upcoming announcement.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8. . .

Keeping our face out there in the community is important to our connections and our growth. What better way than through technology. RK Young is an expert in that area. We know that because we call her for help all the time! RK will be offering a series of sessions, one on Facebook, another on using the iPhone camera, and a third on how to use our darn iPhones!

“Rabbit” Krueger is facilitating a monthly group, *Living with Intention Parent Circle*. It is for parents and others to connect, build community and reflect on various topics. It will start January 16, 5:30-7:30, with childcare and simple supper provided. Sign up is available at front desk.

Our minister, Rev Ilene has heard our plea. She will be offering sessions to explore the world religion of Sikhism. This is planned for the spring and messages will go out as it gets closer.

Lastly, your ARE team wants to hear from you. You can call us individually or email the Team at are@uutc.org. The ARE Team is Jeanie Bernard, Alex Burroughs, “Rabbit” Krueger, Jim Null, Earle Rabb and Paula Williamson. If you have an idea for a topic you would like to present, the ARE proposal form can be found on the [TEAMS page](#) on the UUTC website. We meet monthly at Team Meeting night, the first Wednesday of each month. The ARE Team is committed to providing opportunities for growth to our UUTC community.

**EDUCATION
SHOULD HELP
YOU BECOME
MORE OF WHO
YOU ARE.**

OVERHEARD AT UUTC

John Austin had to call home for some bit of information and heard Linda pick up the phone. “Hello?” he said... on the other end he heard “Hello? Hello?”. This went on for a couple moments, with John saying “Linda? Can you hear me? Hello?” and then there was a pause.

“I told you not to call me on that ear!” said Linda. (Some of us can readily empathize...!)

DISPOSING OF A PROPERTY

Probably the Board decision of most interest to many in the congregation is the one to raze the blue Varsity Street house (#52). When we purchased the bundle of three properties next door to the church, a major intention was to be able to remain in our current location for the foreseeable future. Anticipating some rental income to look forward to helped us decide to make the purchase.

We renovated and are currently renting both the gray house and the yellow house. By renting to Oxford House, we are also extending our ministry.

But, in the long run, the church also needs parking and program space. After considering the various proposals and cost projections it received, the Board unanimously decided to raze (tear down) #52 Varsity Street. Its mold, leaky roof, and general condition, as well as the cost to rehab it, made this the best decision for the church.

The cost of razing the building, including a civil engineering study of drainage issues and minimal landscaping, will be paid from the Varsity Fund as monies become available. Thus, the timeline will depend on the receipt of funds for that purpose. Estimates for professional removal of the property and grading are in excess of \$12,000. Donations to the Varsity Fund can be made [HERE](#).

THE VARSITY FUND — WHAT'S THAT FOR?

When UUTC purchased the Varsity Street properties, that purchase could not be authorized under normal procedures—it would have blown the Operating Budget completely out of the water. So a Congregational Meeting was held to specifically authorize the purchase, and the Varsity Fund was born. This Fund isolates expenses of these properties so that they do not create expenses in the Operating Fund, which is the Fund tied to essential functions of UUTC.

Because of the costs associated with getting the property ready to be an Oxford House, the Board set up a line of credit of \$13,000. This got the building occupiable for six women, a requirement of Oxford House management. We are still dealing with the occasional maintenance cost, and those costs are held in the Varsity Fund. For instance, over the Christmas holiday, the heat stopped working. Fortunately, what needed replacement was the gas furnace's venting fan—the bill should be about \$400, not \$4000.



Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10. . .

VARSITY FUND SNAPSHOT

In the detail at right, you will see all income at the top, which includes rental income starting in July for the Oxford House, and rental income from the Chalice House from August through November. At this point, Rev. Ilene moved to her new home and the house was prepared for a new tenant.

To keep this summary short, the expenses for the same period are grouped—line of credit payments, utilities, and the renovation expenses (largely from July and August) associated with getting and keeping both properties operational. The balance shown is through the end of December— a new line of credit payment has been made, so the current balance is now closer to \$2200.

Beginning in January, we have a new tenant, so income will return to October levels, which is enough to keep pace with our line of credit payments, though not the interest.

The slim margins with which we are currently working in this fund limit our ability to complete some maintenance of the buildings, and certainly too slim to accommodate the expense of razing #52. Tasks that are yet to be completed for the Olympia Brown House (#74) are painting of the exterior (we have some exposed wood siding), and repair/replacement of a casement window that was struck by a wayward stone. At #46, the Chalice House, we have many windows which are missing their screens. These windows are original to the structure, and glazing is failing on many. In the short term, new screens are the likely solution, but replacement of the windows with double-glazed windows with screens would be the preferred long-term solution.

We have had only one year in which to get accustomed to being a landlord, and our costs would have been astronomically higher without the assistance of so many who gave of their time and treasure to help with the renovation of these properties. Your gifts kept the line of credit from having to be larger. Once it is paid off (end of this fiscal year), the Varsity Fund will become more self-sustaining. For those who have an interest in seeing the repairs and razing take place, please [visit our GIVE page](#), where you can make a contribution directly to the Varsity Fund.

Starting Balance, July 2017	\$13,000.00
TOTAL INCOME, 2017-2018	\$22,640.00
July	\$1,200.00
August	\$1,830.00
September	\$1,830.00
October	\$1,830.00
November	\$1,870.00
December	\$1,080.00
Expenditures through Dec.	
Line of credit payments & interest	-\$7,440.59
Utilities, #46	-\$800.34
Utilities, #74	-\$209.60
Between-rental cleaning	-\$100.00
Renovation expenses, #46 & #74	-\$9,996.30
Total Expenses through Dec.	-\$18,546.83
CURRENT BALANCE	\$4,093.17

WHERE WOULD YOU BE WITHOUT UUTC?

RK Young

Seriously—where would your group meet? Would it meet? Who would your friends be? Where would you share your talents with others—the analysis of the Men’s and Women’s Groups, the music of the Eclectics and the choir (and the camaraderie within those groups), the exploration of “Being,” “Tao,” and other Hilly Bernard groups? Where would you go to hear discussions of spiritual things that are not chained to U.S. soil? Would another congregation serve you soup after the service? Would they provide space for the Living Wage Coalition to do their work? Would they let you bring your dog/cat/furryfamilymember to be part of the family unit for photos? And would they offer you the freedom to grow into your own beliefs as part of the covenant of Membership? Is there anyplace else anything like UUTC in Transylvania County? You know the answer as well as I do.



There is a lot to cherish here at UUTC. And it is all held together with “**Fund 1**,” which is our **General Operating Fund**—the Fund fed by your pledges and otherwise uncategorized contributions. This Fund pays your Minister and staff, pays the mortgage and utility bills, is managed in various ways by Membership, Facilities, ARE, CRE and Worship to meet the Mission of this congregation. It is a constant work in progress, since needs frequently change from the approval of a budget to the end of the fiscal year that budget covers. Who knew, in May of 2017, that we would be offered the chance to purchase the Varsity properties? No one— and therefore those expenses could never have gone into the planning for that fiscal year. [Hence the creation of a new fund!] As we begin the planning for 2018-2019, we still don’t have a clear picture on how to predict the unforeseen (and never will, of course), but we do try to make informed decisions based on the patterns and expenses of the year in progress and the one before it.

All our Funds are important, because they all serve specific needs. **No fund, however, is as important as Fund 1**, because without it we have no way to keep the ball rolling. This Fund requires consistent infusions (“cash flow,” in another language) in order to meet the Mission of UUTC. If the contributions were to stop, the salaries, mortgage and utilities payments would, also.

*Each of you has chosen to be here, in association, with UUTC. Some come for one reason, some come for another. But what UUTC continues to be is **what you make manifest**—with your presence, your talents, your hearts, and your dollars. Without you, there would be no UUTC. Give generously, and make it the force you wish to see in the world—for yourself and your community.*

HEAR OUR NEW UUA PRESIDENT IN PERSON

The Unitarian Universalist Association's Board of Trustees will hold one of its four major meetings of the year on Friday and Saturday, January 19-20, in New Market, TN.

On Sunday, January 21, 2018, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, there will be a UU worship service with the theme "The Courage to Love." Our new UUA president, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, will preach. Rev. Jason Sheldon will lead the music. There will be all-ages worship and child care available.

The worship service will take place at the Rothchild Event Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. Rev. Ilene will be attending the service.

If you would like to hear our new UUA president and worship with hundreds of area UUs, please let Carol Moore know by email. If there is sufficient interest in driving to Knoxville early Sunday morning and returning on Sunday afternoon, she will help arrange a car pool. Please indicate whether you are willing to drive and, if so, how many passengers you can accommodate.

Thank you.

Carol Moore carol@cjmoore.net



SCENES FROM FELLOWSHIP ON TAP



Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.

Our Mission, as a welcoming, inclusive community acting from love, compassion and respect is:

To support individual spiritual journeys and To promote social, economic and environmental justice.

KEEP UP WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Like us on Facebook and keep up with events during the week—get early notification on sermons! Great posts from our Children's Religious Exploration program and more. Click the logo to be taken to the page!



UUA Southern Region Newsletter [HERE!](#)



SOUTHERN REGION

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

VIEW our "insider" [church calendar](#). For previous issues of the UUTC Update, click [HERE](#).

SEND news for this newsletter by 10:00am on Wednesdays.

CONTACT US

Need Pastoral Care? Call Rev. Ilene at (877) 510-5603.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon and by appointment. The church telephone number is **828-877-6121**. Our mailing address is UUTC, PO Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712. Our website is www.uutc.org. Our church is located at the corner of Varsity Street and South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.