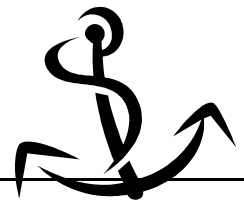


# Universalist Anchor



*from the heart...*

The windows in my apartment give me a clear view of the heavens, each season bringing a blessing of its own. This time of year, the oaks are beginning to color, and the maple is already a splash of bright red that gives me the joy of expected change.

I moved here in December last year, and the first view was the bare limbs reaching upward, a hundred or so feet into the air, seeming to want something from the Universe with their bare, outstretched limbs. Yet, through all seasons and all changes, the trees reach for the heavens.

We are like those trees. Change happens, and while we expect transition in our lives, when it comes, we do not always understand. Whether it is loss of leaves or new growth—metaphorically—we have questions about the change, and most of the time, the source of reliable information is God. Be it our God within or without, the Ultimate answer is found in our *listening* for the answer. We must listen with patience and discernment, both of which take time and practice. That is difficult for many of us who are rushing through our lives. We are used to hitting the “enter” key more than once if our screen does not immediately fill with the information we desire. Or we rush the toaster, pushing the toaster “cancel” button before our bread is toasted!

Psalm 5:3 tells us: in the morning God you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in anticipation.”

The author doesn’t tell us how long to wait, only that s/he waits in anticipation. Oh, if we were as faith-filled and faith-trusting as the scribe, we would surely be open to the answers that come our way. But we must be *patient*. Then, with discernment, we could understand our path *in relation* to God rather than *in relation* to our busy, competitive culture.

The trees reach up to heaven regardless of the season, their limbs seeking understanding and nourishment from the Ultimate Source. Why not us?

See you in church,  
Pastor Lillie



## Services for November

Services begin at 11:00 a.m.

**November 1** We will celebrate “All Souls Day” and Rev. Henley will preach on the promise of a new life. Revelations 21:1-6a We will celebrate All Souls communion.

**November 8** Rev. Henley will preach on **Ruth and Naomi** in the Hebrew Scriptures book of Ruth. It tells us love can be found in unexpected places. Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17.

**November 15** **Have we really lost the wisdom of the Ancients?** Some think we have, others see the true meaning in the Wisdom Literature. Proverbs 9:1-6 Rev. Henley preaching. **Congregational Meeting After the Service**

**November 22** It is the Sunday before Thanksgiving and Rev. Henley will look at our **Native American heritage** from the perspective of the indigenous peoples who had scribes for their words. We are fortunate that some were caring enough to write down their wisdom.

**November 29** **The First Sunday of Advent** and we will have communion. The service will focus on the theme “And She Brought Forth Her Firstborn.” Again this year Jennifer Sandberg will offer an Advent Devotional for our spiritual direction and Advent study.

## Congregational Meeting

We will have our semi-annual congregational meeting, November 15, 2009, after church. The board will advise the congregation on board and church activities this year and plans for the future.

David Gatton, Church Moderator

## Opportunities Around UNMC

### Chancel Flower Coordinator Needed

Will take approximately 20 minutes a week and you can do this at home!

### Chancel and Altar

Someone to care for the Chancel hangings and altar cloths throughout the year, organize candles, and order supplies needed for worship.

## Sharing Our Plate

Each month we share 10% of our free-will plate collection with a non-profit organization that works in our neighborhood and gives to those in need. In November, UNMC will share ten percent of its collected offerings to Martha's Table.

Martha’s Table’s mission is to help at-risk children, youth, families and individuals in our community improve their lives by providing educational programs, food, clothing, and enrichment opportunities.



### Winter Wear Drive!

services in November. The UNMC Young Adult group will collect the winter wear for **DC’s Homeless**. For more information, please contact Jerry Kemper at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)

## UNMC Board of Trustees Hires New Young Adult Program Minister

At their Monday night, October 5th meeting, the board unanimously approved hiring Rev. Laura McCrae as our Young Adult Program Coordinator. Rev. Laura was at our reception for Rev. Peter Morales, recently elected President of the UUA. Pastor Lillie has already spent time with this "... vibrant, warm, dedicated seminarian from Wesley and believes she is going to be an invaluable addition to UNMC ministry and outreach."

Rev. Laura Amber Arnetta "L.A." McCrae was born and raised in Bel Air, Maryland. She attended Bel Air High School then went on to matriculate at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Here, L.A. earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor of Africana Studies. She was a member of six (6) honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa. Upon graduation, L.A. entered a call into ordained, pastoral ministry beginning theological studies at Wesley Theological Seminary. While at Wesley, L.A. has focused on issues of Urban Ministry and independently worked with professors on queer studies. She will graduate in May 2010 with a Master's of Divinity Degree in hopes of continuing education by entering a doctoral program in the near future.



L.A. is a very down-to-earth, laid back person who is interested in Spoken Word and social justice activism. She admits to being an avid book reader and bibliophile. Additionally, L.A. continues to work for full LGBT inclusion in the United Methodist Church. She had a vision of the Beloved Community breaking forth in the most unexpected, unconventional, unique, and authentic ways. L.A. is working with friends and colleagues on a vision to create a public charter school/community center. Eventually, L.A. would like to create a Christian LGBT owned and operated coffeehouse, open 24/7, with performance space for artists, great food, and a cozy environment.

For the last three years, L.A. has been blessed with a wonderful partner, Vallesha. Together they work for inclusion and equality in the LGBT community. Vallesha works with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland (GLCCB). They enjoy quiet evenings, TV, food, entertaining, cooking out, and playing Rockband on the Wii with friends. L.A. and Vallesha are both passionate about outreach ministries, community service, and promoting literacy of all kinds.

## The National Equality March

Rev. L.A. and UNMC members joined thousands of people "Standing on the Side of Love" on Sunday, October 11, 2009 for the March on Washington. We left the church and followed 2 adults and a child on 16th St. who were blasting disco music while pulling a wagon. We decided to follow them and disco our way to the March. We had a blast! We joined other UUs at the March and proceeded past the White House and all the way to the Capitol building, where there were many speakers. The march was organized for National Equality and is the beginning of efforts to organize and empower people to fight for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) equality all across the nation. The march had one simple demand: equal protection for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states. Full equality includes members of the LGBT community and encompasses, but is not limited to:

- The right to work our jobs and go to school free of harassment and discrimination.
- The right to safety in our daily lives, and protection from hate crimes.
- The right to equitable healthcare and the right to donate blood.
- The right to equitable immigration policies.
- The right to marry.
- The right to serve in the military openly.

Many bills currently exist to address some of these issues, but many rights are left up to states, and differ widely from state to state. This march seeks one federal solution to full equality. The time is NOW.

## UU's from all over the USA attend March for Equality Reception at UNMC

Dear fabulous folks from UNMC who helped out with the Equality March Reception,

Thank you all SO MUCH for doing an absolutely stellar job of hosting. The effort you put in showed--the space looked fantastic, the food was great, and the atmosphere warm and welcoming. And I thought the turnout was great--enough but not too many!

So, again, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Hopefully we can partner again in the future!

And please let me know if there's anything I/we could have done differently on my end to make it easier.

In Faith,

Rob

Rob Keithan  
Director, Washington Office for Advocacy  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

## Interweave News

Interweave is planning another social with All Souls Unitarian and with the Washington Ethical Society for later in November. This might be another Sunday brunch social after church. We're waiting to hear back from both glbt groups. Other UU church GLBT groups in the Washington area have also expressed interest in meeting several times a year with us for a social or service project. Stay tuned! Information regarding socials and service projects will be sent by email or listed in the Order of Service.

Some Interweave members also helped setup and/or attended the March for Equality reception at UNMC. New UUA President Peter Morales spoke at the reception as well as Rob Keithan from the UUA Social Justice Office in DC. The following day many people from Interweave joined the March for Equality to the Capitol, where there were several speakers. Interweave is the social/service group for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at UNMC.

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY!

Are you looking to engage with a vibrant group of young adults? Would you like to serve our community? Interested in a Book Club? Bible Study? Happy Hour and Networking? Come out and fellowship with us on the Second Thursdays of every month. If you have ideas and/or would like to take some leadership in our group, feel free to contact Rev. L.A. McCrae at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org).

## Delighting in the Feminine Divine

The next class will be Nov. 22 after church in the upstairs library.

Based on the book of the same name by Bridget Mary Meehan, we will be discussing how we can find the Feminine Divine creating human life in Her Image. We will look at Genesis: 1:26 "Then God said: "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness". If that doesn't convince you that there is a Feminine Divine then maybe nothing will! Copies of this chapter and discussion questions will be available in the church parlor.

## American Sign Language Class

Janice Rosen is looking to start an American Sign Language class at the church tentatively the first Sunday of the month, after services, at 12:30. Class will last one hour. We will meet in the library on the 2nd floor. No registration required but please contact Janice in advance at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org) so enough materials may be prepared.

The first class will be Sunday, December 6.  
Thank you.

## A Touch of Fall at Leland Place

A hearty meal warmed the appreciative men of Leland Place and volunteers from our church on a chilly, rainy Saturday evening (October 17). Bob Sanderlin, Emily Skidmore (visiting from college in Richmond), Marsha Silverberg, and Dave Skidmore served breaded fried pork chops, whipped sweet potatoes, steamed broccoli, and a green salad--topped off by ginger bread and vanilla ice cream.

Leland, a facility of SOME (So Others Might Eat), is a halfway house on North Capitol Street for men in recovery from addiction. Volunteers are needed for the next meal. Get into the Thanksgiving spirit on Saturday Nov. 21. We will gather in the church kitchen at 2:30 p.m., with the goal of carpooling to Leland by 5 p.m. and returning to the church by 6:30 p.m. Volunteers generally share the cost of the meal, usually between \$15 and \$25 per person. Those wishing to volunteer time, but not money, are very welcome and should see Pastor Lillie or Dave Skidmore.

To reserve a volunteer slot at the next meal, please e-mail Dave Skidmore by Thursday Nov. 19 at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org) and let him know if you would like to plan and shop for the meal, or assist the planner/shopper with the cooking.

SOME, an interfaith organization, helps the poor and homeless in our city. It served 400,000 meals last year. Federal employees may designate it to receive their payroll deductions as part of the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign. The CFC number is 74405.

## Spiritual Journeys November 8 After Hospitality

This gathering is a step toward greater community within UNMC. All are invited to share their spiritual journeys with each other. We gather in Perkins Hall to share. If you are interested in becoming a member or want to get to know others better, come to this group.

## Buildings and Grounds needs your help!

If you are the type of person who likes to paint and take on structural projects, Buildings and Grounds can certainly use your assistance. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jorn Dakin at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)


## Submissions for the next Anchor newsletter will be due on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We want to hear all your great stories and announcements about community events! Please send submissions to Shawn Logue at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)

## In the Unitarian Universalist Community


Join us for a Community Screening of

# Fresh




*New thinking about what we're eating.*  
A film by Ana Sofia Joanes


November 8 at 4:00 p.m.  
Followed by a Panel Discussion with the Stars and our Local Heroes!




Joel Salatin, PhD  
Poast Hole Digger  
Polyface Farm



Eli Newcomb  
Urban Farmer  
Potomac Vegetable Farms




Sally Fallon, Co-Founder  
#eaton A. Price Foundation  
Author of  
Nourishing Traditions




Andrew Kimbrell,  
Executive Director  
Center for Food Safety

**And more!**



Carole Morison,  
Private Consultant  
Sustainable Food Systems



Monica Currado, Chef  
Holistic Nutrition Educator  
Honorary Board Member,  
#eaton A. Price Foundation

Moderated by Melissa Harris, Editor of *FLAVOR* Magazine

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax  
2709 Hunter Mill Road  
Oakton, VA 22124

**To RSVP, send number in party and contact info.  
to: [rsvpfresh@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpfresh@gmail.com)**

*A free-will offering will be taken to defray cost of license*

## When, If Ever, Is the Use of Military Force Morally Justifiable?

### The Kiplinger Lecture on Ethics in American Society

The ninth annual Kiplinger Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Paul B. Razor, at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, 2009.

The annual lecture series is the centerpiece of an ongoing educational program at Cedar Lane, aimed at promoting a wider consciousness and a deeper understanding of the concepts and questions of ethics and morality. The program, including the lectures, is made possible by a grant from the Kiplinger Foundation, in memory of Willard M. Kiplinger, founder of the Kiplinger newsletters and an early member of the church.

“Dr. Razor’s extensive work in peace studies, law, and theology gives him a unique perspective on the very timely issue of peacemaking,” notes Harvey Lerner, Chair of Cedar Lane’s Kiplinger Committee.

The lecture is open to the public; however, space is limited and early registration is encouraged. The registration fee is \$10; students free. More information may be obtained at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church web site: [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org), or by telephoning 301-493-8300.

## Reflections of a Renaissance Universalist, a book review by Dr. Ken R. Vincent

*BEYOND THE GRAVE, LOVE AND IMMORTALITY* by Floyd Vernon Chandler

*BEYOND THE GRAVE, LOVE AND IMMORTALITY* is a collection of sermons and articles by a Universalist minister of many gifts. For F. Vernon Chandler, the titles of Colonel, Reverend, and Doctor all apply. He is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister who has served as Parish Minister, Prison Chaplain, and Military Chaplain. Chandler has also been affiliated with the *UNIVERSALIST HERALD* for many years both as Editor and Board Chair.

Chandler’s theology spans both Christian and Interfaith Universalism. He is a believer in afterlife and, most of all, a believer in the infinite mercy of an all-loving, compassionate God. His sermons and articles reflect a mature understanding of Universalism from early Christianity to the present. Chandler’s sermon, “What Is Universalism?” is brief, easy-to-understand, and one of the best explanations I have ever read.

His writing reflects a man of compassion who has lived in the real world, and the world is better because of his work. His sermons to prisoners are especially moving and show a real sensitivity for a forgotten segment of God’s children. Like most Universalists, he is not only an eternal optimist but a “died-in-the-wool” Liberal. His championing of such causes as a living wage for the working poor and environmental issues are “hard-core” and at the heart of Universalist values. In spite of his advocacy for vegan vegetarianism, I would be happy to march down the aisle and join his church any day!

Universalist Christians, Liberal Christians, and Unitarian Universalist theists need to read this book.

## Musical Notes

It has been a very spiritual and musically enriching year at UMNC. We invite you to mark your calendars for the following upcoming events at UNMC:

### 2009

#### The Universalist National Memorial Church Artists' Series

##### December 13 Lunch at 12:30 and Concert at 2:30

##### Holiday Concert at Universalist National Memorial Church

Free Concert/Free Lunch/Great Music

Featuring "The Gospel Magnificat" as well as traditional Holiday Favorites!

##### December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

##### Christmas Eve at UNMC

##### A Glorious Evening of Lessons and Carols

### 2010

#### March 18

Washington National Wagner Society

"How To Write Your Own Wagner Opera"

with special guest COLLEEN FAY

#### Sunday, June 6th

##### A Choral Feast...From Bach to Gospel

##### With The UNMC CHOIR

##### Free Lunch and Free Concert

##### Saturday July 17 at 7:30

Washington National Wagner Society PRESENTS...

A Gala Fundraiser

Wagner, Meyerbeer, & Verdi

Featuring Arias and Duets from Tristan, Dinorah, La Traviata

Gotterdammerung, L'etoile du nord, Les Huguenots

##### PLUS a Grand Reception \$25.00

##### Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm

Washington National Wagner Society PRESENTS...

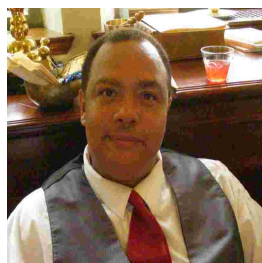
Great Operatic Duets

Join Maestro Winston. Soloists and The Wagner Symphonette

From Tristan, Lohengrin, Madama Butterfly, Thais, and Norma

We look forward to welcoming you.

Blessings, Darryl



## This is a fan letter.

Sunday afternoon at the church the Washington National Wagner Society put on a concert. It was organized and directed by Darryl Winston, our music director. This was not just any concert. The musicians were top quality. It was as good if not better than what I have paid a lot of money to see at the Kennedy Center and other venues around Washington, DC. I remember various members of our church once lamenting that we didn't have musical performances in our acoustically endowed church.

But let me first take a step back into my own growing up years. My parents loved opera. Saturdays were opera days. Each Saturday, my mother made pancakes for breakfast and my father put on opera records. They were complete operas, not just highlights. One Saturday it would be "Carmen", the next "The Marriage of Figaro" and so on. Then in the afternoon, we would listen to The Metropolitan Opera live from New York City on the radio. I had to do homework and my own instrument practicing around this day of operas.

Needless to say, I really got to know operas. I astounded a music teacher in high school, when he put on what he thought was an obscure opera, and I correctly named what it was! As a teenager, I decided I didn't like opera, though I would often stick around in the afternoon to listen to a Met broadcast of one of my favorites instead of going for my miles long walks. Lucia di Lammermoor's Mad Scene couldn't hold a candle to my teenage angst.

So fast forward to Sunday, October 18, 2009. I am no longer pretending to dislike opera. I LOVE opera! It doesn't make any difference to me what kind of plot an opera has, it's the singing and the music that I love. The singers showcased in this program in our church were just beyond fantastic. The orchestra, though small, sounded as if it were as big as the Metropolitan's (and oh, by the way, could play all of the time in tune!).

The soprano soloists, our Joyce Lundy and former Bolshoi Opera singer Tatiyana Abiyakiy, rattled the vaulted ceiling timbers. I personally am a huge fan of Joyce's. She is up there with the best professional singers today and besides she looked stunning with her tiara! Tatiyana has my vote for the biggest voice I've ever heard. Her costume changes befitted any Bolshoi diva! (See what you missed?) When she sang with tenor Antonio Giuliano it was simply "wow". Words cannot express the sound of their wonderful duet from Lucia di Lammermoore. Violinist Anthony Marini's solo of the Waltz from the ballet Copellia was simply "milk and honey" smooth and luscious.

During the concert I often closed my eyes to let the music and voices just wash over me. It was well worth my time. Next time Darryl Winston puts on a program, I hope to see more of our church members and friends there.

Jennifer Sandberg