



Good Gnus

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Jonesboro, AR
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“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire—it is the time for home.”

—Edith Sitwell, British poet, 1887-1964

Service Calendar

The Fellowship meets at Temple Israel, 203 W. Oak Ave., Jonesboro. Services and Children’s Program 10 a.m.

January 1 Annual New Year Brunch, 10 a.m.

Please remember the Children’s Shelter with your donation of personal hygiene products and 100% real fruit juices.

January 8 Norman Stafford will seek to answer the question “Just How Lucky Are We?”

The Second Sunday is Peanut Butter Sunday, when we remember our neighbors with contributions to the Food Pantry of peanut butter and other nutritious foods.

January 15 Marlee McCampbell will present her second visit of “Mission, Vision, and Covenant.”

Guest at Your Table is due today.

January 22 Norman Stafford will review his experience at the Annual Assembly of **Interfaith Arkansas**, on November 17, 2016.

January 29 A representative of **Hispanic Community Services, Inc.**, will help us understand the challenges faced by our Hispanic neighbors.

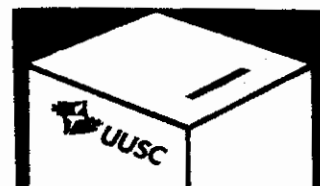


Guest At Your Table

If you have invited a **Guest at Your Table** in recent weeks, you have learned about real people engaged in struggles for justice in the U.S. and around the world. The Guest at Your Table program will **close on Sunday, January 15th**. You may convert your cash/coin donation to a check made out to "UUSC Guest at Your Table" and **complete the form on the box**. Or you can leave the coins as is, and Betty Stafford will count it and credit you. If you miss bringing back your GAYT donation on the 15th, please see Betty at your earliest opportunity.

What does your contribution support? **\$20** brings advocacy tools for the Restaurant Opportunities Center’s against the National Restaurant Association. **\$40** will contribute to a day of training on group dynamics and negotiation skills for the Urban Alliance leaders of the Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders. **\$75** enables one youth at risk for labor exploitation and trafficking near the Uganda-Kenya border to participate in training for healthy and profitable employment. Your gift of **\$125** or above qualifies for a matching gift from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, N.Y.

Please be generous with your contribution to the annual GAYT appeal.



'Twas the Month after Christmas

'Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste,
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales, there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store—less a walk than a lumber.

I remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared.

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I never said, "No, thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt,

I said to myself, as I only can
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So—away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
'Til all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie—not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore—
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot—
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

—Author Unknown

What if All Could Thrive?

All of us carry labels applied by others. The complimentary ones—"generous," "funny," "smart"—are worn with pride. The harsh ones can be lifelong burdens, indictments we try desperately to outrun. The most enduring label, and arguably the most influential, is the first one most of us got—"It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!" Though Sigmund Freud used the word "anatomy" in his famous axiom, in essence he meant that *gender* is destiny.

Today that and other beliefs about gender are shifting rapidly and radically....Robin Marantz Henig writes that we are surrounded by "evolving notions about what it means to be a woman or a man and the meanings of transgender, cisgender, gender non-conforming, or any of the more than 50 terms Facebook offers users for their profiles. At the same time, scientists are uncovering new complexities in the biological understanding of sex. Many of us learned in high school biology that sex chromosomes determine a baby's sex, full stop—XX means girl; XY means boy. But on occasion [they] don't tell the whole story."

With a future-facing perspective on gender, **National Geographic** has devoted its January 2017 issue to 80 young people, from the Americas to the Middle East, from Africa to China, whose keen and articulate observations bravely reflect our world back at us. The issue also offers "Helping Families Talk about Gender," drawn from *HealthyChildren.org*, the American Academy of Pediatrics' parenting website.

—from Susan Goldberg, Editor in Chief



The Search for Truth and Meaning

A reminder to educators, students, parents...well, *everybody*—I have a hope for ALL of us that we can come to further understand and respect *neurodiversity*. We all learn, interact, socialize, communicate, celebrate, love, and grieve differently. That person who is "odd" or "quirky"? Maybe s/he is on the autism spectrum. Maybe not. The person who speaks out in class a lot? Maybe s/he has a condition that makes impulsivity a challenge. Maybe not. The person who you find annoying? Maybe s/he has trouble reading social cues and just needs kindness and a gentle nudge towards understanding. Bottom line? YOU DON'T KNOW. So err on the side of *compassion* and *kindness*. Don't roll your eyes, don't snicker, don't elbow the person next to you and make a rude comment. LOVE is the answer.

—from Lisa Bohn (UU Fellowship), on Facebook, 8/27/16

UUs in Action

The determination of our government and oil companies to run the Dakota Access Pipeline through land preserved for indigenous people and thereby putting the safety of their water at risk runs counter to most UU principles.

From the beginning of this struggle, UUs have shown up in solidarity with the Water Protectors at Standing Rock. In groups and as individuals, non-local laypeople and clergy have made the trek to North Dakota to be in the freezing cold as a sign of support and commitment. The national "clergy call" at Standing Rock on December 4, 2016, included 47 UU ministers.

The Fellowship's November contribution to Helping Neighbors Food Pantry was **65** pounds of peanut butter. December's contributions totaled **75** pounds. Thank you for your concern for needy families, at a time when everyone needs to feel supported as part of a community.

UUFJ Board Meeting Notes 12/8/16

Present—Arlene Dormio, Sue Garrison, Marlee McCampbell, and Karen Yanowitz

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm after a pizza dinner, our check-in, and the chalice lighting.

- Sue reported on her research into the **UUA Endowment Fund**, which requires an initial investment of \$10,000. The Knotts Fund does not come up for renewal until May 2017, and discussion on our participating in the Endowment Fund was deferred.
- Sue will also check on when our **renter's insurance** is due.
- The Board voted to use funds from Bill Branom's insurance proceeds to **purchase new hymnals**.
- Discussion on a **permanent sign** included the point that, if the sign is to be seen from the

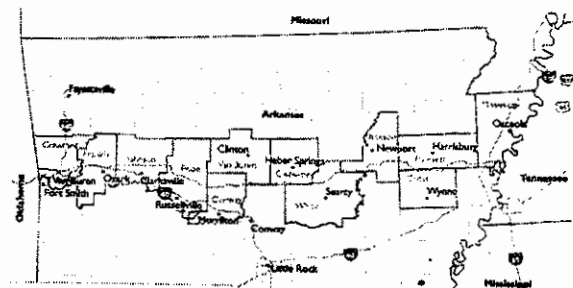
street, our name would have to be shortened. No decision on this issue was made.

- **Andrea Walker was announced as the Social Justice Chair.** Sue will forward the job description she has prepared to Andrea.
- The next worship service on **mission and vision** will include samples which Marlee has researched.
- Karen reported that the **By-Laws Committee** met. The revised by-laws will be presented to the Fellowship for discussion by section.
- Karen requested that Fellowship mail be sent to her Yahoo account—kvanowitz@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Dormio

Our Interdependent Web

The windiest real estate in America is a vertical streak of persistent winds in western Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. A private company, Clean Energy Partners, LLC, in Houston, plans to tap that wind for electricity it can transport to utilities requiring a bolus of alternative energy in their portfolios. CLEP has laid out five 600-kilovolt, direct current power transmission lines across the U.S. to bolster our aging national power transmission grid, starting with delivery of 4,000 megawatts from Oklahoma to the Tennessee Valley Authority for distribution to southeastern markets. However, the \$2.5 billion transmission facility will require more than 5,000 acres of private land to accommodate a 310-mile long corridor across north Arkansas.



Along with the federal Southwestern Power Administration, CLEP will be required to erect 5,000 metal towers, some of them 200 feet tall, in 12 Arkansas counties, to millions of feet of HVDC power cable. Landowners are discovering that the power line will require a broad cut through family farmsteads, removing hundreds of acres of timber, and that CLEP is

a private company trying to secure eminent domain. Although private property must give way for public utility easements to benefit the commons, landowners feel this project is about lining the pockets of rich investors and that any Arkansas land in sight of the massive HVDC transmission line will instantly lose value.

Some property owners in western Arkansas have joined Golden Bridge LLC, which, along with landowners in eastern Arkansas, filed a legal complaint in federal court against the DOE. Both groups claim the decision to partner with CLEP is unlawful and should be set aside. Golden Bridge supports clean energy development if it's locally produced and distributed; i.e., *decentralized* clean energy production. A decision in the case is pending. Landowners have also found common ground with both state and federal lawmakers. Arkansas's congressional delegation filed bills in both the House and Senate in the summer of 2015 to block Clean Line, describing the hybrid project as "federal overreach."

CLEP co-founder, Mario Hurtado, is aware of these concerns, but he says thousands of landowners welcome the project, and naysayers are a small minority. Hurtado maintains that the project will "fix an aging national transmission grid, bringing affordable clean energy to millions of U.S. consumers." Impacts on property will be minimized, and property owners "will be paid 100% of market value on the 150-200 foot-wide easements, times square footage. On top of that a **second compensation**, for transmission structures on the property, will pay landowners a one-time sum or annual payments, their choice." A

third compensation covers other impacts. For example, marketable timber or crop loss will be compensated on a long-term basis. Property owners will have access to the land to use as they wish, as long as it does not impede access to or operations of the transmission line. "We will keep the landowner whole," Hurtado says.

At a press conference October 3rd, at the Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission's annual conference in Little Rock, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin fully supported Clean Line and wind development, citing declining oil and natural gas revenue. But Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson was less enthusiastic because states have had no role in this development. Hutchinson wants a transmission line across Arkansas to provide some of that energy to the state.

CLEP says it will construct a \$100 million substation in Pope County to offload 500 megawatts of clean energy in central Arkansas, create hundreds of temporary construction jobs along the route, purchase Arkansas-manufactured materials to build the power line, pay \$5 million dollars in annual property tax revenue to affected counties, and generate \$30 million in easement and infrastructure payments to property owners. Contract land agents have begun striking necessary right-of-way easements on a thousand parcels, anticipating construction to start late next year.

And if owners refuse? The parcel will be handed over to the Department of Energy to complete the acquisition. That is, the federal department would initiate condemnation proceedings.

—from Jacqueline Froehlich, Arkansas Public Media, 10/20/16

Doonesbury

