

Published by and for the Unitarian Universalist Community of Rock Valley
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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On June 2nd we welcome State Rep. Maurice West (D) 67th District to speak to us about legislation to give Shabbona Lake State Park in DeKalb County to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation that he has co-sponsored in the Illinois General Assembly. House Bill 4718 would give back about 1,500 acres of land that covers much of the tribe's original reservation that was illegally sold by the U.S. government 175 years ago.

The land was granted to Chief Shab-en-nay in the 1829 Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien to thank him for his assistance during the Red Bird uprising in 1825. During the Blackhawk War of 1832, he Chief warned settlers on several occasions of hostile tribes, including the early residents of Chicago. After the war the Chief left Illinois to visit the rest of his tribe in Kansas for several weeks. When he returned home he discovered that his house and land had been auctioned off by the General Land Office because they said he had abandoned it.

Chief Shab-en-nay continued to live in the area near Peru, Illinois where it is said he spent his days watching the seasons change and died in 1859 at the age of 84. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Grundy County. Since his death, there has been an ongoing effort to reclaim the reservation land by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Recently the U.S. Department of the Interior designed 128 acres of land purchased by the tribe as Federal trust land, making it the first Federally recognized tribal land in Illinois and giving the tribal nation sovereignty over it.

The bill to transfer Shabbona Lake State Park to the tribe has passed out of committee in the State House, but faces opposition from local residents. Rep. West is also the sponsor of a bill to ban schools in Illinois from using Native American mascots, logos and names. "A lot of people look at this within the lens of tradition, and I understand and respect that." Rep. West told Illinois Capitol News in April, "however, I ask them to look within a lens of empathy as well, because there are indigenous young people who look at these Native American mascots and imagery and feel some type of way about it... It makes them feel objectified," West said. His bill is not moving forward this legislative session, but West is committed to seeing it pass.

The return of the State Park to the Potawatomi Nation is an important step toward the restoration of land stolen from Indigenous people. In her book, "On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World", Danya Ruttenberg wrote "Our refusal, as a nation, to name and face the original harms perpetrated against Indigenous Amerivans means that we commit them again and again. If we were willing to invest in the work of repair and transformation, however, another future might be possible—for tomorrow and for, perhaps, seven generations from now."

I invite you to join us for the service on June 2nd to welcome Rep. Maurice West.

Jerry Paulson



Joseph. "Zeke" Rupnick, tribal chairman of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and State Rep. Maurice West speak at a news conference at the Illinois Capitol in February 2024 (Photo by Peter Hancock/ Capitol News Illinois)

MARLENE'S MINISTERIAL MUSINGS



Our Bring a Friend Sunday, with guest preacher Rev. Misha Sanders, was a rocking success. We filled our Sanctuary and our Zoom screen with people and music. It was a joy to see our Sanctuary full.

We've made it to June. There's lots happening in June so be sure to look at the calendar. I want to lift up our Annual Flower Communion on June 9th. In addition to Flower Communion, we will celebrate the ritual of Bridging for Vesta Ferguson. Bridging is a UU ritual that acknowledges the transition from youth to adulthood. Following the service is our Annual Meeting. Hope to see you all there.

June also brings us to the annual UUA General Assembly. This year GA is fully virtual. GA is where the governance of our Association takes place. UUCRV has 2 lay delegates, Jerry Paulson and Cher Zimmerman, plus me as your ministerial delegate. But anyone can register and attend either as full participant or just the business meetings. Here's a link to info about GA <https://www.uua.org/ga>. We will also be streaming the GA Sunday service on June 23rd from our Sanctuary.

This year at GA we will be making the final decision to adopt the new Article 2 revision that places Love at the center. I am confident that it will pass, perhaps with a couple of minor amendments. The next step will be finding ways to bring it into the life of our congregations and faith. I am excited about the change. Our 8 Principles do not go away, this change give us more depth in how we live them out as values. So, take a look at the website and think about participating.

Blessings, Rev. Marlene



JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES

JUNE 3 GUEST SPEAKER: STATE REPRESENTATIVE MAURICE WEST LAY LEADER: JERRY PAULSON



Welcome State Rep. Maurice West (D) 67th District to speak to us about legislation to give Shabbona Lake State Park in DeKalb County to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation that he has co-sponsored in the Illinois General Assembly.

JUNE 9 FLOWER COMMUNION AND BRIDGING CEREMONY FOR VESTA FERGUSON REV. DR. MARLENE WALKER

Remember to bring a flower to add to our communion Bouquet. Annual Flower Communion on June 9th. In addition to Flower Communion, we will celebrate the ritual of Bridging for

Vesta Ferguson.

JUNE 16 "PLURALISM: OUT OF MANY ONE" REV. MARLENE WALKER What does it mean to live in pluralistic society? What does it mean to be part of pluralistic faith? And what do both require of us?

JUNE 23 – SUNDAY SERVICE AT UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEAD BY: REV. MOLLY HOUSH GORDON

Live Streaming at a SPECIAL TIME: 12:00 pm

Embrace the electrifying spirit of the year's largest UU gathering, where we come together in unity for an awe-inspiring Sunday worship celebration like no other! It's a vibrant, communal worship experience that promises to uplift your soul and ignite your passion. Don't miss out on this extraordinary gathering of hearts and minds!

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon is the minister of the UU Church of Columbia, Missouri, where she is currently suing the state of Missouri for their unconstitutional abortion ban alongside 13 other multi-faith clergy co-plaintiffs. Molly is passionate about red-state UU ministry, community organizing, and mutual aid. In addition to her ministry and organizing work, Molly is a published essayist and poet completing a Doctor of Ministry in Creative Writing and Public Theology.



JUNE 30 – TOPIC : TO BE ANNOUNCED GUEST MINISTER: REV. LINDA SLABON



Rev. Linda Slabon retired after 26 years as minister at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb. The congregation bestowed upon Rev. Linda the title of "Minister Emerita," in honor of her many years of faithful service to the congregation. Her spouse Toni Tollerud served for 26 years as music director at UUFD.

UUCRV ACTIVITIES

MEANINGFUL MOVIES AT UUCRV

Meaningful Movies are on the second Tuesday (1:30 p.m.) and Saturday (6:30 p.m.) of each month through June 2024.

JUNE 8 & 11 *LITTLE BIRD: WANNA ICIPUS KUPI (COMING HOME)*

Coming Home, the compelling feature-length documentary by director Erica Daniels, takes viewers behind the scenes of the production of the much-anticipated dramatic series Little Bird and the groundbreaking movement for Indigenous narrative sovereignty as experienced through the series' Indigenous creatives, crew and '60s Scoop advisors.

Highly recommend watching "Little Bird" the PBS series before our program.



UUCRV ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

THE TOUCHSTONES JOURNAL JUNE TOPIC IS HUMILITY

The Touchstones Discussion Group meets at the church on June 19 at 10:30. For more information, contact Connie Matusiak @ 608-361-9669. The Touchstones Journal for June wasn't available at the time of the newsletter's publication. Members can request a copy via uucrockvalley@gmail.com and it will be sent to you when it becomes available.



SOUL MATTERS JUNE TOPIC: THE GIFT OF RENEWAL

We are renewed by so many things: nature, each other, memory, music, play, solitude, silence, and - of course - our faith. Through small groups, calls to justice work, worship, caring for one another, covenant and accountability, our faith breathes new life into us.

But it also renews us in a way that often goes unnoticed: through questions! Or to be more precise, our faith has a sneaky way of changing our lives by changing the questions we ask.

Here's where our faith comes in. It enters the scene and in effect says, "Hey, look over here. There's a box with an entirely different set of renewal questions that nobody's opened yet." Questions like:

- ✚ Are you sure it's your body that's tired, or could it be your soul?
- ✚ What if "time away" isn't about restoring yourself in order to return to work, but rather making space to decide if it's time to re-imagine what your "true work" really is?
- ✚ Is it time to renew your responsibility to those who will come after you?
- ✚ Is it time to renew your commitment to carry on the work of those who came before?
- ✚ What if you saw your daily living and loving as an opportunity (even a calling) to renew *others'* faith in humanity?
- ✚ Could it be that continual self-improvement is not the path to renewal, but instead compassionate acceptance of who you already are?

And those are just the questions sitting on top of the pile!

This month let's renew and refresh the questions we ask. Reminding ourselves that, indeed, we change our lives by changing our questions. And, maybe most importantly, let's each ask ourselves, "What renewing question do I want to take with me into the summer?"

Check out the options in June's Soul Matters. UUCRV has a subscription to Soul Matters. You can delve into these questions and explore The Gift of Renewal by emailing uucrockvalley@gmail.com and requesting a copy.



DEMOCRACY IN ACTION: VOTE LOVE-UU THE VOTE

It's just a fact: Democracy does not work without citizen activism and participation—starting with community. It is also a fact that we don't leave things to other people. What's right and good does not come naturally. You must stand up and fight for it as if the cause depends upon you because it does. Allow yourself that deceit to believe that the flame of democracy will never go out as long as there is one candle in your hand. --Bill Moyers

WHY DO THIS WORK FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS AND BEYOND?

- ❖ To keep the flame of democracy burning.
- ❖ All those UU's who came before us are calling on us to do this.
- ❖ Our UU values and principles are calling us to do this.
- ❖ With the threat of authoritarianism on the rise in the world and in the United States we are called to stand up and protect our democracy because everything we believe in is inextricably linked to a strong and healthy democracy.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS?

CLIMATE JUSTICE. LGBTQ JUSTICE. TRANS LIVES. REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE.
ANTI-OPPRESSION RACIAL JUSTICE. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE. MIGRANT JUSTICE.
HOUSING JUSTICE. ECONOMIC JUSTICE. PEACE. HEALTH. WELL-BEING.



Native and Indigenous Rights News in Illinois

Legislation

Last August, Governor JB Pritzker signed three bills offering increased protections for Native and Indigenous Illinoisans. HB3413, the Human Remains Protection Act, establishes procedures for encountering human remains or gravesites and returning remains to Native American Nations. SB1446 prohibits schools from banning students from wearing cultural regalia as graduation attire. HB1633 mandates instruction on Native American history in Illinois public schools.

"Today, we take another step forward in repairing generations of harm and building a brighter future for our state's Native American and Indigenous Peoples," **said Governor JB Pritzker.** "At its core, this legislation is about respect. Respect for those who came before us and those who will come after—and that is why we want to teach our children this history, to avoid the mistakes of the past and to instill that respect from an early age."

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/press-release.26837.html>

House Bill 1633 Synopsis:

- Provides that the State Education Equity Committee shall include a member from an organization that works for economic, educational, and social progress for Native Americans and promotes strong sustainable communities through advocacy, collaboration, and innovation.
- Requires the State Superintendent of Education to convene a Native American Curriculum Advisory Council.
- Creates the Native American Curriculum Task Force.
- Provides that the unit of instruction on the Holocaust and genocides shall include instruction on the Native American genocide in North America.
- Provides that, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of the Native American experience and Native American history within the Midwest and the State since time immemorial.
- Provides that the teaching of the history of the United States shall include the study of the role and contributions of Native Americans and teaching about Native Americans' sovereignty and self-determination.

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

"175 years ago, Potawatomi Chief Shab-eh-nay left his home in DeKalb County to visit family in Kansas. He returned home to find the U.S. government had illegally sold 1,280 acres of his northern Illinois land. The US. Department of the Interior recently placed portions of that land into a trust for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation."


<https://www.northernpublicradio.org/wnij-news/2024-05-09/native-american-educators-build-resources-for-new-illinois-education-curriculum>



"At a land title office in Sycamore, IL, Prairie Band Potawatomi Chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick signs document transferring 130 acres of tribal-owned land in DeKalb County to the federal government, for use as reservation land."

<https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/in-a-historic-announcement-from-the-u-s-government-illinois-is-once-again-home-to-a-federally-recognized-tribal-nation/>

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Flower Communion is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Čapek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Mája Čapek, Norbert's widow. This piece by the Revs. Teresa and David Schwartz, tells The Story of Norbert Čapek's Flower Ceremony.</p>						1
<p>2 *** 10:30 am Worship: Indigenous Rights in Illinois Guest Speaker: Rep. Maurice West Lay Leader: Jerry Paulson</p>	<p>3 1:00-2:00 pm Membership Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10-noon Community Office Hours. Bushel and Peck 1:00-3:00 pm Faith Formation Committee Zoom Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 1:00 pm Finance Committee Zoom meeting</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 *** 10:30 am Worship: Flower Communion Rev. Marlene Walker ANNUAL MEETING</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 2-4 pm Board Zoom Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 *** 10:30 am Worship: Pluralism: Out of Many, One Rev. Marlene Walker</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:30 am Touchstones Small Group Discussion <i>Susan Busker's birthday</i></p>	<p>20 Summer Solstice <i>Please send in dates and articles for the July Newsletter!</i></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 *** 12:00 pm Worship: Sunday Service at UUA General Assembly</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 11 am on Zoom On Repentance and Repair Discussion Part 2.</p>	<p>26 5 p.m. Evening Vespers Outside weather permitting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <i>Diana Sommer's birthday</i></p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 *** 10:30 am Worship: TBA Guest Minister: Rev. Linda Slabon</p>						

***** WORSHIP SERVICES ARE MULTIPLATFORM INCLUDING ON ZOOM**

(The ZOOM link is in the "Service Information" email sent to members & friend prior to the service. Request service information by emailing uucrockvalley@gmail.com)

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Secretary	Denny Broderick	608-751-0630
Treasurer	Paulette Lucas	815-601-3225
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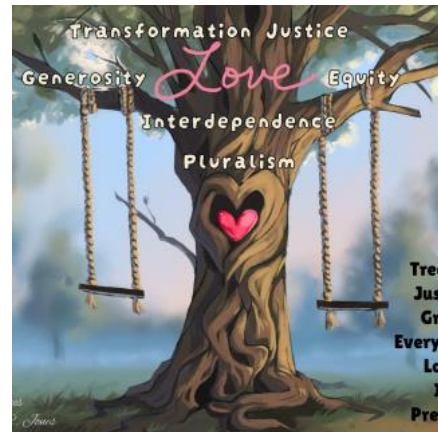
Members are welcome at all UUCRV committee meetings. Check the calendar in this newsletter for meeting times. If you have questions or comments to share, contact board members or the appropriate committee chair.

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walker

Email: revmwalker@mac.com

Phone: 970-640-5444

With bittersweet feelings I offer my last UUCRV newsletter. The past 2 ½ years, have given me a creative outlet that I hope has served the community. Working on it has been a joy because it allowed me the opportunity to revisit one of my favorite tasks from Community Relations, PR and advertising work I performed in the past. Thanks to UUCRV for the joys and challenges involved in being your newsletter editor. Jodell Gabriel



SHARE THE PLATE THIS QUARTER



humane society
of Southern Wisconsin



The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin is the recipient of UUCRV's Share the Plate offerings for the months of April, May and June. Remember the 1/2 of the offering plate is offering money **not pledge money**. When sending in a check please put offering in the memo line so the treasure knows the money is not pledge money.

The Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin is located between Beloit and Janesville at 4700 S. County Truck G Janesville WI 53546.

Their mission statement is: *to provide shelter and humane care to lost and homeless pets, reunite lost pets with their families, promote positive pet adoption and educate our community in order to inspire compassion and responsible pet guardianship.*

Prayer

Holy Mystery—embodiment of love more expansive and queer than we can imagine—may we live lives of integrity. Always becoming. Whole and true and beloved.

Prayer by Rev. Paige Getty (she/her) is a Unitarian Universalist minister who served the UU Congregation of Columbia, Maryland, from 2003 to 2024. from Braver/Wiser. Braver/Wiser is a weekly message of courage and compassion for life as it is.

The link to Rev. Getty's article:

<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/totes-queer>



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.