

CVUU Monthly News

ADMIN & COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION



Coastal Virginia
Unitarian Universalists

AUGUST 2019

ISSUE 19

Greetings from Rev. Justine

Dear CVUU Members
and Friends:

So much has happened since we were last together, it feels like more than a few weeks have passed. In the first part of July, I had the great privilege of participating in Chalice Camp with 16 campers, 5 teen counselors, and many adult teachers and helpers – truly a labor of love. I am grateful to Director of Religious Education Paul Greggs and Children's Religious Education Committee co-chair Lisa Kilczewski for their leadership and commitment to make this happen. It was a joy to spend each morning in worship with this Chalice Camp community; look for a worship service led by the campers, counselors and me early in the new church year.



Immediately, after Chalice Camp, I left for a week at SUUSI on the campus of Western North Carolina University. What a

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Homecoming set for Sept. 8

As is part of our UU tradition, our **Homecoming Service on Sept. 8** marks the end of our summer lay-led series and kicks off our church year!

This is a special re-gathering of our community as we look forward to our second year here in Virginia Beach.

We will celebrate with Water Communion, another Homecoming tradition, where we will combine waters from our lives as a blessing for our community. Think about all your recent experiences and bring water that represents something significant, something that connects you to your deepest wellsprings.

The first water ritual, and the one that our tradition stems from was in 1980, when two Unitarian Universalist women—Carolyn McDade and Lucile Schuck Longview—created a worship service for the Women and Religion Continental Convocation of Unitarian Universalists. According to the UUA they wanted something “that spoke to our connectedness to one another, to the totality of life, and to our place on this planet.” They chose water as the inclusive symbol of women’s spirituality. The ceremony evolved and became an important part of the feminist movement inside of Unitarian Universal-

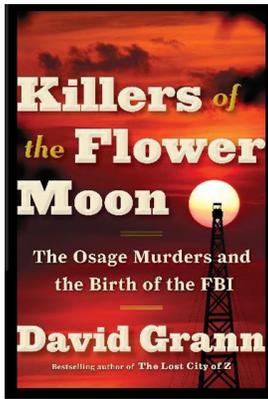


ism, and, according to the UUA, it is closely related to the development of our current UU “Principles and Purposes.” You can read more about it here: <https://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/featured-new/water-rituals-and-ingatherings-revitalized/>

If you are a new member or planning to visit that day, you are welcome to join our ceremony. During the appointed time in the service we will ask people to come forward, one by one, to pour their water together into a large bowl. It is then blessed by the congregation. Our membership team will host a special celebration after the service. Look for more details on this in your upcoming, weekly CVUU Courier!

Novel Idea Book Club meets Aug. 21st

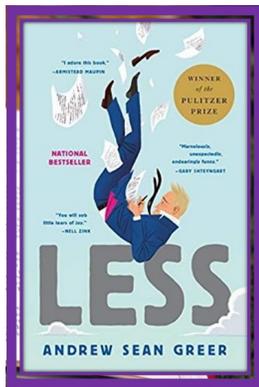
NIBC will meet again on Wed., Aug. 21st at 6 p.m. on the 3rd floor. They will discuss "*Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*" - the third non-fiction book by



American journalist David Grann. This true-crime novel follows the investigation of a series of murders of wealthy Native Americans from the Osage tribe in the early 1920s after big oil deposits were discovered beneath their land in Osage County, Oklahoma. For any readers interested in participating, RSVP to organizer Suzanne Ludwick at ludwickfamily@gmail.com. NIBC meets the third Wednesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Big Change for Women's Book Group!

The CVUU Women's Book Group has re-named themselves the Saturday Potluck & Book Discussion Group to be more inclusive. They still meet the fourth Saturday of each month in Room 201 upstairs at CVUU over a potluck luncheon! Their chosen read for their next gathering on August 24th is Andrew Shawn Greer's "*Less*."



Contact Vicki C. at landline (757) 638-0737 or Cell phone (757) 469-1397

vicki0737@hotmail.com or contact the CVUU office, 757-627-5371, for further information. All are welcome! (The shared food and discussions are great!)

Tidewater Cluster Assembly is Oct. 12

Save the date to join other UUs for a day of fellowship, workshops, inspiration, sharing ideas and worship at the annual Tidewater Cluster Assembly, Saturday, Oct. 12.

Tidewater Cluster consists of seven UU congregations in eastern Virginia: Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists, UU Fellowship of the Peninsula, Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, UU Fellowship of Fredericksburg, UU Community Church of Glen Allen, UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock and First UU Church of Richmond.

This year's assembly will be hosted by First UU Church of Richmond. The intention of the assembly is to share knowledge, skills, and resources in order to strengthen our individual congregations and increase our collective influence in promoting UU principles both in the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout our nation and the world.

Buddhists to meet again in August

CVUU's Buddhist Affinity Group, which meets monthly, will return from the summer hiatus on Monday, August 12 at 7 p.m.

The group meets in the Meditation Room on the 2nd floor from 7 PM to 9 PM on the second Monday of the month. Mark your calendars for Monday, Sept. 9th for the following meeting.

This is an open group for those interested in the teachings of Buddhism and how to apply Buddhist concepts in their everyday lives. Meetings include a meditation session followed by discussion of a topic chosen by the group. Discussion is not limited to the Buddha and Bud-

dhist teachings, but may also include work from authors using Buddhist concepts in their writings.

Join Tidewater Cluster for book study

Our UU friends in the Tidewater Cluster have chosen "*Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*" as their group read for this fall.

In the book, fourteen activist ministers and lay leaders apply a keen intersectional analysis to the environmental crisis, revealing ways that systems of oppression intersect with and contribute to ecological devastation.

Look for more details of a discussion of this book at CVUU in Sept!

The book can be purchased online in the UU inSpirit Book and Gift Shop. Just go to www.uuabookstore.org

It is also available as an eBook in the Amazon Kindle store and on Google Play.

RE adopts Spirit Play curriculum

On Sat., Aug. 10, the CREC will provide training in using the Spirit Play curriculum to CREC members, prospective teachers, and any other interested CVUU members. The training is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided. We ask everyone to bring their own lunch.

Here is a link to the Sign Up Genius for Spirit Play training: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F49ACAC22AA8-spirit>

CVUU will have an orientation Sunday after the service on 8/11/19 for parents/guardians or anyone interested in finding out more information about Spirit Play.

Save the date for the CVUU Auction!

Mark your calendars CVUU's First Annual Fundraising auction on Saturday, October 26th, hosted by the Young Adult Group! You will experience outstanding food, amazing entertainment, and captivating auctioneers, while being able to bid in

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magical place – living our UU values in community with 1,100 or so people – adults and children learning, playing, praying, and singing together. I see now why so many of you make space for SUU-SI in your lives each summer. Following SUUSI, I traveled home to Massachusetts for time with Dale and some of our beloveds here. In early August, we will return to Norfolk, and move into our new

apartment – one with more light and a view of the Hague. I hope to see many of you there soon, as I intend to host some open-house gatherings in my new home away from home.

As you journey about your summer, whether you take an actual physical journey or a journey of the heart and mind, don't forget to gather water for our in-gathering service on Sunday, September

8th. We will pour our water into a common vessel and offer a word or two about what hope to bring forth and nourish in our second year together.

In faith and fellowship,
Justine

Rev. Justine Sullivan
Interim Minister, CVUU
T 757-627-5371

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both our live and silent auctions. However, we first need your help.

Items in the auction are donated by our CVUU community, so put on your thinking caps! CVUU-ians love dinners and social outings, as well as offers for services (such as home repairs, rides, IT help), art, jewelry, food items (including drinks), and gift certificates! This year, YAG is encouraging more gift baskets and can help with suggestions or ideas! Donate a bottle of wine for our Wine Ring Toss, or craft beer to our Beer Pong Game! Baked goods can be won through corn-hole. YAG will be in the Social Hall after services beginning SUNDAY, Aug. 4th to take donation commitments! Physical donations will be collected mid- October (but still bring them your ideas so they can plan accordingly).

2nd Annual Chili Cookoff Oct. 5th

Save the date! We are looking for chili chefs and cornbread bakers. The festivities will be from 4– 7 p.m. on the CVUU front lawn.

We will have prizes, live music, craft beer provided by Coelacanth Brewery of Norfolk, and a 50/50 raffle. Prizes will be awarded for 1st-3rd place in chili and cornbread. The cost: \$10 tasting fee or \$10 entry/tasting fee for cooks.

Don't forget your lawn chairs. Be sure to bring your extended family, friends & neighbors. This is a family affair!

Beloved Pets of the month!



Image credit Lisbet Dula

(Clockwise) Meet Jazmyn, Simon, Fred and Dexter, Lisbet Dula's squad! The leader of the pack is 13-year-old long-haired beauty Jazmyn, adopted from the Norfolk SPCA. Simon (all gray) is 3. He was born feral but wanted to be a housecat and has achieved his goal. Fredd (orange tabby) "just showed up one day"; and plant sitter Dexter, 11, was abandoned in a parking lot by his previous owners. Lisbet says all her rescued friends are BFFS & happily rule her household!

Social Justice University

Democracy begins with voting, but it cannot end there. The Legislative Collaborative Table of South Hampton Roads invites you to attend Social Justice University here at CVUU

3 - 5 p.m.

September 29th

It's a free, educational, action-focused-issues briefing for the public!



GET MORE KISSES, MORE WALKS, MORE LOVE!

Now - August 17

Honor our 7th Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence and consider adding a homeless pet to your family! The summer months make for the highest intakes at area shelters, so they have dropped their adoption fees to help place more loving pets! #ClearTheShelters

Bridge the gap between head & heart, science & faith!

ProFuture Faith Discussion Group

Sept. 5 – Oct. 24th!

Sign-up for this weekly group is easy! Email steve.hansen2@verizon.net



LUGHNASADH CELEBRATION

Family Field Day & Potluck

Saturday, August 3rd
1 – 3 PM

All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of old-fashioned picnic games. We will be meeting outside in the Gathering Area. Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share! Any questions? Contact the CUUPS coordinators at CUUPS@ucnorfolk.org



Join an online community of UU bookworms!

What better way to spend the dog days of summer than reading a good book?

For those of you without the time or inclination to join a face-to-face book club, **Justice and Spirit: The Unitarian Universalist Book Club** on Goodreads, might just be the virtual alternative for you.

You can join the group on the Goodreads website. Discussion dates, reading deadlines and thought-provoking questions are posted and all members can share their thoughts.

From Goodreads: "Life never stops sending new spiritual challenges our way. How do we, as individuals and communities, search for truth and meaning, strive for justice and action, navigate our spiritual journeys, and live out our values? Justice and Spirit: The Unitarian Universalist Book Club is a place where all who are interest-

ed in spirituality, religion, and social justice, whether Unitarian Universalist or not, can discuss books that relate to these crucial questions. We hope to foster deep, meaningful conversations and a welcoming and loving environment. All are welcome."

The August selection from Justice and Spirit is **"How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy, and the Racial Divide,"** by Crystal Marie Fleming.

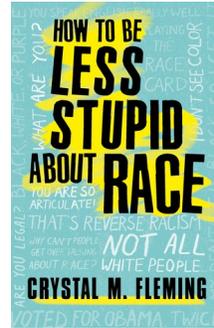
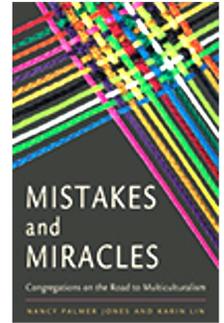
A unique and irreverent take on everything that's wrong with our "national conversation about

race"—and what to do about it. September's selection is **"Mistakes and Miracles,"** by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin.

The book shares how five diverse congregations encounter frustrations and disappointments, as well as hope and wonder, once they commit to the journey to create multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community.

To sign up, go to the website:

<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/173731-justice-and-spirit-unitarian-universalist-book-club>



5 ways to get involved in the fight for human rights

By the UUSC—<https://www.uusc.org/>

Reading about migrant detention facilities, for-profit detention centers, the climate crisis and how it is affecting Indigenous people feels like a lot to unpack on a daily basis. With news this heartbreaking, it gets more difficult to turn the other cheek and not react. But if you're new to the resistance, we understand how difficult it is to understand the different forms of activism. Here are some ways you can get involved with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the broader human rights movement:

1. Join an email list

Signing up for the UUSC email list is a great way to stay informed. Educating yourself about UUSC's human rights work is the first step in showing up and being an activist. The more you read and educate yourself, the easier it will be to remain engaged in the work of supporting those fighting oppression. To sign up for the UUSC mailing list, go to:

<https://www.uusc.org/subscribe/?email=>

2. Sign a petition

If you don't think you're ready to hit the streets and join an action, signing a petition or calling on your state and federal legislators is a great way to make your voice heard. There are numerous House



Image credit—UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. UUSC advances human rights & social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures & mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

and Senate bills that can benefit from your input. Signing a petition adds one name to thousands and contributes to a collective voice of compassion and solidarity.

3. Volunteer for a service trip

If you have the time and capacity, a volunteer or service trip will help you more fully understand what the problems are and what one can do about it. It's one thing to learn and read about it, it's another

when you experience it. Our UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) offers various domestic and international immersion learning trips that will connect you with our grassroots partners in locales like Honduras, Arizona, West Virginia, and other places.

4. Join a protest

Every once in a while, you will receive an email or a Facebook notification from

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Take action, make friends at CVUU

CVUU runs on kindness! Each week, dozens of our members and friends lend a helping hand within the beloved community, and it is within these connections our friendships grow.

There are so many ways to help: the Coffee Crew, Sandwich Makers Team, Welcome Table, Ushers and Greeters, Building Council, Membership Team, Caring Team and the Fair Trade Booth. All are fun ways to meet the people of CVUU.



The Ushers and Greeters at CVUU work on a rotating basis each Sunday welcoming our members and friends!

Can you give some of your time at least once a month? If any of these volunteer opportunities interest you, please contact:

Coffee Crew—Garland Tillery at tillery@me.com

Welcome Table/Membership Committee—Lisbet Dula at membership@cvuu.org

Ushers and Greeters—Aaron Martin at aaronmartin@gmail.com

Building Council—Judy Welp at judywelp47@gmail.com

Sandwich Makers/Fair Trade Booth—Elisa Dickon at eldickon@cox.net

Caring Team—Paula Echols at paulaechols728@gmail.com

Other opportunities include:

- The ongoing **Grounds Crew Work Group** for those who don't have time

for a regular commitment. Barbara Gelzer coordinates volunteers for these work parties (raking, weeding, etc). Contact her at bpgelzer@gmail.com.

- The **Projection Team** for the Sunday slide announcements (shown before each Sunday service). If you are interested, contact comm-coordinator@cvuu.org.
- The **CVUU Choir** – contact Matt Griset, our Music Director, at music-director@cvuu.org. Matt oversees a diverse music program that includes our congregational singing, choral pieces, service music, and the occasional music-themed service.

August Birthdays

Happiest of wishes to Stephanie Howell and Charlotte Rohring - 8/3; Eddie Cooper and Juliana Kiefer - 8/4; Susan Berger, Matteo Hughes



and Sebastian Hughes - 8/9; Elena Larcombe and Adelle Sarant - 8/10; Sally Daniel - 8/11; Mariann Morgan - 8/12; Gary Copeland and Rhiannon Harvey - 8/15; Danielle Martin - 8/16; Kethelyne Beauvais, Jack O'Connell and Fred Osgood - 8/18; Elisa Dickon and Crystal Stanley - 8/19; Phil Gillette and Peggy Pickford - 8/21; Hudson Bell - 8/22; Tiffany Cara and Joyce Seyller - 8/23; Stephanie Organek and Kevin St. George - 8/25; Kathryn Perry and Hanah Sobol - 8/26; Richard Ayres and Paul Harrell - 8/27; Sabrina Sasser - 8/28; Allen Holmes - 8/29; Barbara Cheney and Adelaide Sasser-Strom - 8/30 and Doug Throp - 8/31.

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UUSC inviting you to join an action as we march or protest in various locations. We do this to draw the attention of U.S. officials or institutions and remind them of what's at stake – whether it's about immigration, climate forced displacement, or a humanitarian crisis. We understand that joining a protest can be very intimidating, but the hardest step is just getting out of your house. Once you're out and in the protest, just remember that you will be surrounded by people who share the same sentiments as you and that you're all showing up for the same reasons. You may even come home with a friend or a new connection. You can find printable UUSC

posters on the UUSC website here: <https://www.uusc.org/resources/signage/>

5. Organize & invite a UUSC staff member to speak to your church

One of the biggest ways you can help is to begin organizing a group around an issue of concern. Don't be afraid of the word "organize"; it need not be 50 people, it can be as low as 10 or even just yourself and a friend. You can invite a UUSC staff member to your congregation, to your house, or out for a cup of coffee to hear first-hand experiences about what it means to show up and discuss opportunities to engage your community in social justice work and how to utilize your

strengths and capacity most effectively.

Taking action wasn't meant to be easy but that doesn't mean it should be hard. All you need is yourself, an open mind, and a strong desire to help.

About UUSC: *Guided by the belief that all people have inherent worth and dignity, UUSC advances human rights globally by partnering with affected communities who are confronting injustice, mobilizing to challenge oppressive systems, and inspiring and sustaining spiritually grounded activism for justice. We invite you to join us in this journey toward realizing a better future!*

UU Convo 2019 in Baltimore!

Save the dates, Oct. 17-19 at the Maritime Conference Center in Baltimore, Maryland to join other UUs for the 2019 Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Studies, or UU CONVO 2019, which will mark both the bicentennial of William Ellery Channing's "Baltimore Sermon" and the 250th anniversary of John Murray's arrival in North America.

UU Convocations are sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society and Collegium: an Association for Liberal Religious Studies. Past convocations have featured award-winning sermons, hymns and recreations of historic debates. This year's includes a featured workshop on dismantling white supremacy as well as a panel on the Black UU Living History Project and another panel on the history of Berry Street Lecture.

For details and costs, go to: <http://uuconvo.org/>

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, September 18, 2019.



Image credit—Steve Daniel

HAPPY CAMPERS—Our kids enjoyed a week of UU-centered activities last month during Chalice Camp, July 8-12. Our first-ever day camp gave the kids an extended time to get to know each other and to know why CVUU is so special.

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 12:15p CVUU Women's	29 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	30 9:30a Tai Chi - Beginnir 10:30a Tai Chi - Open F	31 7p Pledge to End Racis	1	2	3 1p Lughnasadh Celebrat
4 12:15p CVUU Women's	5 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	6 9:30a Tai Chi - Beginnir 10:30a Tai Chi - Open F 7p Environmental Initiat	7 7p Membership Meeting 7p Navigator's Board M	8 10a House Keeping Co	9 3:15p Covenant Circle	10 2p Navigator's
11 12:15p CVUU Women's	12 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers 7p Buddhist Affinity Grc	13 9:30a Tai Chi - Beginnir 10:30a Tai Chi - Open F	14	15	16	17
18 12:15p CVUU Women's	19 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	20 9:30a Tai Chi - Beginnir 10:30a Tai Chi - Open F	21 5:45p Novel Ideas Bool	22	23	24 9a Board Retreat
25 12p SJC Retreat 12:15p CVUU Women's	26 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	27 9:30a Tai Chi - Beginnir 10:30a Tai Chi - Open F	28	29	30	31
1 12:15p CVUU Women's	2 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	3 9:30a Tai Chi - Beginnir 10:30a Tai Chi - Open F 7p Environmental Initiat	4 7p Membership Meeting 7p Navigator's Board M	5 7p Pro Future Faith Ecc	6	7

Summer Worship Series for August:

Our 2019 Summer Worship Series, "UUs Living United in a Divided World," will conclude this month. Each summer, from late June to the beginning of September, we here at CVUU switch gears to a more relaxed worship and fellowship. Join us as we gather together for lay-led services; we re-connect with the inspired voice within each of us. Members of our congregation have worked hard planning this beautiful and inspiring worship series. The summer series presents a unique opportunity for congregants to make a substantive contribution to our worship program.

Join us for weekly service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.:

Aug. 4 — "Are We United?" Living in a divided world as Unitarian Universalists we come from many different backgrounds, each with the biases we bring with us. How are we united? Can we overcome our prejudices of the past, join together in a common goal and still maintain our individuality? These are the questions we must try to answer.

Harvey Edward Jones has been a member of the church for half of his life. Since 1977 he has been actively serving on the Board and several committees during that time. He is a semi-retired tax accountant serving



as an Enrollment Agent with the IRS. With several years of theatrical background, he is currently trying to start a CVUU theater group.

Aug. 11 — "Building a Spiritual Practice." As UUs we advocate a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. While that plays out on Sundays within the structure of our congregation, where does that leave us the other six days? With few limits, it can be difficult to find spiritual truth and meaning day to day. Today we take a look at why ... and how to start ... building a spiritual practice. Laura Moss is an adult-onset UU who has worked for years to find her own personal spiritual path.

Aug. 18 — "Children's Religious Education Committee." Come and find out the CREC as parents will be sharing our experiences and perspectives on UU parenting as a spiritual practice, and the relationship

between CVUU's children and the congregation. We will meditate on how "our" kids (because in this context they are all our kids and we are all teachers) both inspire and challenge CVUU's mission.

CREC partners with the DRE to support our children's faith development. They coordinate special activities (social events, social justice events) that take place during the non-class times (in evenings, or when there is a special Sunday event). A CREC representative is present on Sunday mornings as well to assist with class needs. They meet once a month and as activities require.

Aug. 25 — "So Live Your Life: Finding a Code for Living in Poetry." In this service, the example Allen Perry will be using is his personal touchstone poem called "Live Your Life" as attributed to Tecumseh. He plans to talk about his family's history with this poem and its meaning for him, as a way to invite listeners to consider the message in this particular poem and perhaps inspire them to find their own life's work inspiration in art. Often we can find strength and motivation in art more easily than a list of principles, even when the message is the same in the end.

Allen Perry has been a member of CVUU for nine years. He and his beautiful wife, Kathryn, live in Chesapeake with their awesome kids, Elizabeth and Ana.

Planning an event? Things to consider:

Send current requests to Susie Gullixson at office@c-vuu.org or call (757) 627-5371.

When making a request, consider:

- ◆ Room(s) requested, allowing time for setup and takedown!
- ◆ Childcare needs – **Childcare is available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6—9 p.m. and Sunday mornings.** It is the responsibility of each committee or organizer to arrange childcare **directly** with Selene Spelts at spelts.selene@gmail.com for hours outside of the above times. It is **not** the responsibility of the Office or the DRE. Forward your requests for childcare to at least **four weeks prior to your event.**

◆ Contact name (with phone number and/or email address)

◆ Person in charge of locking up, sound setup requiring a sexton

◆ Parking needs (note if 'overflow' parking will be needed)

Large Print Hymnals are available at the table in the foyer.

Hearing Amplification Headsets are available at the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.

CDs of the service are available for borrowing or for \$3 for purchase. Inquire at the sound booth in the sanctuary for CD recordings.

If you stay late, please double check to see the building is secured!

The weekly email, The CVUU Courier, is sent out Wednesday at noon.

◆ The deadline for the Order of Service newsletter is Wednesday and the deadline for CVUU Courier is Monday at noon.

◆ The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the month. If you would like to place an ad for September your deadline is Aug. 15th!

***Please Remember**, when advertising events to make sure to include BOTH Susie Gullixson & Tracy Brune. Send your media to office@c-vuu.org & comm-coordinator@c-vuu.org

For up-to-date news, check out our website: www.c-vuu.org.

Connect with another UU culture on trip to the Philippines!

Experience the Ancient History, Cuisine, and Culture of Filipino Unitarian Universalism on the UU Pilgrimage to the Philippines Oct. 19—27th!

The registration deadline for the trip is August 15. The UU Church of the Philippines will host a pilgrimage for 10 days, 9 nights covering 7 congregations. They aim to share the famous Filipino culture of religious tolerance that preceded the Edict of Torda, the radical welcome that housed refugees from the Holocaust, Bolshevik Revolution, the Vietnam War and the Rohingya genocides, and the appreciation for diversity that makes them practice "reverse evangelism" where they want first-time visitors on the pulpit right away. This pilgrimage has made people appreciate how the culture of abundance resists a world that is profiting on lack.

For more information, go to:
<http://bit.ly/philippines2019>



A UU Pilgrimage to
THE
PHILIPPINES

October 19 - 27, 2019

Registration
Deadline: August 15

More info and FAQ:
<http://bit.ly/philippines2019>

Registration:
<http://bit.ly/philippines2019register>

'Stony the Road' dives deep into the roots of racism in America

By Tracy Brune

"Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow," by Henry Louis Gates, Jr, is a book everyone should read to fully comprehend the agonizing state of political and social injustice that persisted throughout most of the 20th century and whose effects remain with us today.

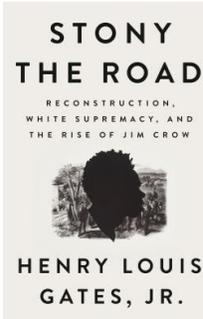
Outside of the pictures, preface and epilogue, the main text is only about 250 pages—in which Gates offers a tightly written, but complete history of the period of Reconstruction and Redemption—the years after the Civil War, when black emancipation was quickly followed by the backlash of white Southerners who unleashed terror in the former confederacy in an effort to resubjugate black Americans.

For UUs, the book's title will spark recognition to a hymn often sung at our services, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which according the NAACP, was originally penned as a poem by James Weldon Johnson. It was put to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson and was first performed in public in the Johnsons' hometown of Jacksonville, Florida as part of a celebration of Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900 by a choir of 500

schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal. The title comes from the second verse of the song:

*Stony the road we trod,
bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when
hope unborn had died ...
yet with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has
been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the
blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at
last
where the white gleam of our bright star is
cast.*

I don't believe I ever truly heard these words fully until reading this book. What it has left me with is a feeling of jaw-dropping naivety. And, other than the glossed-over version provided in my high-school American history class, I had never given much thought to the Reconstruction era in the US, let alone the horrors of the "Redemption" period.



Reconstruction — the dozen or so years after the Civil War when black emancipation was extended to voting, political office, employment and other citizens' rights — was quickly followed by the Redemption period, a white backlash that unleashed the oppressive Jim Crow regime, lynchings and further horrors on black Americans. Professor Gates book is a deep-diving analysis of those times, facilitated by a concentrated effort in newspapers, ads, jokes, sambo art and comics to propagate white supremacist tropes that continue to poison minds to this day. Reading the chapter on "scientific" arguments for racism and seeing the racist imagery, especially the postcards depicting actual lynching victims and their smiling killers, is stomach turning, but necessary. Gates included them to show the pernicious nature of white supremacy. If you are left wanting to know more, check out the outstanding 4-hour PBS documentary "Reconstruction: America After the Civil War," written and hosted by Gates: <https://www.pbs.org/weta/reconstruction/>

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