



The Beacon

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville NC
October 2016

Beyond Our Walls



As everyone is aware, we are members of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I think most people are aware we are members of the Interfaith Alliance of Eastern Carolina. What you may not know is that we are members of the Universalist Convention of North Carolina Incorporated (UCONCI). I'm not sure how long we have been members. I remember hearing Carroll Weber describing how he and Edie rode their tandem bicycle to the Shelter Neck Camp, so it has been quite a long time. UCONCI is made up of UU Congregations in Eastern North Carolina. Members range from the Outer Banks to Raleigh. The purpose of UCONCI is to bring area Congregations together, and help grow Unitarian Universalism in North Carolina. Each year, we hold an annual meeting at the Shelter Neck facility near Burgaw. This year we are meeting on October 8th. There will be presentations, fellowship, food, and fun. Those who want to can spend Friday and/or Saturday night and enjoy breakfast. Attendance is free if you register by October 3rd. Our congregation is entitled to several delegates at the business meeting that afternoon, and any member or guest is welcome to come.

The other function of UCONCI is to preserve the Shelter Neck facility. Shelter Neck was originally built as a Unitarian boarding school. It was later sold for \$1 to the Universalist Convention. When the denominations merged, it became a UU facility. Several churches use it for retreats and church get-togethers. My family held a reunion there. We recently hosted a wedding. Our recent focus has been on creating an affordable summer camp for UU Youth. For the last several years, we have held summer camps for different age groups. Feedback from campers has been very positive.

I will be attending on the 8th (I am the Treasurer and former President). I will be happy to provide rides from the church for those who want to attend. This a chance to see an historic and beautiful place while meeting fellow UUs from Eastern NC. I will be going down on October 1 for a work day to prepare for the meeting if anyone wants to work, but Saturday October 8th is the time to attend. You can find more information and registration information at www.shelterneckuucamp.org.

Feryl Masters
Past President
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October 2016 Worship Schedule

October 2	"Sharing Knowledge, Wealth, and Power"
October 9	"High Holy Days" Ruby Nancy
October 16	ECU Readers Theater
October 23	"Better Together"
October 30	"Soul: How to Get One"
November 6	"Killer God"

Minister's Reflections



Late Friday night, Mohammad and Lamyaa, Syrian refugees, along with their daughters Sedra (age 7), Remas (5) and Raheem (2), arrived in Greenville to begin a new life. Alice and Jeannette arrived at the door of their apartment on 10th Street, with a large basket of fruit from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation and a wordless welcome. They speak Arabic and no English.

Covenant Church's Community Outreach team had done the preparations for the refugee family, in collaboration with the Interfaith Refugee Ministry in New Bern. So, the Syrian couple invited the two Unitarian Universalist Americans into their apartment and served them a thick, sweet coffee in tiny cups. Many smiles and head nodding.

I had the privilege of attending the Covenant Community Outreach team's last planning session before the family arrived (surprised that the case worker is a Unitarian Universalist from New Bern): apartment and utilities, check; appropriate food, check; furniture and kitchen ware, check; school for the children, check; a pediatrician for school physical exams, not checked; Arabic translators, check; car seats for the girls, assigned to a volunteer.

The birds and the rustle of leaves will sound strange to them here. The air will smell different. What could we do to make Greenville feel just a little like home? A stock pot; Turkish coffee pot; tea pot; finely ground coffee with cardamom spice. So Alice and Jeannette were their first guests and received their first act of hospitality, giving back to Americans who welcomed them to safety and hope.

One of the girls had congestion, so a return visit by UUs brought Throat Coat herbal tea and honey, plus an Arabic speaking member of our neighborhood. Alice's follow up a week later found the little girl all better. And Alice gave the girls art supplies for the long boring hours at home without Arabic-speaking playmates.

Our friend, Samar Badwan (who spoke here in June) reports that their refrigerator died over the weekend, causing the loss of food. The Covenant Outreach team is responding to repair the appliance and to restock the food. Although the strategy is to avoid creating permanent dependency, there will continue to be opportunities for us to support the refugee family in meeting needs they cannot address without help.

Alice and I welcome knowing if you are interested in hearing of the ongoing needs. We will let you know what comes up as Mohammad and Lamyaa begin their new life as a family here in Greenville.

There is such joy in giving hospitality to the refugee. We are so fortunate!

Blessings!

Rod Debs

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Fellowship



The Fellowship Committee is holding a Fun First Friday on the first Friday in October (October 7). There will be games, drinks, and pizza. Admission is free, but donations will be gladly accepted. If you have a favorite game or games, bring it along. Or you can try one of the games provided. We will start at 7:00 and close up by 9:00. Feel free to bring a friend or three. Contact Feryl with questions at 944-7608 or OFeryl@gmail.com.

Share The Plate October 2016

Share the Plate With October being LGBT History Month, our share the plate recipient will be PFLAG Greenville, a support and advocacy group both for LGBT individuals in the process of coming out, as well as for their family and friends who also may need support in this process, as it can be a coming out for them as well. PFLAG will co-host Moral Movies with us this month. They meet at UUCG on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm and would love for you to join them.

PFLAG will be having a **yard sale** at the church on Saturday, October 8th. They will start accepting donations on September 30th. Contact Sandy Shephard for more information sandyshephard62@gmail.com or 252-558-5542.



Youth Religious Education



First and foremost, I would like to thank our congregation for being so welcoming and helpful as I approach two months in the position of Director of Religious Education. It has been so fun and exciting thus far and I look forward to continuing to grow the RE program with the help of all of you!

I would like to extend an invitation to all of the members of our congregation to come back to the classroom and take a look around! You can do this whenever we are in the classrooms. If you're waiting for the perfect moment, on October 16th, the children in RE will be preparing the snacks for the Coffee and Conversation after service. We ask that you join us in the classrooms to enjoy the spread. A reminder will be made on the day of service as well, but feel free to mark your calendar! It will be a great opportunity for you

to see where our congregation's children spend their time and observe some of what they have created!

We are always looking for members that are willing to volunteer as second adults in the classroom and nursery, so that we may call on you when needed. If you would be comfortable volunteering when an instance arises, please let me know!

In closing, I would like to thank you, my fellow members, again. Never before have I had such a welcoming, fulfilling, and fun home away from home. I am grateful to have stumbled into this congregation not so long ago.

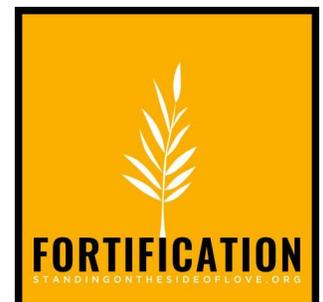
Alessandra Lazarek
UUCG DRE

Standing on the Side of Love

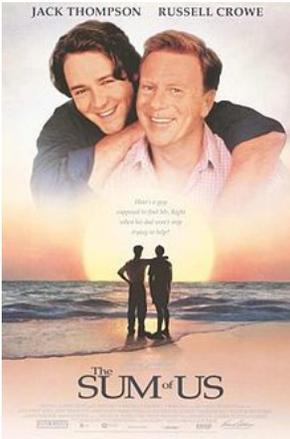
UUA's Standing on the Side of Love team launched a podcast series called *Fortification*, which highlights and focuses on the spiritual lives of organizers and activists.

You can subscribe to these podcasts, or hear the first one on-line, at:

<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/fortification-lena-gardner-rev-sekou/>



Moral Movies



This month's Moral Movie is "The Sum of Us" (1995 Australia), Saturday, October 8th, 6:30pm.

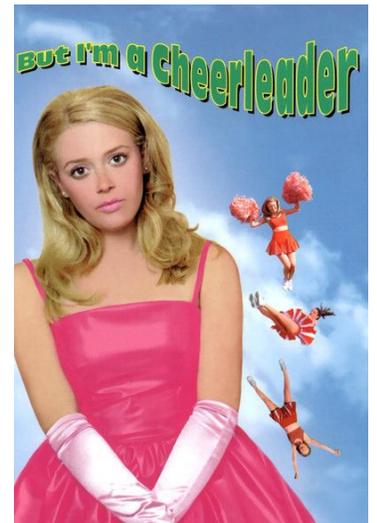
Harry (Jack Thompson), a middle-aged father who suffered through the death of his wife, is ready to get back into dating. Harry shares a home with his gay son, Jeff (Russell Crowe), who is also looking for a serious relationship. Harry and Jeff, who are very close, decide to help each other look for potential partners. Jeff finds a boyfriend who is still in the closet, and Harry begins dating Joyce (Deborah Kennedy). She has a bias against gays, which puts Harry in a tough spot.

PFLAG will be our co-host, handling the after movie discussion. And of course, as always, refreshments will be served.

Classic GLBT Movie Night

Friday, October 21st at 7pm, we will celebrate 5 years of the movie series, started in October 2011. Now that we've reached this milestone, movies we have previously screened several years back which were well-received will now be considered for repeat performances. For the 5th Anniversary, our monthly movie theme was "Rich's favorites from several years back (but no sad movies)" and from that selection, the audience chose to watch "But I'm a Cheerleader" (1999 US)

Megan (Natasha Lyonne) is an all-American girl. She's a cheerleader and has a boyfriend, but she doesn't like kissing him very much, and she's pretty tactile with her cheerleader friends, and she only has pictures of girls up in her locker. Her parents and friends conclude that she *must* be gay and send her off to "sexual redirection" school, full of admittedly homosexual misfits, where she can learn how to be straight. Will Megan be turned around to successful heterosexuality, or will she succumb to her love for the beautiful Graham (Clea DuVall)? RuPaul Charles (out of drag) is also featured as one of the school staff.



Please join us for this special anniversary celebration! Refreshments will be served (including a birthday cake).

Upcoming Roving Lunch Group Locations

- October 2 - GK Cafe (10th St)
- October 9 - Anchalee Thai
- October 16 - Plaza Azteca
- October 23 - Famiglia
- October 30 - Mongolian Empire