



# THE UNIVIEW

December 2018 - January 2019

Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Lexington

**ACTION. LOVE. JUSTICE.**

3564 Clays Mill Road  
[www.uucl.org](http://www.uucl.org)  
859-223-1448

**Sunday Services 11:00 AM**  
Childcare Available 9-12

Office Hours 9-3  
Mo/Tu/Th/Fr

**Minister**

Rev. Brian Chenoweth  
[minister@uucl.org](mailto:minister@uucl.org)

**Director of**

**Religious Exploration**  
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**Minister Emerita**

Hon. Rev. Kelly Flood

**Board of Directors**

[board@uucl.org](mailto:board@uucl.org)  
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Joe Anthony,  
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## President's Ponderings

*Susan Cohn*

Board of Directors President 2018-2019



It's that time of year when the job of Congregation President really comes into focus: leading the discussions on budget priorities. Once again, our Stewardship Canvass Campaign is wrapping up with Board members making those phone calls to members who have yet to pledge for 2019. Once again, the campaign is struggling to get to that basic budget that we need to run our church. Every year we will have people and their pledges leave our congregation, due to any manner of life events. That is why we ask for everyone to try and increase their pledge a bit each year. Sometimes it is covered; other times it is not.

For the first time, I, Susan Cohn, as current President of UUCL, am feeling the weight of the congregation on my shoulders with the fear of messing it up. As we prepare for the December Congregational Meeting, the Board must pass a budget recommendation for our 2019 operations. The congregation will then vote on this on December 9. Wouldn't it be great if we had enough money to send lay members to UU conferences and leadership training? Wouldn't it be great if we were prepared to respond to social justice crises with a well-funded action team preparing food or providing service to those on the front lines? Wouldn't it be responsible if we could pay our childcare workers at the UUA guideline of \$15/hour, just like we expected the contractors working on our buildings this Summer to pay their employees? Are we providing our staff with the appropriate benefits for their years of employment and hours of work? Imagine what it would look like if we could hire an Assistant Director of Religious Exploration or a part-time Accompanist for the music program? Oh, and will we ever again be a fully participating member congregation of the UUA?

Well, with our pledge numbers, we can only do so much. We cannot do everything. What would you consider to be discretionary funds? What would your priorities be? These are the questions the Board has considered at our November meeting. Your Board members are very

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*Susan Cohn*

Board of Directors President 2018-2019

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dedicated and willing to engage in the thoughtful and deep discussion of running this church. We are ready to do this work and represent all of the congregation to decide what we can afford and what our priorities are for 2019. It will be my job as President to present the options and encourage respectful and open dialogue. This must be transparent and fully participatory.

We have great staff. We have very professional volunteers in our Board and our Treasurer. You are in good hands as we work to make sure we are proposing a realistic budget.

If you want to talk to me about this or anything else going on at UUCL, look for me most Sundays before service at the Presidential Ponderings table in the Fellowship Hall. I'll be the one doodling or coloring. I can suggest ways for you to plug into the congregation's many activities and programs, as well. If you are new to UUCL or a long-time member, stop by and say hello. Tell me how things are with you and what ideas you may have for making UUCL better.

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## Our Journey Together

*Stacey Stone*

Director of Religious Exploration for Children, Youth, and Families

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*"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world.  
For, indeed, that's all who ever have." ~ Margaret Mead*

We all want our children to have compassion, and help others. There are so many ways that families can give back to the community this time of year. We will post opportunities for giving and helping throughout the year on our RE Parents Facebook group. The important part is getting the children involved in the whole process: from going to the store, making choices, to sorting and packaging, writing personal notes, and delivering if possible.

A great program that we have supported many times is the [Hope Center's](#) HopeMobile! Sunday, December 16, we are making sack lunches to be distributed to food insecure families during the Winter Break. We are collecting: sandwich bags, bread, cheese, lunch meat, peanut butter, jelly, individual packs of chips/pretzels/crackers, applesauce, fruit snacks, and sweet treats. Please bring your donations on December 16! Thank you!

**Sunday, December 2** - Music Service with our young singers performing; families can stay in the service or enjoy activities in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Sunday, December 9**

10am - RE Family Brunch at UUCL to thank our volunteers and families for a great semester! Contact Stacey if you would like to bring a brunch dish.

11am - Stacey and the RE program are leading an interactive, no-rehearsal Holiday Pageant with singing and audience participation!

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"Our Journey Together" continues on next page.

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**Saturday, December 15** - 6-9pm Parents' Night Out Winter Holiday Fun! Pizza dinner, crafts, and fun. Contact Stacey at [uucldre@uucl.org](mailto:uucldre@uucl.org) to make reservations.

### **Sunday, December 16**

Day of Caring!

1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades will make lunches for the Hope Mobile and care packages for special UU members.

High Schoolers will enjoy Bring a Friend Day.

12:30-4:30pm - Parent Orientation with facilitators for Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades. Contact Stacey at [uucldre@uucl.org](mailto:uucldre@uucl.org) for more information.

**Sunday, December 23** - Old-Fashioned Christmas with board games, hot cider, and stringing popcorn!

**Sunday, December 30** - PJs & Movies Day - Wear your PJs to church today! We will watch movies and have snacks starting at 11am.

Happy 2019! January's theme is Possibility! Back by popular demand - Makerspace studios in RE. Take Apart Party - we are collecting old cassettes, VCR tapes and players, broken computers, printers, phones, adding machines, clocks, etc. We will have collection boxes outside the Art Room starting January 1. Imagine the possibilities! Never stop creating.

### **A new tradition for families: UUCL's Traveling Chalice Box**

Starting January 6, one family will get to take the Traveling Chalice Box home for the week. You may light the chalice at meals, or create your own ritual with the provided chalice, cloth, journal, and more. The Chalice Box needs to be returned the next week for another family to experience. Email Stacey at [uucldre@uucl.org](mailto:uucldre@uucl.org) to be on the chalice host list!

Have you made a Promise to yourself to find ways to give back? Here are some interesting ways you can help RE:

- Digital library for our books (only needs a smart phone)
- Clean Up Crew - after RE events, stay and spend a few minutes putting things away
- Be a Leader for a few weeks
- Be a Guide with a great group of kids and no prep work
- Assist Preschool and bring a snack
- Gather parents together for social time - make some new friends
- Greet new families and show them around
- Find a way to say "YES!" to the possibilities of investing in our children and youth
- Work directly with the children (background check required)

Wishing you love and laughter in the year ahead.

Yours on the Journey,

Stacey Stone

[uucldre@uucl.org](mailto:uucldre@uucl.org)

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## Reverie & Reverb

*Rev. Brian Chenowith*



What does it mean to be a people of mystery? This is the question we ask as December comes bounding along once more and Winter is here to stay for a while. It's something Unitarian Universalists are good at exploring. Granted, it is usually about the larger questions - Is there a God? Goddess? Afterlife? Reincarnation? None of the above? Fill in the blank? I have always appreciated that no matter what our answers are to those questions, UUs are often open to being surprised by new information that challenges our varied beliefs and innermost thoughts. But beyond the bigger questions, what does it mean to be a people of mystery in the here and now? What kind of question is that to ask of a community? Are we a secret society? The question begins to make sense when we enter the coldness of January and start to explore our next theme: Possibility. There's a word we can sink our teeth into. What does it mean to be a people of possibility? There's all the mystery we need as a church community.

The follow-up questions are endless. Who do we want to be as a religious community as this year comes to a close and the new one unfolds? Think about it as these holidays rush by and the calendar moves ahead to 2019. With these larger questions in mind, your staff has been thinking of ways to hear from all of you about the possibilities you hope and dream of here at UUCL. We certainly have our own ideas about where UUCL needs to go, but we want to hear from you. And we are going to do just that.

In the New Year there will be many chances to dig in and uncover the possibilities that await us. Starting on Sundays, there will be opportunities to offer focused hopes and dreams on questions that go beyond our usual answer of, "We want a community of like-minded people..." From Sunday morning to religious education to music to how we get involved - we will be looking for new possibilities. But Sunday morning is not enough. We want to hear more.

On January 17, February 21, and March 21 at 6pm, the church will be hosting soup suppers that allow us to share on a deeper level. But...as if that wasn't enough, our First Sunday lunches will also offer opportunities to speak with our elected church leaders as well. All of the details will be made available for these events and we look forward to seeing you there and, more importantly, hearing from you!

But why do this? The church is healthier, the parking lot is full most Sundays, we are saving money, putting our values into action, and living into our mission in concrete ways. All of this is true. But let's be honest with one another. For all of the things listed above, while they are wonderful, they present challenges. Good challenges. And our task is to engage them, together, in creative and positive ways.

All of the information you need will be available as January approaches. Until then, start to imagine the possibilities that excite and inspire you.

Oh, one more thing. Remember Beloved Conversations? Yes, the small group workshops that dig into the topics of race in a deep and transformative way? They're coming in March, finally! Details will follow.

In Faith,  
Rev. Brian

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## Music Notes

Sally McCord  
Director of Music

*“Five Hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes,  
Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear.  
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes,  
How do you measure, measure a year?”*

~ J. Larson  
Seasons of Love from “RENT”



A year in review...

How do you sum up a year? “RENT” composer may have the answer by singing, “measured in love.”

Seasons of Love - yes, that’s what it’s all about. Are we singing of love and then reaching out? You bet we are. Are we standing strong together, nurturing each other through all the changes of life? For sure, every time we gather. Singing and music-making promote feelings of peace - some call it a Protocol of Healing.

A year in the life of a UUCL musician sees us honoring life changes through rituals and healing. It is rich, fulfilling, stimulating, and comforting. Poets through the ages, and sages new and old, are explored in texts of various traditions and mediums. When paired with extraordinary harmonies and sung with emotion, when drums are moving our very core beings, our music-making resonates with the greater community.

Our UU tradition gives all of us the opportunity to learn soooo much about each other around the globe through the gift of music. And we do. We explore music from many different cultures and places. That Spirit Eternal found in us all can be made visible through music.

The Women’s March, Black Lives Matter, The Poor People’s Campaign - to name just a few areas where music has helped to bring people together in the name of Justice. We learned from each other and shared in some of the songs from these movements of social justice.

We celebrate, we laugh, we cry, and we come together throughout the church year - drawing on religious traditions as sources of wonder and wisdom, and UUCL Principles as sources of strength in the inherent dignity of all. Music helps us lift up these ideas and traditions from Flower Communion to Water Communion to the turn of the New Year.

And most importantly, we watch and hear our children grow in music and in love at UUCL. Our Children’s Program is back and meeting weekly, most every Sunday after service. Children are hope and empathy personified; let’s continue to give them musical tools to keep those sparks alive!

Come be a part of the music program at UUCL. Instrumental and vocal music - there is a place for you here. You will make friends for life and feel your spirit renewed in our reciprocal energy exchange called Music.

## UUCL Arts Initiative

The December exhibit theme is Mystery (open to interpretation). We love to display artworks of all mediums from artists of all ages! Starting December 2, we will be putting up our new exhibit. Look for an upcoming colorful community art experience called "Let Your Light Shine" to be created and on display through the dreary Winter months.

Thank you to Two Profs Photography (Gary and Liz Hansen) for the lovely UUCL photos on display in many places around the church.



## Celebrating Our World

This has been a wonderful series of events hosting guests from Morocco, Liberia, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. At our November event with friends from the Congo, we had over 50 people in attendance and heard heart-wrenching stories.

With our grant from the [National Peace Corps](#) finishing in December, we are going to celebrate in style by inviting all of our Celebrating Our World guests to join us on Sunday, December 16 from 6-8pm. Let us show our appreciation and treat our guests to a delicious meal from around the world!

Debra Schweitzer is collecting recipes for a booklet, if you have made dishes from a specific country and would like to share. A special thank you to Debra for all of her work coordinating and connecting!

We look forward to continuing this series in 2019, but will need some financial support, since our grant is done.