



Connections

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

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Connections is a periodic publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah.

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Mark Your Calendars Now

Upcoming Services, Forum, and Pride Project



Bi-monthly Sunday forums and services will be held at 10 a.m. by Zoom.

Bi-Monthly Services (2nd and 4th Sundays) restart in September. These services include chalice lighting, readings, music and other sharing.

Sept 12th “Reflections on the Pandemic: How Has it Changed Us?” Service and discussion led by Joyce Spinelli. At this Zoom service, all participants will be encouraged to voice their thoughts about meeting in-person during the discussion.

Sept 28th “Understanding Identity and Promoting Inclusion,” with Mike Nelson, Assistant Director of DSU Multicultural and Diversity Center.

Oct 8th “How Racist are We?” with Michael Kruse (“We” being the county, and our denomination.) Michael will also present the proposed 8th Principle and

will lead the discussion of our accepting this new principle.

Forum (3rd Sunday) led by expert(s) on a variety of interesting topics. These are informal presentations (no chalice, music or readings) with discussion following led by the presenter. The next forum is:

Sept. 19th “Readers’ Delight Park Gathering.” Bring A bag of books/ magazines to swap and discuss, at Tonaquint Park (North Shelter), 1851 S. Dixie Drive, **9:30 to 11 am.**

All unadopted items will be taken to the St. George Library – so survey your bookshelves now. Bring your morning beverage, a chair and mask. Cookies welcome...homemade and store bought.

To log into Zoom for programs, forums and other online gatherings:

- Go to [UUFSU website](#)
- Select [UUFSU program calendar](#)
- Go to program date, and click on the “Join Zoom Meeting” link that is provided. Host will then connect you into the program.

(We’ll continue to send Zoom links by email prior to the forums, in case this is your preferred method of connecting.)

Interfaith Project to Support Pride Community (special event)

Sept. 19th at Highland Park, 1250 Highland Parkway in Washington, at 7 pm. UUs are encouraged to join the interfaith assembly line for putting together suicide prevention boxes that will be distributed to groups around Utah and the region.

The gathering will begin with a prayer and short blessing on the LGBTQIA+ community. This is a good time for UUs

to “show our colors” and show up in our yellow “Standing on the Side of Love” t-shirts. (If you plan to attend and/or need a shirt, contact Ann Foster, shdwker@gmail.com. There are still a few smaller shirts available for a donation of \$15.) Alternatively, you can order your size through the online UUA bookstore (uua bookstore.org) for \$24.



Recent Past Summer Forums

Recordings now available on the [UUWebsite](#).

Aug 8th "The Universe is Unfolding as it Should" (Chuck Goode)

Aug 22nd "How the Son of a Southern Slaveholding Family Became an Advocate for Social Justice" (Doug Bowen)

Announcements

Book Discussion Group

The Sunday evening Zoom meetings, start at 6:30 p.m. for socializing and 7 p.m. for discussion, are:

- **September 5th** – *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good* by Michael Sandel. These are dangerous times for democracy. Exploration of the central question of our time: What has become of the common good?
- **October 3rd** – *Reasons to Stay Alive* by Matt Haig. A memoir based on life experiences of living with depression and anxiety disorder.

- **November 2nd** – *The Naturalist, Theodore Roosevelt, A Lifetime of Exploration and the Triumph of American Natural History* by Darrin Lunde. Theodore Roosevelt is the US president most frequently associated with Nature and wildlife. He was a curious boy who learned method of scientific inquiry, a prodigious hunter, a tireless adventurer and an ardent conservationist.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Chuck Warren at bcw222@gmail.com. Books are selected by group members who are willing to lead the discussion.

Film Group Forming

Hans and Sandra deHaan are forming a film viewing/discussion group focusing on social and ethical issues. No specifics are defined, so if you would like to be in on the "ground floor" and offer your ideas...Please send an email to Hans at hxdeh@outlook.com.



Board of Trustees (BOT) Update



Meetings are open to all UUFSSU members. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 7th at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom. Send an email to

Ann Foster shdwker@gmail.com) if you are interested in receiving the agenda, minutes of the previous meeting and the Zoom link.

Calling All Friends Of UUFSSU: Become an Official Member

Since you are receiving this newsletter and have indicated interest in UUFSSU, you are encouraged to officially join and become part of making decisions for the future of the Fellowship and UUism in southwest Utah. As a member at the October 24th fellowship meeting, you can weigh-in by voting on a potential meeting location, directions for growth as well as By-laws, social justice actions, and long-range goals as they are developed. Only those who have signed the

membership book will be able to vote on these and other issues.

In this time of Covid, you can send an email to Ann Foster (shdwker@gmail.com) indicating that you would like to become an official member as of the date of the email (*send prior to Oct. 10th*). Your email will serve as your signature in the membership book. You will be provided with a new member packet at the New Member event when it is safe to meet. As a member you will be requested to pledge or offer an

"In-Kind" service to UUFSSU. If you are already be a donor or pledging, no additional financial commitment will be requested.

Some members are currently members in other faith groups or UU congregations; they became members of UUFSSU for one or more of several reasons: part-time residents, wish to be part of a growing liberal community in southwestern Utah, find support and encouragement within UUFSSU.

Spotlight on Jean Lown



Offers Financial Advice for Donation to UUFSU

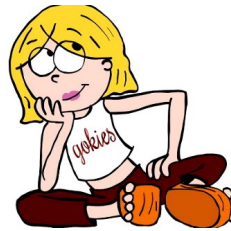
UUFSU member Jean Lown, PhD, provides expert financial advice to members and friends of the UUFSU community in exchange for a donation to UUFSU.

Jean is retired from teaching personal finance, investing, retirement, and estate planning at USU. Over 100 clients have been satisfied with her guidance. She provides advice on financial concerns ranging from budget and credit problems to investment asset allocation, college financing, and retirement planning. She also has a lot of experience in assisting people in settling estates. The standard rate is \$75/hour with reduced rates available. Free advice for those in need. Contact Jean at 435-760-2392 or jean.lown@usu.edu.

So...**WHO is JEAN**...really? Jean was born a true-blue Yankee and grew up in the mid-Hudson Valley about 90 miles north of New York City. She is the oldest of 3 girls.

After graduation from the State University of New York at Oneonta (located halfway between Schenevus and Unadilla ... does that help?), she earned an MS degree at Cornell and a PhD at Virginia Tech.

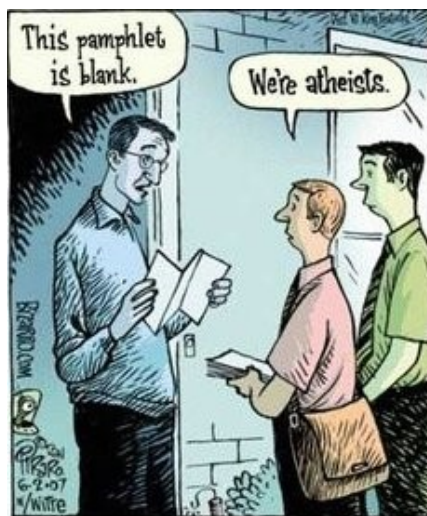
She taught consumer economics and personal finance at Virginia Tech, University of Rhode Island, and Utah State University, retiring in 2016.



She toured Europe following college graduation with later trips to Scandinavia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Nepal, Japan and Korea. The main lesson she learned from international travel is that Americans are the main contributors to global climate change.

Climate change is her focus of activism. She is an involved member of the Citizens Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimate.org>) and is willing and eager to share ways that others can become involved from the "comfort of their own homes." For information on how you can participate, contact her (jean.lown@usu.edu).

Jean met her husband Bryan Dixon in 1974 at the Unicycle Bike Shop in Blacksburg, VA (home to Virginia Tech). They split their time between homes in St. George and Logan, Utah. Jean and Bryan survived Covid lockdowns by birding, hiking, biking, white water kayaking, and environmental activism.



10 great

Reasons to Join a Unitarian Universalist Community

You will find inspiration and support to . . .

- 1** lead a life of integrity through universal principles that uplift courage and compassion
- 2** expand your heart and mind by learning from ancient wisdom, modern science, and the world's great prophets and teachers
- 3** join a centuries-old liberal tradition of reason and imagination
- 4** embody worthiness and liberation for yourself and everyone you meet
- 5** make your religious home in a community that accepts and cares for your whole beautiful self
- 6** build relationships with people of all ages, identities, beliefs, and backgrounds
- 7** cultivate gratitude for the beauty and power of life's moments and milestones
- 8** resist injustice and work for a better world, alongside friends who share your values
- 9** become your best self and help others in your community do the same
- 10** appreciate the interwoven nature of the universe and trust that none of us travels life's journey alone.

Member Reading Suggestions

Hans deHaan offers the following suggested books for reading or listening:

Siddhartha – fiction by Hermann Hesse.

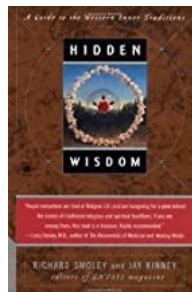
The classic short story of a young Brahmin's search for reality after a meeting with the Buddha, blending Eastern mysticism and Western psychology. Brilliant for its simplicity, enjoyment and insights.



Hidden Wisdom: A Guide to the Western Inner Traditions by Richard Smoley.

Starting with "Jung and the Discovery of the Unconscious," each of about 12 chapters of about 20 highly readable pages apiece, explains esoteric religions and

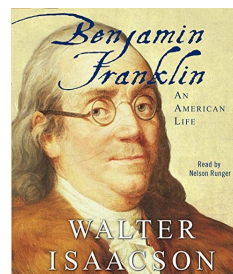
systems most of us have heard about but about which we probably know very little. Chapters include Gnosticism, Kabbalah, Shamanism, Alchemy, and New Age Consciousness. A highly satisfying and thought-provoking read for those curious about this kind of stuff.



The Completed Autobiography by Benjamin Franklin – by Mark Skousen.

Franklin's autobiography is a great autobiography but it was incomplete. In it, Franklin ended his life's story in 1757, when he was just 51. He lived another 33 eventful years, serving as America's advocate in London, Pennsylvania's representative in

the Continental Congress, and America's wartime ambassador to France. This rest of his life, in Franklin's own words has been compiled and added to the original incomplete autobiography from Franklin's papers. It reveals why he became a spokesman for American independence, his views on the Constitution, what he really thought of his fellow patriots, like Adams and Jefferson.



A wonderful portal into early American colonial history. For a really authoritative biography, Hans

recommends reading *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* by Walter Isaacson.

Reminders

USE UUFSSU ELECTRONIC TOOLS

In the June 1st CONNECTION:

Complete the **WeCare Network** survey:

<https://uufssu.breezechms.com/form/af0065>

Please complete the survey. You can revise your answers in the future. There are only two questions. A confirmation email will be sent to each person completing the WeCare Participation survey form.

In the July 1st CONNECTION

- Update your **personal information**, review the calendar and make donations; go to the [UUFSSU website](#). If you have any questions, Chuck Goode (435 229-8950) is happy to assist.
- **Set up AmazonSmile designation**

to donate 0.5% of your purchases to UUFSSU, if you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Rob Anglin at 707 294-7757 who will gladly help you set up this way of donating a little more to UUFSSU.

SWITCHPOINT

Changing the Face of Poverty. This is the focus of UUFSSU Social Justice action for 2021 – 2022.

As individuals you can make your monetary and in-kind donations 24/7 at the Switchpoint Intake Office, 946 N 1300 W in St. George.

Greatest In-kind Needs: bus passes (10 ride), clorox wipes, shaving razors for men and women and canned foods that are high in protein (i.e. tuna, chicken, peanut butter, etc.)

Volunteers greatly needed: call Tammy Young at 435 628-9310 x 109 for more information.



JOIN THE UUFSSU PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP

Go to the UUFSSU website and join the private UUFSSU Facebook group and post photos, share ideas and dialog with others. Some members are also sharing artwork and links to informative articles.

PLEDGES AND DONATIONS

Even in this time of social distancing, UUFSSU is looking toward the future when we can again meet in person, and have our own place, which accrues ongoing expenses.