

Journey

It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.

— Ursula K. Le Guin, Author

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 2 "Beyond Headlines" Event
- 3 Religious Exploration

In July, the new UUCS Board began our work of leading and supporting this congregation. With big shoes to fill, I am excited to serve as President for the next two years. We have a diverse Board with young and old, new and established members. Please take a moment to get acquainted with us on our Board page on the UUCS website; everyone's bios and photos are listed there.

We are here to serve you, the congregation. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us with a suggestion, comment, or idea. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Mezzanine from 7-9pm. These meetings are open to the congregation and we encourage you to attend.

September's liturgical theme is "Journey" — how appropriate considering the journey the new board is taking together. Lao Tzu said "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." In July, our new Board took our first step with a fun, productive, and energizing retreat. We got to know each other and established some lofty goals for the coming year which I've included below:

Board 2016/2017 Goals

- INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT — Establish a Building Task Force and have a plan for our space by our Annual Meeting in May.
- WELCOME & ENGAGEMENT -- Define the goals of the Membership program and reshape groups to meet

our goals.

- DIVERSITY-- Empower the Journey Towards Wholeness & Justice ministries, along with Membership to increase diversity and inclusion in the congregation.

- OUTREACH -- Find a home for Outreach and solidify our approach.

- LEADERSHIP – Determine a new way to nurture lay leaders.

By the end of this Board year, we hope to be a more engaged and diverse congregation with stronger leadership and solid plans for our new home. This journey won't always be easy, but I am thrilled to be at the helm leading us forward.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Koren Barwis

Two service

Sundays will

commence again on

September 11

www.uusterling.org

22135 Davis Drive
Sterling, VA 20167
(703) 406-3068

Mail: P.O. Box 1632
Sterling, VA 20167



Temporary tattoos at the Summer Picnic

**UUCS AND BETH CHAVERIM
CO-HOST: "BEYOND HEADLINES"
FROM EQUALITY VA
A WELCOMING
CONGREGATION EVENT**

On Thursday August 10th, the communities of Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling gathered to listen and learn. The speaker from Equality VA, Connie, shared her story with grace, and invited open and honest questions. Connie is a Marine veteran and computer industry professional living in NoVA. She is the proud parent of three sons. She's an ardent cyclist who bikes thousands of miles per year. She also happens to be transgendered.

Nearly 50 individuals gathered to hear Connie's story. Koren Barwiss welcomed the group to UUCS, Rabbi Amy led us in a powerful invocation, and Rev. Anya concluded with words of inclusion and hope. This event is a fruition of our Welcoming Congregation work - work that encourages us to continue learning and growing in our ability to welcome and affirm individuals across the gender and sexuality spectrum.

On Saturday October 1st, UUCS will join other NoVA UU congregations in Outreach at the NoVA Pride Festival. If you wish to share in the joy of offering outreach and growing in our ability to welcome and affirm, send a note to Paul Roche who works on our Welcoming Congregation task force: proche195@gmail.com



Rev. Anya, Rabbi Amy Sapowith and Connie from Equality Virginia



Volunteer of the year: Finance Team, accepted by Alyssa Lum (Center,) Presented by Paul Roche, and Rev. Anya.



Holly Fitzgerald receives a quilt, a gift from the prayer-shawl-ministry, signed by the congregation, to accompany her to college at Christopher Newport University.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Children's Summer Program



Linda Weaver,
Director of
Religious Exploration

Adults and teens shared their favorite National Parks and related topics with the children throughout the summer. This Sunday morning program was filled with fun as the children experienced the wonder of these national treasures and learned how they can help protect them.

One morning they hiked through the building following trail blazes and they pitched a tent as they learned about the Appalachian Trail. Another day the children were amazed by the variety of ecosystems in Death Valley and they responded by making fish, baskets, and a lava ball from clay and creating wildflower wreaths. One Sunday later in the summer they learned about tools for survival, explored a teepee, and made colorful printed animal images. On yet another morning the children learned about Fallingwater, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and they built their own structures and created tissue paper stain glass windows. Other Sundays were dedicated to Birding, Habitats, Great Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, Valley Forge, Petrified Forest, and Arches.

Summer RE ended on August 28 with a quick exploration of two more National Parks, ways to help take care of the parks, and a celebration of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. Thank you to the many volunteers who made all the fun and learning possible by sharing their passion, wisdom, and creativity.



Summer RE projects:
Thanks for a fun summer!

