

Adult Enrichment 2016-2017

The Adult Enrichment portfolio currently includes: Adult Religious Education, Earth Spirit, Simple Living, and the Lending Library. The website includes an Adult Enrichment page with current Adult Religious Education courses described. Coming events are also listed on Facebook and advertised on Meet-up.

Adult Religious Education

The mission of the Adult Religious Education Program is to nurture and stimulate the religious and personal growth of the adult church community. A varied and cohesive program within the context of Unitarian Universalist tradition and principles is offered throughout the year.

Current Adult Religious Education classes:

Tuesdays: Tibetan Buddhism: Meditation and Mind Training, 7:00 pm. facilitated by **The Ven. Tashi Nyima**, an ordained Monk in the Jonang lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.

Thursdays: 6:00 pm The Humanist group – Subjects are topical and Humanist-oriented with various speakers. Recent topics have included: the Importance of a Universal language like Esperanto or Logan; How Capitalism perpetuates Immigration; Current Events: Reaction to the Election; Tips for Writing Effective Letters to your Elected Officials; How to use frames, metaphors, and cognitive science - to persuade, including a review of George Lakoff; Money, Meaningfulness and Happiness across Cultures.

Thursdays: 7:00 pm Roots of Religion led by Retired UU Minister, Don Fielding. Rev. Fielding selects the videos and encourages the discussion of the topics. Each class includes a video and discussion.

This year the class completed *Emerson, Thoreau and the Transcendentalist Movement*; It then moved to the series: **Exploring the Roots of Religion**. This series addressed: the Roots of a Religious Experience, Quest for the afterlife, reconstructing Ancient Rituals, Lost Gods and Fallen Temples, Sacred Landscapes, and Communities of the Spirit. During this coming summer the class shall start a series on **Biological Anthropology- an Evolutionary Perspective**.

Artist Colony, led by Clyde Grauke and Miles Dillon was held during the year.

Earth Spirit

The Earth Spirit group meets monthly on the third Sunday at 12:15 pm. They offer the Solstice celebrations and provide activities with a Pagan-orientation.

Simple Living Chalice Circle

Congregational Meeting report - Adult Enrichment, May, 2015 Facilitator: Ona Tannehill
Simple Living meets on the second Saturday of each month, with an average of twelve in attendance. They work on becoming more deliberate in their lives through readings and discussion. As a circle group, they rotate discussion leadership. They have used as discussion topics the monthly themes of Patrick's sermons. Ona reports the average attendance is increasing.

Library Committee

Vicki Verinder has taken over the lead on this project. Gene Verinder has created the spreadsheet of books and printed the labels for the cards and pockets, and printed the The Lending Library is located in Room D and is open on Wednesday evenings and after services on Sunday. There are magazines such as UU World, hard copies and a few paperbacks.

Books can be borrowed using a system outlined on material in the room and can be dropped off at anytime in the book depository (built by member Paul Gandy).

Book check-out is by using cards in the books in the library.

The Library page is now on the website and is accessed via a link on the Community drop down tab on the home page. That page has three on-line catalog listings of the books. They are listed by: Dewey Decimal Number; Author; or Title.

The listings are in a hard copy in a binder in the Library. The Committee has developed criteria for acceptance of donations of books to the library. Contact Vicki Verinder with any questions regarding donations or requests for titles.

Other Educational and Transformational Experiences

Adult Enrichment also was broadened this year to include other Educational and Transformational Experiences:

On Mondays - the **Harvest the Power leadership program** - which is by invitation, works toward developing leaders. It is sponsored by the Leadership Development Committee and is facilitated by Sarah Reiling with other Board Members playing important roles. The class explores leadership as a spiritual practice and weaves UU values, principles and sources with spiritual, ethical and faith development, as well as UU identity development.

Twice a month - **The Great Decisions program of the Foreign Policy Association** meets to discuss Foreign Policy issues. Donna Bening hosts the class held at the church, and Grace Morrison hosts the class which is held in various attendees' homes. The sessions run from January to May each year.