

Rabbi Report to UUCGT Board February, 2017

Notables:

- Launch of new small group ministry called InterPlay
- Launch of new small group ministry - a Women's New Moon Group
- Prospective member orientation was well attended and we will be welcoming a wonderful (and again rather large) group of new members on February 26
- Organized and lead a well-attended protest of the "Muslim Ban" at the airport

Sunday Services

It is a delight to work with our current Sunday Services team. Amanda and Hal have done a wonderful job reaching out to members to fully staff the team (although we can always welcome more!). The feedback on Sunday services is carefully reviewed at each meeting; we look for patterns of feedback and do our best to incorporate the wants and needs of our members and friends who take the time to share their thoughts. The next two months are in the works and looking very exciting.

Congregational Care

As you know from hearing the Joys and Concerns if you attend Sunday services, we have a number of members who are struggling with the current political climate and looking for productive ways to engage to lift themselves out of fear and worry. I have a regular number of members whom I call and/or visit each week. I continue to be impressed with the presence of CCT members at Sunday services – making themselves available and being a visible reminder of our principles week after week.

Public Witness

What a time it has been. I was pleased that so many of you came to the airport protest. We engaged a wider swath of the community in that act of public witness. There is more to come (a general women's strike, a #DayWithoutImmigrants protest and other activities). In the mean time I will stay abreast of locally organized efforts and lend my voice and presence to the best of my ability. Locally this also includes the monthly minister meeting ("Clergy and Pie") and Area Council on Religious Diversity. Nationally, this includes involvement in UUMA, T'ruah and others.

Rabbi-Lead Small Group Congregational Ministries

I am delighted at the launch of two new ministries in our congregation. New member Carolyn Kelly and I co-lead the first of a monthly new moon women's group, which will now meet monthly in the sanctuary. We decided to use the wonderful UU book *Soul to Soul*. Please check out a little about the book here: <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Soul-to-Soul-P17830.aspx> I was delighted that we had a dozen women together, including 8 non-members who have begun attending some Sunday services.

The second small group ministry launch is InterPlay lead by member Lee Edwards and also by Kay Brown. InterPlay is a global social movement dedicated to ease, connection, human sustainability and play. This ministry will also meet once a month. You can read more here: <http://www.interplay.org/> They will be participating in a Sunday service in March as well, so that more of the congregation can experience InterPlay.

Safe Congregation Response Team

Thanks to Ann Marie Love and, Nick Erber and Joe Cook for their work.

Denominational Affairs

I registered and nearly packed for the Regional Assembly in April in Oak Brook, Illinois. I hope members of the congregation will consider attending. It is nearby (and will be significantly less costly than the GA which is in New Orleans in June).

I have become part of a support network of a subset of UUMA members addressing some of the particular stresses we are currently experiencing nationally. The rest is confidential.

I have been in touch with my UUMA Good Officer and our UUA Congregational Life Consultant to discuss various issues. They have been very supportive.

Staff Resources

I am very grateful to Kay Sturgeon and Karl Love for the hard work they do month to month. I am particularly appreciative of their sense of mission around being a resource for staff members. We held a joint SRC and Operations/staff meeting this month and hope that we will do this more often to ensure open communication, support of staff morale and creating a staff structure that supports the fact that we are no longer a fellowship, but a program congregation.

Operations

We are delighted to welcome our DLE Sarah Montgomery-Richards back. Operations typically meets weekly to ensure the smooth management of building use, communication between SRC and staff, daily management of the congregation (from mice to computer issues to member and committee needs) and mutual support.