



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Best Laid Schemes

A few days ago, a bit of color started showing on the buds at the top of 36-inch stalks on my favorite iris. I've mentioned this iris before. In 1994, the first year Walter and I lived in New Jersey, I bought a sorry-looking, desiccated rhizome and stuck it in the dirt. It grew and flourished, and we took it with us to two locations in Illinois before bringing it with us to Waynesboro in 2015.

Many of the clumps we planted here did not thrive. But we had this one clump we could always count on for tall flower stalks and blossoms with rich colors. So when they started to show their color again, I really looked forward to being able to cut a few stalks to bring into Walter's room for him to get a little pleasure from.

But in the immortal words of 18th-century Scots poet Robert Burns, "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men gang aft agley." The iris buds opened with misshaped blossoms with nothing resembling the rich colors of years past. On a different day, I might have shed a little tear of disappointment. Instead, despite disappointment, today I feel a sense of equanimity. It may be that that old dessicated rhizome's journey with us is at an end. Or maybe it will recover and yet provide additional seasons of pleasure. But it has been with us, bringing joy for a long time.

Thinking of that iris, I reread Bobby Burns' conclusion of the poem "To a Mouse," in which the famous saying appears:

The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain
For promis'd joy!
Still, thou art blest, compar'd wi' me!
The present only toucheth thee:
But Och! I backward cast my e'e
On prospects drear!
An' forward, tho' I canna see,
I guess an' fear!

Burns' mouse is fortunate because it lives in the present, while the human poetic persona contends with unchangeable past and unknowable future and has the more negative experience.

At the Fellowship, we had plans to kick off a reinvigorated, better planned adult education effort, beginning with a five-session class on disability history in America and in this congregation. And then the class, which needed ten participants to make, garnered only four. So we return to planning. The bud didn't open into glorious flower. At least not now. So we will figure it out and maybe offer it with amplified intention later. In the meanwhile, let's enjoy this season unfolding around us!

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Paul

New Art Show at the UUFW

"Visual Experience Stories" is the title for our next art show at UUFW. It's brought to us by

Diane Livick and will be on our walls from May 5th through June 30th.

Diane’s parents were both educators, and as a preschooler, she was given the wonderful gift of stories and fairy tales. She learned about the power of language to paint fabulous visual images. Once she learned to read, she read the richest stories and mythologies she could find. Now she writes, paints, sculpts and sings her own stories – sometimes retelling old themes, sometimes stories of simple and honorable lives or the relationships between people and their pets. What she loves to do most is “tell stories” through any means and medium. But she is always motivated to create pieces that are meaningful to others.



The UUFW had a strong volunteer presence at the annual Riverfest in Waynesboro last Saturday. We were even there disguised as a ducky!



And then on Sunday, 83 members and friends packed the Fellowship Hall for a service on humor. After lots of laughs, there was no question that we have many talented comedians in our congregation!

