



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Second Chances

by George Thompson

Now that the baseball season is upon us and, perhaps, your sons and daughters and grandchildren are getting ready for Little League, I always recall famous baseball sayings such as Yogi Berra's proclamation: "It's deja vu all over again!" Ain't it the truth?

How many times did we, in our youth or as adults, stand at home plate—or at the foul line in a basketball game or at the goal line in a football game—and ask for a second chance. To drive in the winning run or hit string music with the winning basket or stop the runner just inches from entering the end zone? Usually knowing we had failed at an earlier attempt and now had a second chance for success.

Such is life. Seemingly full of second chances, but sometimes just one: For example, to be a Jew and leave Naziland before it was too late. Or working and walking for equal justice and voting rights in the Jim Crow South knowing that state troopers were waiting with baited breath to bash you on the head for wanting to fulfill your constitutional rights. Or to decide when it is time to leave a job or an abusive partnership or to have serious surgery or to enter hospice care.

All of us could spend a full day at Fellowship Hall embracing each other as we each share the many personal joys and sorrows associated with our second chances. And here is where the UU principles can guide us down

the path of life toward knowing how to see a second chance as an opportunity even if it may be a challenge. Whenever I have doubts about the larger world we now live in or the personal situations that may arise, I always find comfort and solace and inspiration from those UU principles and from the UU Hymnal. Who feels bad when singing a meaningful song?

Some of you may know that, in the last year, I have had two close encounters with the afterlife, and now I await discharge from Augusta Health for another serious illness associated with a chronic bronchial condition.



Talk about second chances? To be able to be with Cynthia recently in France as we visited the restored Notre-Dame de Paris and Claude Monet's transformative gardens in Giverny. To receive new photos and videos of grandsons Coleman and Lucca and baby granddaughter Oakley. To relish in a sustained rain during a prolonged drought. Professionally to be able to end my book publishing career on a high note.

So let us embrace second chances, large and small, for in their own way they are gifts. And let us embrace and support our UUFW and its family of members and friends. We have so much to be grateful for, even when life throws us a curve ball.

UUFW Immigration Protection Workshop

The Social Justice Team hosted a two-hour workshop Sunday, May 3rd, on Immigration Protection. Three organizations, International Rescue Committee, Sin Barreras, and Rapid Response, shared their programs that support the immigration issues in our communities. Forty-one attendees took the information they learned and made potential program suggestions that our Fellowship can implement to support our immigrant neighbors. Some of the suggestions were: partner with other nonprofits, provide delivery services, establish an immigration fund for impacted families, and training opportunities in prevention techniques and legal actions. The Social Justice Team will review all ideas presented at their next meeting and come up with a list of 2-3 programs to present to those who attended the workshop, with a later plan to present to the entire Fellowship. Anyone interested in working on this important project may contact team co-leaders, Savannah Fersner and



Emmett Crawford at administrator@uufw.org. Workshop organizers were Annie Garrison and Cynthia Thompson. Photo: Annie outlining workshop objectives



UUA News

The UUA has taken the position that the war initiated by the U.S. against Iran is underpinned by Christian Nationalist theology. An April 16 letter to the President and leaders of the House and Senate rejects the theological reasons that some in the Pentagon and the administration have used to justify the current military conflict. The letter is signed by Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, along with several other prominent UU leaders and theologians.

“This conflict in Iran violates all the commitments that we as Unitarian Universalists hold sacred,” UU faith leaders said in the letter. It highlights the Statement of Conscience that UUs passed at their 2010 General Assembly (GA), called “Creating Peace,” which reflects Unitarian Universalist religious beliefs when it comes to military conflict and peacemaking. Over the past year, as the current administration has undertaken military aggression, the UUA has repeated its condemnation against going to war with Iran.

The [complete text of the letter](#) is posted on the UUA website.



During the service last Sunday, DRE Shannon Mills and RE children thanked volunteers who have contributed their time and skills this year.

