



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

October 2018 Newsletter

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

Stepping into Something New

Rev. Teri Schwartz

Have you heard of Man Kaur? This last year, she won the gold medal in the 200-meter race at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Malaga Spain. She was the only competitor—in the 100-to-104 age group! She also took home the gold in the javelin competition.

What's even more impressive is that she started running nine years ago—at the age of 93! It was her son who, on a whim, urged her to take up track and field. They went to the University track and he asked her to run 400 meters. She did it, slowly. He then became her coach, at the young age of 71. She liked it enough to keep coming back—and she quickly improved.

She wakes at 4am, bathes, does her laundry, makes tea, and recites prayers—sometimes at her Sikh house of worship, sometimes at home. Then, it's off to the track for an hour of track practice; and the gym on rainy days.

Over the years, she's won 32 gold medals in countries around the world.

As a young woman, Kaur worked as a maid and served the queen in the Patiala palace. She earned an equivalent of \$0.15 a day. When she won the 2016 Canadian competition, she was invited to spend the night in the bedroom of the queen she had served.

Kaur is often the only contender in her age bracket and winning is guaranteed. But she never just shows up; she's broken the master category world record in javelin. There's no prize money—just the opposite. She has to pay to participate; it's a labor of love.

Most of us won't live as long as Man Kaur. Most of us are not athletes—even in our younger days. But, life gives us opportunities to try new things—and to “run” in varied ways in our lives. When Kaur's son invited

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Does an item on the board voice something didn't even know you needed to hear today? Take it home with you when you are next at church. Put it on your mirror. Say it every day. The more we can focus on the positive, the better. In fact, science says to build a positive environment for children, we should be offering four positives for every one negative. Want to add to the available positivity? Come by the board, take what you need, and leave what you want. The words you offer might just make someone's day, and help them to find the inner sanctuary they need to get by.

In peace,
Beth Moss

Our Musical Guests Jeff Hamrick, Music Director

We are delighted to welcome the Rogers Park Neighborhood Choir of the Chicago Children's Choir, directed by choir alumna Elisabeth Van Schoonhoven, as our music guests on Sunday, October 14. (Following the worship service we'll celebrate the choir's "birthday" with cake and other refreshments.)

The Chicago Children's Choir, which serves more than 4,800 young Chicagoans, for six decades, started out in 1956 as a junior choir at First Unitarian Church under the direction of the Rev. Christopher Moore. Already in its first years of existence, the choir was off to a very auspicious start: the Chicago Tribune noted that "when Margaret Hillis [founder of the Chicago Symphony Chorus] conducts [Eric] Honegger's Christmas Canata ... in the

October RE Schedule

- Oct 07:** Regularly Scheduled RE
- Oct 14:** Regularly Scheduled RE
- Oct 20 (Sat.):** COA retreat—Homewood, IL 9 am–1 pm
- Oct 21:** Regularly scheduled RE
- Oct 27 (Sat.):** Halloween party 5pm–8pm
- Oct 28:** NO RE. All Souls intergenerational service

subscriptions series of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra's chorus will be joined by the junior choir of the First Unitarian Church. Thirty three children will participate" (November 15, 1958).

For more information about the choir, visit <https://ccchoir.org/about/>.

On October 28, we welcome the Kithara Trio as our musicians for the annual All Souls Sunday worship service. Cellist Jill Kaeding, flutist Susan Saylor, and harpist Faye Seeman will provide accompaniment for our congregational singing as well as perform service music selected especially for this service. To learn more about the trio, visit <http://www.fayeseeman.com/kithatrio/>.

October Worship Services

It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.

—Irish Proverb

In the month of October, we will honor Indigenous People's Day (also known as Columbus Day), our annual Chicago Children's Choir Birthday Sunday, as well as our yearly All Souls Sunday observance. Throughout worship this month, we will also explore the theme of Sanctuary. What are the sanctuaries in our lives? How do we care for the sanctuaries in our lives so they can care for us? What do they shelter us from? More importantly, perhaps, what might they shelter us *for*?

October 7th, 10 AM
Who Builds the Land?
Rev. Jason Lydon

The hymn, "We'll Build a Land" with lyrics by Carolyn McDade is a beloved and often-sung hymn in UU congregations across the United States. On this Indigenous People's Day Weekend, let us reflect together on the lyrics in this song and what a Unitarian Universalist theology that resists settler colonialism might challenge us to reconsider as we sing these words.

Rev. Jason Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist community minister affiliated with the Church of the Larger Fellowship. He lives with his partner, Johannes, and their two cats and dog in Rogers Park. Jason currently works for a secular policy network on issues at the intersection of LGBT/HIV community needs and the criminal legal system. Jason volunteers with the Chicago Community Bond Fund, is on the Board of the UU Prison Ministry of Illinois, and is dedicated to lifting up an anti-racist, abolitionist, queer liberation theology in Unitarian Universalism.

October 14th, 10 AM
Children of this Sanctuary: The Chicago Children's Choir's 62nd Birthday
Rev. David Schwartz

The Chicago Children's Choir was founded in 1952—62 years ago!—right here in the First U Sanctuary. At the time, forging an interracial choir of children was unheard of. Our sanctuary was a shelter from the storms of racism in the broader city; when the children started to perform offsite, at times they were subject to racist, hateful speech. But our sanctuary was more than a shelter *from* the outside world. Our sanctuary was a shelter *for* the outside world—to send the children of the city to teach Chicago a new song. What might our sanctuary birth today?

October 21st, 10 AM
Seeking Sanctuary: Forced from Home
Rev. Teri Schwartz

In a time of masses of refugees seeking shelter and sanctuary around the world, we find politicians calling to bar the doors. There are a record 68.5 million people displaced worldwide, and every single one of them has inherent worth and dignity. Headlines can numb us to the reality that people and children around the world face. As individuals and as a people—how might we be a living sanctuary?

October 28th, 10 AM
All Souls Sunday
Revs. Teri and David Schwartz

In this annual service, we will honor and commemorate those in our lives and church family who have died. We will join together in bittersweet memory and love as we reflect on the fleeting and precious gift of life. Please bring a photo or memento of a loved one who has died; you will be invited to place it on the altar during the service.

October Meetings and Events

How Can We Save Our Democracy?

10/6/2018 Saturday

Unitarian Church of Evanston

1330 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

Meadville Lombard is offering a public day of learning entitled *How Can We Save Our Democracy? Religion and Politics in an Uncertain World*. It is open to all who are concerned about current affairs and the survival of our democracy. It will be an all-day event; lunch is included.

Dr. Mike Hogue (Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion) will speak from his new book *American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World*. Meadville Lombard faculty will share concepts and practical skills for a revolutionary rebuilding of democracy and community.

[Register online](#). Suggested ticket price is \$30 to help defray the expenses of this event, but in the spirit of building a strong, resilient community, please set your own ticket price. Those who can give more are encouraged to do so, to help those who cannot at this time.

For more information, please see the [online flier](#), or contact Tomo Hillbo, Director of Communications for Meadville-Lombard, at thillbo@meadville.edu.

Annual Assembly: Community Renewal Society—Attendees Needed

10/6/2018 Saturday 8:00 AM–12:00 PM

The Church of the Good Shepherd

5700 South Prairie Ave, Chicago, IL

[The Annual Assembly of the Community](#)

[Renewal Society](#), of which First U is a member congregation, is the occasion for electing board members and laying out its agenda for the coming year.

We seek five people to represent First U at the Assembly. For more information or to

volunteer, please contact Evan Freund at evan17@evanfreund.com or 773-624-0333.

[Register online](#).

A Screening of *Breathin': The Eddy Zheng Story*

10/7/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Arrested at 16 and tried as an adult for kidnapping and robbery, Eddy Zheng served over 20 years in California prisons and jails. Ben Wang's *Breathin': The Eddy Zheng Story* paints an intimate portrait of Eddy—the prisoner, the immigrant, the son, the activist—on his journey to freedom, rehabilitation and redemption. While in prison, Eddy learned English, earned his college degree, published his poetry, and transformed into a nationally recognized leader—inspiring youth, activists, and politicians on issues of prison reform and youth violence prevention. Despite being released from immigration custody in 2007, Eddy has been ordered deported to China and awaits the final court decision. With the looming possibility of deportation, Eddy must negotiate what it means to “live freely”—attempting to rebuild a family, reconcile with his victims, and make a lasting change in society at large. The film was named best documentary at several film festivals.

The film will be shown as part of the (In)Justice for All Film Festival organized by Trinity UCC. For more information, please contact Evan Freund at 773-624-0333 or evan17@evanfreund.com.

Meeting: Global Studies Group

10/7/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM

VOV Library

This Sunday, the Global Studies Group will continue our discussion of Stephen Cohen's *Soviet Fates and Lost Alternatives: From Stalinism to the New Cold War*. For more

information, please contact Bobbi Campbell at rlammer@luc.edu or Ellen LaRue at e.larue@att.net.

Meeting: Denominational Affairs Committee

10/9/2018 Tuesday 4:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

The Denominational Affairs Committee meets regularly at 4 pm on second Tuesdays. For more information, please contact Marie Cobbs at marie.cobbs@att.net.

Annual Social Justice Fair

10/14/2018 Sunday 11:15 AM–11:45 AM

Hull Chapel

Check it out! Each of First U's social justice task forces and groups will have a table, bring materials about its programs and mission, have refreshments, answer questions, and take contact information for individuals who may wish to get involved with the task force or group. A representative from each task force or group should be prepared to give a short elevator speech from the microphone.

For more information, please contact Evan Freund at 773-624-0333 or evan17@evanfreund.com.

Dive Deep into Soul Matters

10/14/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

The Soul Matters Circle is a monthly, year-long circle of people who meet to authentically connect with each other in reflection on monthly themes. Given the enormously isolating pressure of the era—moving too quickly through too much work with too little time and too few people to connect with—the Soul Matters Circle is an invitation to slow down and connect.

On October 14, 2018, we'll begin a new Sharing Circle of 8–10 people who commit to meet once a month through June. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Barbara Randolph at brandolph@colum.edu.

Class: Membership at First U

10/14/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM–12:45 PM

VOV Library

This is the second meeting of the Fall 2018 new members' cohort of First U's "Pathway to Membership." These sessions will provide deep understanding of the theological roots of our community, ways to engage with the First Unitarian Church community, how First U is organized, and what membership really means. Childcare will be available.

Sign up at our Welcome Table or contact our membership coordinator Myles Brady Davis at membership@firstuchicago.org.

Long Strange Trip:

A Series on UU History

10/14/2018 Sunday 1:00 PM–2:30 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Join Allan Lindrup for this Unitarian Universalist history series. *Long Strange Trip* is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism.

Each session of this series includes the showing of a one-hour video followed by discussion. The sessions will take place every second Sunday from September through February of 2019. For more information, please contact Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net.

First Forum:

Report on General Assembly 2018

10/21/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Organized by the Denominational Affairs Committee and sponsored by the Social Justice Council, this is an opportunity to learn what happened this year at the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly.

For more information, please contact Marie Cobbs at marie.cobbs@att.net.

Halloween Party

10/27/2018 Saturday 5:00 PM–8:00 PM
Save the date—more details will be online and in your order of service announcements.

First Forum: “Day of the Dead,” an Affirmation of Life

10/28/2018 Sunday 11:30 AM–1:00 PM
Most Americans have outsourced the end of our lives to professionals who have turned this inevitable and completely natural process into a huge commercial enterprise. Our deaths have been monetized and made cosmetic and abstract. This allows us to avoid thinking and talking about mortality, which hinders our ability to psychologically and practically prepare for it. Consequently, it is difficult to have a peaceful, dignified “good” death.

Halloween, All Saints Day, and the Day of the Dead are opportunities to reflect and share our thoughts and feelings. Our UU principles, “The inherent worth and dignity of every person...compassion in human relations and the search for truth and meaning” compel us to do so. This interactive presentation will

explore the topic from intercultural, ethical and practical perspectives. The goal is to promote a realistic path to a peaceful feeling about dying, for ourselves and our loved ones.

Our speaker is Gary Wederspahn, board member of Final Exit Network and a member of Compassion & Choices and Exit International.

All are welcome. For more information, please contact Richard Pardo at pardo.richard@comcast.net.

Environmental Book Club

10/28/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM–1:00 PM
Chris Moore Parlor

The Environmental Book Club is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Group. Join this insightful group of concerned and action-oriented members and friends for their monthly readings and discussion. Attendees will read and discuss *How Culture Shapes the Climate Change Debate* by Andrew J. Hoffman. This month’s discussion focuses on chapters 3 and 4.

For more information, please contact Bill Bassin at wsb4248@sbcglobal.net, or Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Co-Ministers’ Office Hours

Rev. David Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

Rev. Teri Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

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