



# WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

A WELCOMING, WORSHIPING, WITNESSING CONGREGATION

## WUU NEWS

**August 2014**

### August 3, 2014

10:00 am

*"Tambien de Este Lado Hay Suenos "*

*Rev. Jennifer Ryu*

Rev. Jennifer was invited to preach at SUUSI this year, and this is a version of that sermon. Dreaming of the Promised Land, immigrants sail the oceans, climb walls, and walk hundred of miles.

How do they help to create the Beloved Community that Unitarian Universalists are called to build?

\*Children will begin by sitting with their families in the sanctuary and will be sung out to their Religious Education class to rehearse The Bursting Bush and participate in a craft, Smile in a Bag.

11:15 am Café Conversation-Immigration  
Please join us after service as we welcome guest speaker Jennifer Bickham Mendez.  
See newsletter [page 3](#) for complete details

### August 10, 2014

10:00 am

*"Searching for G-D"*

*Rev. Sherman Logan*

God is a subject that many UU's would like to avoid. Non-theists don't find God language useful, while faithful theists often restrained from using the "G" Word. Why is there so much discomfort in talking about God in our congregations?

### Summer Arts For Children Continues

Children should proceed directly to Fahs House to rehearse "The Bursting Bush" on August 10, 17, 24 and 31.

### August 17, 2014

10:00 am

*"Give Us Back the Ballot"*

*Rev. Sherman Logan*

In a 1957 speech titled "Give Us the Ballot," Dr. King spoke plainly about the imperative of equal voting rights. For Dr. King, the right to vote was sacred and foundational. He knew that unfair elections laws did not just hurt minorities or the working poor, they rendered hollow the very essence of American government.

It's a message that's still rings true today as it did then. The 49-year old Voting Rights Act has stood the test of time, but there are new obstacles to the ballot springing up in today's America. Voting rights for so many are under attack.

### August 24, 2014

10:00 am

*"Unfulfilled Dreams"*

*Rev. Sherman Logan*

Fifty -plus years after Dr. Martin Luther King made his " I Have A Dream speech; there are still places in our society, especially in our houses of worship, where Dr. King's dream of an inclusive society has remained an unfulfilled dream. Will the dream of Unitarian Universalist to become fully inclusive, multi-cultural faith come to fruition or will remain for some an "unfulfilled" dream?

### August 31, 2014

10:00 am

*"My UU Trip Around the World"*

*Hans Christian von Baeyer*

## ***Family Reunion***

August is the month of my family reunion. We gather at our old homestead on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday of every August. I can't really give a logical explanation of why it isn't on the fourth Saturday, but it has something to do with the convoluted way of the Baptist Church's calendar; if you ever belonged a Baptist Church, you will get this.

Our family reunion is a time of great joy and excitement. It is a time to reconnect with loved ones that you haven't seen or spoken to in years. It's a time when you are introduced to new arrivals and pay homage to the memories of those who have passed on. It is a time where the elders pass on the family heritage and traditions to the next generation. Not to mention a time for good food, great fun and fellowship.

Last year, I attended my family's 30th annual reunion. While I had not attended every year, that year was extremely significant; it was the first family reunion my son and I had attended together, after being estranged for five years.

During the estrangement I learned some valuable lessons.

I learned that reconciliation requires someone to take the first step. There were many times that I allowed my stubbornness and pride to keep me from reaching out to him. Pride can keep us from admitting our mistakes, our self-esteem required us to take decisive action to set things right and remedy wrongs.

I learned to never underestimate that power of forgiveness. Forgiveness requires compassion; forgiveness requires taking the first step even when you feel justified in not doing so. Without forgiveness there can't be any healing or reconciliation.

I learned that no matter how bleak things may appear, to never give up hope. There were times when I thought that we would never reunite, and sadly I was beginning to reconcile to the fact that our being reunited would never happen.



But an unexpected thing happened. On the night, of my mother's 80th birthday party, my son walked into the room where my family was gathered for dinner. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw him for the first time in five years. We looked at each other without first saying a word. We walked towards each other, embraced, cried and said we were sorry. I said "I love you son", he said "I love you Daddy".

On that night there was indeed a joyful reunion.

My relationship with my son has made great strides during the past few years. While, at times it feels like I have missed out on a great portion of his life, we are not expending the time and effort to try to fill in the blanks, nor to figure out what went wrong in the first place. We are now concentrating on the present and the future.

We all may experience some type of schisms in our relationships. Reconciliation requires both parties to be willing to come to the table and it requires give and take. It takes healing, communication, forgiveness and hard work to mend a broken relationship. There may be some risk involved, but reconciliation is possible. However it requires both parties to be willing to meet somewhere in the middle and when that happens, together you can move towards the restoration and reconciliation of the relationship. That would be a good thing.

Peace and Blessings  
Rev. Sherman



Café Conversation-Immigration  
AUGUST 3, 2014  
11:15am

**"Newcomers in the Cradle of a Nation: Mexican and Central American Immigrants in Williamsburg, VA"**

Sociologist Jennifer Bickham Mendez (The College of William and Mary) will share some results from her ten-year, ethnographic study of Mexican and Central American immigration to Williamsburg, Virginia. Bickham Mendez places at the center of her work the lived realities of this latest group of settlers to the Williamsburg area, as they seek to make a life in their new surroundings.

Her work uses cases of local people's daily lives as a window into broader trends in the nation and in a globally interconnected world. Working with an array of community agencies and standing with immigrants as they have sought services for themselves and their children provides a view of this community through the eyes of this recent group of arrivals.

Bickham Mendez will also draw from two research trips to the home communities of four immigrant families who reside in Williamsburg. She and her students interviewed family members, NGO practitioners, and community leaders in four sending villages and towns in Central and Southern Mexico. She and her students have also traveled three times to the US-Mexico border to visit the most heavily trafficked crossing region.

Through participation in research delegations on the border they meet with humanitarian workers, border patrol agents, and advocacy groups, and stay in shelters with recently deported migrants. The experiences of exclusion and hardship, but also triumph and resolve of this group of newcomers to our community add texture to overly simplistic rhetoric about the "immigration problem." The unique position that Williamsburg occupies within the foundational story of the United States, makes this "new immigrant destination" an ideal case study for addressing pressing questions for democratic societies in the 21st century.

**Food For FISH**

**(FISH is our local community's food & clothing pantry)**

- Children are home from school for another month of summer.
- Let's fill the FISH wagon in the Narthex with easy to heat and eat meals such as Spaghetti Os, raviolis and macaroni.
- Some of these meals in the individual portions are expensive, but children can heat and prepare them for themselves and they are a filling comfort food.
- Thank you for your continued generosity.
- It is always so appreciated.

## August Greetings from the Board –

Wasn't it just yesterday that I was sharing with you the ancient words, Sumer is icumen in, Lhude sing cuccu? This month we'll be singing again but from a different viewpoint, Sumer is agoin out, Lhude sing (what or who?).

July was packed with new beginnings, as Austen arrived to be our "settled" Director of Religious Education, and Rev. Sherman Logan joining us for a few weeks as he assumed some of the pastoral and preaching role in a UU congregation. Both attended the July Board meeting to observe and share in our deliberations.

July found the Board focused on Stewardship in WUU, inviting the Stewardship Committee to their meeting to talk about the next steps in helping WUU become a congregation in which stewardship really changes the way we address our mission and goals. Do I hear 'Ya-dah, ya-dah, ya-dah's? I hope not, so please stay tuned. Together the Board and the committee set out a plan about which we'll be hearing more in the months to come. To start out, though, take a few minutes to think about the word steward. What does it mean to you? What's your vision of a steward? How might your description reflect on how you see your place and the congregation as a whole as we move in our mission, vision, and goals?

August is "pulling it all together" time for the Board and the Building Our Future Task Force. All the work that has been done in the last 20 months in thinking about, talking about, and planning for possible facilities expansion will be presented to the Board for consideration: What shall we propose to the congregation for a vote on September 21? During this month, there will be a time for you share your thoughts and have questions addressed about the Financial Feasibility Study results. The FFS team is looking at the calendar to arrange that time. If you have comments you'd like to share with the Board, please send them to [board@wuu.org](mailto:board@wuu.org). If you would like to observe the deliberations of the Board, you are welcome to attend the August Board meeting on Tuesday, August 26. The meeting starts promptly at 7:00 in Fahs. In order for me to make enough room for all who wish to attend, please let me know if you plan to be there.

[lolainva@gmail.com](mailto:lolainva@gmail.com). The Board's proposal will be sent out to all shortly thereafter.

Upcoming in September: Sunday, September 14th, the children will lead our one worship service, presenting the play they've been working on all summer. I can't wait to see and hear that. Following that single service, everyone is invited to stay for one more extended period of discussion, Q&A, concern-raising about the Board's proposal to build or not to build. Members of the Design Build and Financial Feasibility Study Teams will be there with lots of data.

Sunday, September 21st, we'll return to two services with an hour or so between. That hour between is meeting time – time for the congregation to vote on how whether we move forward with building expansion or not. If you will attend the first service, plan to stay for the meeting. If you will attend the second service, plan to come early. Details on that will be coming later this month.

You must be a voting member (one who has signed the book and made a financial pledge to WUU for the 2014-15 fiscal year) to vote on the 21st. You need not be a voting member to attend or enter into the discussion at either of these meetings.

Enjoy the rest of your summer as it is "agoing out. Then, Lhude sing" whatever these August days bring forth.

May peace reign within each of you, with hopes that some will begin reigning in the troubled areas of our world.

Lola Warren, Board President

**Lola Warren,**  
Board President





Dear WUU Community,

I'm delighted to introduce myself to you as the new settled Director of Religious Education here at WUU. Thank you so much for the warm welcome I've received! I've been so touched by the generosity of this group, and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all better.

Perhaps you'd like to know a little bit about me. I hail from Akron, Ohio, received my undergraduate degree in English from Marlboro College in Vermont, and my M.A. in Social Justice and Intercultural Communications. I've lived in England, China and Slovakia, and am quite excited to call Virginia home. I moved here with my cat Hildegard, and am excited to visit with family both north and south of Williamsburg. I enjoy visiting national parks and collecting park passport stamps, so I'd be pleased to hear about your favorite places to visit.

-Austen Petersen, Director of Religious Education

Thanks to musicians who participated in Tabernacle Band on Sunday, June 22. A superb job as always. Many thanks to director Jamie Bartlett and these members of the band:



Hamed Barbarji  
Les Dubnick  
Jane Ferguson  
Roger Guernsey  
Vicki Hall  
Renee Kingan  
Jane Nichols  
Carol Sherman  
David Stanford  
John Trindle

Photo by Bret Veverka

### **Share the Plate for August 3, 2014** ***Avalon Center for Women and Children***

The Share the Plate collection on August 3 will benefit the Avalon Center for Women and Children, serving our local community. Avalon provides shelter and support to those experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. By offering tools for safety, self-sufficiency, and empowerment, Avalon works to break the cycle of abuse and helps create a positive future for its clients. For more information on the Center, please visit [www.avalon.org](http://www.avalon.org). Our Share the Plate contribution will be an investment in the health and safety of our community. If you cannot attend the service, contributions may be sent to the WUU office (check payable to WUU, please).

For more information on the Share the Plate program or to nominate a recipient agency, email [stp@wuu.org](mailto:stp@wuu.org)

This month...



Thanks:

- **Peggy Krapf, Kevin Martin & Pierce Larson** for consulting with our Memorial Garden team to make the circle more handicapped accessible and to beautify the space. We hope to have the work done by early September, including leveling the interior surface (currently drops by more than a foot), installing a new surface inside the circle and on part of the path, and placing a beautiful new teak bench at the center. Check with **Nan Piland & Ruth Frasier** for additional information *and* to volunteer.
- **Debbie Haynes** for painting Jennifer's, as well as Austen's, office.
- **Richard Thek** for helping to find a contractor to wrap the exterior wood trim at Fahs with aluminum. The project will be completed by August 1.
- **Les Solomon** for making a dutch door for the nursery entrance, though he's really slow at completing a job! It appears that our nursery attendants and parents like the new door.
- A lot of folk have donated countless hours to get Mike McGiffert's house ready to sell. I know I will miss someone, but my memory includes **Bob Veverka, Fred & Linda Bergmann, Catherine Nye Laarhoven & Julia Laarhoven, Wayne Moyer, Lee & Paula Hougén, Jackie Winther, Don Ackley, Susan Fourtnier, & Les Solomon.**
- **Thanks for volunteering:**
  - **Wayne Moyer** for volunteering to clean and oil the teak benches in the Memorial Garden. That's one less thing off the list below.
  - **Trenna & Charles Tankersley** for noting that the step banisters at Parker need attention. Looking forward to seeing a nicer entrance to our offices.
- **We signed** a two-month trial janitorial contract. Let **Les** know if you have kudos or concerns about the care of our buildings.
- **Want to volunteer:** We still have several small projects just waiting for a volunteer or two. Please contact [les.solomon@gmail.com](mailto:les.solomon@gmail.com) for details. Jobs remaining from last month's list with no takers:
  - Installing a drainage tube under the brick sidewalk near the Memorial Garden.
  - Weeding the garden in front of the sanctuary.
  - Building a crawl space door for Fahs.
  - Repairing some furniture in the nursery.
  - Removing some debris from the Fahs playground.
  - Installing a few electrical switches in the Sanctuary.
  - Building/repairing some bird houses on the campus.
  - Cleaning out the storage shed.
  - Removing the brush in the auxiliary parking lot to the dump (requires pickup or trailer).
  - ~~The Memorial Garden teak benches need cleaning and oiling.~~
  - The power washing the patio.

Les Solomon

Chair, Campus Improvement Team (CIT)





## ARE YOU A CHALICE LIGHTER?

The Financial Feasibility team is working to answer the critical question: What can we afford to build? They will have an answer by the end of July and then you, dear congregant, will be asked to raise your hand in favor of moving ahead. If we all agree that now is the time to build Phase One, then the Capital Campaign will kick off. But campaigns cost money, as does a preliminary campus survey needed by the architects, and that is why we are requesting a grant of \$25,000 from Chalice Lighters.

The Chalice Lighter program provides grants to UU congregations in the South East District who are expanding their ministries or buildings. It is funded by other UUs, including 33 people from our congregation, who contribute \$15 or more up to three times a year. Sort of like crowd funding for UUs. To strengthen our application we would like to enroll 12 new Chalice Lighters by the end of July. Please consider making a pledge to become a Chalice Lighter. Forms are available from Wayne Moyer after services in July or on line at <http://www.seduua.org/chalichelighters.html>. Matches are not required.

PS: Present Chalice Lighters may pick up tags for their name badges from Wayne Moyer.

### Worship Workshop

Saturday, August 9, 2014, 3:00pm to 5:30pm, Sanctuary

Have you always been curious about the people who help the minister to lead Sunday services? Would you like to know more about perhaps joining this team? This workshop is open to all interested in finding out more about why we worship, why we structure the service the way we do, and what lies ahead for the coming year. ALL current Worship Associates are required to attend.

### Saturday, August 23 Noon-7pm



PrideFest, now in it's 26th year, is the largest annual LGBT festival in Southeastern Virginia. PrideFest combines entertainment, vendors, and fun activities for all ages. PrideFest attracts thousands of visitors and brings together local residents, families, community leaders, civic organizations, and businesses to rally for and celebrate equality.

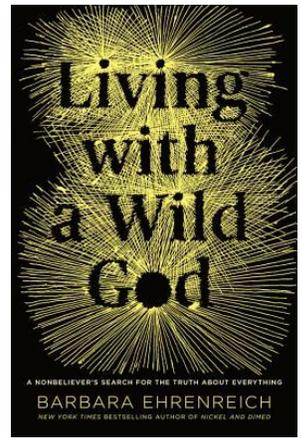
Admission is FREE and OPEN to everyone!

WUU will be sharing a table with UUFP and UCNorfolk...join us!

To volunteer or for more information please contact Fred Gilbertson at [fredgilbertson@msn.com](mailto:fredgilbertson@msn.com), 757-253-2633

**Brown Bag Books**  
***Lunch Book Club***

The Lunch Book Club will have its next meeting on Wednesday, August 20 in the Fahs House from 12-1:30 p.m. We invite you to bring a sack lunch and join us! For August, we will be discussing "Living with a Wild God: A Non-Believer's Search for the Truth about Everything" by Barbara Ehrenreich. It's available on Kindle, and in paperback through Amazon, and can be requested at the Williamsburg Regional Library.



**Staying Connected at WUU**

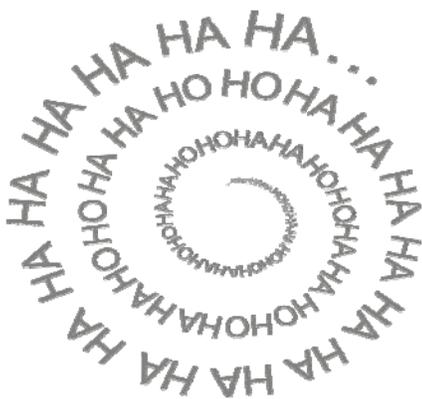


You may wonder why didn't I get that email they are talking about or what is going on this weekend at WUU...

Below are the email lists we maintain here at WUU and what they are for. To be included (or excluded) on any list please email Ellyn in the office at [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org) or call (757) 220-6830.

- The Spiral (weekly electronic news--also includes Building Our Future Updates)
- Newsletter (our monthly electronic publication)
- Social Justice (Monthly Compilation of Social Justice Events in our area; put together by our Social Justice Committee)
- WUU Announce (only urgent notices and news)
- WUU Talk (this is a list that you can email and ask a question or announce an event, i.e. does anyone know a good roofer or I am having a yard sale, etc) Once your are subscribed to this list you send an email to [wuutalk@wuu.org](mailto:wuutalk@wuu.org) and it will be sent out to the entire list. Your email must be sent from the email that we have on file or it will not be recognized.

**Laughter Yoga-Beginning in September**



Come get your funny on with WUU member Stacey Felipe, Certified Laughter Yoga Leader, in the Sanctuary every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm-Beginning on September 11. Have you heard that laughter is the best medicine? Come find out why and play hilarious games. No requirement to be funny. Laughing reduces pain, risk for heart attacks, anxiety, depression, stress and inflammation. It improves happiness, confidence, creativity, mental clarity, and the immune system. The best part is witnessing the transformations and connections with people.

No experience needed, all adults are welcome regardless of physical limitations. If you are willing and able to lie on the floor, please bring a comfy blanket. For more information, please visit [www.ssinterconnectedwellness.com](http://www.ssinterconnectedwellness.com) or call 757-525-3388.

## WUU August Calendar

### **Sunday, August 3, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am, Café Conversation-Immigration
  - Guest Speaker, Sociologist Jennifer Bickham Mendez
- 7:00 pm, Insight Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Monday, August 4, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Arts Group, Fahs
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Thursday, August 7, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm, Navigators Monthly Meeting, Fahs

### **Saturday, August 9, 2014**

- 3:00 pm, Worship Workshop, Sanctuary

### **Sunday, August 10, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am, Meet the Minister, Library
- 7:00 pm, Insight Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Monday, August 11, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Arts Group, Fahs
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

- 7:00 pm, Worship Team Meeting, Fahs House

### **Wednesday, August 13, 2014**

- 6:00 pm, Finance Committee Meeting, Fahs
- 7:00 pm, Brene Brown Book Group, **Parker**
- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Thursday, August 14, 2014**

- 10:00 am, The Odyssey, Fahs House
- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Sunday, August 17, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am, Leadership Team, Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm, Insight Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Monday, August 18, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Arts Group, Fahs
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, August 20, 2014**

- 6:00 pm, Finance Committee Meeting, Fahs
- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Thursday, August 21, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm, Leadership Team Meeting, Fahs

### **Sunday, August 24, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:30 am, Rainbow Potluck, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, Insight Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Monday, August 25, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Arts Group, Fahs
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Tuesday, August 26, 2014**

- 7:00 pm, Board Meeting, Fahs House

### **Wednesday, August 27, 2014**

- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Thursday, August 28, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary

### **Sunday, August 31, 2014**

- 10:00 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm, Insight Meditation, Sanctuary



Sunday, July 20 The children made prayer flags for our friends in Norfolk who are hurting



New Beginnings Choir led by Rev. D.K.Logan-Our Guest Musicians on July 13



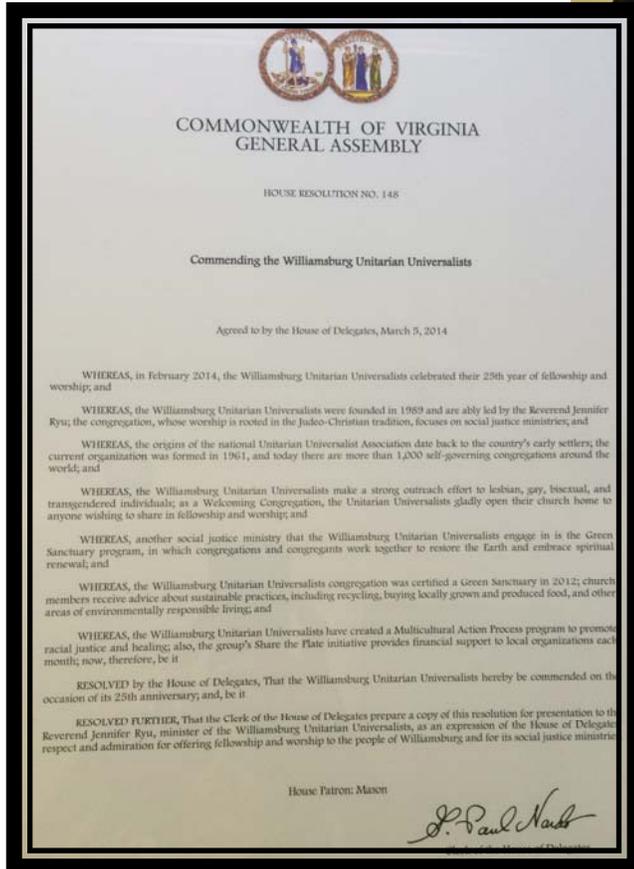
Brother Sun-Our Guest Musicians on July 20

Sunday, July 6

Delegate Monty Mason presented WUU with a special commendation

Pictured L-R:

Rev. Jennifer Ryu, Delegate Monty Mason, WUU Board Vice President Rachel Delbos



### **Thank you from FISH**

We received a lovely letter of thanks from the Clothes Closet located at FISH. They wanted to thank all of our volunteers who worked every Tuesday throughout the month of May to process clothing to be given to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for your support and to Hanni Sherman for passing the information on to the office.



### **WUU Photo Directory**

Work on the WUU Photo Directory is underway. Many pictures have been taken; but there are still many folks that are missing.

We will post more dates to have photos taken and reminders in The Spiral as they are confirmed.

Thank you Jim Henion for your photography expertise! If you have any questions please contact Ellyn in the office at (757) 220-6830 or [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org).





WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

3051 Ironbound Road

Williamsburg, VA 23185

(757) 220-6830

[www.wuu.org](http://www.wuu.org)

[office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org)

Jennifer Ryu, Minister

Lola Warren, President

[newsletter@wuu.org](mailto:newsletter@wuu.org)

**TIME SENSITIVE**

## **CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!**

Looking for a way to acknowledge a friend or relative's special day? Why not make a contribution to the WUU Endowment Fund in their name. We will then send out a letter acknowledging that the WUU Endowment Fund has received a gift from you in the name of that special person. What a unique way to recognize an occasion! For a Memorial Gift Form, contact [Endowment@wuu.org](mailto:Endowment@wuu.org).

(To add your name and month to the birthday and anniversary list, contact Ellyn Stephens in the office at [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org).)



### **August Anniversaries**

Don and Melissa Ackley  
Priscilla and Greg Caldwell  
Raga and Martha Elim  
Susan Fournier  
Bob and Megan Tschannen-Moran



### **August Birthdays**

Fred Adair	Tracy Lord
Linda Bergmann	Tom McArdle
Linda Cifelli	Colin Moore
Gwen Costello	Margaret Payne
Janie Dickson	Nan Piland
James Gerald	Steve Savoie
Shirley Guenther	Josie Sevilla
Merry Guernsey	Lou Seyler
Jim Henion	Dave Sprott
Lee Hougen	Brian Wachter
Lyon Jones-Rutledge	Coe Walkley
Beth Kennedy	Susan Walkley
Catherine Laarhoven	Gwen Wolverton-Diggs
Linda Lane-Hamilton	