

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD) Theme Journal – June, Awakening



Spiritual awakening can sound rather mysterious or even sort of pretentious. If we're lucky, it can burst into our lives, an epiphany or rush of energy we could not have anticipated and over which we have little control. Right now, however, I'd like to explore more about what spiritual awakening might look like on an everyday level.

Fortunately, we are at a lucky point in history to have many tools at our disposal. How do we wake up, spiritually speaking? We find what moves us! Now, more than ever, we have a lot of choices.

One of those choices which can happen at a basic level is mindfulness practice. I suppose mindfulness is popular because it meets a real need for many of us. Whether that need is prioritizing value over productivity, meaning-making in a secular society, or combating the anxieties of modern life, mindfulness provides a language and practices that are easy to grasp. Mindfulness must have a purpose, however. People awaken in different ways whether they are using mindfulness to become better fighters or to become kinder parents. What values are you trying to promote through your practice? What principles guide your life project? What will give you meaning when you look back years from now?

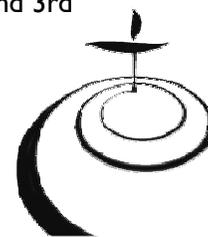
If you are interested in learning more about what Awakening means in a variety of perspectives, I invite you to explore the offerings of our **UU Mystics in Community** groups. These have been faithfully promoted by Jack Whitsett. He would be happy to field any inquiries you may have! - *Adrean Dills, M.Div., Interim Dir. Lifespan Learning*

Awakening Community: reflection and spiritual seeking, led by Gerry Hair, spiritual director. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm, Library.

On-the-Path explores mystical teachers from a UU perspective. 4th Tuesdays, 7pm, Library.

Satsang: Larry Melton focuses on the teachings of Adyashanti, an American-born spiritual teacher. 3rd Mondays, 7pm, Library.

Sufi: contemporary practice, taught by Bill Walker. 4th Saturdays, 10am, Library.



Reflect **The Committee on Ministry** (*Lucas Frerichs, Stefan Harvey, Hiram Jackson, Lisa Oakes, Susan Steinbach, Karen Urbano*) invites you to make the theme part of your spiritual practice:

“A single event can awaken within us a stranger totally unknown to us. To live is to be slowly born.” —Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Question for reflection: What happened when you had an awakening event that changed the view of your world?

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Beginnings & Endings

When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be. – Lao Tzu

It is fitting that the theme for my last month here is awakening, for beginnings and endings are not opposite ends of a line. Rather, they are partners dancing in a never ending spiral.

I took a seminar called “The Sacred Art of Living and Dying” last year, before I came here. One of the concepts presented there was the idea of practicing “death” every day. That is, we must often let our ideas about ourselves or our way of being die in order to allow a new way of being into its becoming. When we let one way of being or thinking die, it becomes fertilizer and nourishment for new life. Look to nature and you see this everywhere; dead trees, leaves and shrubs are needed to protect seedlings in the ground and to revitalize the soil in which seedlings grow. Everything that we eat is dead, yet it gives life. Change is all there is. So, there really is no beginning or end. There is only becoming. Still, there are moments where change is more readily felt. In moments of goodbye and in moments of awakening, we pause to notice change . . . we pause to honor and celebrate that which has passed and that which may yet come to be.

I live in these moments, right now, as I move from Ministerial Intern to just Minister. I let go of the role of student, but am awakened to the concept of living with a beginner’s mind. I let go of this community, but am awakened to the power of healing that community brings. I let go of this place, but am awakened to knowing that there is always something in bloom somewhere. I will miss UUCD, but I am so grateful for all it has awakened within me.

My immediate plan is to return to St. Paul to look for work as a chaplain or for part-time parish ministry projects. I will spend the next year or two trying out my ministry wings and discerning whether they will take me into a parish or community setting. I don’t know what my future ministry will look like. I want it to feel like the warmth of care and community I have found here. If I can find that, I will be blessed indeed. With Warmest Regard, *Laura Thompson*



Summer Sunday Worship, 10am Only

June 5, 10am, *Bridging to the Future*, Rev. Beth Banks, Jacob Sacks, Sharon Hale, Tom Jankowski. Graduating high school seniors “Bridge” (transition from youth to young adulthood). The ritual includes parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and the congregation. Young adults who have already crossed the bridge to more independence share what helped them make the transition. This is a wonderful service for youth, young adults, and those who are young at heart.

11:15am Annual Membership Meeting Members Vote on Board & Nominating slate; budget, bylaws change.

June 12, 10am, *Together, Our Gifts Can Bless the World* Ann-Catrin Van & Mari Perla; Rev. Beth Banks & Donna Sachs, Worship Associates. Board of Trustees covenant, and Honoring Laura Sandage. The Bible speaks of the ministry of prophesy, but what about the ministry of coffee making? The scriptures are eloquent concerning admiring the lilies of the field, but is there mention of riding the mower through the grasses in the fields? Come and celebrate the many gifts we offer each other, from the service of governance, to the magic of singing, ringing, flipping veggie burgers, or lovingly being a part of a memorial reception. Ann-Catrin Van and Mari Perla weave our individual gifts into a magnificent whole for a powerful experience of community.

11:15am FUUN Fest (formerly Frolic/Carnival), Hedges Grove. Celebrate teachers & volunteers! Food, activities. All welcome!

June 19, 10am, *Who Are You?* Laura Thompson; Amanda Caudle-Larkin, Worship Associate. *Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am.* – Parker Palmer. We begin a journey of awakening to the self. This will be Laura Thompson's last day at UUCD. Mariachi Puente performs.

Special Collection: Mariachi Puente Make checks out to UUCD, memo Mariachi. Promoting music education to school age children in Yolo County through mariachi instruction and performance. <http://tinyurl.com/DonateUUCD>

9:30am, *New Members* sign the book in the Senghas Room located next to the Social Hall.

11:15am Good-bye Party for Laura Thompson, Intern Committee hosts.

June 26, 10am, *Awakening: Faith and Doubt*, Karen Klussendorf; Stacie Frerichs, Worship Associate. Balancing our love of facts with our desire for faith is a personal practice we explore in community. (Rev. Beth Banks, is at GA in Ohio.)

Listen Download or stream edited Sunday services at www.uudavispodcast.org

Transitions are part of Awakening.

© **Adrean Dills** leaves the Interim Lifespan Learning Director position on July 31. Thanks to Adrean for leading us through a year of changes and preparing us for the next steps of ministry. This transition year has been one of challenges and discovering new opportunities for growth. Adrean has done the work of an Interim with our Children and Youth Religious Exploration program. She helped the Adult Religious Exploration Committee restructure and set goals. Adrean was a major participant in our decision to shift to a Multigenerational Theme for both our worship and Religious Exploration program. She comforted many of our families when they experienced personal losses this year. A recognition and celebration of her work with us will be held Sunday, July 31.



© **Laura Sandage**, our much-loved Choir Director, will leave this position at the end of June. She has had a wonderful experience leading the choir and being a part of the worship planning team. June 12 is the last Sunday Laura leads the choir; we'll recognize her in the service. At this point in her life, Laura looks forward to experiencing being a member of the congregation. Please welcome her in her new role among us.

© **Laura Thompson's** last Sunday to preach at UUCD as our Intern and Campus Minister June 19. Her Good-Bye Celebration follows the 10am service. On June 20 she travels to General Assembly in Ohio, then returns to her home in St. Paul, MN. *Contribute to a monetary gift, mark it "Laura T" by June 12.*

© **Assistant Minister for Congregational Life:** *Dear Members, Our Hiring Team and the Board are excited to announce the hiring of a new Assistant Minister for Congregational Life. We feel incredibly fortunate to have found a wonderful match with our congregation. We will be able to identify her in June, but for now have promised to keep her name private for the sake of her congregation and for her husband's employment.*

She is a young, lifelong Unitarian who chose to enter the ministry right after her first degree. Since then she has served for the past five years as an Associate Minister for a congregation twice the size of ours. At that congregation she has been a stable and trusted presence during transitions, serving under the supervision of several senior ministers and as a supervisor of several directors of religious education. She has the training and experience we need in both Religious Education and Pastoral Care. She has had several deep conversations with Beth Banks leading us to be convinced that the two of them will be a great team.

She comes to us with outstanding references, describing her as very invested in the congregation, earning the respect and appreciation of the congregation during difficult times. She is seen as trustworthy, thoughtful, skilled at seeing the big picture, always keeping the mission of the church in mind. She takes initiative and has the ability to motivate others. People are inspired to seek her out. She also has experience leading her church in their relationship with a partner church in Transylvania, and in a ministry group with different denominations. In addition, she is dedicated to social justice.

In order to hire this candidate, who is currently receiving a much higher income and benefit package, it was necessary to increase our employment offer by \$15,500 with an additional \$5,000 from our cash reserve towards travel expenses. She accepted our offer on May 19. Two of our members have guaranteed this increase and, in the meantime, Board or Hiring Team members have increased their pledges by a total of \$5,420 leaving a balance needed of \$10,080. We ask that you consider a moderate increase in your ongoing pledge to ensure that it is not just two members who are guaranteeing this commitment to provide the necessary budget for our new candidate. Please review the attached amended budget. You're invited to contact Marty West (mswest@ucdavis.edu), Stewardship Chair, as soon as possible if you are willing to increase your pledge to support this hire. She'll be glad to answer questions.

We look forward to having a welcoming transition for our new Assistant Minister for Congregational Life with our church in August.

Yours, Jill Pickett, Hiring Team Chair