Several months ago, West Shore member Tim Smith shared with me a book he’d been reading: “Not Your Parent’s Offering Plate: A New Vision of Financial Stewardship” by J. Clif Christopher. In it, I read things as:

I get frustrated reading newsletters of church after church that tell me how the men’s group is going to have a breakfast on Saturday, the women are going to have a bazaar next Thursday and the youth will have a dance next Friday after the ball game. Then, over in the corner, usually separated by a bold line so that it stands out, I see financial statistics, which usually indicate that a certain amount was needed and a lesser amount was received, with a quote underneath, “God loves a cheerful giver.” When I see that I want to say, "What have I got to be cheerful about?" Did you show me one life story in this newsletter about how the church has been making our world better? Is there one life-changing story in the entire document? Do you really just exist so that men can have breakfast, women a bazaar, and youth can dance? What is it that you want me to support?

The church is the only nonprofit I know of that seems to believe that the more you cry that you are sinking, the more people will give to you. The exact opposite is true.

People want to make the world a better place to live. They want to believe that they can truly make a difference for the better. There is embedded in us, it seems, a desire to finish out our work on this earth with a sense that we amounted to something. To sum it up, people want to be a part of something that changes lives.

What do you think? I thought this was excellent. I was also reminded of times in my ministry where I had done all these things: under communicating how the church is changing lives, or confusing genuine fundraising with begging. J. Clif Christopher and I are on the same page.

Instead of begging, we need to share stories in detail about how West Shore touches lives and ways small and large. As J. Clif Christopher suggests, when you just hear announcements about this, that, and the other thing, what gets drowned out in all that noise are stories of beautiful moments of real Beloved Connections between people—solid evidence that our church is living out its mission. Of course announcements are important, but the temptation is to accomplish something and then to immediately go on to the next thing, and in that excessive busy-ness we can forget why we are doing what we’re doing, and what our doing accomplished. Does this make sense?

This is a conversation I want to start and maintain with you, in my time at West Shore. My sermon “The Spirituality of Money” reflects another way in which our relationship with money can be made healthier and more life-giving, and I encourage you to listen to it or read it if you missed it. It’s available on the West Shore website and also here on my blogsite.

(Continue on page 5)
FEVERURY’S OUTREACH OFFERING
Each year, West Shore sends a group of members to the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association as attendees and delegates of the congregation. This year's GA will take place in Providence Rhode Island, June 24-28. The costs of attending this important conference can be out of reach for some members of the congregation who would like to attend. This month, a portion of our Outreach Offering will go to provide scholarships, a small portion of the total costs, that may help make it possible for some to attend. Please give generously!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020, 10:15 AM
Love Me in My Shame
Rev. Anthony Makar, Worship Leader
Elizabeth Gerencser, Worship Associate
The Free Spirit Band
The experience of shame is so intense that often the result is lashing out at the very person whose love we crave. But what would it mean to allow another to love us in our shame? What happens to us if we truly embrace our vulnerability?

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020, 10:15 AM
Feeling Like You Belong
Rev. Anthony Makar, Worship Leader
Christine Salontay, Worship Associate
Feeling like you belong is a two-way street. Part of it has to do with how others treat you—whether they are being invitational and hospitable. But an equally important part of feeling like you belong is your own openness to that, and things you do to enhance your sense of belonging. As Care of the Soul author Thomas Moore says, “Belonging is an active verb, something we do positively.”

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020, 10:15 AM
Youth Service: Growth in a Community
West Shore Youth, Worship Leaders
Once every year our youth prepare and deliver a Sunday morning service for the congregation. The services provided by the youth are typically heartfelt, engaging, and inspiring. This year’s service is on the theme “Community.” The Youth will be sharing what it's like to grow up and GROW in a Community; whether that community is church, family or another type of community.

THURSDAYS @ WEST SHORE
FEBRUARY 20, 2020, 7:00 PM
The Spirituality of Children’s Literature
Barbara Walker and Meghan Ross (Acting DRE)
You are invited to join us for this special evening where we celebrate the joy of children’s literature. This multi-generational program will begin to examine the roles children's literature has played in shaping not only our spirituality but what we pass along to our children. All are welcome to join us for a community meal in Baker Hall at 6:00 p.m. Program and service will follow 7:00 p.m. For more information, see page 7.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020, 10:15 AM
Soul Foodie
Rev. Anthony Makar, Worship Leader
Vicki Warden, Worship Associate
If a “foodie” is someone who has refined tastes in food and drink and tends to seek out new food experiences, a “soul foodie” is someone who is like that in the religious realm. Today, we talk about how Unitarian Universalism invites people to be soul foodies—and what we need to be aware of in order for our worship to be hospitable to that.
Spark: Adult Explorations For Head, Heart and Hands
Sunday Mornings, Fireside Room, 9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

Spark is a new personal and spiritual growth opportunity for adults at West Shore. Spark is on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. so you can experience something intellectually and emotionally engaging in an adult religious education setting and then come to worship at 10:15 a.m.

One of the best things about Spark is the variety of programming it offers. It is designed to engage the whole person: head, heart, and hands.

You can find out about Spark's offerings by reading your monthly Shorelines, the weekly E News, and the OOS insert.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020, 9:30 AM
Lovingkindness Meditation
Presented by Cynthia White, Pastoral Care Team

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”
~Martin Luther King

February is the month for love so the Pastoral Care Team will offer a lovingkindness meditation session presented by Cynthia White. Lovingkindness meditation is a Buddhist practice focused on cultivating feelings of warmth and connection with ourselves and others. It has been scientifically studied to be a powerful antidote for anger, stress, loneliness and burnout and for any time we are feeling overwhelmed or stretched too thin. We will offer a brief introduction to the practice and then an opportunity to try it out and take home some resources for home practice. The session will start promptly at 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020, 9:30 AM
Has the World Gone Mad?
Gary Nemes, Socrates Café

Socrates Café is a discussion group based on the book "Socrates Café" by Christopher Phillips, who developed his program by traveling around America to cafés and starting discussions with anyone who came by. For each of our sessions, we will focus on a topic from philosophy, society, psychology, ethics, life and death. The moderator will call on participants who wish to contribute their thoughts. Our topic on February 9 will be: "Considering the current political climate, has the world gone mad, or are we just experiencing another typical cycle in the history of our planet?"

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020, 9:30 AM
Homelessness in Our Community
Guest Speaker, Christopher Knestrick, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH)

Despite the “renaissance” in Cleveland, people still struggle to live a dignified life. Forty-six percent of the people in Cleveland live in poverty and 23,000 people experience homelessness in Cuyahoga County. This presentation will look at the systematic reasons that people become unhoused in our community. It will seek to explain the homeless services system and what barriers are present to achieve housing in our community. We will also focus our attention on the issue of homelessness as a systematic justice issue that cannot be solved through charity.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020, 9:30 AM
Sparks! Open Mic Morning
Warren Campbell-Gaston, West Shore’s Poetry Ministry

Sparks will offer an open mic to those wishing to share a meaningful poem they have read or have written. Dave Prok will host the event and read several of his own poems. You are most welcome to come and enjoy listening to poems.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
Mini Death Café
Kathy Strawser, West Shore’s Pastoral Care Team

It’s the one thing we all share—mortality! Please join us for a warm, open, engaging and lively conversation about what is often a taboo subject. All voices are welcome. The objective of a Death Café is to increase awareness of death to help make the most of our (finite) lives. It is not intended as a bereavement, grief counseling, or therapy group. There is no intention of leading participants toward any theology, product or conclusion. There is no agenda, but there definitely will be cake! Be prompt—doors close at 9:35 a.m.
What’s in a Name Badge?
By Dorothy RICHARDS, Membership Assistant

You’re running late on Sunday morning and heading into the Sanctuary to find a seat. WAIT! Did you stop and grab your West Shore Name Badge on the way in? It’s the old adage: you can’t tell a book without a cover or a person without his/her/their name badge. This is especially vital during our time of greeting and welcoming during the service, when even the most recognized “veterans” are strangers to newcomers or new members!

For this reason, and more, West Shore encourages everyone to wear their name badge, not only on Sundays but during large and small committee meetings and gatherings. The badges not only prominently display the wearer’s name, but also provide other information that is useful to help you in practicing Radical Hospitality and greetings. In addition, as a Dementia-Friendly Congregation, we honor and respect those having “senior moments” by wearing our name badges.

We’re often asked why have different colored name badges? Each color has a purpose. Newcomers and visitors, who have not yet joined as members, wear orange so we can easily recognize and welcome them to our Beloved Community. These name badges are located by the Welcome Center. Members of the Board of Trustees wear teal blue, so you may easily identify them. Members wear white, with the year he/she/they became a member listed right on the badge. Blue badges indicate a “Friend” of the Church, someone who has come for some time, but has opted out of the Path to Membership. All these name badges are located in the slots near the Sanctuary.

Many name badges may also contain additional information: a committee affiliation, a gender pronoun preference (he/she/they) so that we can respect the person’s preference on how best to address them, and more. Some people like to decorate their badges—after all, we’re UU’s and individualism is our middle name!

Lost Name Badges are easily replaceable, so there’s never a reason NOT to wear yours. Stop by the church office on Sunday to request a new name badge or email me at drichards@wsuuc.org. I’d be happy to make you another!

Path To Membership Classes in February

Step 1: Newcomer’s Coffee & Conversation • Sunday, February 9, 11:30 a.m.
This class is for first or second time visitors and guests. Join with the Membership Team to learn more about West Shore and Unitarian Universalism, but most importantly, to meet with others who are sharing the journey in exploring a spiritual home! We meet in the Fireside Room immediately following the worship service until noon. Childcare is always provided, along with snacks and coffee, too!

Step 3: Become A Member • Sunday, February 16, 11:30 a.m.
We will talk about the difference between joining a church and your membership in other organizations. We will explore benefits and opportunities that Membership provides, and how it differs from being just a friend of the church. You will be invited to “Sign the Book,” our official step in becoming a member, but there is no pressure. We want you to be sure that we are what you have been looking for in a spiritual community! We meet in the Fireside Room immediately following the worship service. Register at the church office and indicate childcare if needed.
They call me, Dave!
By David BLAZER, Director of Music

I have a colleague at the college where I teach who insists on having his students refer to him as “Dr. ______.” Ok, I get it. Maybe if I had a Doctorate degree then I’d like to hear the name also; but that’s just not me. I have to admit that every once in a while in a semester a new student will just assume something and call me Dr. Blazer—and I often don’t correct them. It depends on the mood I’m in that day.

Being a music director for a church has always been my passion. I knew it early on in high school and I’ve never regretted the decision. Much about the work is the influence my music can have for a congregation in the growth of their spiritual life. Sometimes just one little thing I do can have such an impact on someone. In particular, being the Music Director at West Shore for the past 14 years has provided me the opportunity to expand my knowledge and training. I was able to return to school and get not one but two Masters Degrees. This has led me to combine my church life with an academic life in music as well. This past week, I was reminded of the impact that I’ve had on some former students.

Daniel Reichard was born here in Rocky River and in his early years attended grade school at St. Christopher’s in Rocky River. At that time, I was the church music director as well as the school music teacher. Daniel was one of eight children—all attending St. Chris over the years. Going from each grade level during the week, I was constantly running in to one of the Reichard children—but it was Daniel (I called him Danny) that really caught my eye especially when one of those moments in life you never forget: he sang “O Holy Night” at a Christmas Eve Service as a small little boy soprano. Daniel moved into Jr. High at the Ruffing Montessori School; then on to high school and then off to the prestigious University of Michigan School of Music. Fast forward to now and he has made it big on Broadway being cast as “Bob Gaudio” in the Broadway sensation Jersey Boys. Danny was asked to come back to Rocky River to give a benefit concert for Ruffing School and he called me to ask if I would be his pianist. What a WOW just to be asked. We had a great time and during rehearsals we laughed how he still felt he needed to call me Mr. Blazer. I replied, “Call me, Dave."

Several years ago I had a voice student at the college. He name is Jordan Bigler. I knew there was something special about him, too. Jordan finished his work at LCCC and moved more into the acting field. He went on to study at Sam Houston State University. He has had quite the career in acting and film production. Jordan just recently became eligible to become part of the prestigious Actors Guild. I sent him a note of congratulations on Facebook and he responded with a beautiful handwritten card. “Dave, feels funny calling you anything other than Mr. Blazer. Ha! Thank you for your continued support. You are an example of a life spent being creative and passionate about art. Your impact in the lives of so many is impossible to quantify, but I consider myself blessed to have been influenced by you during some of my most precious years. Thank you for your love and support, Jordan Bigler.” He also included this beautiful quote from Anyaele Sam Chryson: “Could anything be better than this; waking up every day knowing that lots of people are smiling because you chose to impact lives, making the world a better place.”

More locally, and much more often, I get to talk to Ralph Holtzhauser. Ralph began taking piano lessons with me somewhere around the second grade and studied with me the entire time, until he went off to college. During our studies, I was able to steer him into the wonderful world of organ playing. He soon was playing some of the masses at St. Christopher after I had left. Following high school, Ralph attended Baldwin Wallace Conservatory starting out as a Music Therapy Major but then switched to being an organ major. After graduation, he became the Music Director at St. Bernadette Church in Westlake, as well as, the music teacher in the St. Bernadette school (just like I started). This year, Ralph has now accepted the music director position of St. Joan of Arc Church in Chagrin Falls. He has a passion for jazz and rock music and has been doing some extensive work in recordings and is working on his debut album. We were texting during the Grammys and decided we need to meet for brunch—where I will be so happy to have Ralph “call me, Dave.”

Thank you West Shore for letting my talents go above and beyond the choir loft where I see the back of your heads and hope that I continue to touch the front of your faces.

The Spirituality of Money (Continued from front page)

My hope is that when folks at West Shore are asked to make an annual pledge, no one will say, “What have I got to be cheerful about?” Our message must be: “When we pledged last year, we took our money and together we used it to transform lives. If we all pledge more this year, we will be able to do even more good work.” ~ Rev. Anthony Makar
In celebration of African American History Month, I would like to share a few stories of our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors.

- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911) was a published writer and poet. She was also a travelling lecturer for the State Anti-Slavery Society of Maine. She spoke up about the injustices of slavery and racism and donated most of the money she earned to anti-slavery causes. Read more.

- Rev. Ethelred Brown (1875-1956) was the first ordained African American Unitarian minister. Despite a lack of support from the American Unitarian Association and his fellow ministers, Brown founded a Unitarian church in his home country of Jamaica and the Harlem Community Church in New York. Read more.

- Rev. Joseph Jordan (1842-1901) was a Baptist minister. A friend gave him a copy of The Plain Guide to Universalism and he was drawn to its message of universal salvation and love. He decided to become a Universalist and was the first African American ordained Universalist minister. He founded the First Universalist Church of Norfolk and a school for African American children. Read more.

Annual Youth Service
Sunday, February 16, 11:30 a.m.

Once every year our youth prepare and deliver a Sunday morning service for the congregation. The youth services are typically heartfelt, engaging, and inspiring. This year’s service is on the theme “Growth in a Community” and will be held on Sunday, February 16. I hope we will have a huge turnout for this service to show our youth how much this community supports them.

We’re Hiring: Youth Ministry Coordinator

West Shore Church is seeking a Youth Ministry Coordinator. The ideal candidate will have experience with, and a passion for, working with high school youth. The Youth Ministry Coordinator’s main responsibility is to create a safe, inclusive, and responsive space for youth to explore and grow more deeply into their identity as Unitarian Universalists. The Youth Ministry Coordinator is a quarter-time weekly, 46 week position from Mid-August to Mid-June. Flexible hours average 8 to 10 a week and include required hours most Sunday mornings and 2 Sunday evenings per month. Must be at least 25 years of age. See job description. Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to Meghan Ross, Acting Director of Religious Education, at mross@wsuuc.org by February 15.

Urban Plunge & Homeless on Hilliard
Saturday, March 7

West Shore and South West UU church have teamed up to create a day of bonding, service, and learning for local UU youth. On Saturday, March 7, youth are invited to participate in any or all of the following opportunities to learn about homelessness in our community.

- Urban Plunge - An Urban Plunge is an experiential opportunity for youth to learn firsthand about injustices that affect our homeless community and hear from folks providing the social services and those experiencing homelessness.

- Homeless on Hilliard - This annual event at West Shore has youth sleep outside on a winter night to raise awareness for homelessness, build community, and to raise either money or donation items for a charity.

Child Dedication
Sunday, March 22, 11:30 a.m.

Throughout the year we offer our Ceremony of Child Dedication to families who wish to dedicate a child of any age. What is a Child Dedication? It is simply a blessing for the new life of the child, an expression of the parent or parents’ hopes for the child, and a promise by the congregation to support and nurture the child. Our next Child Dedication Ceremony will be held during the Sunday service on Sunday, March 22. Contact Meghan Ross at mross@wsuuc.org if you have a child you would like included in the ceremony.
When we were working to get solar panels on our roof, people often asked me if that meant we would have “free” electricity available to share with members or neighbors who drive electric cars. That would be a great act of kindness but unfortunately we would be paying extra for every kilowatt hour we gave away. Our solar array provides about 20% of the electricity we use. That means we still pay out of pocket for the other 80%. If we added extra lights, electric heaters, EV car chargers, or any other load to our church’s usage for the month, we would have to pull more electricity from the grid and pay for it.

To help fight global warming, I just bought an all-electric car. It is a 2019 Chevrolet Bolt EV (Electric Vehicle) with a range of about 235 miles on a full charge—if you don’t use the heater or air conditioner! I live in Lakewood and can charge my car at home or at two free charging stations using electricity paid for by the City of Lakewood to encourage the use of electric cars. One is a fast-charge station at Serpentini Winterhurst Ice Arena and another free but slower charge station is at the City Center Parking Lot where the farmers’ market is held near Marc’s.

I almost bought a used Bolt that had 5,000 miles on it. Do you remember when the Toyota Prius first came out and everyone thought that at 100,000 miles you would have to buy a whole new battery? Well it turns out that the batteries do degrade slightly over time but they can keep going for 300,000 miles or more. That is why they can eventually be removed from cars and go on to a second life as battery back-ups for solar arrays like ours. And yes, we have looked into a battery back-up for our system, but that is another story.

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**West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church To Host**

**Doing Our Own Work: An Anti-Racism Seminar for White People**

Three Weekends: March 6 & 7, April 3 & 4, May 1 & 2

At this time in our nation, we are witnessing an alarming resurgence of white supremacy and state sanctioned violence. Now, as always, it is imperative that white people do the deep work required to claim and embody an anti-racist identity, understand the privilege they carry, develop relationships of accountability to people of color, and interrupt racism where they live, work, study, and volunteer. Sadly, too many white people stop short of that deep work, assuming that good intentions are enough.

**Doing Our Own Work** is a six-day anti-racism seminar (held over a three-month period) for white people who seek to deepen their knowledge and capacity to confront racism. **Doing Our Own Work** helps white people move through places where they often get stuck, so that they can step up with humility, courage, and consistency to participate in movements led by people of color and help move other white people to greater anti-racist awareness and action.

**Doing Our Own Work** is designed as a supplement to, not a substitute for, contexts where people of diverse races strategize together how systemic racism must be confronted and dismantled. Hundreds of people have participated in **Doing Our Own Work** since it was first launched in 1994, and have found it to be transformative. If you are a white person who is ready to dive deep and come up with a stronger work of racial justice, please join us!

**Doing Our Own Work** is a program of Allies for Change. [www.alliesforchange.org](http://www.alliesforchange.org)

**Dates:** March 6 & 7, April 3 & 4, and May 1 & 2. Attendance at all sessions required.

**Time:** Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Cost:** $575 per person. Includes program, resource materials, snacks, and beverages for all six days. Scholarship assistance and/or time payment plan available.

**Information & Scholarship Assistance:** Please email melaniemorrison@alliesforchange.org

**Registration:** [Click here](#).
Let’s begin with some thanks! First off, a shout out to all those who came to January’s Thursdays @ West Shore event. It was (in my humble opinion) wildly successful. There was delicious food brought to us by Assad’s Bakery & Mediterranean Cuisine (located on Lorain Avenue in Rev. Nozomi’s neighborhood), a beautiful worship service led by Barbara Walker, Judy Montgomery, and myself, and a funny and educational lecture/discussion led by Rev. Nozomi Ikuta. Thanks to Bob Bemer for being our sound tech, Meghan Ross for helping to look after the little ones, Keith Walker for heading up cleanup, and all the other volunteers who helped make this event a success!

Second, my eternal gratitude to all those who have donated time, talent, and treasure to Denison UCC. For those of you who watch, read or listen to the local news, Denison UCC has been getting resistance from Cleveland’s city government for housing the Metanoia Project, a homeless ministry that specializes in “shelter-resistant” folks. West Shore had an EXCELLENT showing at the City Hall meeting on January 6, wearing t-shirts and everything! For now, Metanoia remains at Denison UCC, and Rev. Nozomi and Metanoia have been working hard to make the building safe: buying fire extinguishers, installing lighted exit signs, and instituting an overnight “fire watch.” You can keep up with Metanoia and Denison UCC news at neoch.org; and if you visit denisonucc.org you can click the donate button at the bottom to contribute to their GoFundMe.

Much remains to be done! The Metanoia Project has been hosting approximately fifty guests per night at Denison UCC in two rooms. If they can get a third room upstairs in a state to host overnight guests, that will free up a room to hold much-needed programming: twelve-step meetings, group counseling, and culturally-based groups for healing from grief, loss and intergenerational trauma. So, that’s where YOU come in. Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for another Saturday workday; if you’re able, willing and know how to plaster and/or paint—we need you! If you have any questions, please contact me at ma@wsuuc.org.

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Enrichment & Volunteer Opportunities with the Farrell Foundation

In 2011, West Shore member Dr. Charlie Farrell and his daughter Rev. Katie Norris, a UU minister established the Carolyn L. Farrell Foundation in honor of Charlie’s wife and Katie’s mom who was impacted by Lewy Body Dementia.

The foundation was created to offer programs to the community affected by dementia and other brain health issues. So often individuals become isolated and no longer engaged in the community. The purpose of the foundation is to offer socialization opportunities and to emphasize methods to support the individual to live well despite the diagnosis.

The Foundation provides arts enrichment programs at the Center for Artful Living in Westlake. Since it's inception West Shore has been engaged with the foundation in several capacities. Members have provided professional programs in the arts such as art, music, dance, storytelling, theatre and poetry. Along with offering countless hours of volunteer time by assisting the participants one on one to be engaged in various arts experiences. West Shore member Jerry Devis serves as the Artistic Director for the Foundation coordinating the professional enrichment program and other aspects of its mission.

The goal is to reach out to West Shore to continue to take advantage of its programs if you may have a family member or friend that may benefit from its socialization and enrichment opportunities. In addition to encourage others to volunteer to help support the program. In 2019 fifteen+ members of our church either volunteered time at the foundation or provided their professional arts program to the participants.

The foundation provides a training program to assist new volunteers. Plus current volunteers range in age from 18-94. The foundation has programs three days a week to consider attending or volunteering. We encourage anyone within or beyond the walls of West Shore to visit the Center to learn how individuals and families can take advantage of its programs or its volunteer opportunities. Members of the Pastoral Care Team can provide further information or you may stop in to visit the Center located at 26633 Detroit Road in Westlake.
Social Action Committee
Monday, February 3, 7:00 p.m.

We will be discussing the film series, our work to support "UU the Vote," our commitment to Urban Hope, and other ways we can live our UU values. Hope you can join us! Please stop at the Social Action table in the Rotunda or contact Gloria Bemer at mrsb112@aol.com if you have any questions about the Social Action Committee.

Queer & Allies: 11th Annual Salon
Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.

The Queer & Allies (Q&A) Task Force encourages networking among LGBTQ+ folks as well as those who support them at West Shore in our witnessing to the larger community. Our meeting will feature personal love stories celebrating Valentine’s Day. All are welcome. For more information, contact Kathy Little (216-570-8097; drkdlittle@aol.com) or Jerry Knasel (216-536-3073; jerryknase@aol.com).

Rocky River Chamber Music Society
Phaeton Piano Trio
Monday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.

After years of touring Europe, Asia, and South America, the German artists of The Phaeton Piano Trio are making their first tour to the United States where they will perform in several key venues including Washington DC at the Library of Congress, New York City at the Frick Collection, AND Rocky River, Ohio, at our very own West Shore UU Church! The Trio will be playing classic works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Dvořák in the magnificent acoustics of our Sanctuary. Come early; the Sanctuary fills up quickly.

Humanists, Atheists, Freethinkers & Agnostics (HABA)
Sunday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.

In his book "The Moral Landscape," Sam Harris suggests that religion does not provide a sound basis for morality. He argues that most believers don't actually adhere to the "divine" morality, following instead their own moral impulses. We'll begin our session with a brief presentation of ideas from Harris, Richard Dawkins, and Daniel Dennett, followed by an open discussion. No reading is necessary, but consider this statement by Isaac Asimov: "Perhaps the greatest tragedy of mankind is the hijacking of morality by religion.”
Black History, Unitarian Universalism, Starr King and Me

“When an individual is protesting society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him.”

~Bayard Rustin
March 17, 1912 – August 24, 1987

Imagine if you will, what it must have felt like to be 35 years old before ever, ever, seeing a racial, cultural representation through artistic expression that seared your consciousness so much, that you rose to your feet, stood in a center aisle in a completely packed public theater, your sense of KNOWING was piqued to the point of free-spirited dance, deep affirmation and tears. The sense of knowing that you, your inner most self, your soul, was affirmed in your racial identity as what you long held to be true, was in fact TRUE! That you, as an African American were connected to a level of greatness through Black History you had never seen, but you knew existed.

This was my experience of being invited by a West Shore member in 2003, to attend my first-ever live Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performance at the Cleveland Playhouse Square. Have any of you experienced seeing this company or Alvin Ailey himself perform live? If not, I pray you do get a chance to take in this amazing American treasure, live, when they come to Cleveland again. Of note from my 2003 sacred, if not holy, experience of seeing the company that night was ingesting the most famous piece of his esteemed repertoire “Revelations.” Please view this link for a taste of this suite of dances.

As I am sure the majority of you know or have experienced, most of our school systems (both private and public) do a less than stellar job of telling the complexity of American History that includes the racial, cultural and ethnic diversity that make up the peoples of this country. So, having a month to celebrate Black History is a start of doing what it takes to learn just how significant African American and Black contributions to our society are. If we did not learn more about African American and Black History in our schools, colleges and universities, what is our task now on this front?

I ask you these questions: how long do you think African American and Black Unitarian Universalists have been involved in congregational leadership within our faith movement? Moreover, how long have African American and Black Ministers, Ministerial Interns and DREs been involved in leading congregations and community organizations around the United States? Could you name one or two of these leaders? If you have not had a chance to read “Black Pioneers in a White Denomination” written by Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison Reed, please do. As you might imagine, the resources on this topic are voluminous. Please do spend some time with these resources. For me, it took until entering Seminary at Starr King School for the Ministry in the fall of 2005, to begin my faithful journey of learning just how long African American and Black Unitarian Universalists have been involved in the leadership of our denomination since the mid to late 1800s.

Additionally, attending Starr King, I was afforded a pedagogical demand through the schools’ educational philosophy of “Educating to Counter Oppressions (ECO) for Justice and Sustainable Community” to study more aspects of African American and Black History that not only has formed the religious, theological and spiritual threads of this nation. This commitment to an ECO analysis also continues to give me the skills to put this learning into deep dialogue with our more traditional Unitarian Universalists ancestors. Gratefully, I was also exposed to African American and Black religious and civic leaders who have led major resistance movement within this country. Leaders such as Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, bell hooks, Marcia P, Johnson, Bayard Rustin and so many others who continue to affirm just how deeply rooted I am to this history. In fact, my experiences as a Unitarian Universalist, graduate of Starr King and as a UU Minister gives me a deeper appreciation of just how radical African American and Black religious leadership is to American History. It is and has been United States History since the formation of this as a country.

May we continue to do the necessary study to expand what we know related to this history. Amen!
Teatime for Peace in Cleveland... and it all started here!

On Saturday, February 29, West Shore will host “Teatime for Peace: The Next Step.” The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and the program will go from 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. We will provide a light lunch, and of course, tea (and coffee).

So what is Teatime for Peace?

I wrote a longer article for our December Shorelines explaining both the program and how it got started. Here is the quick answer to that question. Teatime for Peace started because of a request from Code Pink (a women-led, grassroots peace organization) asking members to organize events to support their Muslim neighbors in the face of heightened hate speech against them by presidential candidates in the 2016 election cycle. West Shore and CAIR (the Council on American Islamic Relations) came together to create a solidarity event and we decided to call it "Teatime for Peace" with a focus on getting to know your Muslim neighbor. At the heart of this event are table conversations where participants answer questions and get to know who each other is. The idea is to go deep quickly.

At the first event held here at West Shore, on February 29, 2016, there was a record turnout! Many asked to host a Teatime for Peace event in their faith community. And so now, here we are, four years later back at West Shore! Our event will be the 31st! “Teatime for Peace: The Next Step” is designed to take us deeper into conversation with questions that are more probing—questions we all answer.

Mark your calendars and RSVP now so we can get an accurate number for our light lunch. There is a limit on how many can be seated in Baker Hall and we expect a record turnout. To RSVP please email teatime4peace@gmail.com or call Sherry Bolger at the church office. If you have any questions, please call April Stoltz at 216-571-0282.

Become a Mentor… and help a Student Graduate!

Esperanza, Inc. (meaning “hope”), was founded in 1983 as a community project to improve the educational opportunities for Hispanics by motivating and recognizing academic achievement through scholarships. As Ohio’s only nonprofit organization, its founders recognized the need to expand the services by adding programs to address more of the educational needs of the community. Esperanza awarded its first college scholarship in 1983. Since then, Esperanza has grown steadily to where it is now able to award over 100 college scholarships every year.

For over a decade, Esperanza, Inc. and West Shore have partnered to provide local Latinx students with financial support to attend college. Our combined efforts have provided scholarships to 20 college students. As we look towards the future, we’re asking you to not only continue your financial support, but to also give a little of your time.

Through our Youth Mentoring Program, high school students are matched with a role model who helps foster a positive self-image, develop post-high school plans, and expand career awareness. This year we are expanding our program at James Ford Rhodes and will be matching 12th graders with a mentor who will help the students complete their capstone project, which is required for graduation. The time commitment for this new initiative is 1 hour of communication per month, and four in person meetings from January through May 2020.

Students and mentors are matched based on hobbies, career interests, and capstone themes. Once matched, you will meet independently to plan future activities. All mentors are required to go through a background check and participate in an orientation. If interested in becoming a mentor, please sign up here. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Ameena Igram at 216-651-7178 or ameena@esperanzainc.org.
Help Us, Help the Homeless
Sunday, February 2 & 9, 2020

Imagine wearing the same underwear for weeks without being able to wash them. Imagine being out in the cold without a hat or gloves to wear. It may be difficult for you to imagine this but it's an everyday occurrence for many people who live on the street. They do not have access to clean clothing nor do they have the proper clothing to protect them from the weather. On **Sunday, February 2 and 9**, the Social Action Committee will be collecting underwear, hats and gloves for men and women. We will also be collecting new or gently used bath towels so people will be able to use the shower facilities at Urban Hope. All items that are collected will be distributed at Urban Hope, the only UU presence in the inner city. Please be generous and help us provide these four very important items for homeless people. Look for the box at the Social Action table in the Rotunda. Cash or check donations are welcome! Please make checks out to Urban Hope.

West Shore To Host Benefit for HOLA Ohio
Sunday, February 9, 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of music performed by local northeast musicians in support of HOLA Ohio. Featuring: Eve'n Stephen, Brian Hayes, Dave MacAskill, Robbie MacAskill, Deborah Wuitowicz, Mike Raddock, Dave Bozak, Elisa Felici, Mike and Chris Gillespie, and more! Freewill offering. All proceeds will support HOLA's Norwalk office and the critical services it provides to Latino and immigrant families and children. Join us for cookies and coffee after the show to learn more about HOLA and how you can become involved. HOLA is a 501c3, nonprofit Latino organization based in NE Ohio focusing on community organizing, leadership development, and civic engagement. Visit: holatoday.org.

Volunteer at the Cleveland Food Bank
Thursday, February 20, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 26, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank seeks to bridge the meal gap, connecting individuals with the nutritious meals they need to succeed. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Betsy Hutcheson at 440-331-3027 ahead of time so names can be given to the Food Bank to facilitate the login process. Carpool from the church parking lot at 9:25 a.m.

Countdown to General Assembly
Providence, RI
June 24 -28, 2020

Are you “Rooted, Inspired, and Ready” to go to the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association, where you can attend worship services, workshops, and so much more? Here are some things you should know:

- **Registration is now open.** Adult full-time registration is **$400 through March 15. (It then jumps to $500.)** If payment is received by February 29, financial aid and volunteer opportunities will become available.
- **Reduced rates apply to youth (Grades 9-12) and off-site registration.**
- **Registration for housing opens March 2, at 9:00 a.m. EST, and tends to fill up very quickly!**
- For more information, pick up a brochure in the pamphlet rack by the church office, and/or see uua.org/ga.
- If you’re interested in going to GA, or in being a delegate (which means you can vote at business sessions), talk to a member of the Denominational Connections Committee: Soren Hansen, Jerry Knasel, Irene Morley, Cynthia White or Anne Osborne.

Adult Tutors Needed
By Judy Stryffeler, West Shore Member

In 2018, the Refugee Response Organization in Cleveland expanded their services to include in-home tutoring for Afghan women who have resettled in Cleveland, particularly in the West Park area. They are part of a very large group whose husbands were interpreters for our U.S. military. The organization is looking for female tutors who are willing to help these women with their language skills.

More information about this organization, including this and other volunteer opportunities there, can be found on their website, www.refugeeresponse.org or contact Sydney Kornegay, Director of Adult Programming, at 803-376-7009 or sydney@refugeeresponse.org.

I am a tutor and am enjoying this very much. I would also be happy to answer any general questions you may have at jstryf@wowway.com.
West Shore’s Child Care Center Update
By Caprice WRIGHT, Director

Here at West Shore Child Care we are continuing to grow in each classroom. We are now searching for new teachers to help with all the growth, and a new Assistant Director to help with the office. We are hoping to get started with our Parent Advisory Committee this month as well.

We are looking forward to our second Happy Pancake Fundraiser, which will be in Baker Hall, Saturday March 21, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. We hosted last year, and we were so pleased that families from both the church and child care center came together to eat pancakes, share stories, and help support the children. We will have baskets for raffles and games for the little ones to enjoy.

As we move forward into the New Year, we are hoping to host a few more fundraisers. We would love to rebuild the playground, and update all the toys outside. We need new mulch every year, and since we have grown so much inside, we need to help them grow with outside play.

We are looking forward to another summer camp program as well. Last year we made a pledge to help another community service, and the children came together to raise money for Lakewood Animal Shelter. They were thrilled to brainstorm for ideas on how to help, from car washes to making new adoption bandanas for all the animals. We will continue to teach our young participants to share the love and help support their community. If you know of a local community that we can help please stop in and visit with me. I am always looking for more ways for us to continue our mission. Thank you for all your support!

Take the Ache Out of Shoveling Snow
By Barb MISHIC, Parish Nurse

Watch the snow fall outside your window sure feels relaxing. Shoveling it? Not so much. And if you’re not careful, that hard work can lead to aches, pains and more serious injuries. The combination of cold temperatures and hard work may also strain the heart.

For safety’s sake, before the first snowfall, check with your doctor to see if shoveling snow or other cold weather activity is safe for you. This is especially important if you have any type of heart or lung disease. If you get your doctor’s okay, check out these tips for shoveling safely and keeping painful problems to a minimum.

- **Shovel when snow is fresh and light.** It’s easier to move. Plan to shovel when there’s only a little snow on the ground—and again after the next round of flakes falls.
- **Use the right size shovel.** If it’s too long or heavy for you, that can contribute to aches and pains.
- **Warmup before you start shoveling.** Try a few minutes of gentle stretching or other light exercise to get your body ready to work.
- **Don’t eat a full meal, drink coffee or smoke for at least one hour before or after shoveling.** All of these are stimulants and can elevate both your heart rate and blood pressure.
- **Stay warm and dry.** Dress in layers, gloves, thick socks and a hat. If you feel yourself getting too cold or too hot, take a break indoors. Cover your head and neck—half of body heat is lost through the head and neck. Change into dry clothes before going out again.
- **Push, don’t lift.** As much as possible, try to push the snow out of the way instead of lifting it. It’s much easier on your back.
- **If you must lift, use good technique.** Keep the load light by filling your shovel only part way. Always lift with your legs, not with your back. One more tip: Don’t throw the snow over your shoulder. Instead, walk to where you want to put it.
- **Don’t overdo it.** Work slowly, stay hydrated and take frequent rest breaks.
- **Get help if you need it.** Another solution to your shoveling woes may be to get someone else to do it! If shoveling gives you back pain, a snow blower might help, but the weight can still leave stress on your back. Getting a snow removal service or paying a teenage neighbor might be the easiest option if you’re trying to avoid shoveling this winter.

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Social Action Film Series
To Host
EMILIO ESTEVEZ’
the public

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 8

2020

WEST SHORE
UU CHURCH
7:00 PM

FREE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
REFRESHMENTS

Check our website, www.wsuuc.org, for updated information.
Next Shorelines deadline: Wednesday, February 19, @ 3:00 p.m.