

UU Casper
Human Rights Day
Dual Service
December 10, 2023

9:50 am

Jayne: Prelude music 10 minute

RING CHIME

1 Cindy: Welcome/Introductions, children [stay/to RE #413 *Go Now in Peace*]

Good morning! I am Cindy Wright, this morning's service leader and board president. Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Community of Casper.

"No matter your age, your size, the color of your hair or skin – you are welcome here! Whether you walked, drove, rolled, or were carried – you are welcome! No matter how you speak, whatever your abilities, where you live or how you make your living – you are welcome!

No matter whom you love; whether you come with joy or tears in your heart — Welcome to all who come with an open mind, willing hands, and a loving heart!"

2 Cindy: Housekeeping Items

- ☐ Please check that your cell phone is muted.
- ☐ Exits
- ☐ Bathrooms
- ☐ Tea, Coffee & snacks

Announcements

- ☐ Upcoming events, groups, and services can be found in your OOS, on our website, and in the weekly newsletter.
- ☐ Next service: Jayne Jacobs, The Concerto of Our Lives
- ☐ Jan 21 will be a combination of spiritual journeys and new members' service. If anybody is considering becoming a member and wondering what that entails, please see Damion or me after the service.
- ☐ Vision Quest: Sunday, December 10, 2023, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
- ☐ Membership Committee Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- ☐ Community Night: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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- ☐ Eclectic Meditation Group: Saturday, December 16, 2023, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- ☐ Programming Committee Meeting: Sunday, December 17, 2023, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- ☐ Does anybody else, in the sanctuary or Zoom, have other announcements, for the good of the community?

3 Cindy: Chalice Lighting - Excerpt from *Where is the Love* by The Black Eyed Peas

Madness is what you demonstrate
And that's exactly how anger works and operates
Man, you gotta have love just to set it straight
Take control of your mind and meditate
Let your soul gravitate to the love, y'all, y'all

People killin', people dyin'
Children hurt, hear them cryin'
Can you practice what you preach
Or would you turn the other cheek?

Father, Father, Father, help us
Send some guidance from above
'Cause people got me, got me questionin'
Where is the love (love)

Where is the love? (The love)
Where is the love? (The love)
Where is the love, the love, the love?

4 Cindy: Joys and Concerns

“The spirit of love is with us: it comforts us and connects us. If you have a joy or a concern this morning, you are invited to come forward and light a candle and share with our community. If you prefer, you may write your joy or concern on one of the prayer cards from the basket as it is passed around, and then place your card in the box at the Altar of Hope by the piano. Altar of Hope cards will be burned in the next burning ceremony as a symbolic joining with universal healing energies. All offerings are private and treated with reverence and respect.”

5 Cindy: Sharing the fruits of our labor and good fortune

We are so blessed to be a free religious community that is entirely self-governed and supported financially by the voluntary generosity of our members and friends. You are now invited to

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participate in the blessing of giving to this free religious community, as we Share the Fruits of our labor and good fortune.”

After baskets are collected: “We give thanks for these gifts and dedicate them to continue the good works of this Unitarian Universalist Community of Casper.”

6 Cindy: Presentation *Human Rights in the Creative Arts*

The December 10 Human Rights Day holiday commemorates the day that 48 nations of the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This was shortly after the end of World War II and the feeling was that we had a need to prevent such atrocities from happening again. It’s not the case that we haven’t had atrocities since then, but having the UDHR has given direction and aspiration to the peace making work of the United Nations.

The Declaration isn’t a treaty, but is more of an expression of aspirations and a commitment to spread awareness and the values expressed. Eleanor Roosevelt said, “If we observe these rights for ourselves and for others, I think we will find that it is easier in the world to build peace.

Article 1 reads: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

It goes on for 30 articles, covering a wide range of the basics any of us could consider necessary conditions we would need before we can thrive. There are so many ways art can connect to these concepts. Many examples I found remember past trespasses on human rights and depict what went wrong. Others are meant to inspire action and change in the time they were made. Still others show us hopeful aspirations and possibilities.

Guernica

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reads “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”

[slide 1]

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Mq2-1CxQo4v5RwPV2DCCFpNxFLOwJd2xgnYHf4PUIJY/edit?usp=sharing>

Considered one of the most powerful anti-war paintings of all time, Picasso painted “Guernica” while in Paris. It is a response to the bombing of Guernica, a town in northern Spain. The painting was first exhibited at the 1937 Paris International Exposition and toured to raise funds for the

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Spanish war relief. It depicts humans and animals suffering, their faces and bodies contorted in pain and grief. It's credited with drawing more international attention to the bombing. A tapestry reconstruction hung in the UN Headquarters for almost 25 years.

Statue, Rock Springs Massacre

Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

The Rock Springs Massacre stemmed from a trade dispute where coal mine workers were on strike, and Union Pacific responded to the strike by bringing in Chinese workers to replace the striking workers. When the newly arrived workers didn't join the strike, this raised tensions, which ultimately led to violence.

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This article from the September 2, 2023 edition of Cowboy State Daily is titled "Rock Springs To Memorialize Darkest Day With Sculpture Dedicated To Chinese Massacre of 1885."

From the article: "Rock Springs City officials recently approved \$154,000 to commemorate one of the city's — and Wyoming's — darkest days.

Known as the Chinese Massacre, Sept. 2, 1885, was the day 28 coal miners were shot or beaten to death, their homes burned and, according to newspaper reports from the following days, as many as 500 people were driven into the hills west of town.

No one was ever prosecuted for the crimes committed that day, which was the climax of a Union Pacific labor dispute.

The calamitous events were not openly spoken of in Rock Springs for years, but as time passed, local educators and historians persisted in the sentiment that those who refuse to learn and accept history are doomed to repeat it."

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The new statue is planned to be unveiled in 2025. The sculpture will be 7 feet tall and will sit on top of a concrete pedestal. Around the base, the sculpture will include broken pickaxes, lanterns, shovels, tea cups and other items that reflect Chinese culture and will be placed facing Bridger Street. The person depicted is Ah-say, a Chinese man who emigrated to the United States and raised his family in Rock Springs. He was a pillar of the community in Rock Springs and also was involved in the work of recruiting Chinese workers in the mines. He eventually became a consul to the Chinese government. Following the Chinese Massacre at Rock Springs in 1885, Ah Say implored the Union Pacific to provide the workers with transportation back to China or at the very least, pay them the money owed to them so they could afford to leave the area on their own. Despite his best efforts, the company refused to help the workers flee. Ah Say continued to work with the local communities to smooth out the racial tensions and rebuild the scattered and terrified Chinese community.

[stop screen share]

Ansel Adams, Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp

Article 13: Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Many of you are familiar with the story of the World War II Japanese internment camp at Heart Mountain. Between 1942 and 1945 a total of 10 such camps were opened, holding approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans for varying periods of time in California, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Arkansas. The famous photographer, Ansel Adams extensively photographed the internment camp in southern California called Manzanar. We will watch about 6 minutes of this curator talk from the FDR Library.

Screen share <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jh-BMvGDnTM> [14:01 - 19:56]

The Unitarian Service Committee Chalice

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A logo is still a piece of art. This example was the invention of the artist Hans Deutsch in 1941. Commissioned during World War II as the symbol of the Unitarian Service Committee (USC), which helped refugees escape Germany by sponsoring them. The chalice symbol was created merely for the purpose of making the paperwork look more official. Later on, the flaming chalice

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first appeared as a symbol for the UUA 35 years later on the title page of the 1976-77 UUA Directory. The ritual lighting of the chalice in worship services became widespread only in the last 20 years.

Berlin Wall Graffiti

After WWII, the allied powers that defeated Germany split up and shared the governance of Germany and of its chief urban center, Berlin. When there was a falling out between the USSR and the other powers, France, the United States, and Great Britain, a 3 mile wide corridor was evacuated on the boundary between the USSR controlled territory and the rest. Severe punishments were the consequence for attempting to leave the Soviet controlled portion, at first imprisonment of 3 years and later extended to 15 years. Many refugees managed to escape, especially during the period that the 3 mile strip was being evacuated. The exception to the 3 mile strip was in Berlin. In this case, the 4 meter tall Berlin wall still divided the city.

It stood from 1961 to 1989 and did not survive a massive democratic movement that ended up bringing down the the socialist German Democratic Republic (GDR) and spurring on the Cold War's end.

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The Berlin wall was covered in graffiti, on the side controlled by France, the United States, and Great Britain. The Soviet side was too dangerous to approach.

From the TheCollector.com article, “The Art on the Berlin Wall: Sentiments of East and West Berlin” By Daniel Grither”

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“Artists of the West Wall often had to be quick when painting upon the wall. They usually brought only a few different colors to paint with and worked swiftly to avoid being caught by East German authorities. Though West German police usually turned a blind eye to wall artists, the wall was considered a part of East German territory and was continuously patrolled by East German authorities looking for escapees and people vandalizing the wall.

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The necessity to paint undetected would lead to graffiti being used extensively across the West Side Wall. This new art form was largely brought over by American artists who were a part of the burgeoning street art scene in New York City during the 1960s and 70s. This method would prove

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as the primary means of painting the wall for many artists as it was a quicker, more discrete method of covering the wall without being caught.

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This graffiti-craze would continue amongst Berlin artists following the collapse of the wall, as a massive street art scene enveloped Berlin throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. There would also be an increase of large murals and other urban art projects that characterize the city today, continuing the legacy of the art on the Berlin Wall.”

The rock band, U2, spent a lot of time in Berlin after the wall fell. This is a quote from a song called One, from their 1991 album, “Achtung Baby.”

[stop screen share]

“One love, one blood

One life, you got to do what you should

One life with each other

Sisters, brothers

One life but we're not the same

We get to carry each other, carry each other

One

One”

Although this song is more likely about issues the band was going through and only touches on society at large, it still evokes this lesson. Perhaps in recognizing we are all different, we are not the same, that the work of building community is clarified. When we can respect each other’s human rights, when we can help each other regardless of many differences, we can be united. We can be one.

Civil Rights Movement - We Shall Overcome

Jamila Jones was deeply involved in the civil rights movement as a musician and volunteer. She worked on voter registration from 12 years old to college years. At 12 years old she learned how to fill out the 27 pages long questionnaires that were required to register to vote so she could help

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adults fill them out. When she was 14 years old, she attended Highlander school in Tennessee where a lot of civil rights movement music came from and organizing was also taught. That school is still around.

In the following clip from her oral history interview with the Library of Congress, Jamila talks about the well-known civil rights movement song “We Shall Overcome.”

Screen share: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2015669108/> [31:09 - 36:05]

Please rise in body or spirit. If you can, please get closer together, and while we sing this song cross your arms in front of you and hold your neighbors’ hands. This should get you shoulder to shoulder. This is how the civil rights protesters would sing this song. The lyrics will be on the screen and we will have a bonus verse not published in our hymnal.

7 **Jayne: *Song: #169 *We Shall Overcome***

8 **Cindy: *Unison Covenant**

Love is the spirit of this church and service its cause.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
to seek truth in love, and to help one another.

James Vila Blake (adapted)

Unity

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

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Meaning “oneness or together” in Latin, “Unum” is covered in words meant to represent Santa Rosa but in 32 different languages most commonly spoken in Sonoma County households.

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[slide 10]

In Atlanta, Self Portrait III is a 10-foot-tall stainless steel sphere encircling the seated figure of a man, both of which are composed of lettering from nine languages including Hindi, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Arabic, Cyrillic, Tamil, and Greek.

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Human Rights Logo

In 2011, an initiative called A Logo for Human Rights held a worldwide competition in order to come up with a universally recognizable logo to represent human rights. In September 2011, the Human Rights Logo was unveiled in New York. The winning design is by Predrag Stakic of Serbia and combines the shape of a hand with that of a bird. It is now available to everyone at no cost as an open source product for the promotion and protection of human rights. Anyone can use it freely.

[stop screen share]

Black Eye Peas - where is the Love?

“Whatever happened to the values of humanity?

Whatever happened to the fairness and equality?

Instead of spreading love we're spreading animosity

Lack of understanding, leading us away from unity

That's the reason why sometimes I'm feelin' under

That's the reason why sometimes I'm feelin' down

There's no wonder why sometimes I'm feelin' under

Gotta keep my faith alive 'til love is found

Now ask yourself

Where is the love?

Where is the love?

Where is the love?

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Where is the love?"

9 Jayne: Bell Songs

As we get ready to transition to our art activity, Jayne has prepared something special for our listening pleasure. Is there anyone here who has participated in Saturday Sing-Alongs so far? After the bells, people participating on Zoom might want to leave early because we will be doing an arts activity.

10 Cindy/Janet: Introduce MLK, Jr "Unity" art project

11 Cindy: Closing Words: *STLT* #706

May the light around us guide our footsteps,
and hold us fast to the best and most righteous that we seek

May the darkness around us nurture our dreams,
and give us rest so that we may give ourselves to the work of our world.

Let us seek to remember the wholeness of our lives,
the weaving of light and shadow in this great and astonishing dance in which we move.
-Kathleen McTigue

12 Cindy: Extinguish the Chalice

Thank you to Jayne for the music, to Janet and Gary for helping with the service, and to Damion for helping with A/V and the Zoom room.

13 Tech Team: Set up for Zoom folks to participate in Coffee ½ Hour