

CONNECTIONS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah



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CONNECTIONS is a periodic publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah (UUFSU).

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<https://uufsu.org>

AUGUST 2022

Mark your calendars now!

UUFSU PROGRAMS FOR AUGUST

Two forums will be presented through Zoom during August. **Forums are informal presentations followed by discussion.**



August 14th FORUM on Zoom (10:00 a.m.) “Southwest Utah’s Water Issues” with *Ed Anderchak, V.P. of Conserve Southwest Utah, focused on water issues*

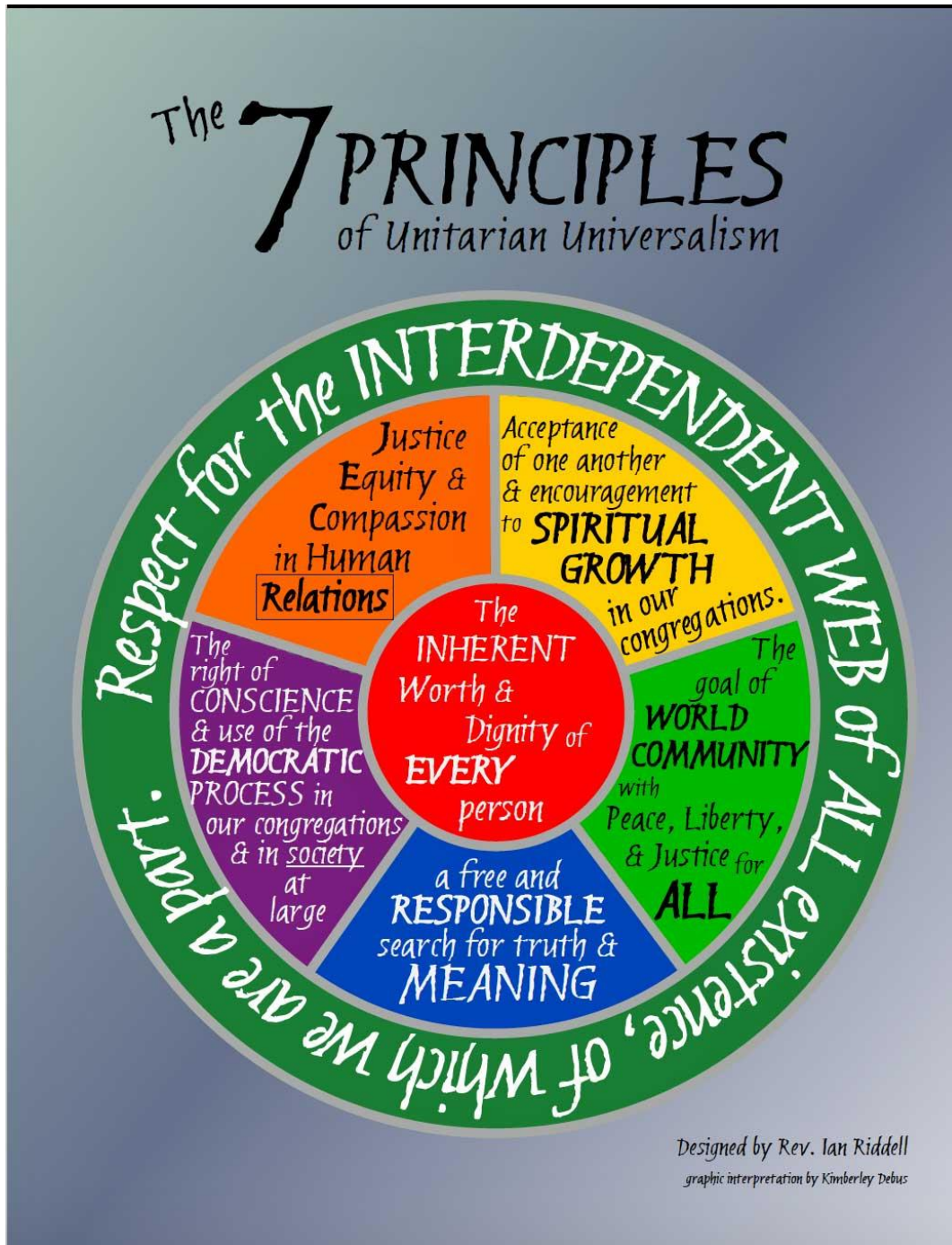
August 28th FORUM on Zoom (10:00 a.m.) “America’s Betrayal of Vietnam” with *Doug Bowen, ICL instructor*

UUFSU Zoom link for programs and meetings is the following:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9141398989>

POSTED PAST PROGRAMS

There is a delay in posting the past programs as they are being edited and converted to YouTube format prior to posting. Check out some of the past programs under Programs on the UUFSU website (uufsu.org). All programs support the SEVEN PRINCIPLES:



ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Hike to Knoll Caves in Kolob area of Zion

Friday, August 12th (8:00 a.m.) meet in front of Harbor Freight, next to Albertson's, off Telegraph, near Exit 10. We will carpool to the town of Virgin, then go north on the Kolob Terrace Road about 10 miles, then we'll park and hike east to two impressive caves with petroglyphs and more. (easy access caves)

Distance - about 3 1/2 miles round trip. Time - about 2 and 1/2 hours. Easy terrain, no big hills. Since the elevation is almost 6,000 ft., it will be cooler. Bring the usual hiking items. Beautiful, remote area. Please inform **Gordon Warren** if you plan to attend, **435-627-0807**.

Upcoming Social Activities

NOTE DATE CHANGE: Tuesday, August 2nd (12:00 p.m.) Social Outing/Early Dinner in Cedar City for Shakespear Festival. Carpooling will be arranged, leaving about noon to get to Cedar by 1:15 for the pre-show presentations. The two plays for that afternoon are "**Sound of Music**" at the and "**The Tempest**". Both begin at 2:00 pm. You can choose either performance. Washington County residents can buy 2 tickets for price of 1. After the shows, we will have dinner at **Chef Alfredo's Ristorante Italiano** in Cedar City about 5:00 pm, leaving plenty of time to return to St. George by 8 pm. For more information or to RSVP, contact **Joyce Spinelli** at **435-668-3509**.

Sunday, August 21st (8:00 a.m.) Meditative Walk in Kayenta Labyrinth followed by brunch at Xetava Gardens Café (opens at 9:00 a.m. for brunch)

OWL (Our Whole Lives) program for 7-9th graders

We are pleased to announce that we will again be offering the acclaimed UUA curricula [Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education Program](#) for students in grades 7-9 starting on Sunday, September 11, 2022. Sessions will last from 12 to 1 at Room at the Square.

OWL explores topics and skills that both parents and children want covered but which schools often exclude or address only briefly. The program gives clear messages about the key sexuality issues including self-worth, sexual health, responsibility and consent.

OWL recognizes and respects the diversity of participants with respect to biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and disability status in addition to cultural and racial background. If you know of families that might like to register a student for the course, they can register or request more information by going to <https://www.uufsu.org/owl>



BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) UPDATE

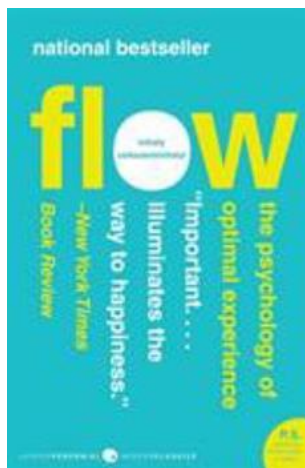
August 18th, the Board will meet on Zoom at 10 a.m. All UUFUSU members are welcome to attend. The Zoom link is provided on page 1 of this newsletter. This is the link used for all UUFUSU programs and meetings. If you have any items for discussion by the Board, please send topic by August 15th to **Ann Foster, shdwker@gmail.com**



Each month a Non Profit organization in southern Utah is invited to present a forum or other information on the organization and the efforts being made for the betterment of the community. Volunteer opportunities are also presented. This month the forum on August 14th was **Conserve Southwest Utah**. Instead of making a donation to CSU in person (**UUFUSU Sharing Bowl**); to donate please go to conserveswu.org.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Flow Group starting in September



All interested UUs and friends are encouraged to join the discussion/experiential group based upon ***Flow, The Psychology of Optimal Experience*** by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. This is a classic book in the field, often considered the “Handbook on Happiness” – part science and part philosophy.

The group will gather **on Zoom starting in mid-September on Wednesdays (4 – 5:30)** for several weeks, the length of the weeks will be determined by the group. You are welcome to join the group even if you cannot attend every week.

If you are interested in joining or just learning more about the group, send an email to Bev Littlejohn, bev461@gmail.com

Book Group – read now for September

Our book discussions are held on Zoom; join by 6:45 for socializing.

Sept. 4th: *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World* by Andrea Wulf. Alexander von Humbolt revolutionized the Western concept of nature by describing it as an interconnected living web – and in so doing inspired thinkers from Darwin to Thoreau.

Group facilitator is **Chuck Warren, bcw222@gmail.com**. All are welcome!!!



Movie Group – to resume in October or November

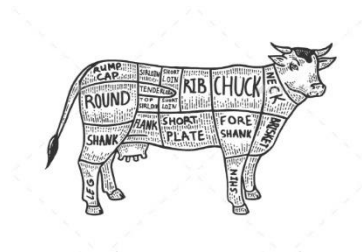
Selected movies focus on current social and ethical issues. Participants are requested to watch the movie ahead of time and the group meets to discuss. Hans sends out thought-provoking “teasers” prior to the discussion. To indicate your interest in participating in the monthly group starting in the fall, send an email to Hans at hxdeh@outlook.com. The venue for meeting (in-person or Zoom will be decided by the group.)

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ACTION YOU CAN TAKE

Jean Lown, Environmental Team Lead provides the following:

Americans’ Love of Beef is Helping Destroy the Amazon Rain Forest!

Of all the foods we eat beef has the largest (by far) carbon footprint.



Further, beef production is destroying the Amazon rain forest.

- The pattern is clear: First, the forest is razed.
- Then the cattle are moved in.
- If the Amazon is to die, it will be beef that kills it.
- And America will be an accomplice.

Cattle ranching, responsible for the great majority of [deforestation in the Amazon](#), is pushing the forest to the edge of what scientists warn could be a vast and irreversible dieback that claims much of the biome. Despite agreement that change is necessary to avert disaster, despite attempts at reform, despite the resources of Brazil’s federal government and powerful beef companies, the destruction continues.

But the ongoing failure to protect the world’s largest rainforest from rapacious cattle ranching is no longer Brazil’s alone, a Washington Post investigation shows. It is now shared by the United States — and the American consumer.

The United States [bought more than 320 million pounds](#) of Brazilian beef last year — and is on pace to purchase [nearly twice as much](#) this year.

JBS, the world’s largest beef producer, has repeatedly been accused by environmentalists of buying cattle raised on illegally deforested land.

The destruction is hidden at the base of a long and multistep supply chain that directly connects illegally deforested ranches — and ranchers accused of environmental infractions — to factories authorized by the U.S. government to export beef to the United States.

The supply chain, the examination found, was infected with dozens of ranches where land had been deforested illegally.



But the biggest problem in Brazil's cattle industry today, and a key reason deforestation in the Amazon [has reached a 15-year high](#), isn't the direct supplier. That hasn't been the case in years. The biggest problem is the indirect suppliers — ranchers who know how to work the system, shuffling cattle from ranch to ranch to conceal their illegal origins and sell them off.

The game is called “cattle laundering.”

JBS does direct business with ranchers who have extensive histories of deforestation. “Operation Amazon” started with the military dictatorship and continues today. People rich and poor rushed into the Amazon, burned chunks of forest, put down cattle and claimed the land by means both legal and illegal. In a vast region largely beyond government control, slave labor was pervasive, violent land disputes erupted and Indigenous communities were massacred. By the early 2000s, farmers were burning [enough forest](#) each year to cover New Jersey.

If you care about the environment and climate change, it's time to stop eating beef.

Quoted from: Devouring the Rainforest by [Terrence McCoy](#) and [Júlia Ledur](#), *The Washington Post*, April 29, 2022.



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2022/amazon-beef-deforestation-brazil/>

UUFSU WeCare Support (and Sharing)

If you or another person in the extended Fellowship community needs assistance, please email UUFSUWeCare@gmail.com or call (435) 414-1230 (#3), indicating the need(s) such as meals, transportation, other assistance.



Also there is no need to purchase or rent an item (i.e. ladder, tools, walker, crutches, wheel barrel etc.), that you might be able to **borrow** from someone in our Fellowship community, just email or call and indicate what you need.



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

September 24th is the Solar and EV Jamboree here in St. George, (driveelectricweek.org). Contact Mike Kruse, redrockschess@gmail.com to *volunteer*. St. George is the 6th biggest show (out of 50) in North America. To attend, RSVP on the driveelectricweek website.

Jamboree will be held 10 to 2 p.m. at **Staybridge Suites**, 1301 Sunland Drive in St. George.

Pledges and Donations

Consider a special donation to enable to potentially have a home of our own! Regular donations will increase funding for outside speakers (including visiting ministers), to develop programs for children/youth and to extend growth of the Fellowship community in southwest Utah. Mail your donation to UUFSU, P.O. Box 3142, St. George, Utah 84771 or you can also donate now on the uufsu.org website through PayPal, credit or debit card

Virtual Donations can now be made thru the uufsu.org website by clicking on a **DONATE** button or use this QR code. The display will appear:



Thank you for supporting UUFSU! You do not need a PayPal account to make a donation. Debit and all major credit cards accepted.

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- Make this a monthly donation recurring-checkbox-tooltip
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Newsletter submissions are due by the 15th of the month for publication on the 1st of the following month. Please send your cartoons, recommendations (nonpolitical) and articles to Ann Foster, shdwker@gmail.com.

