Story Swaps—Share a Story or Just Listen

I just attended the Zoom Story Swap coordinated by our amazing DRE Lee Cowan. Since I don't have a completed member profile to share this week, I am going to use this space to encourage you to attend one of the upcoming Story Swaps that Lee has organized to coincide with May's Spiritual Enrichment theme of Story. I write this on Tuesday, May 11th. The particular focus this night was on personal stories about the history of UUCSC or an important moment that took place at UUCSC. Participating besides myself and Lee were Vikki LePree, the first Music Director at UUCSC; David Floyd, creator of "Music at Lily Pads"; Essjay Foulkrod, lifelong UU and lover of horses; Betsy Dalton, former President of UUCSC and longtime member of the choir; Linda Whyte Burrell, one of our earliest members and contender for "Volunteer Award for Most Hours Served Over 25 Plus Years"; and Johnny Rodriguez, Chair of the Worship Committee and Coordinator of the "Music and More at Lily Pads" series.

Everyone at some point in the hour mentioned wanting to return to in-person services and how much our community gatherings mean to each of us. Quite honestly this Zoom format of informally talking to others in a small group with a predetermined topic is the closest thing I have experienced to in-person gatherings and is in some ways BETTER. I would not have had a chance to talk this closely with six other people on a Sunday morning. It is a format we should consider keeping beyond the pandemic.

Lee is going to edit our hour-long conversation into a short video that she will present at a Sunday morning Zoom service. I can't wait to see what she includes and how she ties it all together! To give you a tease about what may be in the video…or not: we talked about the very beginning of our congregation in 1989 and our founding members; our move to Lily Pads after years of meeting in numerous other locations; how music is so important to the congregation and favorite hymns; fundraisers including early auctions, Harvest Fairs and Christmas Fairs; Thanksgiving Soup Lunches to honor our volunteers and hosted by the Board; and coming to a service for the first time and instantly deciding to return every Sunday.

The two upcoming Zoom Story Swaps are scheduled for Friday May 14 (TODAY), at 1pm and Tuesday, May 18 at 7pm. See the article by Lee in this newsletter for more info including topic and Zoom link. I intend to be there for all three Story Swaps. I love a good story!

In closing I just have to put in a plug for the Moth Radio Hour--featuring stories recorded at live story telling events which can also be heard in podcasts. One of my favorites: https://themoth.org/stories/flight Happy listening!

Elizabeth Donovan