

Shared History at UCE

After our service on Sunday, April 25th, we moved decade by decade through the history of UCE. Led by Louise Charach and Ruth Patrick, heard the remembrances of several of our members and invited you to share your own in the Zoom chat box. These are the remembrances that were shared.

Remembrances from 50's, 60's, and 70's

- Children and Youth were very involved at UCE and in YRUU;
- Active singles group for which Ernie Korchinsky acted as the MC for many;
- Attending church school, helping with youth group, billeting draft dodgers;
- UU Action dinners -- yummy meals and hilarious actions;
- Spending considerable time planning and financing new congregation -- loans were made and paid back;
- Congregational activities like trail rides, ski trips, hosted by Inge Hess;
- The portable bar built by Morley Calenson;
- Stan Calder playing piano for New Year's parties; and
- Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and entertainment.

Remembrances from the 1980s

- Unicircle programs for discussion and friendship which provided child care one morning a week;
- Teaching Haunting House for 5-7 year olds;
- Diversity conference held in our old church, celebrating GLBTQ+ people;
- Monthly meetings of the Prime Timers;
- Serving on board in the early 80s;
- Les Gue's work on issues related to Tolerance and Understanding;
- Active social justice committee; and
- Our Interim minister, Fern Stanley.

Remembrances from the 1990s

- Rev. Audrey returned from Bangor Theological Seminary, in Bangor, Maine, and became part of the pastoral Care team at UCE;
- Working on the design of the sanctuary;
- Refinishing our chairs --led by Stella, many worker bees reupholstered, stripped and refinished them;
- UCE held its first Blue Christmas service followed by a supper of soup, bread and pies -- it was attended by many people who were visitors for the first time, and some returned to attend Sunday services;
- Blaise and Bernie were very involved in organizing fundraising auctions with dinners;
- Raising money, key by key to buy our piano;
- Drudge work performed by many volunteers -- e.g., scraping the floor in a couple of bathrooms with scrapers and steel wool to get them clean enough to have the areas to build into decent bathrooms;
- Service auctions through the 1980s & 1990s — both fund-raisers and an entertaining evening;

- “No Talent” nights, plus wonderful singing talent such as Maria Jenkins, David Leonard, Jack Ratcliffe, and many others, some ongoing members of Choreal;is;
- Strong youth group was strong that made the coffee each Sunday, and kept the proceeds to send a youth to the UN;
- Coralie & John return after a couple of decades to discover that UCE feels like home;

And, Lynn Wolff shared a heart-touching remembrance that illustrates how important and life changing being a part of the UCE community can be:

I came to UCE on January 6, 1985. It was the first service given by Rev. Michael O’Kelly, interim minister. His topic was “Beginnings and Endings”. I had just done many of each, having moved from Ontario and started a new job, knowing no one in Edmonton. So I wept through the entire service. At the end of the service, a long-time member, Dr. Ed Holmes, took me out to lunch to cheer me up. He did a good job and we married 5 years later, Rev. John Marsh officiating.