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General Assembly Lineup

Dear Friends,

It's almost time for General Assembly. EA and AIM will be there, will you? If so, here are a few opportunities that may interest you...

- ◆ *Dis-Abilities: A Discussion on Inclusion, Accessibility and Identity*— A discussion session with Rachel Carter.
 - ◆ *Unitarian Universalist Mental Health Network*— This poster will be displayed in Exhibit Hall A, Thursday, June 20 from noon to 1:30 PM.
 - ◆ *EA / AIM Booth*— Find brochures, swag, and friendly people who love to
- ◆ *Financing Accessibility*— A workshop to be co-facilitated by Rev. Helen McFadyen, Rev. Barbara Meyers, and Bill Young.
 - ◆ *Ability, Gender, and Race and Class: We Rise*— A workshop facilitated by Rev. Theresa I. Soto.

talk about all things AIM and EA at booth #342 in Exhibit Hall A. Swing by whenever the exhibit hall is open. Or, better yet, volunteer!

- ◆ *Gathering Space*— EA and AIM have secured the use of Room 300 D in the convention center for the entirety of GA. Stop by any-time!

Check EA's FB page for dates, times, and events not listed here.

- Meredith Plummer

Volunteer at the EqUual Access Booth!

There are two things I love most of all at GA— Attending workshops and volunteering at the EA / AIM Booth. I am socially awkward by

nature, but once I am behind that booth, I am no more. I am able to speak to others on a subject which I am both passionate about and knowledgeable in—

disability rights.

Unfortunately, for me, I will be unable to make it to GA this year, which means I won't be able to volunteer at the booth. But, that's good

news for you, as now there are that many more opportunities for you to lend your voice to the cause. Interested? Sing up here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5p89ma2>

Spokane Accessibility

Are you planning on attending GA, but wondering about Spokane's accessibility? Here are some links and tidbits of information to get you started.

To begin, Spokane's "smart bus" system uses GPS to track their buses, showing riders the real-time status of their approaching bus. The information can be used to pinpoint

arrival times and reduce wait times for riders who are in the cold, snow, or rain. You can access the bus map here: <https://tinyurl.com/y69cs9kt>

If you are unable to utilize Spokane's fixed-route buses, then you may be able to utilize Spokane's para transit service. From their website, "Visitors from out of town, who are certified ADA eligible by another transit provider, or provide necessary documentation of a disability... may use the ADA paratransit service for up to 21 days in the year... Visitors wishing to use Spokane's Transit's Paratransit Service are requested to contact the Mobility Center prior to their arrival in e-mail at kgibbons@spokanetransit.com. Paratransit services can also be reached at (509) 328-1552. Customer Service is available 7 days a week, including

holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time."

If mass transit and paratransit are out of the question, visitors with mobility disabilities can rent a wheelchair van from Goldenwest Mobility. You can find their contact information here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5jbd7tt>

In any case, all visitors should know that pedestrian's do have the right away in Spokane, but there are no audible pedestrian signals.

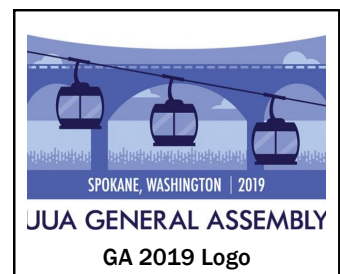
If you are in need of assistive technology during your visit to Spokane, you can rent one through NATADS Assistive Technology Acquisition System. Website here: <https://tinyurl.com/y55dvhhp> And, of course, General Assembly provides some accessible devices. You can learn more about accessibility at GA here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5epadri> Finally, if you find yourself on the hunt

for an accessible restaurant, store, or activity in Spokane, you'll want to have this webpage saved in your phone: <https://tinyurl.com/y2vtp85d> Access4All is a collective of leaders with disabilities, advocates, and allies, who have made a searchable database of accessible locations in Spokane. If you want to know more about this organization itself, you can visit their FB page at <https://tinyurl.com/y3oasbx5> That's it for now. A big shout out to Rev. Helen McFadyen who collected all of these helpful links and tidbits of information!

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Acronyms

- EA — EqUUAal Access
- AIM — Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry
- GA — General Assembly
- FB—Facebook
- UU — Unitarian Universalist
- UUA — Unitarian Universalist Association



Sermon Contest Submissions Due

The due date for Sermon Contest Submissions is May 1st. To be eligible, your sermon must be an original work on a disability them or topic, and it must have been preached between May 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019. This sermon contest is open to all lay or religious professionals who are UU. Please note that by entering this contest, you retain copyright to your work, but you are granting EA permission to publicly post and publicize your sermon text, name and photo. Before submitting your entry, please remove all identifying references (your name, congregation, etc.), and complete the cover page below. Email your sermon and cover page to info@EqUUalAccess.org. Acceptable file formats are MS Word or Plain Text (no PDFs). A cash prize of \$500 awaits!

Entry Form—Required Cover Page Information

Name: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

Town / City: _____ State / Province: _____ Zip / Postal Code: _____

Title of Sermon: _____

Date Preached: _____ UU Congregation where it was Preached: _____

In entering this contest, I grant permission for EqUUal Access to post and publicize my sermon text, name, and photo.

Signature of Consent: _____

Unitarian Universalist Mental Health Network

Wonderful news, the Unitarian Universalist Mental Health Network has launched! Here’s a bit of history, from their website, “In 2018 a number of individual Unitarian Universalists who were interested in mental health started meeting and jointly decided that the time was right to form a UU Mental Health Network to work collectively on mental health issues that affect our congregations and society at large. As a starting point, a covenant and a mission were written, and a decision was made to apply to the UUA to become an official “related organization”. The current status is that we have made the application to the UUA, but our organization is still in the initial stages of forming. We still have yet to decide on issues of organizational charter and governance.

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Unitarian Universalist Mental Health Network (Con't)

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We welcome participation by others who may have expertise to get the organization started. If you are interested, contact admin at uumentalhealth.org."

Planning for the Future of EqUUal Access

Planning is underway to undertake an overall assessment of EqUUal Access and its future directions. Over the last year EqUUal Access has initiated internal discussions concerning its overall direction and options. This is an advantageous time for

this work as a number of important initiatives have been accomplished, an assessment has not occurred in some time, and our UUA itself is in a notable period of evaluation and evolution. In addition, there is the opportunity to draw

on additional and new voices in defining what are the best areas of focus and best ways to organize that ongoing work.

We will bring together (both in person and by telecommunications) a variety of stakeholders later in 2019, followed up with additional

work through the winter of 2019/20.

Stay tuned for more information over the coming months, or come visit us at the EqUUal Access both at General Assembly in Spokane.

- Bill Young

EqUUal Access

Leadership Team

Rev. Suzanne Fast
Rev. Helen McFadyen
Rev. Barbara Meyers
Meredith Plummer
Bill Young

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Info@EqUUalAccess.org

EQUUAL ACCESS  and  ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION MINISTRY AIM PROGRAM

**Enabling the full engagement of
people with disabilities in
Unitarian Universalist communities
and the broader society.**

www.EqUUalAccess.Org



Is Your Congregation Ready for AIM?

The Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Program (AIM) engages congregations deeply in understanding the meaning and experience of disability, in the congregation and in our world. AIM is a partnership between the Unitarian Universalist Association and EquUal Access. In the tradition of Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary programs on which it was modeled, AIM certifies congregations as committed and engaged in becoming accessible and inclusive religious communities.

Each congregation accepted into the AIM program sets its own pace for obtaining certification, though most can anticipate taking from 2 to 3 years.

It begins with the formation of a local core AIM group or team, and getting the support of the congregation's leaders. Each local AIM team is assigned a dedicated Advisory Group upon entering the program. Using email and Zoom internet meetings, each AIM team will regularly meet with, and receive ongoing guidance and feedback from AIM program coordinators throughout the process.

Detailed AIM Assessment tools help the local AIM team and congregation identify the current degree of accessibility and inclusion, and determine which priorities to address. An AIM Action Plan is created, based on these priorities. Once approved, the AIM team begins to engage their Action plan with their congregation. AIM certification criteria includes effecting a required number of workshops, projects, and disability themed worship services. When the plan is completed, it's time for review and certification is awarded.

To learn more about the AIM Program requirements and process, please look through the pages on AIM's new webspace: <http://www.equualaccess.org/aim-program/aim/>

If your congregation is ready to begin the AIM Program, please contact the AIM Administrator for a consultation.

AIM Administrator: Rev. Helen McFadyen

E-mail: aim@uua.org

Telephone: USA: (857) 990-6388 - Canada: (250) 572-2018

Note: The AIM Program has no physical office location.