

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021 - 10:30 AM

KARYN MARSH: *THE SPIRIT OF PLAY*

In the Hindu family of faith traditions, the concept of “Lila” (pronounced “Leela”) refers to divine play. For some Hindus, all of creation is the product of divine play; for others, all of the activities of God are play and the aim of spirituality is to make all of life play. The dominant culture of the United States tends to separate play from work and spirituality from everyday life. In today’s service, Karyn Marsh, M.Div., and the TUUC puppets will explore the spirituality of play and offer thoughts on integrating it into our lives.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Have you had moments over the summer in nature that fueled your spirit and challenged you? Did you have time to read and reflect on social justice issues? If so, perhaps you would like to keep those fires stoked and extend those sparks of awe and insight to others.

The YRE Committee is planning for fun and exciting offerings for the fall. We hope that all members of the TUUC Congregation will consider how they be part of our multigenerational community, whether in person or virtually. Our dedicated group of veteran teachers needs a few more to join our teaching teams. Support and training are provided. Enjoy the silliness, fun, and wonder of our youngest members or the questioning spirit of older children. If you have been wondering how to give back to your community and feed your own spirit, please contact Joyce at tuucdre@towsonuuc.org for more information on joining a teaching team.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 SERVICE INFORMATION

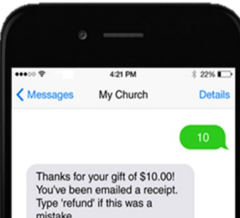
For Sunday, August 8, please join us at 10:15 AM to be admitted prior to the service starting at 10:30. We will have break-out rooms for coffee and conversation following the service.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82083282041?pwd=TEVsbitUb2VaOHlWRWJ4S2NoMQQyZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 8328 2041

Passcode: 516587



PASSING THE PLATE

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DONATE TO TUUC VIA PAYPAL, TEXT, OR BREEZE

MORE INFORMATION ON THE TUUC WEBSITE [HERE](#)

FROM THE TUUC BOARD

ON ACCESSIBILITY—BY ANDREW HAGER

I am, as most of you know, legally blind. I travel with either a black Labrador retriever guide dog named Sammy or the traditional cane, and in pre-pandemic days, many of you drove me to and from church. It's a big part of my life.

Strangely enough, I rarely think of myself as disabled. It's one of those labels that only come to mind when I'm stymied by something, usually a computer. Or, a few years ago when I joined our church's ethnic lunch group, Sammy at my side, and I was refused service because the restaurant did not want a dog in the building. The group members promptly left, and we all ate hamburgers at a diner across the street instead. I felt supported and loved by this church, but slightly embarrassed to be the center of attention. I don't like to foreground my blindness. I want to blend in as much as possible.

But I am disabled, and my life is constrained to some extent by that fact. You may not consider yourself disabled, but disability rights should be on your mind.

When Judy Heumann told Trevor Noah that she uses the term "non-disabled" because there is a very high possibility he (or any of us) will become disabled in his (or our) lifetime, it was a reminder to me that life has many more surprises in store, and not all of them will be welcome.

I have been fortunate in my disability. This good fortune is, as usual, largely an accident of birth. I was lucky enough to be born in the generation after Judy Heumann and her compatriots launched the disability rights movement.

If you've seen the Netflix documentary *Crip Camp*, you know this story. If you haven't seen it yet—and you certainly should—here's a brief summary: In the late 1960s, an upstate New York summer camp named Camp Jened welcomed teenagers with a variety of differing disabilities—some were in wheelchairs, some had cerebral palsy—at a time when the world at large refused them entrance. Many of these kids could not attend their local public schools or use public transportation, and were even barred some restaurants. Camp Jened treated them as actual people, with dreams and ambitions and the same complex emotional lives as any other member of society. The freedom experienced at Jened planted seeds within these campers that bloom years later when they decided to roll up their sleeves and work to make the world bend a bit in their favor. Led by the indomitable Judy Heumann, a group of activists occupied a government building in San Francisco for nearly a month, eventually pressuring the Carter administration to enforce previously signed legislation that increased accommodations for the disabled. Building on this success, the movement continued to push for change. Public demonstrations, including a protest in which normally wheelchair-bound individuals—one as young as eight years old—crawled up the steps of the US Capitol, eventually resulted in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. In the three decades since, sidewalk curbs became sloped, restrooms were outfitted with rails to make toilets more accessible, and students previously relegated to separate and unequal special education classes have been mainstreamed. It's a fascinating, inspiring story, but one largely hidden from public view.

As David Taylor's Washington Post article on Judy Heumann explains:

At a Q&A after a Sundance screening of "Crip Camp," someone asked: "Why didn't we know this story?"

...That's because non-disabled people...feel threatened, she told me. "It's one of the big reasons why really getting meaningful, engaged discussion" about disability is difficult. Most people avoid what they feel threatens them — what they don't know.

Non-disabled people often don't understand life with disabilities. Or they don't know what help, if any, a disabled person might want. There's a strong tendency for the non-disabled to think only of "fixing" their friends, or of their interactions as soul-soothing charity.

Businesses and institutions often see disability accessibility only in dollar signs, and if anything frightens people more than the loss of what they see as "normal," it's the loss of money.

Of course, framing accessibility financially creates a false choice. This isn't costly kindness vs. prudent status quo. Replacing your steps with a ramp has upfront costs, yes, but allowing more customers to enter your place of business is a long-term financial gain. Moreover, interacting with new and different people, as we know, benefits a person in ways far less easy to quantify. The restaurant our lunch group left when I was refused service eventually came around because of a small flurry of social media attention. They invited us back, fed everyone for free, and apologized to me personally. I've since gone back with my family.

I said that we as a church know the benefits of diversity, and we do. Our congregation speaks of diversity often and with sincerity. I believe we are committed to creating a welcoming environment for people of all kinds, but I also believe we have to this point failed.

I should be clear here – the church has not failed me. And I also want to be clear that I am including myself in the "we" who have failed the disabled.

Were we now in physical space, I could point to some of our shortcomings.

Yes, we have a ramp leading up to our meeting room, but it's steeper than it should be, which makes it difficult for a person in a wheelchair to get to the top. Once there, they would find that our main floor has no handicap accessible bathroom, so they would have to wheel back down the ramp and around to the downstairs entrance and then return up the same steep ramp as before. We could really use a re-designed ramp, a handicap accessible bathroom on the main floor, and an elevator. Of course, if you have ever hired a contractor for a project in your home, you will understand that all of these are expensive upgrades.

There's more—

We need better accessibility for the hearing impaired. We need resources for our religious exploration teachers so they can adapt lessons for students with different learning or emotional needs. And we need to educate ourselves around disability issues the way we've worked hard to educate ourselves on issues of race and ethnicity.

The good news is that we have already begun some of this work. The budget for the 2021-22 church year includes money for an architectural assessment revolving around disability issues,

as well as funding for devices to aid the hard of hearing. Earlier this year, the board discussed our shortcomings with members of the congregation. So, while there is still so much to do — and it will be hard work, and not inexpensive — I want to remind you (and myself) that if we truly value the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, this is essential.

I'd actually like to reframe these efforts. Consider the work we are doing and the work we will do not as a brief period of sacrifice, but as a privilege. We get to carry each other, Bono sings in the U2 song "One." That phrasing suggests that we should view our opportunities to assist each other as a gift. These moments of care make us one with each other, though we are not the same. And you never know when it might be your turn to be carried. President George HW Bush, who signed the Americans with disabilities act into law in 1990 eventually used a service dog himself, thereby benefiting from a policy he supported 25 years earlier.

Larry Smith recently explained some subtle changes U2 has made to the song "Pride (in the Name of Love)" since its recording. The song is widely associated with Martin Luther King, whose assassination is the centerpiece of the final verse.

"It's not just about MLK," Larry pointed out. "It is him, yes, but it's also Jesus. It's someone crossing the Berlin Wall. It's anyone who resists. Did you know in concert Bono changed the lyric from 'He came to carry the load' to 'They came to carry the load'?"

And that's how I feel about Judy Heumann and the Crip Camp kids. They came to carry the load. The irony of people often denied employment or considered less than whole, of children crawling up the Capitol steps to make the world a better place for all of us, drives home the full extent of our prejudice and our willful ignorance. And it highlights a pride that the world can never take away from those heroes.

I hope future generations can look back to us, both in our choices regarding our worship space and in the programs and policies we advocate in the wider world, and say "They came to carry the load."

AMAZON SMILE QUARTERLY DONATION: \$100.43

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Every time you use the site with TUUC listed as your preferred charity, Amazon donates a small amount (0.5%) from your purchase to our church.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT TUUC

ATTENTION POETS!

The annual TUUC poetry service will happen on Sunday, August 22, and we need your poetry! Submit a video of yourself reading an original or a favorite poem about PLAY, and we will include it in the service. Send videos to AndrewW.Hager@gmail.com by Friday, August 13. (you can also email Andrew for any questions you might have.)

SINGLES FELLOWSHIP GROUP AUGUST POTLUCK—SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 AT 6:00 PM

Join us for good food and conversation at one of our homes. We offer an atmosphere for fellowship and friendship among TUUC single adults. We range in age from the 60's to 90's, but gladly welcome anyone to join us.

Please call Ronald Rowley to RSVP and to get more information. He is listed in the church directory.

NEXT TUUC BLOOD DRIVE—TUESDAY, AUGUST 31 FROM 10:30 AM—4:00 PM

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Tuesday, August 31, 2021 for the next TUUC Blood Drive. There is a critical need for blood right now but we are also in a different time with COVID-19 disease prevention. We at TUUC strongly encourage anyone that has ANY reservation about giving blood at this time for ANY reason to please sit this one out. We will get past this and will have more blood drives in the future for you to participate in. Please only join us on August 31 if you are healthy and have no concerns about donating. To sign up for an appointment time between 10:30am-4:00pm [please use this link](#) or email Clare Flynn-Avallone with your preferred times. Give the Gift of Life – Give Blood!

SOCIAL ACTION

ASSISTANCE CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES (ACTC) FOOD DONATIONS

Nonperishable food can be dropped off at these locations:

Mondays, 12 to 2 PM: Ascension Lutheran Church parking lot (7601 York Rd.)

Thursdays, 12 to 2 PM: Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot (120 Allegheny Ave.)

Thursdays, 5 to 6 PM: Valley Baptist Church parking lot (1401 York Rd.)

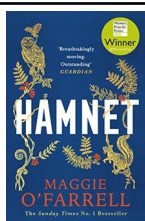
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING—SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 AT NOON

The Social Action Committee will meet Sunday, August 8 at Noon. All are welcome. An agenda will be sent to individuals on the mailing list.

TUUC BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

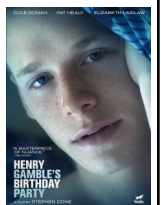
7:30 PM



CABIN FEVER

“HENRY GAMBLE’S BIRTHDAY PARTY” (2015)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7: 4PM



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TUUC

Calendar is subject to change. Check the website calendar [here](#) for most current schedule.
Click [here](#) for the schedule of ongoing regular TUUC virtual meetings.

7 Aug	Saturday	Cabin Fever—Henry Gamble's Birthday Party	4:00 PM
8 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
8 Aug	Sunday	Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 PM
11 Aug	Wednesday	Program Council Meeting	7:30 PM
12 Aug	Thursday	Our Messy Lives	3:00 PM
12 Aug	Thursday	Men's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
14 Aug	Saturday	Homecoming Work Party—Playground	9:00 AM
14 Aug	Saturday	Cabin Fever—The Uncomfortable Truth	4:00 PM
15 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM
16 Aug	Monday	Socrates Café	7:30 PM
17 Aug	Tuesday	Women's Group Meeting	7:30 PM
21 Aug	Saturday	Homecoming Work Party—Final Touches	9:00 AM
21 Aug	Saturday	Singles Fellowship Group	6:00 PM
22 Aug	Sunday	Sunday Service and Coffee Hour	10:30 AM



TECHNICAL USHERS NEEDED

We continue to recruit additional technical ushers. We want to rotate in one or two new ushers to give others a break. You should be comfortable with Zoom and technology and be willing to attend a rehearsal on Thursday at 6 pm as well as join the Zoom meeting 20 minutes early on Sunday morning. To volunteer, please contact our Church Administrator at churchoffice@towsonuuc.org.

Don't Work Sick
Don't School Sick
Don't Church Sick

ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE REPORT

(Does not reflect actual number of people watching)

Date	Time	Adults/Children
8/1/2021	10:30 AM	68