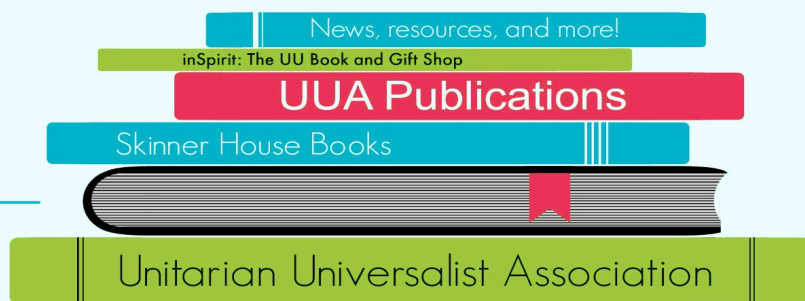


June Publications Update



[Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change](#)

Appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in 2017, the UUA Commission on Institutional Change served through June 2020. *Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change* represents the culmination of the Commission's work analyzing structural and systemic racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism and makes recommendations to advance long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.

Now available
to [pre-order](#).

Widening the Circle of Concern is available to pre-order on the inSpirit [website](#) with a publication date of June 23. To prepare for discussion of this important report at General Assembly, you can access the [text of the report](#) online from now through the end of General Assembly, June 28, 2020.

Members and staff of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change were:

Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Chair (2017-2020)

Mary Byron (2017-2020)

Cir L'Bert Jr. (2018-2020)

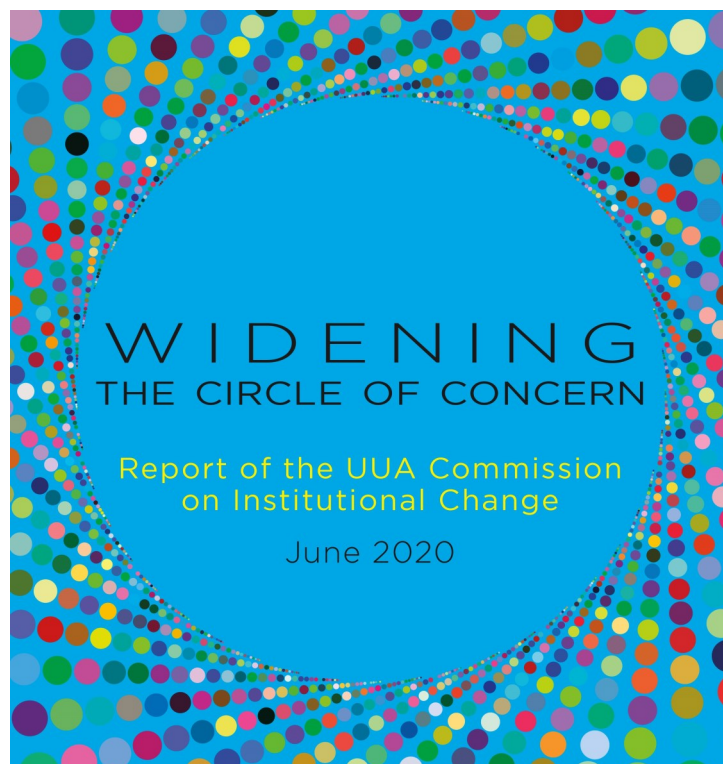
Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore (2017-2020)

Dr. Elías Ortega (2017-2020)

Caitlin Breedlove (2017-2018)

DeReau K. Farrar (2017-2018)

Rev. Marcus Fogliano, Project Manager



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New from Skinner House

[The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging](#)

Foreword by Kate Bornstein and Barbara Carrellas

"The Stonewall Generation is a critical addition to LGBTQ history and sociology. Generous, thoughtful, diverse—these stories brought on many memories. Reading this book reminds me how glad I am I came out and got to be part of our history." —Kate Clinton, comedian and author of *Don't Get Me Started* and *I Told You So*

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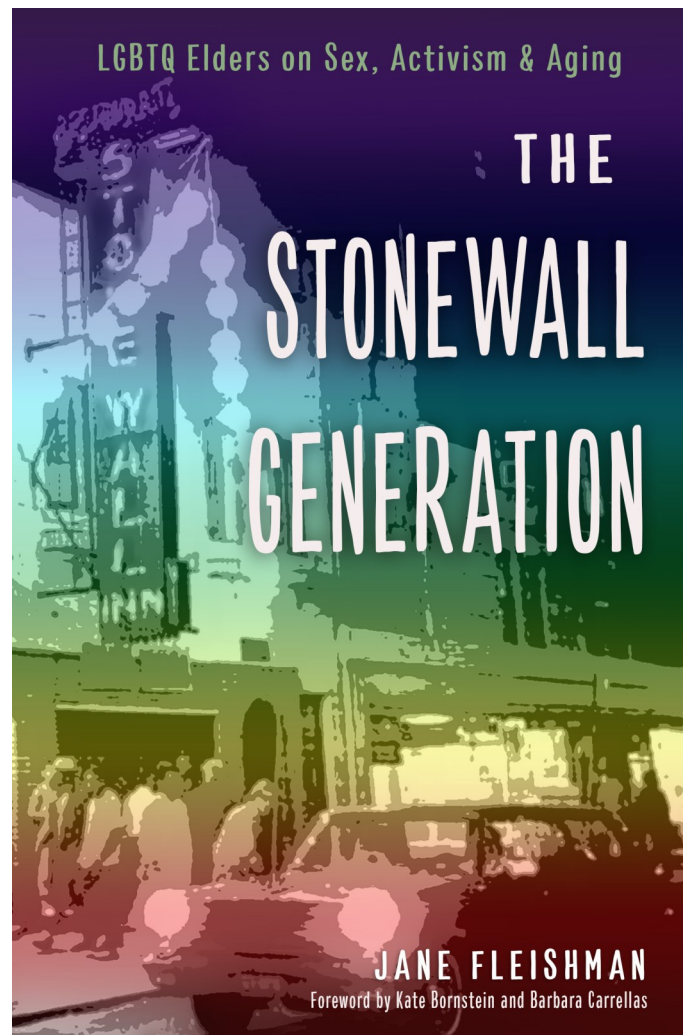
"The Stonewall Generation is a gem of a book, with interviews that illuminate different aspects of LGBTQ life in the United States and how aging intersects with identity, activism, and sex. Jane Fleishman's thoughtful commentary and historical notes make it perfect for people who may be less familiar with LGBTQ history, and I think everyone will find something surprising or inspiring in these pages."

—Tim Johnston, Senior Director of National Projects at SAGE, author of *Welcoming LGBT Residents: A Practical Guide for Senior Living Staff*

"The Stonewall Generation offers a compelling intervention to two facets of anti-LGBTQ oppression that have been ignored for too long: the erasure of our elders and the dispossession of our history. These oral histories offer candor, charisma, and caution to illuminate hidden pasts and inform our movement's future. A must read."

—Alok Vaid-Menon, Trans Writer & Performance Artist, author of *Beyond the Gender Binary*

Jane Fleishman, PhD, MS, MEd, is a certified sexuality educator, researcher, and writer with more than forty years of experience. In her recent TEDx talk, "Is it OK for Grandma to have sex?" she articulates her mission to promote the sexual well-being of older adults.



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New from Skinner House

[Breaking and Blessing: Meditations](#)

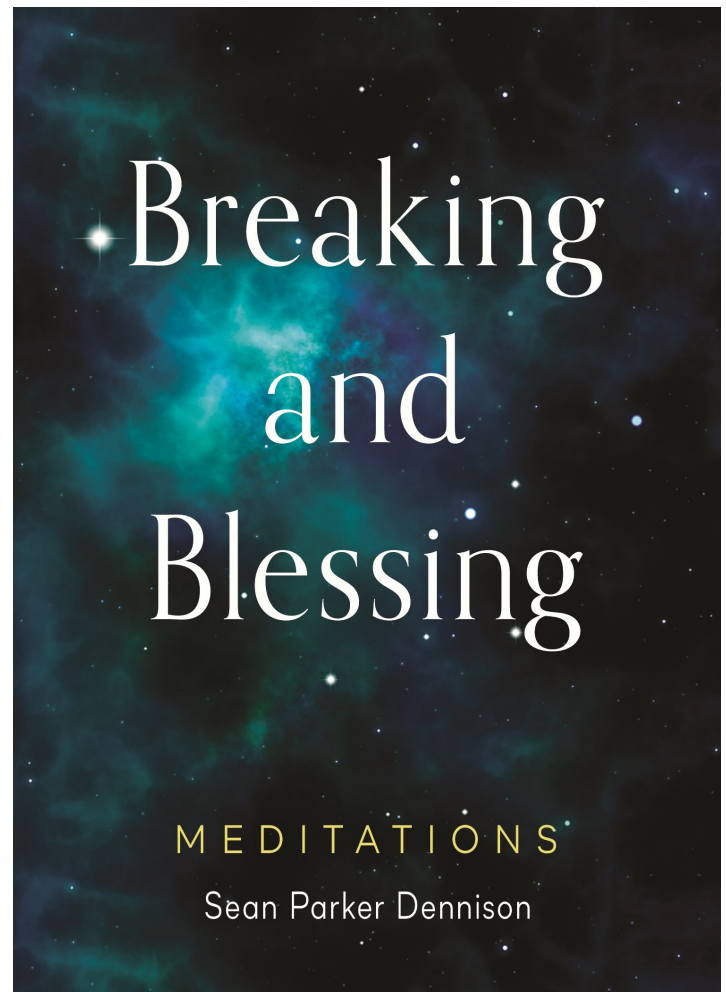
"I read this book as the world faces challenges never before experienced in my lifetime. Each meditation in *Breaking and Blessing* broke open my heart and poured in a blessing and I found my nervous system becoming calmer and soothed. 'How to Survive the Apocalypse' is especially timely and hauntingly beautiful. You will treasure this collection and return to it not only as a source of readings for worship and ceremony, but to soothe and bless your own heart and soul." —Aisha Hauser

In *Breaking and Blessing*, the 2020 volume of the inSpirit Series, Rev. Sean Parker Dennison imagines letters from angels, draws on the natural world, and reflects on love and calling. They chart a path, moving here and there, as if across a constellation—connecting mathematics to love, stars to saplings, and breaking to blessing. Rev. Dennison's striking debut will serve as both solace and flame to readers looking for them in equal measure.

Rev. Sean Parker Dennison is the minister at Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ashland, Oregon. Ordained in 2000, Rev. Dennison has served congregations in California, Utah, and Illinois and cofounded TRUUsT, an organization for transgender UU religious leaders, in 2004. They are also an artist, parent, poet, and grandparent.

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New from Skinner House

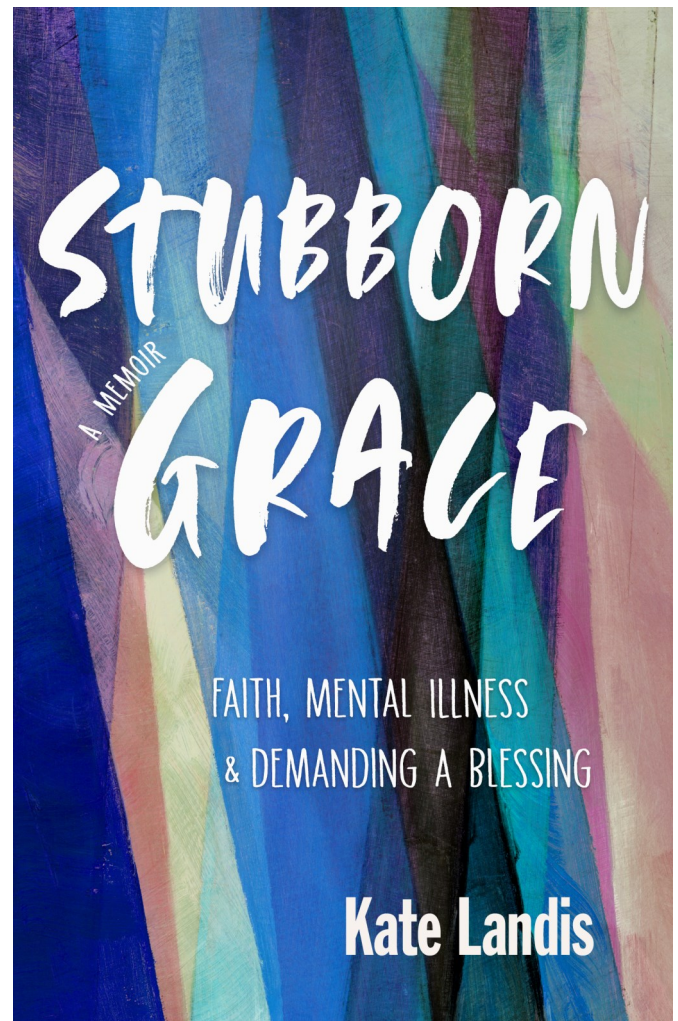
Stubborn Grace: Faith, Mental Illness, and Demanding a Blessing

Kate Landis grew up in the American Baptist Church—the child of a music director and a deacon—until she left the church in her late teens after surviving major depression and a handful of suicide attempts. She became an activist, feminist, punk, and self-described rabble rouser. And through activism she found a spiritual community with justice at its core and a faith that could hold it all—her mental illness, her fire, her spunk, and all of her questions—a loving, stubborn grace.

Now available
to [pre-order!](#)

With unflinching honesty and humor in the vein of Cheryl Strayed and David Sedaris but a raw tenderness all her own, Landis chronicles the hardest parts of her young adulthood as well as her poignant journey to faith and community.

Rev. Kate Landis currently serves as chaplain at Swedish Hospital in Edmonds, Washington. She has previously served as minister at Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church, as a youth advisor, and GA chaplain. She won the Skinner Sermon Award, presented annually to the preacher of the sermon best expressing Unitarian Universalism's social principles, for her sermon "Resilience and Religious Freedom." She lives with her husband Jay and ornery mutt Wally in Seattle, where she is frequently the oldest person in the mosh pit.



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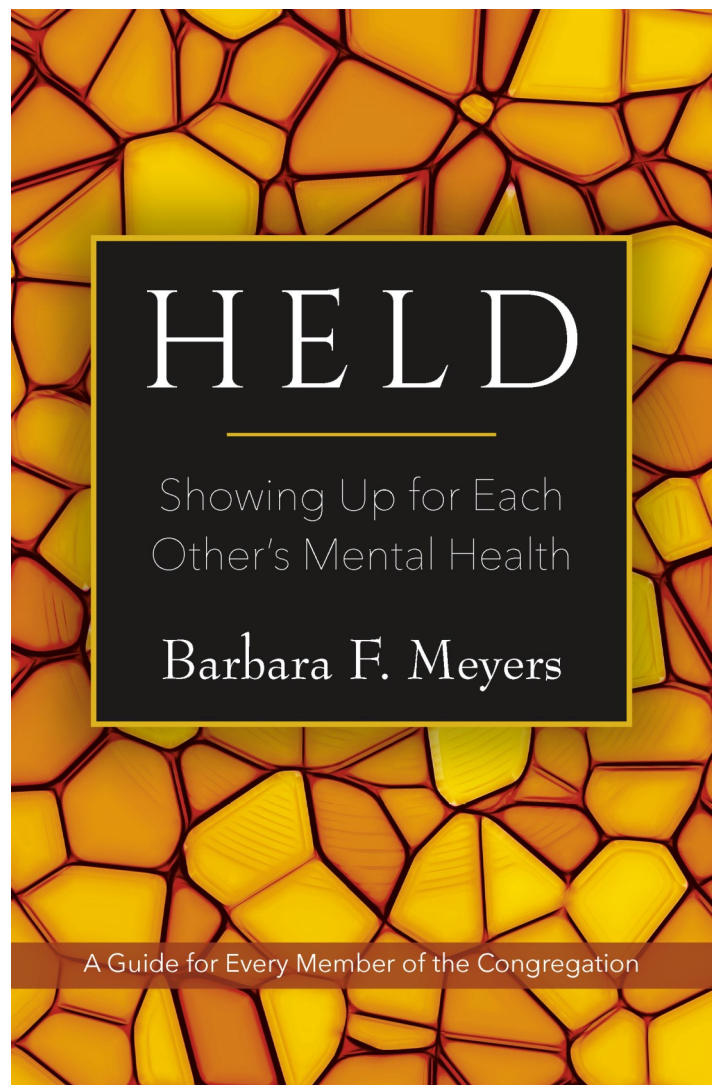
New from Skinner House

[Held: Showing Up for Each Other's Mental Health](#)

In *Held: Showing Up for Each Other's Mental Health*, community minister and mental health advocate Barbara F. Meyers illustrates how members of liberal religious congregations can be supportive to those living with mental health problems, and their loved ones, in our congregations and society at large. Meyers addresses the fundamental elements of spiritual support—truth, hope, presence, acceptance, encouragement, authenticity, public witness, and pastoral care—with stories from real life situations and suggestions for how parishioners can provide and advocate for support in their congregations. A study guide for congregations and a list of resources for more information round out this thoughtful and necessary resource.

Rev. Barbara F. Meyers is a Unitarian Universalist community minister whose ministry focuses on mental health issues, affiliated with Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont, California. She works as assistant director of Life Reaching Across to Life, a peer-support mental health center in Fremont. She is the author of *The Caring Congregation Handbook and Training Manual—Resources for Welcoming and Supporting Those with Mental Disorders and their Families into Our Congregations* and has produced a public access TV show, *Mental Health Matters*.

Now available
to [pre-order!](#)



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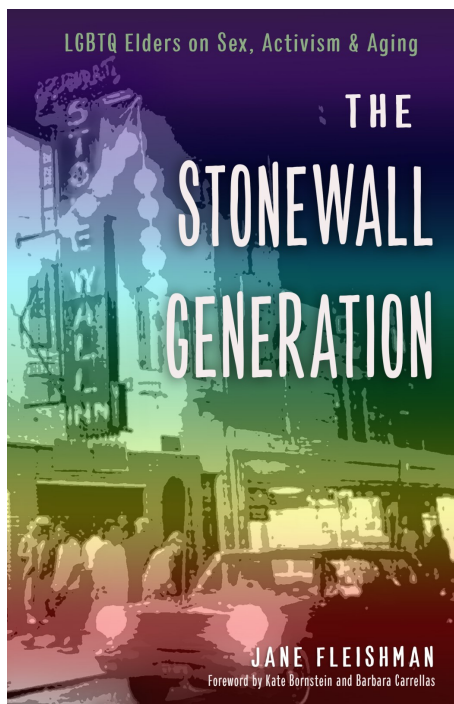
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Announcements and Resources

Skinner House Events at GA 2020

Check out these great workshops related to titles from Skinner House books at this year's virtual General Assembly:

- [*Held: Showing Up for Each Other's Mental Health*](#) by Barbara F. Meyers—workshop: Sacred Mental Health Matters
- [*Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*](#) by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—workshop: We Can Do This! Faith, Conflict, and Antiracism
- [*The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging*](#) by Jane Fleishman—workshop: The Stonewall Generation: Sex, Activism, and Aging



June's Goodreads [Book Club](#) Pick

June's group read is [*The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging*](#) by Jane Fleishman. In *The Stonewall Generation*, sexuality researcher Jane Fleishman shares the stories of fearless elders in the LGBTQ community who came of age around the time of the Stonewall Riots of 1969. In candid interviews, they lay bare their struggles, strengths, activism, and sexual liberation in the context of the political movements of the 1960s and 1970s and today. Each of these inspiring figures has spent a lifetime fighting for the right to live, love, and be free, facing challenges arising from their sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, politics, disabilities, kinkiness, non-monogamy, and other identities. These are the stories of those whose lives were changed forever by Stonewall and who in turn became agents of change themselves.



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