

## **Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Reston**

### ***The History Wall***

January 5, 2014

facilitated by Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman

The History Wall project invites congregations to reflect on events of the past that shape the present and influence decisions about the future. The wall is open to any member or friend to read and reflect on, and to offer postings. However, to participate in either of these activities --- reflection or posting --- you are asked to agree to the following covenant.

### **The Covenant of the History Wall**

- I agree to participate in this exercise with integrity and honesty, and I will assume these qualities from others engaged in this exercise.
  
- Part of this exercise is recalling facts about this congregation. I will do this with the best accuracy I can manage.
  
- Part of this exercise is remembering feelings associated with the facts. I will remember that feelings are my own. I will offer only feeling statements in my postings and group discussion, not opinion statements.
  
- I will regard the comments of others without judgment.

### **After the Group Exercise**

The History Wall will remain in place until the end of January. Any and all members and friends are free to read it any time they wish, and to post new notes using the materials provided. The above Covenant is in operation for the entire time the Wall is displayed. Any notes not respecting the covenant will be removed. At the end of January, the History Wall will be taken down. After Rev. Barbara consults the postings one more time in order to prepare a follow-up worship service reflecting on this process, the notes on the Wall will be destroyed. That is, this is an exercise to solicit personal reflection, not data to use in the writing of a new history of this congregation. That possibility --- a new congregational history --- could be the work of some volunteers, perhaps in preparation for a fiftieth Anniversary of UUCR in 2020: Rev. Barbara can offer advice for work on Congregational History.