

Transformative Learning Moments - Shared on February 24, 2019 at UUCUC Interim RE Service	
1	I learned some of the greatest lessons when I visited a community in Juarez, Mexico...personal stories
2	I learned how violence only leads to more violence
3	Ladd Prosser, as we sat together at a wedding and the minister said the words "love, honor, and OBEY," leaning toward me and saying "hard for a good UU to stomach." I became a UU.
4	At a former church I learned that being "Christian" doesn't always mean you are nice and accepting. It's a reason I rejected my former religion and came to this place. I wanted to find a community and I did!
5	I learned...about different people, and how to help everybody, what it means to be a UU!
6	When I was 11 I was given the opportunity to meet a magician. They showed me a number of tricks and said they'd tell me how one worked. I picked, and first they showed me (wow!) then GAVE me the trick item. It's 30 years later and I keep that item on my altar as a reminder of the wonder and that things I don't understand may have another way of looking.
7	The births of my children!
8	After I had a stroke and wasn't recovering quickly, my dad asked me to figure out what I was going to do if this is as good as it is going to get. What if this is your new normal? It made me realize that living in the now is really important.
9	We traveled to local congregations - the Catholic Basilica, the Quaker meeting house, the Zen Center, the Mosque, the Jewish temple in 7th grade Neighboring Faiths Class. I was a teacher and learned along with the youth. Congregations welcomed us with open arms.
10	Time spent helping grandchildren learn and grow.
11	I feel so welcomed here - in this welcoming congregation. No longer is being a lesbian something to hide from priests and nuns.
12	moment of deep introspection: "guys" is <u>not</u> a gender neutral term and by using it we erase all the incredible "feminine" the world has to offer - we oppress half the human race
13	Getting married to an agnostic and finding a religious home in UU
14	A professor finally made history interesting to me by teaching it as stories. History isn't dates and places - it's people living and making decisions - often the same bad ones over and over. This approach gave me a view of human interaction that changed the way I perceive the past, the present, and the possible futures.
15	Too overwhelming I can't solve the world's problems and I can't discuss them with others. Let me step out and find sanctuary.
16	Learning that just 13 states mandate medically accurate sex ed changed my career path and life mission.
17	Music calms me CELEBRATE!
18	I felt the presence of God at a Quaker wedding, a wonderful time to sit quietly and listen. It was a convincing experience.
19	I bumped into a gay rights rally in 1982. In 1988 I was a leader in the Chicago gay and lesbian community - and worked for the passage of Chicago's civil rights ordinance.
20	On the last day of his life, a small rabbit puppet led to a conversation that healed a wound from my earliest memory of my father.
21	Becoming a father is the hardest and most incredible feeling simultaneously
22	Dean and his Tiger Cub den donating Toys to Courage Connection House
23	As a 20 y.o. nursing student from a rural town I spent a week at the Chicago Maternity Center, going on home deliveries on the south side of the city, with little supervision or equipment. It was a transformative experience and a great privilege

24	1999 At a YRUU Con, I learned the meaning and power of worship, ritual, singing, candles and unconditional love.
25	Becoming a witch and then a leader in that community
26	At my previous UU congregation, an interim minister started a meditation "Sangha" group. I participated and it continues at that church years later and when coming to this church, I was able to find a similar, yet unique group here at UUCUC. I have made real connections through this experience. I treasure this connection I have found.
27	Psalms in Westwood NJ
28	Working as an inclusion aide for a 4 year old. Afterwards his family told me that few people except I treat him like a person. Really shifted my mindset and made me more aware of others.
29	I remember reading "This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color," and it helped me understand my white privilege for the first time and I have tried to listen and act because of that book.
30	Stumbling through trial and error into emergency medicine (right where I belong) and learning to keep stumbling...
31	Couples' retreat (around 1997?)
32	YRUU, Youth Cons, Flower Communion Service, Bridging Ceremony, Couples Retreat, Auction Singalongs
33	I thank the Unitarian Church for helping me to achieve my goals since I joined it 2 years ago
34	Through small groups, I've learned that I have lot in common with everyone. The "sameness" runs deeper than any differences.
35	I learned the value of practice at yoga
36	My time spent in Life-Long Learning through the OLLI program here in C-U co-sponsored by the U of I. Many hours of learning new things.
37	Spending 6 months traveling and studying in Europe as a college student.
38	My First Cat
39	"AHA: moment of deep "oh my gosh - how have I not fully internalized this yet?" the fight for inclusion is completely connected - to fight for women's rights I must also be active in fighting for LGBTQ, communities of color, those with disabilities, etc. - those fights are one fight - they must be fought on a unified front
40	I have been transformed primarily by a few individuals who were somehow free to live outside of the box, be their true selves regardless of judgement, and create social interactions that were rare and enriching
41	A disagreement does not have to lead to the church falling apart.
42	I learned from a sermon that "believing is seeing." This helped me understand and <u>accept</u> so many other people and their points of view. I have become less judgmental - a longtime goal.
43	UUCUC Thank you for holding me and my family with love for over 50 years! Thank you! THANK YOU!
44	I was lost...and then I saw a movie about birth. It moved me. Shook me. Challenged me. Gave me purpose and suddenly I had a calling. I changed my life, my city, my relationships, my future. And because of this movie, I was reborn...as a midwife. And I love it!
45	The first sociology class I took brought the world into focus in a new way
46	Our churches and my personal participation in the sanctuary movement helping individuals fleeing political persecution in Guatemala and Honduras. This was in the mid 60's to mid 90's.
47	Reading James Baldwin's letter to his nephew.
48	Being asked to be on a committee

49	At age 9 I was allowed to roam my grandparents property on my own including fishing in the boat, using tools, feeding animals. Suddenly, I could do what ever I wanted. But also realized my actions had some important consequences.
50	Community and environmental impacts: tragedy - Mountaintop Removal; hope - clean energy (see picture on fish)