

Building Humanism from the Inside Out Issue #2: The Elevator

Welcome to the newsletter of **Building Humanism from the Inside Out**, the First Unitarian Society Capital Campaign. This is the first in what will be frequent installments, leading up to a Campaign Presentation in the Upper Assembly Hall at noon on December 11, and beyond that, leading up to the construction that will begin in 2017.

The Capital Campaign was launched to help put into action the values we share here at FUS. Among those values are a strong commitment to inclusiveness and accessibility for everyone.

Please continue reading to learn about what we're doing.

This issue's highlights:

New Elevator
Question of the Week
Fundraising Update
Design Presentation, 12/11 @ noon

Last month in the [November Flash](#), we told you that the Capital Campaign Committee will be sharing many more details about the designs of the remodeling. This week, let's briefly look at the elevator.

The Elevator

In 1951, our building was built snugly into the side of Lowry Hill, emphasizing our connection to the earth and equipped with adequate and even ample stairways. But challenging for those of us in wheelchairs or who may be less mobile.

Here at FUS, we value inclusiveness, and in the 1990's, our members made the decision to increase the accessibility of our building by installing an elevator, in its current location adjacent to the Dietrich Room. For more than two decades since then, we have enjoyed the benefits of the elevator that moves us between the Upper Assembly Hall level and the Lower Assembly Hall level.

And now, the need for significant maintenance presents us with an opportunity. In 2017, we plan to further improve the access that an elevator brings us, by purchasing a new elevator that will serve all three floors of our building. The new elevator will be installed in the location now occupied by

the FUS Library on the top floor, by Gaia offices on the second floor, and by mechanical rooms on the bottom floor. The library, offices and mechanical services will be moved to other locations in the building.

And as a bonus, we will reclaim the area from the old elevator, opening up the lobby and the gallery and offering a more light-filled and spacious entryway.

Didn't know that we have three floors? You're not alone, but the third floor is the lowest level in the building with useable space, and is also the location of the Groveland entrance. Currently our tenant, the Gaia Democratic School, is the primary user of that space.

It has long been an FUS dream to have an elevator servicing the entire building. The Groveland entrance and the lower level will be more accessible and available, and the entire building will be more useful for all of us.

Question of the Week

Q: How many stair steps are there between Groveland Avenue and the Upper Assembly Hall?

This Sunday, take a stroll down to the Groveland Avenue entrance and count for yourself just how many steps it takes to ascend to the Upper Assembly Hall. Or, check out the next issue of this newsletter for the answer.

Fundraising Update

The fundraising efforts have now surpassed the \$2.3 million mark, and counting. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

The fundraising team continues to seek the participation of all FUS members, and as we approach year-end, now is a great time to consider giving a gift that is meaningful to you. If you haven't yet talked to a member of the fundraising team, there are several ways you can get plugged into the process.

- Visit the [capital campaign website](#) to request a meeting.
- Drop us a message at fustomorrow@gmail.com.
- Contact the chair of the Capital Campaign, Greg Giles, at 651-307-2252, or the chair of the Fundraising Team, Linnea Asp, at 612-345-7095.

Look for the big chalice poster in the gallery when you arrive at FUS. It shows us just how far we have come already, and how close we are to reaching our goals.

Next Week

We'll talk about the new, expanded, all-gender restrooms

Coming Soon

Mark your calendar for Sunday December 11 @ Noon

In the Upper Assembly Hall, the Capital Campaign Steering Committee will be presenting the finalized plans, designs, and the construction schedule, and will be answering all your questions, leading up to the ground-breaking that will follow early in 2017.

Watch your email and check the [Capital Campaign website](#) regularly.