

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
January 6, 2010*



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Social Action Event This Friday

Engage in meaningful Social Action and stay warm!

Join a sign-wave event for a YES vote on ballot measures 66 & 67 **this Friday, January 8th from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm**, at the corner of Marion and Commercial Street right before the Marion Street bridge.

Hot chocolate and health snack bars will be made available to participants!

“Vote Yes for 66 & 67” signs will be provided, but you may also bring your own.

For more information call Petra S. Berger

Winter Readers’ Forum Begins January 10

Beyond Tolerance : How People Across America Are Building Bridges Across Faiths

by Gustav Niebuhr

As Unitarian Universalists we pride ourselves on religious tolerance, but is religious tolerance enough? Gustav Niebuhr, former religion reporter for The New York Times and now an associate professor of religion and the media at Syracuse University, argues that while tolerance is necessary, it is sometimes nothing more than indifference or condescension, masquerading as virtue.

What then, according to Niebuhr, is the cure for religious intolerance? Respect and recognition for individuals and their faiths, gained through direct, open-minded, interfaith dialogue. As a demonstration of how this can be achieved, Niebuhr offers a variety of examples of individuals and congregations across America who are making this a part of their mission.

I invite you to join us in discussing this book and considering how our congregation can move beyond tolerance to engagement.

Schedule of Readings

January 10: (pp. Preface to 35)

January 17: (pp. 36 to 84)

The Readers’ Forum meets before services at at 9:15 a.m. in Hanneman Fellowship Hall. The group is open to new people. We don't get too serious about the books or the discussion, and learn a lot about each other and the books. The conversation is lively and far-ranging, so even if you haven't read the week's selection, you'll still fit right in. Please join us for coffee and conversation.

For more information, contact Don Wolf

Ministerial Meditations
By The Rev. Connie Yost
UUCS Affiliated Community Minister

Well, it's that time of year again when we review the year past and make our New Year's resolutions. This year, the media is prompting us to review the entire decade past. That's interesting for me since I started down the path to ordained and fellowshipped UU ministry 10 years ago. After 10 years of schooling, internships, training, passing interviews and evaluations and umpteen hours on the job, I am happily settled into my career as a UU community minister. I can imagine no work I would rather do than to be present to people on a soul level.

I recently heard about the Third Annual Good Riddance Day. On Monday, December 28, 2009 from 12pm - 1pm, a shredder and sledge hammer were stationed on the Broadway Plaza in New York City between 46th and 47th Streets to discard anyone's bad memories from 2009. And just in case you couldn't shred or pulverize your bad memories, an extra-large dumpster was also on hand.

I can imagine that folks shredded all kinds of bad memories, from foreclosure, to cancer, to losing a loved one. As much as I love the idea of shredding the bad stuff (or better yet pulverizing it), I know that often our best self emerges from the pain of loss. Loss hurts, and we truly want to give it a whack and get it away from us as soon as we can. But sometimes, like Mary in the story of the birth of Jesus, we need to wait, pondering it in our heart.

There isn't much in our fast-paced culture that supports that kind of interior movement. But this New Year's, rather than just writing down -- admit it -- the same resolutions you've had forever, resolve to spend some time getting in touch with yourself on a soul level. What happened in 2009 that brought you love and joy? What brought you sorrow? Take some quiet time to feel your sorrow. What is it saying to you? What can you resolve to do this year that will bring you love and joy?

The Quakers have a process by which a person can meet with four to six others to be supported -- mostly in silence -- in pondering a question in their heart. This "clearness committee" listens and only speaks to ask a brief, open question. An open question is one that does not hold a judgment within it; it does not presume to know the answer. It could be something like, "What do you fear most about growing old?" Or "How do you feel about the experience you just described?"

If you have others in your life who could serve on your "clearness committee," invite them to share with you as you process the past year, or the past decade, or many past decades. But it's OK to go it alone. Better to go it alone than to have to come up with the "right" answer to relieve someone else's anxiety.

And give yourself a lot of time. The meaning of many of our life experiences isn't clear until way after the fact. Ponder it in your heart. In an old Hasidic tale, the pupil asks, "Why does the Torah tell us to 'place these words *upon* your hearts'?" The rebbe answers, "It is because as we are, our hearts are closed, and we cannot place the holy words in our hearts. So we place them on top of our hearts. And there they stay until, one day, the heart breaks, and the words fall in."

May 2010 bring peace to your heart.

Love, Connie



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
January 6, 2010

Religious Education Dates to Note

Weds. Youth/Adult – Meditation 7-9 pm
Sundays Adult – Reader’s Forum, 9:15 in Hanneman Hall. **Child/Youth** – Children’s Choir, 9:45 – 10:20 am, RE Commons.
Sun. Jan. 10 Teachers – Teacher’s Forum for RE Teachers, Gil Nicholson-Nelson facilitates, Clara Barton, 9 am.
Fri. Jan. 15 All – Observe Martin Luther King Jr.’s actual birthday. Talk about what he did and what you can do now.
Thur. Jan. 21 Older Child/Adult – Dances of Universal Peace, 7 pm.
Sun. Jan. 24 7th/8th graders – list of three mentors for Coming of Age program and calendar of *unavailable* dates due to Lise
Tues. Jan 26 Youth/Adult – RE Team meeting, 6:30 pm, library, all are welcome. If you need childcare please let Lise know by Jan. 24.
Sat. Jan. 30 Kinder-2nd grade – Explore the Night sleepover at UUCS
Sun. Jan. 31 Women – Registration begins for Women’s Retreat, forms in Hanneman Hall

Lise’s Letter

I thought I’d write about the Roman god, Janus. It’s something that I’ve always been curious about, but in my cursory research, it turns out there isn’t a lot that is definitively known about him (please correct me if I’m wrong). His name means “archway” and he is the god of gates, doors and doorways. He also marks beginnings and endings and our current month is named after him. Symbolically he is represented by a head with two faces pointing in opposite directions. One face looks forward, the other back, just what many of us are doing at this time of year. Oh, and while he’s not one of the better known gods, Janus is one of the oldest. I guess that means we as a human race have been reflective about our past and future for quite a while as well.

What intrigues me most about Janus is the door part. We not only walk through door-

ways, and gateways, but we also keep doors and gates closed. When these entry ways are closed, our movement is stopped. We aren’t really ending or beginning because we’re just stuck—maybe we’re pacing in circles behind the closed door. The doors also keep other things out and away from us. What about a door with a window in it? Or a gate that has spaces between the slats? Then you can see out, you can see what you can’t reach, but you can’t do anything about it. That can either be very frustrating or a relief.

This summer we built a new fence for our new dog. My husband hates fences—he’d like to have one big space that everyone on our block had access to. I like my privacy, so I like fences. Both of us like our neighbors so we compromised. We built a five foot high fence that we could see over with about 2.5” between the slats, and we put in a gate. In the summer we chat fairly often with our neighbors over the fence, hang flowers from our common fence posts, and share the occasional barbecue. And our dog can roam freely without bothering others. It seems to work.

Getting back to Janus, though, it seems odd that he would be looking both forward and backward at the same time, *all* the time. Nobody can really do both of those things well, can they? Then again, he *is* a god. But for us mere mortals, as much as many of us may refute it, we really can’t multi-task, not with important things anyway.

I have a greeting card that has a picture of a girl with a hobo style knapsack over her shoulder and a small suitcase in her other hand. You can’t see her face and she has just stepped on one path of two at a fork in the road. The signpost pointing towards the direction she has chosen is labeled “Your life.” The signpost pointing the other direction says “No longer an option.” Whatever direction you choose this year, I wish you well.

The Unitarian Universalist

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This issue was edited by Lois Nodland. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, January 17. Send news to editors@uusalem.org (or to Lois Nodland and Elsa Struble - put it in workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter").

Path to UUCS Membership

The New Year has begun and perhaps it's time for you to think about membership at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem.

A new class for Path to Membership begins January 24 and will be conducted by Rev. Rick Davis and members of the Membership Team. You are invited to Rev. Rick's office after the service for the first in the series: Orientation - conversation about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of our congregation. For more information call Anne Alexander or Danna Parmley.

Requests

People with current CPR or First Aid cards willing to take turns being available to

handle **medical emergencies** during Sunday services are asked to contact the Safety Committee's Mary Jo Eyer

SIHN (Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network) continues to collect pots, pans, and other kitchen items for families moving out of the SIHN shelter program.

Christmas Gift Tree Contributions

Many thanks to UU members and friends for your generous response to requests on the Christmas Gift Tree, which has been a part of the holiday season at our church for about 10 years. Your continued support of this annual project is greatly appreciated.

Dick Boyle, Social Action Team

Soup Kitchen Report

We expect to continue serving soup kitchen meals approximately every two months and will announce our next date when we receive the 2010 schedule. Please sign up after Sunday services and/or make a donation at the Social Action Table in Han-neman Hall.

*John T. Maluski
UUCS Soup Kitchen Coordinator*

CUUPS Book Sale A Success

Special thanks are due to several non-CUUPS folks. Alan Holland and John Gorman lifted and toted books. Marian Milligan, Suzette Moyer and Barbara Smith were all indispensable.

Gross sales were \$800 and netted \$750. No leftover books be will be thrown away, but will be distributed or recycled if not sellable.

Thanks again – to everyone.

New Board Meeting Time

Until further notice, the UUCS board meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

UUCS Board Minutes Summary

December 10, 2009

Reports

Board Member Resignation:

Due to health issues, Kay Cogswell has resigned from the Board.

Funding for Social Outreach Programs: Rick suggested we consider whether we should continue to support our social outreach programs through special offerings, or whether we should include support for these programs in our budget. The Board consensus was to consider this issue for the 2011 canvass.

Treasurer: Paul Rice submitted a written Treasurer's report. Income and expenses are both very close to the budgeted amounts for this time of year.

Robo Call Procedures

Our robo calling system is operational. The system can be used for urgent messages to the congregation when two of three—Minister, Board Chair, and Vice Chair—agree conditions warrant.

Expansion of the Church Sound System

The Operations Team has approved the Women's Alliance project to expand the sound system into Hanneman Hall.

Free Use of UUCS Facilities

The Board discussed a proposed policy that would allow non-profit, non-governmental groups with purposes allied with UU principles to use UUCS facilities at cost or provide other compensation, by written request, at the discretion of the minister or UUCS staff.

Informal Board Liaisons

The Board discussed the idea of creating better communication with Teams by identifying specific Board members, elected and ex officio, as points of contact for Teams. The following board members have agreed to be a liaison for the following teams:

Team	Liaison
Finance	Paul Rice
Landscape	Gloria Holland
Lifelines Lay Ministry	Claudia Koch

Lifespan	Religious	Lise Adams Sherry,
Education		Don Wolf
Membership		Danna Parmley
Music		Rick Davis, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Operations		Danna Parmley
Social Services		John Gorman
Sunday Services		Phil Carver
Chalice Circle Players		Gloria Holland

PNWD District Assembly Delegates

Phil Carver and Lise Adams Sherry will be the UUCs delegates

Personnel Committee Appointments

Erin Zysett moved, and Paul Rice seconded, Christi Olsen and Petra Berger be appointed to the Personnel Committee. The motion passed without dissent.

The **next Board meeting** will be at 6:30 p.m, Thursday January 14. Members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Wolf, Secretary

News of the UUCS Community

UUCS member **Angela Herrera** was ordained into the UUA ministry in mid-December in an evening service at the UU Church of Concord, Massachusetts where she completed her internship. The service was attended by a number of our members including **Pastor Rick Davis** who preached the sermon, **Chuck and Ellen Howard** and **Barbara Stebbins Boaz and David Boaz**. In the absence of Angela's close friend, Heather Burns, homebound with a back injury, Ellen presented Angela with the stole designed and fabricated by **Lisa Jorgenson**, a vestment which Angela describes as truly resplendent. Angela's 84 year-old grandmother was there, as well as women from her Salem area mothering group.

Of the event Angela writes, "All of these special people surrounded me for the laying-on-of-hands prayer led by sponsor and former UUA President, Bill Sinkford, the most memorable moment of the whole event for me. I was profoundly aware of how much my

calling to ministry grew out of community, lives in community, and would not be possible to realize without the support of everyone in that room...and beyond! All of our dear friends at UUCS were in my heart at those moments as well.

I feel like my ministerial stores have been filled up for the work ahead. And where will that work be? I'm uncertain yet, though I now know that we will remain in New England for at least another year, but I am keeping an open heart and mind as Carlos, the kids, and I explore possibilities."

Egon and Diana Bodtker proudly announce the winter solstice marriage in Eugene of their daughter Ingrid to Walker T. Ryan in a service conducted by Pastor Davis. The couple will continue to live in Eugene where Ingrid is a high school English teacher and Walker is a blues man. Egon writes, "Following a grand potluck dinner, there were twenty-six Danish wedding cakes and a klezmer band! We got a new son-in-law and new step-granddaughter in one fell swoop...a real Christmas bargain".

Belated condolences to **Cathy Connelly** whose brother Dan died recently.

Stu and Jean Sherbeck were in Palm Springs for the holidays, visiting other UUCS-ers **Bill and Iris Sea** and **Mary Ann Kaestner**. Visiting family in the Los Angeles area, **Sharon and Marion Dearman** also visited with the Seas and Maryann and report that the warm climate finds all well and in good spirits.

Marge and Dick French spent the holidays with the families of Marge's two daughters, Sharon Saldavia in Santa Cruz, and Sue Brown in Santa Maria.

Congratulations to **Pam Pritchard** whose ten years work at the Oregon Department of Human Resources as a training specialist has been upgraded to Training Coordinator for Vocational Rehabilitation, a position with greater responsibility and broader duties. The new position will see her on the road less, for which she's particularly grateful.

Four UUCS members and friends, **Anna Seitz, Jon Walton, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, and David Boaz** are members of the one-hundred voice Willamette Master Chorus

whose holiday celebration whose concert was held recently on the WU campus. Anna stood out with solo soprano parts of the Vivaldi "Gloria in D Major."

For the past two months **Jo Anne and Jerry Nathan** have been closely following news of daughter Kim's South Pacific sailing adventure. As we reported earlier, she and a friend have crewed a 38-foot sailboat from Fiji in a criss-cross direction toward Singapore, the destination which they plan to achieve this week.

Enroute they have sent e-mails through the boat's radio and on New Year's Eve, a day ahead of ours, Nathans heard Kim's voice for the first time since departure, calling from a bigger city called Benjarmasin, the Venice of Indonesia. Last week they were in the Indonesian Archipelago, coping with storms and doldrums, but still able to enjoy snorkeling, whistling to dolphins who respond by coming to the boat and whistling back, catching fish for their meals, and studying sufficient Indonesian vocabulary to be able to communicate at small ports for supplies, including gasoline (termed "solar"), and boat repairs.

They spent Christmas in a harbor called Bau Bau, and strung pineapples and vegetables on the boat as a Christmas tree. We should be able to hear the conclusion of this adventure tale by next issue!

News to share? Please send your news to me.

Joan Erickson

Community Events

Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives

Join fellow Salem residents on Thursday evening, **January 14** at the Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE as the Salem Progressive Film Series presents: "Scarred Lands and Wounded Loves".

This outstanding timely new film explores the crucial need for public scrutiny of the ecological impact of war and reminds us of the importance of accountability and sustainability, not in spite of global conflict, but because of it.

Speakers to discuss the issues after the film are **Peter Bergel** - Executive Director of Oregon Peaceworks; **Dan Shea** – Vietnam Veteran and Agent Orange victim; and **Kelly Campbell** - Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility

The Salem Progressive Film Series presents films and discussions on the second Thursday of each month from September through May.

Show time: 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:15) Admission is: Adults - \$3; Students \$2.

Visit www.salemprogressivefilms.net for more information or call:

Don Fries, UUCS Member

PNWD Annual Meeting

The 2010 PNWD District Assembly (DA for short; known last year in Salem as AGM or Annual General Meeting) will be held at the Hilton Hotel in **Bellevue, WA, February 19-21**. Details and registration are available on-line at <http://pnwd.org/districtassembly.php>.

Volunteers Needed

Many volunteers are needed to make this a memorable event. If you are willing, for the good of the community, to give an hour or two of your time, there are many volunteer options. These include assisting in the bookstore, acting as a greeter, ushering at one of the main events, assisting during a workshop, assisting with meal oversight, and helping with general breakdown on Sunday. Organizers will work with everyone to plan a shift that works with your schedule. If you are not registering for DA but would like to volunteer, your help is welcome.

To volunteer, or seek more information, e-mail or call Volunteer Coordinator Jean Silvers.

The registration form has a box to check to volunteer, but the sooner Jill has offers to help, the better it will be for the teams managing the assembly activities.

There is a specific volunteer opportunity for hand drummers. Join us in drumming in the opening ceremonies to create a drum line during the banner parade at the ingathering service on Friday evening, February 19th. For information contact Mary Anderson

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SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

10:30 a.m. (Child Care Available)

Sunday, January 10

“Cut it Off, Throw It Away”

**The Reverend Craig Moro
Community UU Church, Pasco WA**

While Rick (our minister) is on a short two week sabbatical his friend and colleague Craig Moro will be speak in January and later in March. He’s spoken here many times and always has wisdom and humor to share.

Sunday, January 17

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Joyce Bynum

Joyce will speak on Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Rick will be speaking at the McMinnville UU Congregation.

Sunday, January 24

**The Reverend Dana Worsnop
Atkinson Memorial Church (Unitarian Universalist).**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
5090 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97317

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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

January 6, 2010

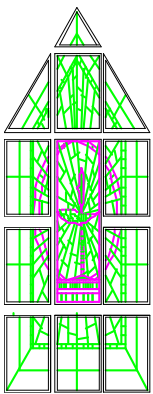
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UUCS Calendar

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|-----------------------|--|
| Wednesday, January 6 | UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (every Wednesday) |
| Sunday, January 10 | Team Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m.; |
| | Readers' Forum Winter Session, 9:15 a.m. |
| | ARMS, 12:00 noon |
| | Green Sanctuary Meeting, 12:45 p.m. |
| Monday, January 11 | Foster Parents Night Out, 5:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, January 13 | UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, January 14 | UUCS Board meeting, 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome |
| Friday, January 15 | CUUPS meeting, 5:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, January 17 | Readers' Forum, 9:15 a.m. |
| | NEXT Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m. |
| | Mens Group, 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, January 20 | UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. |
| | Chat and Craft, 7:00 p.m. |