

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
January 20, 2010



Inside this Issue

Stewardship Campaign	1
Reverential Ramblings	2
RE News; Foster Parent Night Out	3
Staff box, Social Action, Endowment, Coming Events,	4-5
Homeschool Outreach, Board Mtg	5
News of the UUCS Community	6
PNWD, Bulletin Board, Sunday Services	7
Calendar	8

Stewardship Campaign Next Month!

Between February 13 and 28 we will be called on to recommit ourselves to this Congregation, and in particular its financial health. We are the stewards of this organization; it is our responsibility to maintain its health and to leave it a still better, more secure place than it is now. There are many things more important to this Congregation than money, yet money is required to make the rest of them work. We need *your* commitments to the Congregation so the Congregation in turn can make

commitments to its programs and staff! During this two-week campaign we make our financial commitments; then we can return our attentions to the other important things!

The first event will be the Gala Celebration on Saturday evening, February 13, at 6:00 p.m. Members and contributing friends of the Congregation are invited for the dinner and program. Jim and Claudia Koch and Pam Williams led the preparations for the celebrations the last two years, from the hula hoop contest to the dinner preparation, and prefer to let someone else do it this year; we are grateful to them for the leadership they provided – and of course for the other things they are *still* doing!

Before we moved into this building in 1997, we sometimes had special dinners in rented halls; the men of the church cooked the spaghetti *and the sauces!* We are returning to that idea this year. We *will* have a spaghetti feed, and the men will provide a variety of sauces. I remember that I needed coaching from my wife, but I did cook a pot of sauce. Other men can do this too. On the other hand, dessert will be a good commercially prepared cheesecake.

The main part of the program will be provided by Tom Rawson, singer and story teller from Seattle. Some of you have heard Tom and know he's excellent. There will also be opportunity for you to make your pledges for the coming year that evening. Child care will be available.

Those who do not complete their pledges Saturday evening will be contacted during the following two weeks.

After the campaign is completed, the Budget Committee will draft a budget for the coming year for review by the Board. The Board will present its recommended budget to the Annual Congregational Meeting in May for discussion and adoption.

So put February 13 on your calendar, and plan to come enjoy the evening *and* reaffirm your support to our Congregation!

George Struble
Stewardship Campaign Director

Reverential Ramblings

What do the so called tea party protestors at town hall meetings and terrorists have in common? Blind rage. One group explodes in rage at town hall meetings with our elected representatives, drowning out the possibility for civil discourse, and the other literally explodes, killing themselves and others. I may take some heat for comparing the two groups, yet I don't mean to do this in a supercilious way. Rather, I think we need to recognize and understand the causes of the national and international rage in our world that creates so much discord, division and destruction.

Before that, though, we need to recognize that we share a common humanity with tea party protestors and terrorists. When we start thinking of others, near or far, as the "enemy," we need to back up and get our moral bearings because it's so easy to fall into the trap of projecting rage onto an "enemy." Our enemy is not other people who adhere to some other religious or political creed – rather it's the blind rage that compels any of us to lash out in ways that are hurtful and harmful. Rage and other destructive emotions are what we need to defeat lest they lead to our common defeat.

We may not be terrorists or folks who rage and rail at public meetings, but we, too, have probably felt rage at some points in our lives. While I'm not qualified to psycho-analyze great swaths of humankind, I do think that each of us can gain insight into others by having insight into ourselves. That said, I think that those who are predisposed to rage have experienced some form of painful humiliation.

Those who commit acts of terror feel a deep cultural humiliation. They believe – and not without reason – that western culture has no understanding or acceptance of them. Tragically, they strike out in cruel and destructive ways that only fuel the fires of rage in our world.

Those who rage at the town hall meetings feel humiliated and marginalized by big business and big government and "liberal elites" who look down their noses at them. Their feelings of powerlessness provoke their rage, leading them to vow to get their revenge by seizing power. Right now they are the most passionate force in American politics.

The cost of rage is high: when it rules compassion is absent. Those overcome by rage seek to destroy the other – physically, politically or otherwise.

Recently I read that one of Osama bin Laden's sons said that his father tried to recruit him to be a suicide bomber. The son noted: "He hates the west more than he loves me." How unbearably sad.

When President Obama was expressing compassionate concern for Haitians after their devastating earthquake, conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh, always full of outrage himself, said the president was engaged in political posturing. Which goes to show that if you feel no compassion it will be hard to recognize it in others.

Rage. There's so much of it burning these perilous days. Unless we find some remedy we will eventually all get burned by it. When we witness the consequences of actions of rage it's tempting to jump into the fray. Certainly, we should counter harmful actions, yet a wise and compassionate person will resist that primal urge to pour yet more gas on the fires and seek ways to remove the fuels of pain and humiliation that cause so much rage to burn in our world.

*Love,
Rick*



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
January 20, 2010

Religious Education Dates to Note

Weds. Youth/Adult – Meditation 7-9 p.m.

Sundays Adult – Readers' Forum, 9:15 a.m. in Hanneman Hall. **Child/Youth** – Children's Choir, 9:45 – 10:20 a.m., RE Commons.

Thur. Jan. 21 Older Child/Adult – Dances of Universal Peace, 7 p.m.

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 p.m., 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.

Sun. Feb. 7 Coming of Age Folks – Program starts after church. Parents attend the first part, mentees and mentors stay later.

Some Thoughts from Ellen Howard

As I write this, I am about to leave for Montpelier, Vermont, where I will be teaching for the next two weeks. Lise is also away from Salem, studying in Chicago, and that is why I, one of the members of your Religious Education team, was asked to write this column.

We have had a lot of turnover this year on the RE Team. Our wonderful Assistant DRE, Christi Olsen, and our enthusiastic and efficient RE Team Chair, Micky Logan, both decided to move on to other responsibilities. Yet even as team members leave, others join us – Michelle

Lise Adams Sherry, Director of Religious Education

Office Hours: Wed. 9:30-3:30; Mon./Fri. by appt. 503-364-0932

January Foster Parent Night Out

On January 11, from 5:30 to 8:30, we hosted 23 children from 6 foster families. After a taco dinner the preschoolers enjoyed making play-dough and the school aged children painted bird-houses. Thanks to UU volunteers Charles Hannegan, Ed and Jackie Klimowicz, Harvey Kramer,

Achee, Petra Berger and Gil Nicholson-Nelson. (Have I missed anyone?) Faithful Christine DeBlock, Samantha Scales and Lou Stoetzer provided continuity.

It occurs to me that this is the way things work in our beloved community, the UU Congregation of Salem. People come and go, cycling on and off teams and committees and in and out of responsibilities. Yet there is always someone willing to step forward when a need is felt. At various times, we are all more or less able to contribute. Sometimes we can be extremely active and involved; other times work and families, health and life in general can overwhelm us to the point that all we can do is be, for a while, the recipients of our community's support. But we can be certain that we are neither indispensable, nor unneeded. When we find ourselves unable to contribute much, there are others who can take up the slack, competently and joyfully. When we are once again ready to participate actively, we will be welcomed and appreciated.

This is what makes it possible for our Director of Religious Education to travel to Meadville-Lombard in Chicago to further her education in the ministry, confident that our children will continue to attend classes taught by caring and enthusiastic teachers. It is what allows each of us to find the role most suited to our personality, life-style and capabilities, and to change that role when necessary. Together, in greater and lesser ways, we continue to build this community for us all.

Tom Lancefield, Ruth Larson, Allana McDonald, Nancy Murphy, Janet Neuberger, Danna and Paul Parmley, Lynn Perceval, Laura Stine, Jeanette Teta, John Roy Wilson, and Keith York, as well as Abby Vanderbeek from Temple Beth Shalom and Bill Stratton from Salem Alliance. Please contact Joan Stembridge if you are interested in joining our exciting program.

The Unitarian Universalist

published by

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Salem, Oregon

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

rdavis@uuma.org

Community Minister: The Rev. Connie Yost

Religious Ed. Director: Lise Adams Sherry

Board Chair: Phil Carver

Office Administrator: Rose Drake

Assistant: Suzette Moyer

Phone: 503-364-0932 **Fax:** 503-364-3280

e-mail: uucsoffice@yahoo.com

Website: www.uusalem.org

This issue was edited by Elsa Struble. NEXT NEWS-LETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, January 31. Send news to editors@uusalem.org (or to Lois Nodland and Elsa Struble, put it in the workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to UUCS.

Getting out the Vote

The response to the recent Social Action event of sign-waving for ballot measures 66 & 67 in downtown Salem was rewarding, despite the wet weather!

In 90 late-afternoon minutes, we had a non-stop flow of hundreds of vehicles pass us at all four corners of Marion and Commercial Street.

The 11 sign wavers came from Stand for Children, Oregon Peace Works, the League of Women Voters, and UUCS (5).

Thank you to everyone – it just goes to show that community networking can strengthen our voice for the greatest public good.

Please remember: deadline for your ballots is only a few days away, and please mark BOTH sides!

Petra S. Berger

Endowment Fund Gift

Thanks to Loraine Stuart for her recent generous gift to the UUCS Endowment Fund. Gifts to the Endowment Fund, whether in cash, bequest, or maturity of Charitable Gift Annuities, will help the long-term financial health of the Congregation.

Membership Classes

Those considering joining UUCS are invited to two after-service gatherings with Rev. Rick and the Membership Team: Orientation on **January 24** and Path to Membership on **January 31**.

Friday Fun Night

Come to a potluck finger food and movie night on **January 29** at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The movie will be *Larger than Life* with Bill Murray (PG for mild profanity). Please bring finger foods to share before the movie. If you do not want to stay for the movie, come and share food and fellowship with everyone anyway! The event is sponsored by the UUCS Homeschool Outreach Program: see the article on page 5 for contacts and more information.

Women's Alliance

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance group is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4**. Join us in the fellowship hall as we enjoy a talk from our speaker, Judith Van Osdol, as part of our Getting to Know You series. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

UUCS Scores Major Coup

Men of the UUCS will be providing the spaghetti sauce at the canvass dinner on February 13th. We will be allowed to cook the sauce and bring it to the dinner! Isn't that amazing? Free thinking men who want to show off their cooking skills or those who can find their way to the Ragu display are invited to contact Quentin Smith to make the necessary arrangements.

Next Soup Kitchen

Sunday, February 14, between 12:30 and 3:30 p.m., UUCS will be serving at the Soup Kitchen, located at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 790 Marion St. NE.

If you wish to volunteer, and/or donate for this fine event, please contact John T. Maluski or sign up at the Social Action table in Barbara Hanneman Hall following Sunday services. **Our soup budget is currently approximately \$125 in arrears**, so your donations are most welcome!

UUCS Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are potluck-style gatherings at members' homes. Hosts provide their homes to gather in, and guests bring food to share. Conversation over food is really a great way to get to know other UUCS members! The next Circle Supper is scheduled for **Saturday, February 27**. Hosts decide the menu and call people who have signed up for the fun. Signup sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall until February 21. Contact one of the organizers if you have questions.

*Lois Nodland
Leah Knudsen*

Homeschool Outreach Program

This program was created to meet a need for non-denominational support within the Salem area homeschool community. We aim to build a network of homeschool families free from religious expectations, while still honoring and supporting the families' needs to include their faith in their students' education. Our current schedule at UUCS is as follows:

Playgroup: Mondays, 1-3 p.m. A loosely structured time to socialize. We offer simple craft activities and/or games and participants can bring games to share.

Kids Art: Fridays, 3-5 p.m. Taught by Richard Fenwick, an introductory art class for kids ages 7-17. Currently the class is full.

Friday Fun Night: The last Friday of every month we'll offer a family friendly activity, such as movie nights, game nights, and

potlucks. This is open to the entire congregation as well as the homeschool community.

For more information about the Homeschool Outreach Program, or any of our activities, please contact: Samantha Scales or Christi Olsen.

January Board Meeting Notes

Present: Chair Phil Carver, Vice Chair Gloria Holland, Treasurer Paul Rice, Secretary Don Wolf, Board members Claudia Koch, Danna Parmley, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, and John Gorman; and UUCS members DeAnn Rathbun and George Struble

Reports

UUCS website: DeAnn Rathbun reported on the progress of the update of the UUCS website. Although there has been substantial progress in creating a new website, it has become a larger task than anticipated. Reflecting our congregation and spiritual life has required a complete rethinking of how the connections between our congregational activities are organized and displayed. The work continues.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Rice submitted a written report. Income and expenses to date are both very close to the budgeted amounts for this time of year. It appears pledge income will be below that anticipated.

Team Leader Meeting: Gloria Holland reported that the January meeting focused on recruiting and retaining members for teams and committees.

(Rev. Rick Davis is on a short sabbatical and Director of Religious Education Lise Adams Sherry is on leave to attend the seminary in Chicago, so they did not submit reports.)

Canvass Committee: George Struble brought, for board discussion, several ideas and requests that could be included in the upcoming budget. These are items that are not supported, or supported inadequately, by our current budget. The Board saw all ideas as worthy, and discussed possible prioritization.

New Business

Women's Retreat: The Board unanimously approved a fundraiser during a Sunday Coffee Hour to raise money for the March 12 Women's Retreat.

Compensation for Sunday Service Pianist: The Board voted that it "recognizes the necessity of paying pianists during the rest of this year, and would be receptive to a request to augment the Music budget later in the spring should this be necessary."

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be at 6:30 pm, **Thursday, February 11**. All congregation members are welcome to attend. (excerpted from Don Wolf's minutes)

News of the UUCS Community

Four years ago **Don Cleveland** traveled with Pastor Davis and others to the heartland of our Unitarian heritage, the community of Simenfalva, Romania, home to our partner church community, to help in the community's restoration following winter floods. Last year Don his wife, **Royann Janus**, hosted two Simenfalvan visitors to Salem, Csilla Boda and her son Levente. Recently Don and Royann returned from visiting this fairly remote section of Transylvania, where they were guests of the Bodas. Don's enthusiasm for the close-knit community is now shared by Royann; they are planning a subsequent trip and talking of the possibilities of establishing a hostel-like "outpost" for other Unitarian-Universalist pilgrims.

The Boda family also includes of the father, Imre, nine-year old Zsombor, and Csilla's parents, Anna and Jozef. The father and boys took Don and Royann on a sleigh-ride, making them feel like subjects in a 19th century Christmas card – the heavy sleigh pulled by two stout draft horses, the lap robes embroidered in the traditional Transylvanian style. Don and Royann also observed the neighbors joining in traditional communal tasks like killing pigs, curing meat for long-term storage, and making blood sausage—utilizing everything edible.

Kindness and caring characterize the church community, and when Simenfalva's Pastor Sandor led the Christmas Eve worship

ceremony, he asked Don to bring greetings to all of us, in a mutual renewal of friendship.

This news was shared with us by long-time UUCS member **Nina Cleveland**, whose late husband, Melvin, was Don's uncle.

Jerry and Jo Anne Nathan's daughter Kim's saga of sailing with a friend from Fiji to Singapore goes on (and on). Around New Year's they were hit by a surprise storm and had to battle wind, waves, and a reeling boat, with no visibility in the driving rain to get the sails down. They were headed for the island of Karimata in the Java Sea to get provisions and then had no more planned stops.

To the parents' great relief, on January 14 a message arrived from an island so small that the little village has no services except a small convenience store, no roads leading out of it, and only a paved path connecting houses. "We donated a ton of things, including school materials and medicines and have been invited to a family's twice for dinner...great food and fun company while we work at communicating! A storm is moving through but we hope to be back at sea tomorrow."

Neil and Fern Burghardt have been UUCS members for years, and two Sundays ago we saw Neil in church. He reported that Fern is not at all well, is in pain and has too little energy to come to church or go far from their home at Capital Manor. Both would welcome calls or visits from UUCS friends.

In December, UU Community Minister **Connie Yost** was granted final fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA. The path to final fellowship includes seminary education, clinical pastoral education, ministerial internship, interviews, and three successful annual evaluations of paid employment as a UU minister in preliminary fellowship...then the final step! Since moving to Salem in 2007 Connie has worked as a chaplain at Salem Hospital and Signature Hospice, and as administrator for the UU Society for Community Ministries. Congratulations, Connie!

UUCS artist, musician, and published poet **Virginia Corrie-Cozart** participated in a public reading of some of the late **Adele Birnbaum's** recently published poems.

Adele's legacy lives on not only in her writings, but also in our memorial garden, a space to the southeast of the sanctuary dedicated to those who no longer share in our community.

Adele's book, *What Got Me Here*, illustrated by Bonnie Hull, is available at several venues, including the bookstore at Wilamette, where Adele taught for many years

South Salem High School senior **Nicholas Brownson**, **Cherie Ulmer's** youngest son, is the school's Outstanding Musician, the student most involved in fine arts. The award is based upon performance and commitment to choir, orchestra, and theater, along with the qualities of "leadership and steadfastness throughout his school years." He'll be performing the role of Seymour in South's "Little Shop of Horrors," February 12-20. The role is double-cast, so contact Cherie to learn of Nicholas' performance dates and her choreography.

Nicholas will also be flying to New York for six college/university auditions for next year; he'll be able to see his cousin perform in "Jersey Boys on Broadway."

Barbara and **Wilson Wyant** send greetings from the Puget Sound area (Bothell). They now have two grandsons close by to keep life interesting, one in kindergarten and

one who has just learned to crawl. They'll soon be leaving for a 10-day visit with daughter Liz in Taiwan. This year's district annual meeting will be in their area; Wilson says he's heard favorable accounts of last year's meeting in Salem!

And **Molly O'Dea** reports she has her own email account.

Please e-mail or call me with your news.

Joan Erickson

PNWD Annual Meeting

The 2010 PNWD District Assembly will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Bellevue, WA, **February 19-21**. Details and registration are at <http://pnwd.org/districtassembly.php>.

Volunteer Coordinator: Jean Sillers

On the Hall Bulletin Boards

Volunteers needed at the Straub Environmental Learning Center

[UU] **WhaleCoast Alaska 2010**

WU's annual "Theological Studies": Lane McGaughy, Charlie Wallace, etc., Feb. 13 & 20

* * * * *

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Sunday, January 24

The Reverend Dana Worsnop

Dana Worsnop, minister of Atkinson Memorial Church (Unitarian Universalist), will be with us. Our minister, Rick, will be here to greet Dana and say hello to everyone after his brief sabbatical.

Sunday, January 31.

"Who is My Neighbor?"

The Reverend Rick Davis & Miguel Wahl

Rick will speak about being neighbors in an age of social isolation. New member Miguel Wahl, a school counselor at nearby Auburn Elementary School, will tell us about our young neighbors (i.e., the students) at this school.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

January 20, 2010

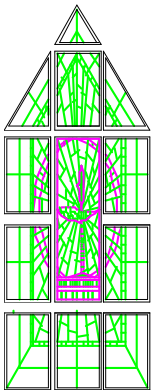
Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 10
Salem, Oregon

UUCS Calendar



Wednesday, January 20	U Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (every Wednesday) Chat & Craft, 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Thursday, January 21	Dances of Universal Peace, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 22	Tapestry of Faith, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 24	Orientation to UU, after service.
Friday, January 29	Friday Fun Night, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30	NO Contra Dance—band unavailable.
Sunday, January 31	Readers' Forum, 9:15 a.m. Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m. Path to Membership Class, after service
January 31-February 7	SIHN at UUCS
Thursday, February 4	Women's Alliance, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 11	Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 13	Stewardship Gala, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 14	Soup Kitchen at St. Mark's, 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 27	Circle Suppers

US Mail delivery is slower these days. If you would like to receive an e-copy of the newsletter in addition to your printed copy, contact Elsa Struble (email address on page 4).