

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
February 3, 2010



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Celebration Saturday - Canvass Begins!

On February 13 – a week from this Saturday — you are invited to a grand Celebration. Events begin at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be a spaghetti feed, and the spaghetti sauces will be provided by the *men* in the congregation! We last had a spaghetti feed like this about fourteen years ago; it worked – to be sure, with quite a bit of coaching from our wives! After dinner we will have the

opportunity to make our financial pledges for the life of this Congregation for the next year. And then we get to settle back and enjoy the singing and story-telling by Tom Rawson of Seattle. Many of you have heard him and *know* he's wonderful!

We need to know who is coming to dinner. Diana Bodtker and Jan Munsey have been taking reservations after church; there is still time this Sunday. We will provide child care (and dinner for the kids!), but we need to know who is bringing kids, so tell us that as you reserve your dinner table spot!

The campaign itself will be during the two weeks starting February 14. This is a crucial year for our finances. Last year our pledges were down from the year before, though neighboring churches were hit harder than we. This is still a difficult time for many, which makes it vital for those of us who can to rally to support our Congregation! We have not laid anyone off, required unpaid furloughs, or reduced hours, and don't want to. Continuing to support our minister and staff is most of our budget, but of course there are loan payments, utilities, assessments to the UUA and the District, and smaller amounts to support our hard-working teams whose volunteer efforts keep our programs welcoming and vibrant.

In addition to continuing to support what we *have* been doing, we need to make progress toward some priorities identified recently by our Board:

- **Serious salary increment for our minister:** Two years ago we recognized that our minister had had no salary increments beyond cost-of-living increases since he arrived here. We provided a \$5000 increment that year, and resolved to do it again the next two years. Last year that was not possible. This should be the year to recognize and honor the many excellent qualities in our minister.

- **Lawn service:** Two years ago we initiated a contract with a lawn service; since then we have not had to ask for volunteer lawn mowers among our members, and our lawn looks *much* better. Last year we could not continue the service out of the Operating Fund, but the Landscape Team used their reserves to continue it. That's not sustainable. Help us provide for lawn care.

(continued on page 6)

Ministerial Meditations

By The Rev. Connie Yost
UUCS Affiliated Community Minister

This Sunday, February 7, marks the annual celebration of UU Community Ministry. If you're in church that day, you'll hear me preach about how UUs, lay and ordained, are bringing our UU values into the community, working with others for peace and justice.

Oscar Romero, former and assassinated Archbishop of El Salvador, wrote a prayer in which he said:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that. This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen.

For me, this is a message of hope. So often it seems that our work is just a drop in the bucket of all that needs to be done. There are always numerous setbacks along the way. Sometimes it seems that evil and greed will win. This came home to me on my recent trip to Southern California, when I realized that a recent news item about a man who was killed in Mexico was someone who had been an important part of my ministry in Los Angeles. A vibrant, 33 year old high school vice principal named Robert Salcedo, was gunned down for no reason, while visiting his wife's home town in Mexico.

It is sad to think that there are places so controlled by greed and violence that innocent people are killed. But we don't need to look to another country, or another community, to find similar injustices. They may be on a smaller, less violent scale, but many people in our town of Salem are suffering the injustices of poverty, racism, sexism and abuse. Our UU community ministry as a congregation is reaching out in significant ways to those in need, not only within our congregation, but in the larger community. In particular, our outreach to Auburn Elementary School is an important way we can support our neighbors and get to know and share with them as friends.

I know from personal experience that it is enough that we plant the seeds. We may never know exactly what our friendship meant to someone, but let us keep faith that it contributed to a better future for all.

*Love,
Connie*



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
February 3, 2010

Religious Education Dates to Note

Weds. Youth/Adult – Meditation 7-9 pm

Sundays Adult – Reader's Forum, 9:15 in Han-neman Hall. **Child/Youth** – Children's Choir, 9:45 – 10:20 am, RE Commons.

Feb. 7 Coming of Age Folks – Coming of Age starts after church. Parents attend the first part, mentees and mentors stay later. **Adult** – Continuing the UU Path for new members begins after church.

Sun. Feb. 14 – **Child/Youth** Special Sunday in religious education, mixed ages and all work on theme of Stewardship/Giving.

Mon. Feb. 15 – **Adult** Sermon discussion with Rev. Rick at 7 pm in his office.

Tues. Feb. 16 Youth/Adult – 6:30 pm, RE Team meeting, 6:30 pm, library, all are welcome. If childcare needed please let Lise know by Feb. 3.

Thur. Feb. 18 Older Child/Adult – Dances of Universal Peace, 7 pm.

Fri. Feb. 26 Middle School - Con in Oregon City. Contact Lise for information.

Sat. Mar. 6 – **Middle School** – Sleepover at UUCS

Lise's Letter

First of all I'd like to give a profound thanks to the religious education team, RE teachers and guest story tellers who kept the fort running while I was in Chicago. Their dedication allowed me to focus on my studies without any UUCS concerns. Our entire community's support during the last several Januarys has been wonderful. Thank you all!

One of the highlights for my time in Chicago was Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. That day happened to provide the one chance I had to go to the DuSable African American Museum. The minute I walked in the doors, I felt like I was on a pilgrimage. The museum was packed, and there were people of all ages in the building. I saw one

dad with three small children under the age of six. They spent a few moments looking at the mementos from Harold Washington's election as Chicago's first African American mayor. I don't know how many facts the 2½ year old will remember about the day, but I don't doubt that she left with the impression that what they were doing and seeing was important.

So what's been happening in RE lately?

This last weekend we had several children from our kindergarten-2nd grade class spend the night at UUCS. For some of them it was the first time they spent the night away from any family members so it was a significant evening. We all had a great time though! We explored parts of UUCS they hadn't seen before, played hide and seek with flashlights only in the sanctuary, and watched a movie together. Thanks to RE teachers Paul Marché, Marganne Allen, and Valerie Neevel for spending the night as well. We're hoping to make this a regular event.

The 3rd-5th graders have been learning about historical UU figures like PT Barnum, Fannie Farmer, and Henry David Thoreau. They have also been earning money for the children's offering project this year, the Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary. I know many of you bought popcorn from them in the fall and your pets may have been recipients of dog treats that they made in early January.

Our middle school class has been examining topics such as death, wisdom from world religions, and the superstardom of religious figures (think Jesus Christ Superstar). Some of them will be starting our Coming of Age program which will culminate in our youth service in May.

Our youngest UU members in the nursery and preschool have been learning about themselves, each other, and their environment. They are laying the self-affirming foundation that will help them to grow into joyous, compassionate and justice seeking people.

Lise Adams Sherry, Director of Religious Education 503-364-3929

Office Hours: Wed. 9 – 3; Tues & Thurs by appt.

The Unitarian Universalist

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This issue was edited by Lois Nodland. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, February 14. Send news to editors@uusalem.org (or to Lois Nodland and Elsa Struble, put it in the work-room newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to UUCS.

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.

Volunteers Needed

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 important event, please contact John T. Maluski or sign up at the Social Action table in Hanneman Fellowship Hall following Sunday services. **Our soup budget is currently approximately \$125 in arrears.** Your donations are most welcome!

UUCS Men to Make Spagetti Sauce

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.

CUUPS

On **February 15** we celebrate the Mardi Gras Ritual at 5:30 at UUCS.

Dances of Universal Peace

Dances of Universal Peace will be **Thursday, February 18** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. \$5 donation requested. Contact person Pam Prichard.

Women's Retreat Bake Sale

February 21 is the Women's Retreat Bake Sale in the UUCS Fellowship Hall after the service. Bring your appetite for desserts. Proceeds/donations go to scholarships and program funding. Contact Linda Geissler

Souper Sunday

The UUCS Fellowship Team will be hosting a soup and bread lunch following the service every LAST Sunday of the month. Take time to enjoy the spirit of lunch together with family and friends. Donations will be welcomed to offset some of the cost. The Fellowship Team meeting will follow – all are welcome and encouraged to stay to join the meetings. You do not need to come to each meeting to be a part of the team. For more information contact Christi Olsen.

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*

Upcoming UUCS Events

UUCS Women's Retreat

Registration for the **March 12-14** Women's Retreat at the Cedars near Oregon City begins soon. Look on the credenza in Hanne-man Fellowship Hall for forms. Space is limited and will be first come, first served. Some financial aid is available. Contact Lise Sherry or Michelle Cordova for more information.

UUCS Men's Retreat

The all new 2010 Men's Retreat will be **April 9 -11** at The Cedars near Oregon City. Look for more information in coming weeks. The planning team is Quentin Smith, John Gor-man, Gil Nicholson-Nelson and Lou Stoetzer. Call for more information and/or suggestions.

Auburn School Outreach

Rev. Rick and UUCS Affiliated Community Minister Connie Yost are co-coordinators this year for the UUCS outreach to Auburn Elementary School. They have been working closely with UUCS member, Miguel Wahl, who is the school counselor at Auburn. They are working to identify ways in which UUCS can support Auburn school children and their families.

The first project, tutoring, is in full swing. Many thanks to Danna Parmley, Elsa Struble, and Mieke Visser, who are currently volunteering as tutors.

We could use more tutors! The tutoring happens for one hour once a week or, ideally,

twice a week at the school. You will be assigned three students, and you will see the same three students each session, so you will be able to develop a relationship with them. You will read with the first student for 10 minutes or so, ask them questions about what they read to test their comprehension, and go over with them the vocabulary words they are working on. You will do the same with the other two students. The school has the curriculum and questions all laid out for you. All you need to do is bring your loving self to the school and be willing to work with the kids.

If you are interested, please let me know. To get started, you need to complete a background check and send it in to the Salem-Keizer School District. Copies of the background check form are in the church office near the mailboxes, or you can download it at <http://www.salkeiz.k12.or.us/content/list-approved-volunteers>.

Rev. Connie Yost

News of the UUCS Community

Congratulations to UUCS members **Mary Murphy and John Casey**, who were married by Pastor Davis on January 3! Although they have remodeled the home they purchased in Salem they are still commuting to John's home in McMinnville until they construct a cat-free fence to keep John's cats within the enclosure.

Enclosures are also the goal of UUCS' **Michelle Blake**, on a campaign to remove dogs from the restrictions of chains and into the relative freedom of fenced yards! Fences for Fido is a non-profit organization which raises funds to provide financially eligible dog owners a free fence, shelter or a reduced cost spay or neuter.

Jerry and JoAnne Nathan's daughter Kim and her sailing partner finally made it to Singapore! On January 23 they sailed into a marina and called it good; the parents exhaled with relief! With that piece of good news digested, Jerry and JoAnne could leave January 24 for Southern California to embark on a boat trip of their own. They are accompanying and providing care for JoAnne's mother and wheel-chair bound uncle on a

two-week cruise to Hawaii, returning to Salem by month's end.

Logan Geissler is in the cast of West Salem High School's production of The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940. He's in several connected parts, the main being Helsa, the maid, which is actually a disguise for one of his other parts...The play is showing February 18-20; information is on West's web page.

Both of Logan's parents, **Jeff and Linda Geissler**, are also involved in drama, having joined the Children's Educational Theatre Board last fall. Linda writes, "With Logan involved as a teaching assistant last summer and **Kirbey** ready for her fourth season with CET, it just made sense that we would be involved in the decision-making and governance of such a wonderful organization!"

Congratulations to **Jean Logan** on her December graduation in Social and Behavioral Studies from George Fox College! The bachelor's degree had been a long-standing goal of Jean's. Since 1972 she has studied

in seven different colleges and universities. Her career goal is to become a professional social worker. To that end she hopes to be admitted to Portland State University's master's program in social work, beginning studies this fall.

The Reverend Craig Moro, UUCS member, always well-received in our pulpit, lives with his wife and son in Salem, and commutes two weekends each month to serve as pastor to the UU Church of Tri-Cities, Washington. We have just learned that he has been called to a quarter-time position as pastor to the UU Fellowship of Hood River! Congratulations to you, Craig!

Condolences to **Carol Doolittle** at the death of her cousin Linda.

Sharing and caring is what makes us a close-knit community. If you want to use this medium please contact me.

Joan Erickson

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Celebration Saturday - Canvass Begins! *(continued from page 1)*

- **Pianists:** Loraine Stuart has been providing wonderful music *almost every week* as a volunteer. Most churches pay their pianists or organists, and we mustn't rely on Loraine forever. We love our music; it's time to budget for our pianists!
- **Maintenance:** When our building was new, it didn't need much maintenance expense. Now that it is older, more things happen; this year we should refinish the Hanneman Hall floor. We must build up a maintenance reserve that will cover unexpected or more major expenses.

This has been a generous congregation. It has risen to challenges many times, and the results have been rewarding. I call upon us once more to meet the challenge of continuing our support – not just for some entity we call our church or our congregation, but for each other! As some of us will not be able to continue the level of financial support they committed to last year, others will have to increase their levels. Dare I say it? **Yes, we can!**

George Struble
Stewardship Campaign Director

Salem Community Event Willamette University School of Theological Studies

The 35th annual School of Theological Studies will be held in the Putnam University Center at Willamette University on two Saturday mornings, **February 13 and 20** (9:30

a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; coffee and tea at 9:00). This year's classes (each 2 weeks long) are:

"Digging Deeper: Dealing with the Hard Questions about God's Will" by the Rev. Dr. Donald E. Inlay,

"The Jesus Seminar Moves to Salem" by the Rev. Dr. Lane C. McGaughy and Larry Alexander,

"The Welcoming Church Movement: 40 Years from Stonewall to Marriage Equality" by Tara Wilkins, and

"Obama's Theologian? Reading Reinhold Niebuhr's the Irony of American History" by the Rev. Dr. Charlie Wallace and Dr. David Gutterman.

The cost is \$8, if pre-registered by February 10, or \$10 at the door. To register or if

you wish to receive course descriptions, please contact the Office of the Chaplains at Willamette by phone (503-370-6213), email (chaplain@willamette.edu) or mail (Office of the Chaplains, Willamette University, 900 State Street, Salem OR 97301). (Course descriptions are also available at www.willamette.edu/dept/chaplain/events/index.html <<http://www.willamette.edu/dept/chaplain/events/index.html>> .)

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SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Sunday, February 7

“Prophets of the Future“

The Reverend Connie Yost

This Sunday marks the annual celebration of UU Community Ministry. Come hear how UUs, lay and ordained, are bringing our UU values into the community, working with others for peace and justice.

Sunday, February 14 “Standing on the Side of Love?”

The Reverend Richard Davis

The Chalice Circle Players

A Happy Valentine’s Day Service. A homily by our minister and poems on love read by members of the Chalice Circle Players, music by our choir and a solo by Nicolas Brownson – all to remind you of the transforming power of love in our lives.

Sunday, February 21 “Revisiting Black History: It’s Impact Today.”

Natalie Dunn,

Director, YWCA

Our guest speaker to celebrate Black History Month.

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>.

UUCS currently has two members going as delegates and has vacant delegate positions. If you are going and would be a delegate, call Board Chair Phil Carver. For Youth Programs at the Assembly call UUCS RE Director Lise Adams Sherry.

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

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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

February 3, 2010

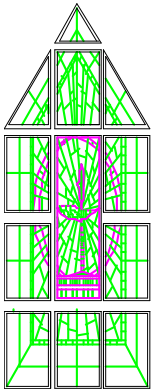
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UUCS Calendar



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|-----------------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 3 | U Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (every Wednesday)
Chat & Craft, 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) |
| January 31-February 7 | SIHN at UUCS |
| Thursday, February 4 | Women's Alliance, 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, February 7 | Readers' Forum, 9:15 a.m. |
| Thursday, February 11 | Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, February 13 | Stewardship Gala, 6:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, February 14 | Readers Forum, 9:15 a.m.
Soup Kitchen at St. Mark's, 12:30 p.m.
Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m. |
| Monday, February 15 | Pastor Rick's Sermon Discussion, 7 p.m.
CUUPS, 5:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, February 18 | Dances of Universal Peace, 7:00 p.m. |
| February 19 – 21 | PNWD General Assembly, Bellevue, WA |
| Sunday, February 21 | Readers' Forum, 9:15 a.m.
Women's Retreat Bake Sale, after services |

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).