

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
February 7, 2006*



In this Issue

Celebration Sunday	1
Reverential Ramblings	2
News You Won't like	3
E-subscribing Encouraged	3
Next Auction – 2007	3
Coming Events	4
Board Meeting Highlights	5
UUCS Community News	5
Oregon Peace Summit	6
Building Community	6
Salem Pastoral Counseling Center	6
Calendar	7

CELEBRATION SUNDAY IS COMING

Congregations that acknowledge the deeper meanings of stewardship do not view the money they give to support it as merely being a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations regard the opportunity to give generously as an opportunity to grow (spiritually, morally?) by supporting the life and ministry of the congregation with a percentage of their incomes.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem's Finance Team and Canvass committee has selected the Celebration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to enhance and celebrate our natural tendency to be generous.

Celebration Sunday is based on the conviction that generous giving helps us to become the generous, openhearted people we are called to become by our liberal faith rather than the need of the institution to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people as those who want to give unselfishly to promote the principles and purposes of our shared faith. Celebration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the questions: "What percentage of my income am I called to give to be true to my highest ideals?" During morning worship on Celebration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our congregation's life and ministry

(Continued on page 3)

*Items for the newsletter may be placed in the newsletter box in the church office, e-mailed to editors@uusalem.org, or mailed to the editor c/o the church office. This issue was edited by Lois Nodland. **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 11:30 a.m., February 19, 2006.***

Reverential Ramblings

Recently I had occasion to make a pastoral telephone call to the partner of one of the people recently arrested for acts of eco-sabotage. (The current administration calls it “eco-terrorism” but referring to property damage as “terrorism” strikes me as propagandistic hyperbole.) During my conversation with the heartbroken, distraught woman, whose partner faces the prospect of many years in prison, I wondered if others – perhaps FBI agents- were listening in on our conversation. If so, I can assure you their time was wasted. My call was purely pastoral, not political or conspiratorial.

Perhaps I was just entertaining persecutorial delusions of grandeur to think that any government agent would be remotely interested in what I had to say. I don't know. Certainly recent revelations about widespread, unauthorized wiretapping by the current administration, in apparent contravention of the law - not to mention our constitution - must be making a lot of citizens glance over their shoulders and wonder if some governmental big brother is looking on. Then too, our government does have a history of spying on liberal religious groups such as ours.

Since I am a total stranger to the field of law enforcement, it is a challenge for me to enter into that mindset and perspective, but I would imagine that it must be a great temptation for officials to use whatever means are available to apprehend those who they deem pose a threat to society and always to be seeking new ways to enhance one's capabilities in this regard. Due to advances in technology, there are more ways than ever before for our government to monitor us. So much goes on behind closed doors that the average citizen, and even the

average member of Congress, doesn't know how extensive this might be.

This I do know – if there is no check on law enforcement's powers they will grow continually stronger at the expense of our freedom. This is not to impute sinister motives to most law enforcement officials, it is simply to note that those with such power naturally feel they need more and seek to get it. Inevitably that power will be abused by some. The nation's founders saw this as a crystal clear certainty which is why they devised the ingenious system of checks and balances in our government - it insures that each of the three branches of government reigns in the others when they seek too much power and stray beyond the necessary constraints spelled out in the bill of rights.

Yet this system has tended to break down during times of fear and uncertainty, and now it is threatened once again by an administration that says that during this perilous time, when we are waging “a war on terror,” they must have the power to listen in to our phone conversations without warrants, to see what books we are checking out of the library and what websites we are visiting. This is a perilous development. Should this get to a certain point, it could be hard to reverse it and reclaim our rights.

In general, I am not an alarmist, and I tend to believe that even the currently over compliant congress will soon come to its senses and reign in this overweening administration, which has such inflated notions of executive power and privilege. Nevertheless, there is cause for concern. Overweening governmental authority eventually serves to oppress truth and that diminishes us all.

Love, *Rick*

(continued from page 1)

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending the Sunday service on Celebration Sunday. We urge members and friends to attend who may have misgivings about completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if she or he chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During the Sunday Service our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making commitments as a confidential act of commitment.

We will encourage participation in Celebration Sunday events through the Celebration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Celebration Sunday service.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Celebration Sunday events.

Board Chair, David Boaz

News You Would Rather Not Read

And news I would rather not write. The church was broken into on Sunday night.

The intruders (a polite term) broke the window in Rick's office to gain entrance, threw papers around and took Rick's lap top computer - which seems to be all that was taken.

They broke the window between the foyer and Rose's office and left scattered glass all around. They destroyed one printer, tipped the file cabinet and made a mess with papers from her desk and the book shelves. Two pieces of pottery in the foyer were broken.

The good news is that they tried to drive on the west side of the building, between the church and Cordon Road. They got stuck - in a stolen car - and had to leave it there.

Lois Nodland (with information from David Boaz and Rose Drake)

E-subscribing Encouraged

It turns out bulk mail postage has gone up less than a cent, not the 11-cent rise published in the last newsletter (apparently 23 cents *is* the junk mail rate). Nonetheless, if you'd like to try receiving the newsletter as an e-mail attachment, contact editors@uusalem.org. And remember (and tell your friends) that you can find the newsletter online at www.uusalem.org.

The Editors

Plan For Our Next Auction – Fall 2007

In the time since I posted a question in the newsletter whether we want an auction every year, the People have spoken -- with a deafening silence, actually. So unless someone else steps forward with a plan for this fall, we will plan our next UUCS Auction for the fall of 2007 -- two years from the last one. So think ahead to what you could plan to donate a year from this fall, and reserve some pocket change to bid on the lovely bargains we will have at that time.

A good plan for maybe this September would be a garage/rummage sale. It could be good design to alternate the two kinds of sale, one each year. Anybody?

George Struble

Coming Events

Lunch Bunch

The next Lunch Bunch will meet at the Macedonia Greek Restaurant. 189 Liberty St. NE, in Reed Opera House, corner of Liberty and Court. February 8. Noon to 1:00. Please telephone Fred Ratzeburg so a reservation can be made.

UUCS Board Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Board is at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 9. A guest at that meeting will be Kate Lore, a potential intern at UUCS for the next two summers. The meetings are all open to anyone, and you may be especially interested to meet Kate.

What is Transcendentalism?

What could it mean to me?

Let's find out and share in an informal and worthwhile discussion group.

First meeting is set for Sunday, February 26 at 4.00 p.m. If interested to try out this like-minded gathering please contact Petra Berger.

Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network

UUCS will be hosting SIHN families from February 26 until March 5. I hope to find people who will coordinate parts of our effort – such as moving, shopping, and meal coordination. This will help to get ready for a time (soon) when some of us will no longer be able to do our jobs.

All who wish to volunteer may do so by calling Loraine Stuart or Rosa Barton.

Loraine Stuart

Discovering the Story of our Souls

What does your life path reveal about the underlying story of your soul's journey towards wholeness? Deepen your connection with your own soul story – and make connections with UUCS women – at the Cedars Retreat Center, March 10-12.

The cost is \$100 for lodging, meals and the retreat program. Registration forms are in the Fellowship Hall and the Religious Education Wing. Registration and deposit are due by February 24. Contact Clair Diehl for more information.

Landscape Work Party

The next work party will be Saturday, March 18th from 9:00 to noon. Call Sharon Dearman if you'd like to "adopt" a task in the meantime.

Hungarian Dinner – March 11
Tickets to go on sale on February 26.

PLEASE JOIN US.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Heitsch.

HOAP Request

Our continued contributions of **miniature toiletries** for the homeless are greatly appreciated. HOAP (Homeless Outreach Advocacy Project) advises that there is currently a need for tooth brushes and tooth paste.

Thanks, *Dick Boyle*, Social Action Team

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on January 26 to continue the meeting of the January 12. Present were members David Boaz, Lori Jenkins, Alma Marianos, Kristen Hunt, Lois Nodland, Marian Robison, Diana Nicholson-Nelson, and the Rev. Rick Davis. Guest Elsa Struble.

January 12 meeting highlights erroneously reported Chuck Howard absent.

During the meeting, Board members:

- Accepted the resignation of DRE Claire Diehl with regret, acknowledging the outstanding job she has done, and leaving open the possibility that she will continue until the end of the fiscal year.

- Approved the substitution of Ken Erickson as a PNWD delegate to replace Jane Fields who is unable to attend.

- Assigned, to the Executive Committee, the task of recommending a replacement to serve as chair of the Personnel Committee.

- Established a deadline of March 30 to have position descriptions for the DRE and ADRE completed.

- Approved transferring \$200 from the budgeted reserve fund line item to the Membership Committee.

- Approved creating an Adult Religion Education Committee within the RE Team.

- Approved the establishment of a Leadership Development Committee and assigned Kristen Hunt to organize.

Board meetings are open and all are invited to attend. The next meeting of the Board is February 9 when Kate Lore, a UU ministerial student and prospective UUCS intern will be there.

(Summary by Board Secretary Lois Nodland)

News of the UUCS Community

For those of you who are eager to do good deeds for the congregation, yet aren't sure how you can help out, we may have a solution for you.

There are some members of the congregation who are without transportation of their own to get to church on Sundays. All they need are people who are willing to stop by on the way to church and pick them up.

If the idea of giving another UU a ride to church appeals to you, contact the **Lifelines Lay Ministry** warm line at (503) 364-0932, and they will put you in touch with a UU in your area you can help.

Stan Tepper is still recovering from hip replacement surgery. His recovery has been slow but steady, and, naturally, he looks forward to visiting with and hearing from people in the congregation. Visits, calls, and letters are always welcome.

Barbara Hanneman is having surgery at OHSU on Monday, February 6. She and her family request there be no telephone calls or visits at this time. However, cards and letters are welcome. Please send well wishes to Barbara's home address.

If anyone has news they would like to share with the UUCS community, please contact me before the next deadline.

Kim Willaman

The Oregon Peace Summit
February 11
UUCS Fellowship Hall 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Hosted by Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation
And Oregon Peace Works

Calling together persons and organizations of peace and justice to see how we can work together more effectively. Go online to opw.org for registration and agenda or contact: John Roy Wilson

* * * * *

Building Community

The concept of community and co-housing has been batted around some discussion groups at church. We are embarking upon a small community development with twelve new “cottages” sited around a shared community garden and work-shop. The houses will be energy efficient and beautiful and will range between 1200 – 2000 square feet, located adjacent to Fairmont Park, walking distance to the public library. The heart of the community is the people who live here. If you are interested in learning more please contact Bonnie Heitsch and Brian Reeder.

Salem Pastoral Counseling Center

Our Rev. Rick Davis serves on the Board of this unique ministry that has been important to Salem. Since it began in 1980, the Salem Pastoral Counseling Center has provided affordable pastoral care and counseling for individuals and families in our communities. This has included people from many churches as well as the community at large.

Many pastors think of SPCC as an extension of the ministry of their churches. While most pastors provide care and counseling, pastors often run up against the limits of time and training. Then pastors turn to the Pastoral Counseling Center.

The SPCC has used a Scholarship Fund to financially support a counseling ministry with lower income families. Since the Fund began in 1998, it has provided \$25,000 in counseling support.
From a letter written by the SPCC Executive Board

* * * * *

UUCS Calendar

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 8 | Lunch Bunch, noon. Fred Ratzeburg
Spiritual Practices/Meditation, 7 p.m.
Choir Practice, 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, February 9 | Board of Directors, 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, February 12 | Book Discussion. 9:15 a.m. (every Sunday) |
| Monday, February 13 | YRUU, 7 p.m. (every Monday) |
| Wednesday, February 15 | Spiritual Practices/Meditation, 7 p.m. (every Wednesday)
Chat 'n' Craft, 7 p.m. |
| Fri-Sun, February 17-19 | PNWD Annual Meeting |
| Saturday, February 18 | No Landscape Work Party until March 18 |
| Sunday, February 19 | UUCS hosting Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network to March 5 |
| Sunday, February 26 | What is Transcendentalism? Informal discussion group, 4 p.m. |

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

10:30 a.m. (Child care available)

February 12 “A Great Soul Remembered” The Reverend Richard R. Davis

February 12 will be his 197th birthday and it is fitting that we remember him, for he was arguably the greatest figure in our nation’s history. Listening to the story of his life will serve to awaken “the better angels of our natures.”

February 19 “National Sovereignty – Justice or Just U.S.?” Phil Carver

The Sixth UUA Principle is "The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all." Has U.S. foreign policy been consistent with this principle? What is national sovereignty? What does it mean to be a member of a community?

Sunday Service Team

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
5090 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

February 7, 2006

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis
email rdavis@uuma.org

Board Chair: David Boaz
Director of Religious Education: Claire Diehl
Associate DRE: Lise Adams Sherry
Office Administrator: Rose Drake
Phone (503) 364-0932, Fax, 364-3280
email uucsoffice@yahoo.com
Website: www.uusalem.org

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 10
Salem, Oregon