

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
February 17, 2010*



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The Stewardship Campaign is Underway!

Our 2010 Campaign started in style with a fine spaghetti feed Saturday evening. The men brought a variety of sauces, and the Women's Alliance was assisted by kitchen crews of men too. Tom Rawson provided an exciting evening of good folksongs and stories. Logan

Geissler was our excellent MC. Table décor was initiated by Jan Munsey and carried on by Laura Stine after Jan's accident. My thanks to the *dozens* of people who made it all work!

Most of the canvassers made their own pledges Friday evening and Saturday morning. Most people attending the dinner made pledges then. After our Sunday service, as I was in the lobby to hand the canvassers their assignments, *fifteen* more people found me and wanted to make their pledges!

As I write this Sunday afternoon, we have 79 pledges for a total of \$166,520. Holy moley; that's two thirds of last year's *total* pledges! This total includes three new pledges, and the other 76 pledged \$6,280 more than they pledged last year. This is a good start, but a successful canvass needs *everyone's* participation!

The rest of you should expect a phone call from a canvasser this week. Please be nice to your canvassers, and don't duck their calls! And if you don't receive a contact soon enough and want to have your pledge recorded quickly, you may phone or email me. As I have stressed repeatedly, our main focus is giving *you* the opportunity to reaffirm your generous support of our Congregation!

A light (no pun intended – or was it?) footnote: During Saturday afternoon we discovered there was no hot water in the faucets. Well, the pilot light in the water heater goes out on occasion. Rick Davis and I went upstairs to see what we could do. If Rick and I have to fix something, you *know* we're in trouble. So we sent up John Maluski and Ted Cory, and they got the job done. "How many Unitarians does it take to restart a pilot light?" Now we know: *four!*

*Thank you for your support!
George Struble
Stewardship Chair*

Reverential Ramblings

During World War II Winston Churchill was invited to speak at Harrow School, his alma mater. He delivered a brief speech during which he proclaimed: "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never ... never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy." All present knew that his life bore witness to this message and they undoubtedly never forgot it.

That message resonates for me. I'm not Churchill, a bull dog of a man who faced down one of the most intimidating tyrants ever to walk upon the stage of history while others trembled. Yet, in my own gentler way, I feel a similar spirit of tenacity. I don't give up when the cause is vital. I may change tactics when I meet obstacles, but if I think something is truly worthy of the struggle I will not give up. Or perhaps it's more accurate and less egotistical sounding to say that there is something within my heart that does not allow me to give up.

Which brings us back to an issue I broached last year when I recommended that we consider having two Sunday services to accommodate more people. Some of you were uncomfortable with this suggestion, and I'm well aware that the prospect of such a change is daunting. Yet neither did anyone say that we should never move to two services, only that the time is not ripe to do so. Those of you who hold this view may be right. Or not. I don't know for certain.

What I do know is that my reason for proposing such a change is grounded in the greatest cause I know – love and compassion.

There is a painful dearth of love, friendship and communal connections in too many people's lives, and we can remedy that by creating new opportunities for others to join us. Studies generally confirm that having two Sunday services leads to larger membership. Surely there are those in our community who would join us if we had an earlier or a later service. This suggestion is not the only possible option. Yet after a decade or more with our current level of membership in a community with a growing population the time is ripe for us to discover new ways to share with more people the love and compassion that finds expression here. I'd love to hear any ideas you might have along these lines.

I witness the love you offer here so often – when you greet others with a hug on Sunday mornings; when you volunteer to work with homeless families or foster children or students at Auburn School; when you teach in our religious education program; when you give generously to support compassionate causes; when you reach out to those who are ill, lonely or in despair. To be sure, we're not perfect and there come, from time to time, moments of discord, but the dominant tones heard here are the harmonies of love.

Are we not called to share this blessing more widely? Our recently elected UUA president, the Rev. Peter Morales, says that finding new ways to welcome and include others into the life of our religious community is a "moral imperative." Once a moral imperative really takes hold of you, it won't let you go, nor let you give in or give up. Which is to say that you should expect me to keep goading our beloved congregation to be more widely available to more people. I can't restrain myself, nor do I want to.

*Love,
Rick*



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
February 17, 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.

Tues. Child to Adult – Aztec Dancing, 7 pm

Fri. Feb. 26 Middle School - Con in Oregon City.

Sun. Feb. 28 Youth/Adult – Spiritual Reading Book Club, call Petra for info; **Child/Youth** – Worship in RE Commons; **Coming of Age Folks** – 12:15, Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley room; don't forget your lunch.

Sat. Mar. 6 – Middle School – UUCS Sleepover

Sun. Mar. 7 – Teachers Forum – Clara Barton Room, 9:15 am, *Note: this is a date change*; **All** – Sign up for Mystery Friends begins!

Lise's Letter

I'm flummoxed. I've been hearing a lot about the possibility that this legislative session might change the Oregon law prohibiting public school teachers from wearing religious garb in the classroom. I know people are concerned about this change because we don't want our teachers proselytizing their faith to children over whom they have a great deal of influence. I also wonder if perhaps we aren't giving our children enough credit; more often than not they do know their own mind and those of their families. I also believe, as a person who has children in a "rural" school, that there are greater institutional habits within our school systems influencing one's religious beliefs than whether or not a teacher is wearing a crucifix on a necklace or a head scarf.

Our Christmas holiday break is one such habit. True, we do try to call it the Winter or Winter Holiday Break now, but has changing the name really changed anything? Hannukah and Ramadan occasionally happen during the last two weeks of December, but not often enough to really contribute to the Holiday Break name. Winter Solstice and Kwanzaa, however, do relia-

bly fall within our Winter Break time. I wonder how the members of the the Ku Klux Klan who were so influential in creating this Oregon legisla-tion would feel about that? Given our growing pluralism I wonder if it might not be better to have one week each for a fall, winter and spring break with days off for all of the respective holidays?

I was surprised during my son's first year of high school when he brought home a notice advertising Tuesday lunch at the Baptist Church across the street from his school. It was sent home right along with other notices from school. The price was right—only \$2.00 for what was rumored to be a pretty good lunch. *And* ninth graders, who on all other days of the week were subjected to a closed campus at lunch time, were given special permission to attend this lunch. Of course, there would be a speaker. My son refused to go for a while, but now he figures the lunch is worth what is, to him, the minor inconvenience of hearing someone discuss their Christian beliefs. Many of his friends share his opinion. Maybe we need to improve school lunches to avoid undue religious influence in the schools.

Shortly after we moved to the area, my second grader come home and announced that all the children at his table were Christians. I asked him how he discovered this and he said he and the others at his table were just having a conversation. I asked him what he said about his beliefs. "Noth-ing," was his answer. He was the new kid and he really didn't want to rock the boat. I wonder how his attitude might have changed if his whole class had been respectfully engaged in the conversation and they all were learning about the different reli-gions together? How would it be if children from a young age got to witness teachers wearing head scarves, turbans, stars of David, or chalices? What would it be like if instead of whispering and wondering, our children received current and fac-tual information? Kind of like we'd like them to have about sex and responsible choices.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

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

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The Unitarian Universalist

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This issue was edited by Elsa Struble. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, February 28. Send news to editors@uusalem.org Lois Nodland and Elsa Struble, put it in the workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to 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.

Readers' Forum

On **February 21** the Readers' Forum begins discussing a new book: ***Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now*** by Rebecca Ann Parker

How does each of us bless the world? In this book of essays Rebecca Ann Parker, President of Starr King School for the Ministry, offers a personal view of how this question resonates through our lives.

February 21: pp. vii-40. Introduction; Through the Rubble, After the Apocalypse; Not Somewhere Else But Here.

February 28: pp. 41-7. Cornerstones; Holy War and Nonviolent Resistance.

March 7: pp. 77-112. What They Dreamed Is Ours to Do; Something Far More Deeply Interfused; On This Shining Night.

March 14: pp. 113-142. Family Values; What Shall We Do with All This Beauty?; Soul Music.

March 21: pp. 143-166. Love First; Choose to Bless the World; Benediction.

The Readers' Forum meets before the service at 9:15 a.m. in Hanneman 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.

Women's Retreat

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

On **February 21**, bring your appetite for desserts to coffee hour: there will be a bake sale and the proceeds/donations go to scholarships and program funding for the Women's Retreat. Contact person is Linda Geissler.

Friday Fun Night

This month's Fun Night, on **February 26**, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., will be a finger food potluck plus a game night. Bring your favorite game and snacks and join in the fun. Come at 6:00 or later; everyone is welcome. Info: Samantha Scales or Christi Olsen.

UUCS Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are potluck-style gatherings at members' homes. Hosts provide their homes to gather and guests bring food to share. Conversation over food is really a great way to get to know other UUCS mem-

bers! 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*

New Discussion Group

After the service on **Sunday, February 28**, you are invited to an organizing meeting for a new monthly Discussion Circle touching on the fourth of our UU principles: "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." One of our resources may be spiritual books and writings having relevancy to UUs, and Eckhart Tolle's "The Power of Now" is on the agenda this Sunday. Read it and bring a copy if you can, but it's not required. We will meet in the high school RE room around 12.15 p.m. and decide on our next steps. Questions? Contact facilitator Petra Berger

Souper Sunday

The UUCS Fellowship Team will be hosting a soup and bread lunch following the service **February 28** and every LAST Sunday of the month. Take time to enjoy food and fellowship with family and friends. Donations and clean-up help will be welcomed. 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.

Lunch Bunch

After spearheading UUCS' popular, monthly Lunch Bunch for many years, Fred Ratzeburg has turned over the charge to Claudia and Jim Koch. On second Wednesdays UUCS members and friends gather at locally-owned Salem restaurants for food and fellowship. Recent meetings have been at Garibaldi's, Rudy's, Amadeus, and Prudence Uncorked, with the next lunch meeting schedule **March 10** at Macedonia in the Reed

Opera House. Call Kochs for information or to make your reservation.

Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Crystal Areal and I would like to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the hosting week from January 31-February 7. We hosted five different families, two of which were able to move into their new homes the week they were staying with us. Time and time again, the graciousness, care, and flexibility of the volunteers make us so grateful for the wonderful members we have. To show our appreciation we would like to invite all SIHN volunteers, past and present, to an appreciation dinner on **March 20** from 5-7 p.m. at the church. If you can attend, please RSVP to Crystal.

Our volunteers are the core of this program, and we could not do it without them. Special thanks to those who gave their time in the last hosting week: Chris McDonald, Lydia Gutierrez, Barbara Joque, Eugenia Becker, Allana McDonald, Valerie Neevel and her family, George and Elsa Struble, Samantha Scales, DeAnn Rathburn, Kristen Hunt, Mary Edith and Grant Gilbertson, Beth Myers-Shenai, Jill Baker, Richard and Betsy Scott, Ryan Nelson, John Roy Wilson, Delores Lusk, Joan Erickson, Kelli and Steve Allan, John Maluski, David and Barbara Boaz, Danna and Paul Parmely, Will Austin, Suzette Moyer, Pam, Bill, and Kaylee Vorachek, Brian Reeder, Ed and Jackie Klimowitz, Janet Stevens, Susanna Gardner, Angela Gross, Lynn Cardiff, and Joan and Jim Stembridge. Thank you all so very much!

Miranda Wood

Men's Retreat

Men, you've been waiting for this! Spouses, this is a perfect time to have a weekend to yourself while encouraging your significant other's spiritual/ethical life! The retreat will be **April 9-11** at the Cedars near Oregon City. Information: Quentin Smith or Lise Adams Sherry.

Foster Parent Night Out

On Monday, February 8, we hosted foster children at UUCS while their foster parents took three hours off. We had 22 children from five families: three babies/toddlers; eleven preschoolers; and eight school aged children. The preschoolers made Valentines while the older children made chain necklace jewelry. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic spaghetti dinner and chocolate cake. Since it was too dark and cold to play outside, the older children enjoyed indoor basketball and board games.

Many of last month's UUCS volunteers were there again, as were Heather Collee, Rick Davis, Stephanie Jernstedt, Nancy Murphy, Jim Stembridge, Kimberly Trumbo, and Don Wolf. We had two volunteers from Temple Beth Shalom and one from Salem Alliance Church.

The next opportunity for interested members of UUCS to become trained volunteers will be Monday, **March 8**, from 6-9 p.m. Please contact Joan Stembridge if you have a desire to join this exciting and creative outreach program (2nd Monday evening each month). You will not be sorry!

Joan Stembridge

February Board Meeting

At the February 11 meeting, board members approved

Sunday, May 16, following the service. as the time for the Annual Congregational Meeting;

Expenditure up to \$800 from the Auction Fund for a new laptop computer for the minister;

Continuation of the existing protocol for e-mail discussion and voting.

A May 8 (Saturday) fundraiser to support landscape improvement and maintenance;

A Reiki Workshop led by Victoria Leo, a past UUCS member and Reiki practitioner; this will be an RE fundraiser, open to the larger community;

A fall Leadership Workshop, open to the wider community;

The Guest at Your Table program raised approximately \$300 for the UU Service Committee.

The Board will explore a suggestion for simultaneous translation of Sunday services into Spanish.

(summarized by ES from Don Wolf's minutes)

News of the UUCS Community

Nicholas Brownson, Cherie Ulmer's youngest son, is in the news once again! Competing against other high school musicians from the region, Nicholas was selected for the top regional vocal music award! Competing at Thurston High School in Eugene, he sang from a little-known theater piece, "The Remarkable and Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown." During the same conference, Cherie judged theater competitions. Next step is State!

UUCS member **Jan Munsey** was involved in a car wreck in Salem, suffered a spine injury and underwent surgery at Salem Hospital. Fortunately, her spinal cord was undamaged; she sports a "halo" apparatus screwed into her skull to protect the cord. Her daughter and son have both been here. She's now at home, and would glad to hear from people. She does need help with meals, and **Carol Doolittle** is coordinating that.

Dale Hitchcock had triple-coronary bypass surgery two weeks ago at Salem Hospital, and welcomes hearing from friends.

Condolences to **Ted Dingman**, whose wife **Maria** died recently, following many years of Alzheimer's Disease.

Condolences to former UUCS member **Donna Loveland**, whose husband, **Dick Grossnicklaus**, died during surgery.

Heartfelt thanks to **Ted Cory**, whom we found power-washing sidewalks and curbs around the church last week! It's a big job and not a particular pleasure, but periodically somebody has to do it!

Sandra Meredith writes of the recent move she and **Ernest Perez** made to the Sacramento Valley. They are now closer to her daughter and family, who live and operate

a pre-school in Folsom. She noted the very successful estate sale at their Salem home, and her relief at finally settling into the new home in a mobile park, where they find neighbors friendly and welcoming. They've attended the UU Society of Sacramento and have decided to join the congregation, which has about 400 members with four ministers and an office administrator. They were impressed that each month the church chooses a social outreach organization in the community and donates one-half of each Sunday's non-pledge offering to it.

Lee and Carmela Coyne are spending the month in New Mexico and Arizona. History buffs, they are especially interested in Indian and Spanish influences and artifacts in the Las Cruces and Roswell areas where they formerly lived. They planned to attend services at the UU Church in El Paso.

To share your joys or concerns with others in our community through this medium, call me or e-mail.

Joan Erickson

Community Events

A recruiter for **2010 Census workers** for the northeast Salem area has e-mailed churches in case some members may be interested in these temporary jobs with flexible hours. Information is available at the Salem Census office.

The **Camerata Musica** concert February 21 at 2:30 p.m. in Loucks Auditorium presents HammerWinds, a wind and piano University of Oregon faculty group, with an exciting program of French music.

"Environment and Disease: The Ghosts in Your Genes" is the title of Michael Skinner's talk at 7 p.m. **Thursday, February 25**, at Loucks Auditorium. In this **Straub Environmental Lecture**, Dr. Skinner's (Washington State University) research has shown that environmental factors change the expression of our DNA – but don't change the underlying DNA sequences – and how these lasting effects can be passed on from generation to generation.

* * * * *

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Sunday, February 21 **"Revisiting Black History: Its Impact Today."** **Natalie Dunn**
Natalie Dunn, Director of the YWCA will be our guest speaker, to celebrate Black History Month.

Sunday, February 28 **"Do You Have Your Ticket?"** **The Reverend Richard R. Davis**
A reflection on the relative merits of clinging and letting go.

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

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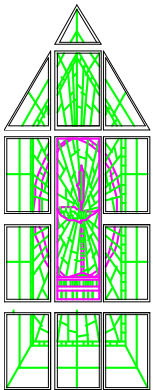
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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

February 17, 2010

UUCS Calendar



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|------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 17 | U Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (EVERY Wednesday)
Chat & Craft, 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) |
| 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. (EVERY Sunday)
Women's Retreat Bake Sale, after service |
| THREE post-service meetings: | |
| | Continuing on the UU Path (especially for new members) |
| | Fire Pit planning (Valerie Neeval) |
| | Green Sanctuary Presentation on Liquefied Natural Gas |
| Friday, February 26 | Friday Fun Night, 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, February 27 | Circle Suppers |
| Sunday, February 28 | Fourth Principle Discussion Group, after service
Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m. |
| Thursday, March 4 | Women's Alliance, 7:00 p.m. |

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.