

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
April 2, 2008*



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Is Religious Ignorance Bliss?

A new Readers' Forum begins **April 27** with discussion beginning on Stephen Prothero's book, *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know – And Doesn't*. In this book Prothero, a Professor of American religion at Boston University, examines the contradiction of living in a nation that is "both deeply religious and profoundly ignorant about religion."

Join us for coffee and a lively discussion before Sunday Services (9:15 a.m.) for a discussion of religion

in America: where we started, where we are, the consequences of ignorance, and how we may be able to change.

April 27:	Introduction (pp. 1-18) and Religious Literacy Quiz (pp. 235-239)
May 4:	Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 21 – 55)
May 11:	Chapters 3 & 4 (pp. 59-121)
May 18:	Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 125 – 149)

Questions? Contact Don Wolf

DON'T MISS IT!

Our 3rd Annual Chamber Music Benefit Concert

To raise funds so talented young music students from financially disadvantaged families can receive private lessons will be held here at UUCS, April 13 at 1:30 p.m.

(Administered by the Music Education Assistance Program of the American Federation of Musicians)

Suggested donation will be \$10.

The Evergreen String Quartet performing Mozart

The Black Diamond String Quartet performing Mendelssohn

The Waller Quartet performing Dvorak

Dan Rouslin, violin and Zachary Gulaboff-Davis, piano, performing J.S. Bach

Light Lunch provided for those who stay after Sunday service to attend

Reception after the concert hosted by the Women's Alliance

This issue was edited by Lois Nodland. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 13. Send news to editors@uusalem.org (or to Lois Nodland AND Kathleen Ehli — please put "UUCS" in the subject line), put it in workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to church.

Reverential Ramblings

One of my heroes in our religious tradition is the 19th Century Universalist minister the Rev. Charles Spear. Never heard of him? Neither have most Unitarian Universalists. The Rev. Spear, an undeservedly obscure figure in our history, was one of the earlier community ministers in our tradition. Reading about his dedicated work among prisoners and his tireless advocacy for humane treatment of them is informative and inspirational. Community ministry – i.e., ministering in a variety of ways outside the church – has been happening for ages, but only recently has it gained the official recognition in our association that it deserves.

It is our good fortune to have the Rev. Connie Yost, my friend, colleague and UU community minister here in Salem. I am especially grateful to her for strengthening our presence in the community. I could say much more about this, but will instead invite Connie to say a word about this so you can get to know her better and be more familiar with how her presence enriches us. Now, here's Connie:

Love, Rick

As Rick mentioned, we have a long history of UU community ministry. This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our professional association for UU Community Ministry, the UU Society for Community Ministry. Founded in 1988 by the late Rev. Jody Shipley and other community ministers, the 1988 SCM PROCLAMATION defines what UU community ministry is all about.

"We, as people living in a world that is both dying and seeking to be reborn, who are shaken to our very roots by the massiveness and depth of planetary & human suffering, are empowered by a driving passion to bear witness to that suffering, participate in its transformation, and affirm the inherent glory of life...Such compassionate, liberating, prophetic ministries are at the very heart of our religious tradition."

I am privileged to serve in UU community ministry in a number of ways. Before moving to Salem last fall, I worked in a social justice ministry in the Los Angeles area called EarthWorks Community Farm. I was the founder, executive director and finally board co-chair of this nonprofit organization, which hired at-risk high school youth to grow and sell organic produce to the low-income community. The program lives on in the community under the management of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

Here in Salem, I am employed as a hospice chaplain for Signature Hospice. I also have a private Spiritual Direction practice. I am on the board of Congregations Helping People, which UUCS supports. I also serve on the national board of the UU Society for Community Ministry.

Together with our colleagues in parish ministry, community ministers dedicate ourselves to supporting the work of local congregations and the UUA by bringing our community of love and hope into the wider community. Your support of community ministry helps bring the promise of the free church into the larger community, where together we seek to serve the common good. I am grateful to be among you.

Connie

Temporary UUCS Office Hours

UUCS Office Administrator Rose Drake is on vacation until April 8. Volunteers Sally Weathers, Elsa Struble, Mary Sohlstrom, Paul Rice and DeAnn Rathbun will keep the office open from 9 a.m. until noon until April 8, when Rose will return and normal office hours will resume.

Women's Alliance

The next meeting of the Women's Alliance is Thursday, **April 3**, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Our featured speaker as part of the *Getting to Know You* series will be Jean Logan. All women are welcome.

Catherine Carlson

SCUUPS

The Salem Coven of UU Pagans will have their next meeting on **Saturday, April 5** at 7 p.m. We will start with a potluck. One vegetarian main dish has been promised. We'll have a new moon ritual and sharing. For more information call Kate Walker 9 a.m. or in the evenings after 6 p.m. All interested folks are invited.

Souper Sunday

UUCS sponsors the Soup Kitchen at Jason Lee Methodist Church **Sunday, April 6**. We need servers and soup makers and any general help. Please contact me.

John Maluski

Spring Classes for Newcomers

If you are new to our congregation and wanting to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, join Reverend Rick Davis and the Membership Team this **Sunday, April 6**, for a "Mini Orientation" class. We will focus on the history and guiding principles of Unitarian Universalism. A second class, "Path to Membership", scheduled for the following Sunday, April 13th, covers "Seven Steps to Meaningful Membership" in our Salem Congregation.

Both classes convene immediately after the Sunday Service and are held in the Minister's Office. Child care is available, and following the "Path to Membership" class, a light lunch is planned.

These classes provide an opportunity to explore Unitarian Universalism, have questions answered, and meet other newcomers. All are welcome.

Kay Cogswell, Membership Team

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet at the Macedonian Greek Restaurant, 189 Liberty Street NE in the Reed Opera House, corner of Liberty and Court on **April 9** from noon to 1:00 p.m. call me by Tuesday, April 8 for reservations.

Fred Ratzeburg

Reiki Workshop

Have you ever wondered about Reiki? This well-studied form of energy healing can energize you when you are tired, calm you when you are worried, banish some ills by boosting your immune system, and perhaps make you look and feel decades younger. UUCS member Victoria Leo, a Master/Teacher of Reiki, will demonstrate and answer your questions about this ancient and effective healing art on **Sunday, April 20** from 1 to 4 p.m.

This is an introductory and informational session only. To reserve space in the workshop call.

Victoria Leo

Landscape Work Party

The next landscape work party will be on **Saturday, April 19** from 9:00 a.m. to noon. At the March work party only three people showed up: Ted Cory, Paul Rice and me. We could certainly use more volunteers. No need to call me, just show up with gardening gloves, weed pullers, etc. For more information, please call me.

Sharon Dearman

UUA Purposes and Principles

Voter Registration:

One of the Purposes and Principles of the UU Association is to affirm and promote: *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.* Consistency with this and other UU Principles urges us to express our conscience by the exercise of our right to vote. To receive a ballot in the mail, you must be 18 or older, be a US citizen, and be regis-

tered at your current residence in Oregon **before April 29.**

If you need a form to register to vote the forms are available on the credenza in Han-neman Fellowship Hall or you can get one from me after Sunday Services.

Alan Holland

UUCS '08 Women's Retreat Playful Creations, Unmasked Blessings

This year's women's retreat, a weekend full of connections and creativity, was a blessing for all those able to attend. Nancy Gordon, LCSW, expertly facilitated the mask making and drumming workshops and shared her joyful wisdom throughout the weekend.

Some of the highlights this year included: taking turns covering each other's faces in plaster, drumming out the I Ching's elemental rhythms, and otherwise quite dignified women playing charades with lively abandon.

Twenty-five women attended this annual mid-March event at The Cedars Retreat Center on the Clackamas River. All requests for financial assistance were met thanks to the generosity of this congregation.

Beth Malouf

Spiritual Practice of Ballroom Dance

Come dance with us on **Friday evenings** in April! The class of Spiritual Practice of Ballroom Dance will be taught by our Director of Religious Education, Lise, on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Partners are not necessary. Signup for the class is on the RE office door.

Chalice Circle Players

The Chalice Circle Players monthly meeting is held the **first Monday** of the month at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Play readings, acting, vocal and movement exercises will be offered addition to the team's business meeting. All ages are invited to attend. For information contact Dennis Ehrp.

News of the UUCS Community

Condolences to **Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and David Boaz** who, for the second time in three years, are experiencing the trauma of having a horrendous car wreck in their front yard! The first time was miserable and tore through the landscaping that shielded them from the vista of cars speeding past their land on Wallace Road. Last week's tragic car wreck was far worse: five of the seven persons in the car that crashed through their yard, dead-heading into their tall blue spruce tree, died at the scene; two others were evacuated by helicopter. The location is the southern edge of Yamhill County, rarely patrolled by sheriff's deputies. Ask Barbara or David what needs to be done.

Condolences also to **Cheryl Randall** at the recent death of her father, a personal hero and Congregational minister for 33 years.

Condolences to **Danna and Paul Parmley** at the unanticipated death of her uncle, Don Wagner, in New York. He was hospitalized for pain in the lungs, diagnosed with cancer in both liver and lungs, and died five days later. His death doubles the traumatic deaths the family has experienced. Paul's brother, Sean, died in a car crash in California; without leaving a will, the family is in a quandary as they seek to sort out the legal implications. This event underscores our UU-professed intent to be prepared for death, whenever it comes to each of us.

Former UUCS member **Jane Mitchell**, who moved to Bend following her retirement as a physical therapist in Dallas, is recovering well from recent hip replacement surgery, and is eager to return to hiking as the Central Oregon season begins.

Debra Johnson is rehabilitating from carpal tunnel surgery.

Adele Birnbaum was hospitalized recently with back pain. Home again, the testing continues but fortunately the pain is relieved. She enjoys receiving cards or notes, but requests no e-mail or visitors at present. Her daughter Alice is providing daily care.

Congratulations to **Danielle Cote-Schiff** and her fiancé, Ryan Kolp, who recently announced their engagement! Danielle grew up in our church, graduated from University of Puget Sound and is currently in a graduate program in environmental science at University of California Santa Barbara. They will be married this August by Pastor Davis at the historic Ainsworth House in Oregon City.

The Rev. Connie Yost recently accepted a job as chaplain for Signature Hospice of Wilsonville. She supports patients and their families in the Salem and Woodburn area. Connie was also appointed to the board of the UU national association for lay and ordained community ministers, the UU Society for Community Ministry.

Dennis Ehrp and Jill Baker are pleased that after several years of applying, Dennis' daughter, Jody Hime, has been accepted into the nursing program at Portland Community College. Pastor Davis married Jody and husband Ben two years ago on the banks of the McKenzie River; they will move from Eugene to Portland this summer.

Congratulations to **Beth Malouf** on the completion of her professional training as a Licensed Massage Therapist, studies that she began in 2005! She's ready to accept patients and, at this juncture, is especially interested in those who are new to the practice of massage, both men and women seeking relaxation, as well as massage for pregnant women.

Welcome home this week to **Marge and Dick French** following a month's stay in the sun of southwestern Mexico!

RE Director Lise Sherry introduced **Lizzy Brock**, YRUU member, and her week old son, Nathan. Lizzy will graduate high school this June and plans to continue to college.

Congratulations to first-time great-grandmother **Louise Meyers** at the birth of Madison Dee McCague, son of Louise's granddaughter Lisa Jackson and Marshall McCague of Venice, Florida! Lisa is the daughter of Louise's daughter who died in 2002. Louise's son Devin, who with his wife, Stephanie, and infant daughter, Anastasia, moved here recently from Florida, is currently attending Chemeketa and studying photography, hoping to become a photojournalist.

Jo Bateman is a great-grandmother! Granddaughter Angela and her husband Jason Hochreiter of Bethel, Alaska, birthed Joseph Jason on St. Patrick's Day.

More on our youth: Yet another award to **Christianna Hannegan**, daughter of Janet Neuburg and Charles Hannegan, who will represent our region playing the harp at the OSAA/OMEA State Solo contest in late April!

College admissions: **Devin Marche** will attend Portland State University next fall, and **Shareef Noor** will attend Oregon State University. It's "that time" of year again; please contact me as you make your decision about the next step after graduation so we can utilize this medium to congratulate you!

Religious education students involved in the annual "Coming of Age" program designed for them to address pressing, current issues that they face, e.g., "What Do You Believe?" include thirteen and fourteen year-olds **Diedre McAteer, Maggie Klecker, Kennen Sherry, Matt Valentine, Ray Clark, and Logan Geissler.**

Newsletter co-editor **Lois Nodland** was away for three weeks during February and March, in Hudson, Wisconsin, helping daughter Jillian, who slipped on driveway ice and broke her leg. Keeping house and preparing meals and running errands for Jillian, her husband, and six year old grandson was a strenuous but happy time.

Close friends of UUCS, **Jennifer Poole**, her daughter **Sabina Samiee**, and Sabina's three children, Sebastian, Tristan, and May find a comfortable church "home" with us! Sabina, whose professional work is as Marketing and Membership Coordinator of the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation, finds it heartening to learn of other UUs who share similar interests in the fields of art and architecture. She began her interests as a graduate student in art history at UO's school of Allied Art and Architecture, writing a thesis entitled *The Emergence and Development of a Northwest Regional Style of Architecture*. Prior to her current position she worked on the public relations campaigns for the A.C. Gilbert Discovery Village and for the Oregon Arts Commission. Jennifer, recently widowed, lives with Sabina and the children on a South Salem hilltop overlooking the Ankeny Refuge.

This is a leap from her prior life as partner to a UO professor husband, and at his retirement a resident along the back road to the dunes at Sand Lake. Let me encourage you to seek out these good people and introduce yourselves!

Sharing the joys and concerns that impact your lives helps us draw closer as members of a loving community. Please send your news to me.

Joan Erickson

Community Events

Artist Aaron Good's show and reception. UUCS members April Waters and Nathan Good extend an invitation to UUCS members to attend the Salem Art Association art show opening and reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on **Friday, April 11.**

The show will include art by their son, Aaron Good and features the artist's still life series of drawings in ink on paper. "Good's crisp renderings of floral arrangements offer viewers a delightful exploration of color, composition and pattern. Aaron has Down syndrome and shares his unique perspective in these works."

The art gallery is in Bush Park off High Street, near Mission.

Submitted by April Waters

The Salem Progressive Film Series announces the upcoming showing and discussion of *Subdivided*, a documentary film about life in contemporary suburbia: a personal study of isolation and the struggle to find and maintain community in an era of careless development, the uninspired design of modern subdivisions, urban sprawl, and the invasion of the McMansions.

The guest speakers will be Trent Jacobs, New Urban Planner for Nathan Good Architect, PC, Emily Drew, Professor of Sociology, Willamette University, and Melissa Michaux, Professor of Politics, Willamette University.

This is a community-building event with 200+ Salem area residents on **Thursday, April 10** at the restored Grand Theater at 191 High Street NE. (The series runs September through May on the second Thursday of each month. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students.)

Submitted by Don Fries

Neal Gladstone and his band will be putting on a benefit performance at the Grand Theater **Saturday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m.** for a new "KBOO-like" radio station that will be starting up in Salem, Call to reserve tickets today. Watch a sample of Neal's humor at <http://www.nealgladstone.com/wd/ng/> and click on "Watch the Liberal Video". All of Neal's music is this creative (and funny!). \$12 advance tickets (\$14 at the door). Call (503) 362-9185 to reserve tickets.

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SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Service for April 6 "Helpful Words Or Hurtful Words?"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

The power of speech is great. With our words we shape our world, for good or ill. We build community or destroy it. We help or hurt one another. How can we be more conscious, kind and intentional in our use of words?

Sunday, April 13 "The Paradox, Possibility and Promise of Positive Change"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Change is constant and inevitable. What can help us understand and undertake positive change at the personal, congregational, national levels?

Sunday, April 20

The Sunday Services Team

A musical service featuring The Confluence Choir, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Choir of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

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

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April 2, 2008

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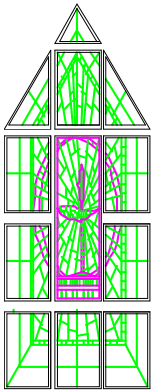
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UUCS Calendar



Wednesday, April 2

UU Meditation (Compassionate Mind UU Sangha), 7 p.m.
(every Wednesday)

Thursday, April 3

Chat & Craft, 7 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

Friday, April 4

Women's Alliance, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 5

Spiritual Practice of Ballroom Dance, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 6

Salem Coven of UU Pagans (SCUUPS), 7 p.m.

Readers' Forum, 9:15 a.m.

Newcomers' Class, after the service

Performing Arts Class, after the service

Souper Sunday

Wednesday, April 9

Lunch Bunch, noon to 1 p.m.

UU Meditation, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 11

Spiritual Practice of Ballroom Dance, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 13

No Readers' Forum for two weeks

NEXT Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m.

Chamber Music Benefit Concert, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16

UU Meditation, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 17

Chat & Craft, 7 p.m.

Salem Dances of Universal Peace, 7 – 9 p.m.