

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
April 5, 2006*



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Nominations for the UUCS Board

Elections for the UUCS Board of Directors will be at the Annual Meeting on **May 21**. The Nominating Committee's report, with at least one nominee for each position, must be included in the UUCS newsletter that goes to press April 30. That newsletter must also include personal statements by each of the nominees.

This means that **NOW** is the time for you to give your nomination for any position to the Nominating Committee. **Of course** you may nominate yourself! If you nominate someone else, please verify that person's willingness to serve; the Nominating Committee cannot nominate people without their permission.

Nominees must be at least 18 years old, and must have been UUCS members for at least a year. The positions (one year terms) to be elected are:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Four Directors
- One member of the Nominating Committee (three-year term)
- One member of the Nominating Committee (two-year term)

Continuing members of the Board are Marian Robison, treasurer, and Lori Jenkins and Diana Nicholson-Nelson, directors. Dennis Ehrp continues on the Nominating Committee for one more year.

If you would like to know more about what is involved in any of these positions, talk to Board members or to Nominating Committee members. To make a nomination, talk, write, phone or email any member of the Nominating Committee: Dennis Ehrp, or Margaret Boyle, or George Struble.

This issue was edited by Lois Nodland. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m., April 16, 2006. Send news to editors@uusalem.org; put in workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail (marked "newsletter") to church.

Reverential Ramblings

Three times a year I join with other colleagues for a few days of retreat. Actually, our time is pretty much taken up by meetings and workshops, but the basic idea is that we disengage from our normal routine, climb out of the trenches, retreat, regain a loftier, more holistic perspective and renew our spirits. There is wisdom in doing this. Sad to say, I don't think my colleagues and I do this as well as we used to. Why not? In a word, technology – the technology that seduces us into not letting go.

During breaks on these retreats I invariably see my fellow colleagues chatting on their cell phones or checking their e-mails on laptops. OK, yes, I'm guilty too. I'm less obsessed about this than some, but I have checked my voice mail and cleared e-mail messages when I was supposed to be on retreat. My conscious rationale? I don't want to come home to face several hundred e-mails or a bunch of phone messages. Yet I suspect we unconsciously labor under the delusion that we are indispensable.

This reminds of the story of the self important, world famous conductor who hopped into his chauffeur driven limousine after a concert and barked to his driver, "Hurry, hurry!" "But where to, sir?" the driver asked. "It doesn't matter, I'm needed everywhere."

My fellow clergy and I are often needed, but we ill serve ourselves and those we serve when we don't honor the discipline of letting go so we can renew ourselves. We are not alone in this. Today many people strive to stay continually connected – by cell phones, instant messaging, e-mail, etc. This results in what one com-

mentator calls "continuous partial attention" (CPA) – an example would be clearing e-mails while talking on the phone. The irony here is that if you're trying to stay connected everywhere you're not truly present anywhere.

The richest moments of life come when we are focused, in the moment, truly at one with the life around us. Having continuous partial attention is a recipe for shallow, skimming-along-the-surface-and-never-going-truly-deep, living. This is why most religious traditions have spiritual disciplines that train one to center oneself in the present – so that you can enter into life mindfully.

My fear is that at the end of our multi-tasking days we will belatedly realize that life happened right under our noses and we weren't paying attention. We missed out on the majesty and mystery of life because we were flitting back and forth from one connection to another without truly making meaningful connection anywhere.

My hope is that we are merely in the childhood stage of our relationship with technology, that we are like children in a candy shop who overindulge, and that there will come a time when we are wise and mature enough to use the technology and not allow it dictate the terms and pace of our lives.

Now is a pretty good time to pay attention to the world around us. Spring has arrived in all its glory. May we be able to let go of the multitudinous distractions of our lives and retreat into its glorious beauty.

Love, *Rick*

Revised Iraq/Iran Petition for the UUCS May 21 ANNUAL MEETING

Below is a revised petition for consideration at the UUCS annual meeting on May 21 or, if the Board of Directors chooses, at a special congregational meeting. A previous petition was reviewed at a meeting on March 26. Further suggestions are welcome, either at an April 23 discussion meeting or via e-mail.

There will be a one hour open meeting in the Sanctuary immediately after the Sunday Service on **April 23** to discuss the petition, not to take a congregational vote. Please come and raise any concerns or offer suggestions.

Phil Carver

2nd DRAFT of Petition

Whereas the U.S. invasion of Iraq violated international law because it was not a response to an invasion or an attack on the territory of a sovereign nation;

Whereas an attack on Iran would violate international law, even if it owns or plans to own nuclear weapons;

Whereas a violation of international law also violates the Unitarian Universalist Association's principle regarding a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Whereas Iran and Iraq have the second and the third largest known reserves of conventional oil, respectively;

Whereas the U.S. imports 60 percent of its petroleum;

Whereas the reasons given by President Bush for the Iraq invasion were contrived;

Whereas we support our troops and deeply appreciate their service, dedication and sacrifice;

Whereas the Iraq War and continued occupation has caused the deaths of more than 2,300 American soldiers and 120,000 Iraqis, and has wounded or disabled more than 17,000 American soldiers;

Whereas an insurrection in Iraq will continue until all U.S. troops have been withdrawn;

Whereas the consequences of an attack on Iran are unknown and could prove catastrophic;

Whereas President Bush has said he will not withdraw all U.S. troops as long as he is president;

Whereas President Bush will not rule out attacking Iran as a method to deter it from building nuclear weapons;

Whereas the war in Iraq entered its fourth year on March 20, 2006 with no end in sight.

Therefore, we, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, adopt the following principles for U.S. policy in Iraq/Iran:

1. The Congress should set a timetable for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq in months, not years

The Congress should immediately set a firm timetable for ending the occupation and bringing all our troops home. Gradual withdrawals should begin no later than August 1, 2006. All U.S. troops should be out of Iraq no later than November 1, 2007.

2. U.N.-monitored peaceful reconstruction of Iraq

The Congress should instruct President Bush to cooperate with United Nations efforts in Iraq. The U.S. should provide major funding for reconstruction projects. The U.S. should also help fund U.N. peacekeeping efforts, if approved by the U.N. Security Council, but no U.S. troops should re-enter Iraq.

3. Do not attack Iran

The Congress should instruct President Bush that the U.S. is not to attack Iran. Instead, the U.S. should fulfill its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and begin the process of worldwide nuclear disarmament.

Board meets Thursday, April 13

Among the items to be considered at our next board meeting are:

meeting with district religious education consultant,
meeting with district board member representing our area,
timetable and process for '06-'07 budget preparation,
consultant on policy governance training for board,
process for considering resolution on U S policy in Iraq/Iran,
possible report on (additional) safety policies for our church,
ratify decision on summer intern,
ratify decision to hire R E Director,
ratify decision for Partner Church Offering.

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend. 7:00 in Hanneman Hall.

Partner Unitarian Church in Simenfalva, Romania

On June 6 several UUCS members – Brian Reeder and daughter Annie, Don Cleveland, Leroi Kline and Rev. Rick take off for a pilgrimage to our Partner Church. The group will be strengthening our relationship and helping with a rebuilding project (the village was devastated by a flood last August). Each traveler plans to carry an extra suitcase full of necessities donated by members and friends. Please look at the list below and bring some of the items any Sunday during April and May:

- reading glasses
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
- bottles of vitamins
- aspirin, Tylenol, ibuprofen, other over the counter pain relievers
- books – in English, some of the classics, and children's books to help children learn English.
- little lithium battery squeeze-on flashlights – or the kind you shake to generate energy for light
- or any other small item that might be useful to villagers in Transylvania.

Alliance Meets April 6

Kay Cogswell will be the speaker at the Alliance meeting on Thursday, **April 6**, at 7 p.m. All are welcome to come hear Kay and enjoy fellowship.

Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are scheduled for this Sunday, **April 9**, and for June. Coordinators are Leah Knudsen and John Gorman. Circle Suppers are a wonderful way to meet with other UUCS members outside of church, in smaller groups and over delicious food! If you have any questions about these suppers, please contact Leah or John.

Path to Membership

The second in the series of membership classes will be held in Rev. Rick's office **Sunday, April 9th**, immediately after the worship service. This session will focus on the Seven Steps to Meaningful Membership by Rev. Rick, assisted by Board Chair David Boaz and Religious Education Chair Vicki Cunningham. There will time allowed for your questions and an opportunity to dialogue with others in the class. Child care will be provided.

Anne Alexander

Lunch Bunch

On **April 12** from noon to 1 p.m. our UUCS lunch bunch will meet at the Los Arcos. It is on the east side of South Commercial, one long block north of the intersection of 12th Street and Commercial. It is the next building south of Carl's Car Wash. We were there a year ago this month. Anyone is welcome. Call me for reservations.

Fred Ratzeburg

Landscape Work Party

The next work party will be the third Saturday of April (**April 15th**) from 9:00 to 12:00 (noon). No need to let me know if you can make it. Just show up. There will be plenty of work to do and extra hands are always appreciated.

If you'd care to come dig dandelions sooner, there are a vast number on the west bank. You can use the old paint bucket in the trash can enclosure to transport them to the woods behind the church.

Our fundraiser plant sale will be held in early May, so please think about donating or buying.

Sharon Dearman

The Reader's Forum: A New Beginning!

Would you like to join the Reader's Forum for great discussions about books and beliefs? On **April 23** we will begin discussing a new book, *Living a Life That Matters: Resolving the Conflict Between Conscience and Success*, by Harold S. Kushner (author of *When Bad Things Happen To Good People*). The Reader's Forum meets every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in Hanneman Fellowship Hall. Come join us for a cup of coffee and conversation. For more information contact Don Wolf.

Faith Partners Addictions and Recovery Team Ministry Training

(Sponsored by the Ecumenical Ministeries of Oregon)

- When? **Thursday, May 4**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p. m.
- Where? Location in Portland to be announced
- How? If you are interested in this training and exploring the possibilities this might have for us please contact our minister, the Rev. Rick Davis, at the church office. He plans to attend and will be glad to carpool.

Soup Kitchen

The next soup kitchen will be held on Sunday, **May 7**, at the Jason Lee Methodist church. Soup and volunteers are needed for this outreach to the less fortunate members of our community. Be careful – this experience can be addicting! If you can volunteer your time from 12:45 - 2:45 or can make soup, please contact Shelley Kennen.

Thanks!

Lawn Mower Volunteers Needed

Veteran Lawn cosmeticians and newcomers are welcome! Please call Dick French or Tom Lancefield to sign on.

Help To Keep UUCS Clean!

UUCS custodian Dennis Harrison is on a leave of absence and we have contracted with a custodial service to come in once a week to do cleaning. If your team or committee is meeting in the church it is important to remember there is no one to set up tables and chairs, and it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you clean up after your meeting. Thanks to all of you for remembering that the next group meeting at UUCS will appreciate your efforts.

Lois Nodland, for the Board

Soup for Marvelous Monday

The Fellowship Teams hosts the Marvelous Monday suppers that precede team meetings the first Monday of the month. The team needs volunteers to make soup. Contact Bette Rice.

Life Changes Workshop

On March 22, Katie Howe and two co-workers from NorthWest Senior & Disability Services presented a workshop at UUCS on life changes. Their presentation and materials included information on care giving and how to find local care services available for ourselves or family members.

They encouraged learning where assisted living, nursing care facilities, and foster homes are in your area and going to visit those places to see if you would be comfortable living there. Materials included questions to ask and things to look for. You can find more information at their NWSD web site, www.nwsds.org, or by calling 503-304-3400.

They provided many pamphlets including their "Oregon Consumer Guide" which deals with assisted living and residential care facilities; and the "Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home", which explains how to find and compare nursing homes, resident rights, and where to call for help.

"Coping With Caregiving" was one of the handouts that deals with managing stress when caring for older relatives.

Rhea Devery & Lois Nodland

Welcome, New Members!

Janet Carlson was born on Whidbey Island, WA, and grew-up in Virginia near the District of Columbia. Raised Episcopalian, she ignored sermons and catechism classes until mature enough to judge for herself. As a teen she studied J. Krishnamurti and Baba Ram Das and practiced yoga and meditation.

Janet as worked as a political organizer, in natural foods, as a massage therapist, and for the past 10 years, a school teacher. She has a son traveling in Asia. She speaks Spanish and enjoys traveling. Her current

hobbies are cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, bicycling and her favorite music, jazz and classical guitar. She loves animals, being outside, and finding spiritual renewal in nature. Janet discovered Unitarianism in Portland. She recently moved to Salem and began attending UUCS this year. She enjoys the services and the spirit and friendship of everyone she has met. She hopes to renew her political activism through fellowship in UUCS.

Skip Stone started out life in Yuba City, CA and lived there thirty years he lived there. As a teen, he roller skated competitively. He was married for ten years and had a family of four boys, including twins. In 1994, Skip moved to Ashland where he lived for six years. During that time he underwent successful surgery for a brain tumor. There were, however, complications, including two years of paralysis, which resulted in an early disability retirement. In 2000, Skip moved to Eugene and then three years later to Salem. He enjoys music and art and working on his own art projects, which include the transformation of unlikely objects into works of art. Skip was unwillingly raised as a Southern Baptist but escaped at age 18. He says he has since searched for his spiritual home and finds this congregation accepting and supportive in his search for his own spirituality.

News of the UUCS Community

For our Silverton-area congregants: There is a woman in Silverton who would like to attend Sunday services, but needs transportation. She uses a wheelchair, but is able to transfer herself from the chair to a car. If you are interested in giving her a ride to church, contact someone in Lifelines Lay Ministry, and we'll assist in making the connection.

If you have a need for any kind of social services, remember the Church Library has many reference materials for many local social services. Be sure to check for new information periodically.

The church office has an updated list of medical equipment available for loan. Call the church office if you need to borrow equipment. If you have borrowed medical

equipment that you no longer need, please return these items to the owners.

Members of Life Lines Lay Ministry are always available to help in any way they can. At church, look for the people wearing Lavender badges. Or call the church at 503-364-0932 to leave a confidential message and a Life Lines member will return your call.

If you have any news you would like to share with the UUCS community, please email or call me before the next newsletter deadline.

Kim Willaman

concert by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. This 100-member ensemble, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, is dedicated to promoting harmony among all people and a positive attitude towards the gay community. The concert will feature important compositions written for gay choruses, including "Metamorphosis" (written in 2004), an expansive choral/orchestral song cycle that centers on the coming out process of those inside communities of faith. Also included will be humorous works by Eric Lane Barnes and the "AIDS Requiem" by David York. For more information contact Pamela Moro.

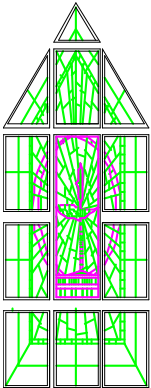
Concert by Portland Gay Men's Chorus

Saturday, **April 8**, 7:30 p.m. at Hudson Hall, Willamette University campus. Free.

Willamette University, through the support of the Lilly Project, will host a public

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UUCS Calendar



Wednesday, April 5

Spiritual Practices/Meditation 7 p.m. (**every Wednesday**)
Chat 'n' Craft, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 6

Alliance, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 9

Readers Forum, 9:15 a.m. (**every Sunday**)
Service, 10:30 a.m. (**every Sunday**)
Pathway to Membership, after Sunday Service
Circle Suppers, 6 p.m.

Monday, April 10

Coming of Age (Youth), 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12

Lunch Bunch, noon
Spiritual Practices/Meditation 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 13

UUCS Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15

Landscape Work Party, 9:a.m. - noon

Saturday, April 22

Plant Sale

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

April 9

“Some Passover Lessons”

The Reverend Richard R. Davis

What does the ancient story of the Hebrew’s pilgrimage from bondage in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land say to us today? It all depends on how we approach it. The more I reflect on this old story, the more I realize that it can be a good spiritual roadmap, if you take the time to read it with spiritual sensitivity and moral imagination.

April 16

“Easter Stories”

**The Reverend Richard R. Davis
& The Performing Arts Team Players**

An Intergenerational Service

Who was Jesus of Nazareth? What is the significance of his life and the story of his triumph over death? No single answer will suffice for us. Come consider this from a variety of angles. Please join us for great music, drama in this community building, life affirming celebration.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

April 5, 2006

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