

# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Salem, Oregon  
April 14, 2010*



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## Ask Not What Your Congregation Can Do For You...

The Nominating Committee, charged with preparing a ballot of nominees for the Board of Directors, has been busy. Members of the congregation have been contacted and asked to serve. Many have stepped forward. They should feel proud of their willingness to offer their services in order that the business of our congregation can be managed by the Board between congregational meetings. Below is the list of nominees the committee has presented to the board; they will be on the ballot at the Annual Congregational meeting after Sunday services on May 16. The Qualifying Statements from the candidates for office will be printed in the April 28 newsletter. Although this slate has been compiled, there is still time for members to nominate themselves or other UUCS members (with their consent) for any of these positions, keeping in mind that nominees must have been members of the Congregation for at least a year. Please consider giving of your time and expertise in this regard or serving in other leadership positions in the congregation. You won't be disappointed!

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### *Nominating Committee Slate for Consideration on May 16*

Chair	2010 -2011	Phil Carver
Vice Chair	2010 -2011	Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Secretary	2010 -2011	Laura Stine
Director	2010 -2012	Gloria Holland
Director	2010 -2012	Jerry Nathan
Director	2010 -2012	Mieke Visser
Director	2010 -2011	Ted Dingman (to complete two-year term)
Director	2010 -2011	Barbara Smith (to complete two-year term)

\* \* \* \* \*

Nominating Committee Member      2010-2013      Vicki Cunningham

*The 2009-2010 Nominating Committee: Christine Ertl, Linda Geissler, Lois Nodland*

Note: Term length: Chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary, one year; Treasurer, 3 years; Directors, 2 years; Nominating Committee Members, 3 years. Continuing in their current positions are Treasurer Paul Rice (2008 -2011), Director John Gorman (2009 -2011), and Nominating Committee Members Linda Geissler (2008-2011) and Lois Nodland (2009-2012). Phil Carver would be Immediate Past Chair if someone else were to be nominated and elected Chair.

## Reverential Ramblings

If the dedication of our memorial garden on Easter Sunday had been a scene in some movie I can well imagine film critics expressing their disapproval, carping that this movie's depiction of nature's role in human affairs was much too benign and rosy. Consider how it actually played out: we gathered outside when blustery, sodden weather had been prevailing for several days, yet the sun broke through the clouds for the duration of the ceremony and a V formation of geese flew directly overhead and honked down their greeting. Critics would complain that it was all too perfect, that in real life nature is rarely that cooperative. Well, this was a rare and meaningful moment for us. The heavens did indeed smile upon us, the geese did honk down their approval, and the bright golden daffodils the children planted in front of the wall back in November were in full and glorious bloom.

It was a beautiful and meaningful dedication. Those who watched me closely may have seen that I was on the verge of tears during parts of the ceremony. Why? Because I was aware of members in attendance who had lost a son or a daughter or a spouse, and I knew you were there to honor them and consecrate this place where we will now gather to read on our memorial wall the names of loved ones who have died. Furthermore, I was aware that in days to come our names may well appear upon this wall, for our days upon this earth are indeed numbered.

Here are the words I spoke:

### WORDS OF DEDICATION FOR OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN

In our free faith community we celebrate the full cycle of our lives: Here we dedicate our children and declare our love for them; we celebrate and affirm the union of life partners; we mourn the loss and honor the lives of those who have died.

On this Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010, we dedicate this memorial garden to affirm that love does not die, but lives on through the generations.

May this garden be a hallowed place, where we acknowledge our gratitude for the lives of those whose names we enshrine here and all those loved ones who go before us.

May this be a place of peace, where sorrows can be acknowledged and broken hearts restored by a healing wholeness.

May this be a place for reflection, where we remember our own mortality and the true meanings and purposes of our lives.

May this be a place of beauty, where we become ever more aware of the wonder of life.

Above all, may this be a place where we feel the spirit of love that holds and sustains us, now and in all the days to come.

*Love,  
Rick*

**Notice:** On Saturday, April 17 at 11:00 AM there will be a **memorial service** to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of long time member **Joan Bent**.



**LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**  
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem**  
**April 14, 2010**

**Religious Education Dates to Note**

Tues. **Child to Adult** – Aztec Dancing, 7 pm

Weds. **Youth/Adult** – Meditation 7-9 pm

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

Thur. April 15 **All** – Dances of Universal Peace in Hanneman Hall, 7 pm.

Sun. April 18 **All** – Multigenerational Service about Partner Churches in Transylvania, Children's Choir is singing

Sun. April 25 **Child/Youth** – Worship in RE Commons, **Mystery Friends Potluck and Identity Discovery** after service, **Coming of Age 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders** – Meet in Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley room, 12:15, *have credos finished*

Sun. May 9 **Teacher Appreciation** in service, **Coming of Age 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders** – Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley room, 12:15, bring a lunch.

**Lise's Letter**

I've been having a difficult time figuring out what to write. Maybe it's because I'm in transition, as most of us are, as we wait for spring to truly come instead of flirting with us one day or afternoon a week. We long for the lightening of our hearts and spirits that the sun and warmer weather bring to us. The opportunity for new things to grow and beginnings of adventures we have yet to even imagine. What is in us spiritually and maybe even biologically that causes this yearning?

Religiously, I was surprised to find, there are several traditions that link this time for new beginnings with deep and thorough house cleaning. The Jewish holiday of Passover or Pesach requires the faithful to *completely* clean their homes of any leaven products before the holiday. This is in remembrance of their escape from Egypt when they were in such a hurry to leave that they did not have time to wait for their bread to rise. Cleaning one's home now of any leavened

bread also spiritually cleanses one of unnecessary puffiness or arrogance. Orthodox Christians begin their Lenten period with a vigorous time of fasting and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Along with interior cleaning, they are also encouraged to clean their surroundings to match the changes going on within.

During the times when humans more commonly used coal, wood, and oil to cook food and heat their homes, warm spring days provided the chance to finally air out and clean one's living space. Some think people cleaned during this time because they were more energized by the lengthening days of light. As a small child I remember my mom regularly went through spring cleaning—a time to get the very deepest layers of dirt and grime out of usually forgotten corners, reorganize cupboards (my favorite part) and to clean all the windows until they sparkled. As I got older this tradition seemed to fade. I'm not sure if it was because we became better housekeepers throughout the rest of the year (probably not), or if it was because she grew further from her own childhood traditions. Perhaps she simply figured in our western world of vacuum cleaners and Lysol it wasn't as important.

Yet I'm beginning to think we miss something important to our psyches and our spirits if we don't heed this cyclical need for cleansing and renewal. Most of us would agree, to some degree, that we are affected by, or perhaps affect, the order of surroundings. I remember a friend in college having a difficult time organizing and motivating himself. Once he finally cleaned up his disastrous living space, everything seemed much easier for him. In our busy lives we go from activity to activity often without thought or awareness. Maybe we need more rituals, even that of housecleaning, to prepare ourselves for something new and exciting. Maybe that would make the in-between-time less fraught. Maybe. Would it hurt to try?

**Lise Adams Sherry**, Director of Religious Education 503-364-0932

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

## *The Unitarian Universalist*

*published by*

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*This issue was edited by Elsa Struble. NEXT NEWS-  
LETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 25.  
Send news to [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org) (or to Lois Nod-  
land and Elsa Struble, put it in the workroom newslet-  
ter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to  
UUCS.*

## **Lunch Bunch**

On **April 14** UUs will gather at Kim Huong Vietnamese Restaurant for the Second Wednesday lunch out. Make your reservation **right away** by calling Claudia or Jim Koch.

## **Dances of Universal Peace**

On **Thursday, April 15**, the leaders will be guests Hayra Fatah, who specializes in dances from the Hindu pantheon and the divine Feminine, and Phil Murad Notermann, a Sufi teacher with 30 years experience and an MA in Buddhist studies. Info: Pam Prichard.

## **Hungarian Dinner Postponed**

The dinner to raise money for the Partner Church Fund, scheduled for April 17, has been postponed until fall.

The Partner Church Committee is still planning a trip to visit our Partner Church in Simenfalva, Romania in 2011. Several

members of that congregation visited us last year, and this contact is important in perpetuating our relationship.

## **Path to Membership**

The Path to Membership class will meet in Rev. Rick's office after the service on **Sunday, April 18** to continue exploring what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of our congregation. For more information call Anne Alexander or Danna Parmley.

## **Soup Kitchen**

On **Sunday, April 18** UUCS volunteers will again serve at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. John Maluski of the Social Action Team is in charge.

## **Landscaping**

Thank you to Ted Cory, who has been putting in an outside path from the church building to the RE area. This is hard work and he could use some help. Please let him know if you can help him. Thanks to Randy Jones, who helped with the path and weeding at our last work party.

The **next work party** will be held on **Saturday, April 24** (the 4th Saturday). For more information please contact me.

*Sharon Dearman*

## **Cordon Road Clean-up**

Join us on **Saturday** morning, **April 24** to clean up a mile section of Cordon Road as part of Marion County's Adopt-A-Road program. Everyone at least 12 years old is welcome; those younger than 18 must have their parents' permission. Sign up at the Social Action Team's table after church or contact Laura Stine.

## **Souper Sunday**

**April 25** is the next Souper Sunday: enjoy good soup and bread as well as fellowship after the service. Donations and clean-up help are welcomed. Does anyone (beside Susan Farris) volunteer to bring gluten-free food? Contact Christi Olsen.

## Friday Fun Night

This intergenerational monthly activity will take place **April 30** at 6:00 pm. Come and join us for a fun evening of fellowship. Plan to bring snacks to share and have a fingerfood dinner at UUCS, or eat before you come. Games will be available or bring your favorite one to share. Some serious Scrabble players have met the last two months! Come join the fun and make this a successful monthly event. For more info, please contact Samantha Scales: or Christi Olsen.

## Women's Alliance

The last Women's Alliance meeting of the year will take place on **Thursday, May 6**. This dinner meeting will be held at La Margarita Restaurant at 545 Ferry Street SE. A social time will start at 5:30, with dinner served at 6:30, and the cost will be \$18 including tip. If you would like to attend, contact Women's Alliance treasurer Molly O'Dea by May 2.

*Catherine Carlson*  
Co-secretary, Women's Alliance

## Landscaping Fundraiser

On your calendar please write "UUCS TEA" in big bold letters for **Saturday, May 8!** This elegant **Mother's Day Tea** (hats and gloves are encouraged!) will feature witty and charming Winifred Morice, as well as goodies like cookies, scones, and finger sandwiches, and a few surprises. Tickets will be \$15 or two for \$25. For more information, or if you would like to help, contact Sharon Dearman.

During the "Tea", we will auction a beautiful \$1,200 barbecue that was donated by Fred Ratzeburg. Just think of all those warm summer nights coming up and how wonderful a great barbecue would be to have out on your deck. Bidding will start at \$100.00.

## News of the UUCS Community

UUCS member and professional musician **Alma Marianos** returned home from a reminiscence trip to Athens last month. In the company of family members and friends, she reconnected with the city she has known for

her lifetime. Born in Alexandria and reared in Cairo, Egypt by Greek parents, Alma grew up speaking Greek at home while learning English and Arabic in school. She attended Tiegermann Conservatory of Music in Cairo, but through that period she spent summers in Greece with her grandmother and other family. After marrying an American, she moved to the U.S., becoming a naturalized citizen not long after the first of her two daughters was born.

Even though she's been away from her native land for extended periods, the language still comes easily to her, making visits to Athens always another high point in her life. She writes that "this trip was lovely, with balmy weather" except for the particular day she and her friend chose to visit the Parthenon on the Acropolis and felt that they might be become airborne from the rock! She visited the Benaki Museum of Cycladic Art as well as the huge markets in the heart of the city. "One side of the street is lined with meat and fish stalls, as far as the eye can see, and not a single fly, everything so clean and fresh! The opposite side of the street had vegetable stalls. Saturday markets like Salem's are called 'laiki agora,' but occur on different days of the week in different neighborhoods, and all year long. Athens' streets emit a heady aroma from the bitter orange trees in bloom, the fruit unharvested except by those who collect it for delicious marmalade."

Although the event didn't dampen her enthusiasm, Alma admits to being pick-pocketed! "Idiotically, I put my wallet in my backpack, sat at a café when I realized that the wallet was missing! Henceforth, all credit, identification cards, and cash will go into my money belt! Live and learn!"

Condolences to the family of UUCS member **Joan Bent**, who died last week. Pastor Davis will conduct a memorial service for her at church at 11 a.m. next Saturday.

UUCS member **Marian Robison Eggers** sorrows as she reports that her husband Willard's life appears to ebb. The past month has been one of steady decline though he continues to welcome visits from church members and friends. Following a brief hospitalization he returned to Windsor Care Facility, located at Cottage and D Streets, Salem.

His room has been moved from the rehabilitation unit to the nursing facility, where Hospice personnel attend him. Marian suggests that visitors wake him if he's sleeping, the visits being such an uplifting experience.

Congratulations to new UUCS member **Mary Beth Hustoles**, who was honored at the recent Oregon Library Association's meeting in Portland for "exceptional effort and excellence in public library service"! Mary Beth is a library associate at the West Salem Branch and has been with the city system for twenty-seven years. On a personal note, Ken and I view the Branch as invaluable – Mary Beth and other staff are always attentive and resourceful. No doubt this is reflected in its circulation, readership and importance to the neighborhood community.

Congratulations also to **Erin Zysett** on receiving a Volunteer Service Award from President Obama for having performed 500 hours of service at the Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Center!

There was an audible gasp not long ago when **Dennis Ehrp's** wife **Jill Baker** lit a candle for him and announced that he'd been laid off from Salem Hospital's IT Department because of downsizing due to budgetary constraints. In this IT placement Dennis was able to utilize computer skills gained from years in the retail motorcycle business. Several discouraging weeks followed, but Dennis hustled out with resumes and relied on his positive experiences in former work settings; it paid off. He was hired back into the motorcycle business as a parts specialist for the Cycle Country dealership at Broadway and Market Streets in Salem. He writes, "it's a pleasure being back with customers who've known me for years, some of whom josh that they thought I'd died!"

**Emily Walton**, daughter of **Christine Ertl** and **Jon Walton**, an eighth grader at Howard Street Charter School, competed in the Mid-Valley Solo and Ensemble Competitions last month and was awarded highest marks (Outstanding) for her vocal solo! She was also selected for the Middle School Honor Choir this winter. Christine and Jon are delighted at her performances, soloing in two school plays this year. Last week she competed in the Piano Festival where, in the

past, she has consistently earned high honors. Next issue we'll have the outcome from that. Emily will attend South Salem High School next year; she'll attend the Children's Education Theater for the fifth time this summer.

The Waltons' son **Jasper** is completing his freshman year at the University of Oregon and will return home for the summer. He hopes to find work outside the green bean cannery, and also to join the Ertl family reunion in New York City in August.

It's time for sharing news of students' acceptance at schools and colleges as well as summer plans. Please contact me with your joys over these events as well as joys or concerns you're willing to share with others in our community.

*Joan Erickson*

## Newsletter Deadlines

Upcoming deadlines are April 25, May 9, May 23 (two-week intervals), June 20, July 18, August 15 (four-week intervals), and September 5.

## Outside Events

The **Funeral Consumers Alliance of Oregon (FCAO)** will hold its Annual Meeting on **Sunday, April 25**, in Milwaukie, OR 97222. It's important to keep this organization going! Questions may be directed to Mary Sohlstrom, who is a member of the FCAO Board. Call Laura Stine for a ride up to the meeting.

Petra Berger (UUCS member, Ph.D., RN) will present two free sessions on "**How to Talk to your Doctor**" at Center 50+. The first session will be on **Monday, April 19** from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and a follow-up session will be held May 17; no pre-registration is required. Petra will discuss matters like how to tell the doctor that what she just told you was not clear to you, what to know before signing an 'Informed consent' form, what concerns to discuss with staff and physicians during a hospitalization or emergency room visit, what to ask just before discharge home—with the

general aim of achieving more of a partnership with healthcare providers.

*Petra Berger*

mation or go to [www.uccwc.org/familycamp](http://www.uccwc.org/familycamp) or contact Sara Cloe, DRE, at UCCWC, 503-648-1720.

The third annual **UU Celebration of Interdependence Family Camp** will be held on Fourth of July Weekend (**Thursday, July 1 to Sunday, July 4**) at Camp Cedar Ridge in Vernonia, 40 miles west of Portland in Tillamook Forest. "Family" includes any UU who wants to celebrate with other UU's of all ages. The camp is sponsored by UCCWC-Hillsboro and the Rev. Sue Ayeris the chaplain. See the last newsletter for more infor-

**YEA (Youth Empowered Action)** Summer Camp should be of interest to youth ages 11-16 "who want to make a difference in the world" as well as have fun at camp. Phil Carver sends word that his daughter is organizing this week-long leadership camp to be held **August 14-21** at Camp Onahlee in Molalla. Web site is [www.yecamp.org](http://www.yecamp.org); email is [info@yecamp.org](mailto:info@yecamp.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

### UUCS 2009-2010 TEAM LEADERS

(Team Leaders plus the Board's Vice Chair make up the TEAM COUNCIL.)

Chalice Circle Players	Cherie Ulmer & Dennis Ehrp	Membership	Anne Alexander & Danna Parmley
Communications	Chrystal Areall	Operations	Paul Parmley
Fellowship	Christi Olsen	Religious Education	(shared by team members)
Finance	George Struble	Social Action	Dick Boyle & Laura Stine
Green Sanctuary	Robin Wengert	Sunday Services	Jeff Geissler
Lifelines Lay Ministry	Jim Koch		

\* \* \* \* \*

### SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

**Sunday, April 18: Partner Churches in Transylvania Lise Adams Sherry and Rick Davis**

The multigenerational service will include music by both choirs, as well as David Popper's *Requiem*, played by cellists Georgienne Young, Noah Seitz, and George Struble and pianist Sara Seitz.

**Sunday, April 25 Earth Day Service Phil Carver**

It's been 40 years since the first Earth Day. What have we learned? What are the relationships between religion, spiritualism and planetary salvation? Quo vadis?

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

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***THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST***

April 14, 2010

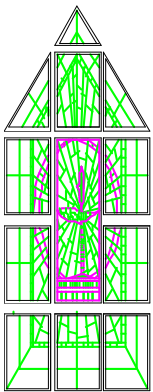
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**UUCS Calendar**

- Wednesday, April 14  
UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (every Wednesday)  
Lunch Bunch at Kim Huong Vietnamese restaurant  
Covenant of UU Pagans of Salem (CUUPS), 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 15  
Dances of Universal Peace, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 17  
Memorial Service for Joan Bent, 11 a.m.  
Hungarian Dinner postponed until fall
- Sunday, April 18  
Readers' Forum (Sundays through May 16), 9:15 a.m.  
Path to Membership class, after service  
Fire Pit meeting & work party, after service  
Soup Kitchen at St. Mark's, 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 21  
UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (**every** Wednesday)  
Chat & Craft, 7:00 p.m. (**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** Wednesdays)
- Saturday, April 24  
Landscape Work Party, 9 a.m.  
Cordon Road Cleanup, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, April 25  
Monthly SOUPER SUNDAY, after service  
Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m.
- Friday, April 30  
Family Fun Night, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 6  
Women's Alliance annual dinner at La Margarita Restaurant
- Saturday, May 8  
Mother's Day Tea