

# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Salem, Oregon  
April 19, 2006*



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## '06op + '06cap + some = '07pl

### Revisiting the Math

For the last several years, your pledge payments and contributions to the plate collection (unless otherwise designated) paid the operating expenses of our Congregation. Many members also pledged and made payments to the Capital Fund, which then made our mortgage payments. When the new fiscal year begins on July 1, the Operating Fund must take over the mortgage payments in addition to covering our other operating expenses.

Next year's operating budget will have to be forty some thousand dollars more than this year's be-

cause of this change. This year we have been giving to two funds: operating and capital. Next year, we will be giving to one.

We are going to have a big problem if we don't, each of us, accommodate this accounting change in our pledging. It has been said several times in the newsletter and during the Sunday service, and many members have acted on the message, but it bears saying again:

### '06op + '06cap + some = '07pl

Translation: Take last year's pledge to Operating, add last year's pledge to Capital, then add some more. Total that to come up with next year's pledge to Operating.

If you did not do this math earlier, I would ask that you get a new pledge card [or use the one printed on page 5], do the math, and revise your pledge by mail or by a phone call to the office. Otherwise, we are going to be in a world of hurt. **We have a very special church; we are doing a lot of wonderful things. To thrive next year, we need \$33,000 more than has been pledged to date. Please do what *you* can. Thanks!**

*David Boaz*

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

## Reverential Ramblings

One of the great merits of the English language – which includes more words than any other language in the world – is its infinite adaptability. Our mother tongue continually evolves and welcomes words from other languages when they can prove their usefulness. “Schadenfreude” (pr. shaw-den-froi-deh) is a good example. It’s a German word for which there is no English equivalent, so it has been imported into our language and finds increasing usage amongst us. Quite simply, it means “enjoyment obtained from the mishaps of others.”

These days, some on the liberal end of the political spectrum may be tempted to feel some Schadenfreude because in the political world “some chickens are coming home to roost” – a Republican Congressman, a faithful friend of the highest corporate bidders who led the charge to impeach our past president, has now resigned amidst allegations of corruption. Meanwhile his former congressional allies flee from the scene and hope voters will have short attention spans. The president, who led the nation into a calamitous conflict abroad, now sits on the hot seat trying to explain irreconcilable accounts about how he led us into that senseless war while his poll numbers sink down, down, down. Our imperious Secretary of Defense, who blithely dismissed cautionary advice about how to wage war, is now being called upon to resign by retired high ranking military officials. Yes, the blush of some right wing ruses is fading fast. The withering scrutiny of the press and the public is beginning to melt the overweening confidence of some who have held sway as fast as global warming is melting the polar ice caps.

Many who opposed these figures undoubtedly feel a temptation to say “I told you so – this misbegotten war, this disastrous neglect of the environment, of sound economic practices, of social needs – all

this and much more has been wrong, wrong, wrong and will become more apparent with the passage of time.” Some might even be tempted to feel some pleasure in knowing that those whose policies and practices have caused so much harm should be feeling pressure and discomfort now that public sentiment is turning against them and legal difficulties loom on the horizon.

Yet it’s one thing to stand for what you believe to be true and just – we must do that. It’s another thing to derive pleasure from knowing that those who you believe have subverted truth and justice are suffering as a consequence of their actions. That’s a mindset of “an eye for an eye” retributive justice, which, as Gandhi pointed out, finally leads to blindness in the world. Our world needs more of a spirit of restorative justice, where the goal is accountability, rectification and, hopefully, eventual reconciliation.

I have a sense that the political pendulum may be swinging back from the far right, and I can well imagine there may soon be some liberal gloating, just as there has been gloating on the other side of the political spectrum. This is misguided. When our convictions lead us to loathe, belittle, despise or mock others, this further deepens the divide between people, leading to more anger and resentment. Our Unitarian Universalist heritage reminds us that there are no “them” and “us.” All people of all ideologies and persuasions are fellow citizens in the commonwealth of being.

It is good to welcome “Schadenfreude” into the English lexicon – it’s a useful word. It is not good to welcome the feeling it describes into your heart. Just say “no” to Schadenfreude! You know what I mean.

Love, *Rick*

## **Landscape Work Party**

Due to a bad weather forecast for Saturday, April 15th, we postponed the monthly work party to Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 to noon. Everyone is invited. For more information call Sharon Dearman.

## **Revised Iraq/Iran Petition**

Immediately after the Sunday Service on **April 23** there will be an open meeting in the sanctuary to discuss and finalize the wording of the proposed Iraq/Iran petition, which will be voted up or down at the May 21 UUCS Annual meeting. See the proposed wording on page 3 of the April 5 Newsletter (available on [www.uusalem.org](http://www.uusalem.org)). If approved at the annual meeting, the petition will be presented to Oregon Senators Wyden and Smith and Oregon 5<sup>th</sup> District Representative Hooley.

## **Spring Book Sale April 23**

Some new; some old favorites; and some on sale! How about an inspirational Meditation Manual for a Mothers' Day gift? The Library Committee will have the books available in Hanneman Hall both before and after the service.

## **Plant Sale**

The UUCS annual plant sale, which supports our Landscape Fund, will be Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any treasured plants which you can divide, now is obviously a good time for that project! And plan a space in your garden for some of the many collector's plants that will be available at the sale.

We will set up for the sale on Friday afternoon (May 5) in the in our extra parking lot, across Center Street from the church building. If you have extra paper bags at home, this would be a good place to recycle them, to enable people to carry plants home. Barbara Fisk is in charge. Please contact her if you would like to help, if you have plants to donate but cannot transport them, or if you need more information.

## **Alliance Dinner May 4**

This year the Women's Alliance will hold its annual May dinner meeting at Deepwood – on Thursday, May 4, at 6:00 p.m. All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend. Deepwood can accommodate 30 people, and reservations are necessary. Call Kay Young.

## **Social Action Opportunity**

We have been reading about the continuing genocide in the Sudanese province of Darfur. To spur our government and other governments into action there will be a "Save Darfur" rally in Washington on April 30. For more information contact: Save Darfur Coalition ([www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org)).

## **Youth Conference**

Our high school youth will be attending the spring conference near Molalla April 28-30. If you enjoy the company of young people, you might check with DRE Lise Adams Sherry to find out whether they still need another adult sponsor who can help with the driving.

## **Items Needed for Simenfalva**

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.

## Addictions and Recovery Ministry

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is sponsoring a training session for people interested in team ministries for addictions and recovery. It will be held in Portland on Thursday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you are interested in this training and in exploring the possibilities this might have for us, please contact our minister, Rev. Rick Davis, at the church office. He plans to attend and will be glad to carpool with others.

## Summer Coffee

Needed: a few good hearted volunteers for coffee making on Sunday mornings for the months of July and August. Comfortable working conditions, excellent opportunity to meet and greet new members and old friends. Extra reward: you always get the first cup of coffee!

Please contact Sandra Meredith.

## News of the UUCS Community

On Easter weekend, **April Waters** and her son were to travel to Crawford, Texas, for the purpose of meeting up with Gold Star Families for Peace, giving support to them, and getting some pictures of Cindy Sheehan so April can paint a portrait of her.

We send our condolences to **Pam Ruona** and John Tom Maluski on the death of Pam's mother. Pam was to travel from South Korea to Minnesota for the memorial service.

*Kim Willaman*

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met on Thursday, April 13. Present were members David Boaz, Chuck Howard, Lori Jenkins, Kristen Hunt, Lois Nodland, Diana Nicholson-Nelson, and the Rev. Rick Davis. Alma Marianos and Marian Robison were absent. Also present was George Struble.

During the meeting, Board members:

- Ratified earlier e-mail votes to 1) accept the Personnel Committee recommendation to hire Lise Adams Sherry for the position of UUCS Director of Religious Education; 2) approve an April 9<sup>th</sup> special collection for our partner church in **Simenfalva**; and 3) accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to call Kate Lore to serve as intern during the next two summers.

- Accepted Rev. Rick's written report that included that the Beethoven fundraising concert at UUCS raised over \$1,000 for underprivileged children and to strengthen the music program in the Salem Keizer School District; that the Committee on Ministry will work with the summer intern (members are Don Wolf, John Roy Wilson, Anne Alexander, Ann Hanus and Phil Carver); that he is working on a volunteer recruitment plan; that he and others from UUCS are going to visit the partner church beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>; and that he will be out of town at a minister's conference for three days next week.

- Accepted the Associate DRE written report;

- Received information provided by absent Treasurer Marian Robison that after 75% of the fiscal year has passed, 70% of pledges have been received and 71% of budgeted expenses have been paid;

- Accepted with thanks Finance Team Chair George Struble's *UUCS Finances: Structure and Procedures* draft that he developed for the Board and also his up-dates on budget development and the canvass;

- Accepted a Nominating Committee report from George Struble that they are making progress recruiting nominees for consideration at the May UUCS annual meeting;

- Discussed possibility of staff restructuring in response to a request for a music staff person, and approved a task force to include Rick, David, Jon Walton and Lois to consider UUCS position descriptions with input from RE, staff and volunteers, including music and personnel;
- Noted that a second discussion of the UUCS resolution on Iraq will be held after church on April 23;
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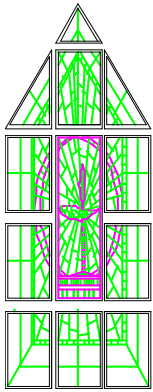
- Postponed the policy governance workshop to late August or early September;
- Decided to invite the PNWD Board Representative to meet with the Board at a potluck prior to a board meeting;

Board meetings are open and all are invited to attend. The next meeting of the Board is May 11.

(Summary by Board Secretary Lois Nodland)

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## UUCS Calendar



**Wednesday, April 19**

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

**Friday, April 21**

Brown Bag Lunch with Rick, noon

**Saturday, April 22**

Landscape Work Party, 9 to noon

**Sunday, April 23**

Readers Forum, 9:15 a.m. (every Sunday)  
Service, 10:30 a.m. (every Sunday)  
Book Sale, Hanneman Hall  
Finalize IRAQ/IRAN Position Statement, after service

**Monday, April 24**

YRUU, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 25**

Voluntary Simplicity, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, May 4**

Alliance Annual Dinner, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, May 6**

Annual UU Plant Sale, 9 to 5

### ESTIMATE OF GIVING (Pledge Card)

TAKE ONE STEP UP TO PROMOTE THE VISION, VALUES AND IDEALS OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

As a concrete expression of my support of our life affirming faith and congregation, I plan...to give \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ---STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

This commitment may be revised or cancelled at any time at my request.

# **SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL**

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

**April 23**

**“Literally or Figuratively”**

**The Reverend Dana Worsnop**

Our minister, Rick Davis, and Dana Worsnop, minister of Atkinson Memorial Church in Oregon City (UU) will be having their annual pulpit exchange. Regarding her sermon, Dana writes, “In our resistance to a literal interpretation of scripture, how do we avoid merely reacting against it? How do we avoid being caught up in literalism ourselves? Can we have an authentic relationship with traditional scriptures?”

**April 30**

**Humanist and Naturalist: Religion and Ethics**

**Roger Gillette**

The first six UUA Principles focus on human-to-human relations. Only the seventh principle focuses on human-to-nature relations. Differences between Humanism and Naturalism lead to different religious and ethical practices. Without Naturalism as a primary focus, human society will not survive.

**May 7**

**Green Housing at Fairview**

**Russ Beaton**

New houses and communities should be adapted to the realities of global warming and other environmental and resource limits. Sustainable Fairview has plans for a 275-acre sustainable community with selected re-use of buildings from the former Fairview hospital in Salem. Russ is one of the founders of Sustainable Fairview Associates, LLC. For more information see <http://www.sustainablefairview.com/>.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

***THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST***

April 19, 2006

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