

# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Salem, Oregon  
June 11, 2008*



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## Marion-Polk Food Share

Recent statistics from Marion-Polk Food Share indicate that about 74% of the food obtained comes from donations, and 13% from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, down from 80% in the past. Approximately 15% of Oregonians, and one out of eight children, are living below the Federal poverty level. Between January 1 and March 31, 2008, our congregation gave 682 pounds of food and the sum of \$366.00, which was a substantial amount. However, the need for food boxes

increased 14% from last year, and is expected to increase. Your continued contributions are greatly appreciated.

*Dick Boyle, Co-Chair  
Social Action Team*

## Sun Returns in Time for Annual Picnic

The UUCS Annual Picnic was held at the Pavilion at Riverfront Park on Sunday, June 8. The weather cleared and provided us with a fantastic sunny day for playing bocce ball, croquet, and just sitting around soaking up the sun. Myra Fernandez and Rebecca Rivera created balloon sculptures for the kids that included swans, hats, and elephants. Ted Corey provided a wonderful selection of music throughout the afternoon—he stopped only when we insisted that he select from the array of delicious salads and desserts brought by our UU families. What a magnificent way to welcome our summer session! A special thank you to each and every one of our UU family who helped to make the Annual Picnic a success.

*Submitted by the Fellowship Team: Sandra Meredith, Chris Hochendoner,  
Margo Eliescu, Lois Nodland, and Lydia Gutierrez*



*The Unitarian Universalist is published once a month in the summer.  
The next two issues will be July 16 and August 13. Have a great summer!*

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*This issue was edited by Kathleen Ehli. **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, July 13.** Send news to [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org) (or to Lois Nodland AND Kathleen Ehli— and please put UUCS somewhere in the subject line — this helps your busy editors' e-mail program sort your message into a special folder so it is easy to find), put it in work-room newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to church.*

## Reverential Ramblings

Recently I invited someone I'd encountered on a few occasions to visit our congregation sometime. The very next Sunday this person showed up. Several times that morning I looked out for this visitor out of concern that he might be socially stranded during the social hour. Each time I saw a regular member engaged in what was obviously more than a perfunctory conversation with our guest. This was both gratifying and a relief. It's a genuine delight for me to see so many people having lively conversations during our social hour.

It does seem to me that in this past congregational year—which we designated as “the year of intentional hospitality”—we have become more conscious of how we welcome people into our religious home. Almost every Sunday during my welcome, I have reminded everyone “to spend the first five minutes of our social hour meeting someone you haven't met before.” (This puts us all—visitors and regular members - on an equal footing.) Several of you have told me that you have taken this to heart and really seek out someone new to engage in conversation.

Doing this may have stretched you a bit beyond your usual social comfort zones, but stretching is good exercise. Comfort zones tend to shrink over time. Yet if you make it a habit to stretch a bit your comfort zone becomes larger—you grow. That's one of the primary reasons we have religious community—to provide a place in which we can stretch our hearts, minds and spirits and thereby continue growing.

If we do continue to be conscious and intentional in greeting the visitor beyond this one-year (as I believe we will be since it's become a good habit) congregational growth may result, but that will be a happy byproduct. The true motive for being intentionally hospitable is that it is an act of caring and compassion, a fulfillment of the promise of Unitarian Universalism – the most openhearted, inclusive theology one can imagine.

Think of how you have felt when you've gone to some new gathering of people. When everyone seems to know everyone else, and they talk among themselves and pay you little heed, you feel left out. Yet when people graciously greet you, show that they have an unconditional positive regard for you, enter into meaningful conversation, this can have a positively transforming, even a healing, effect. Studies do show that many visitors who come to religious communities are often in the midst of difficult transitions in their lives and feel very vulnerable. How they are greeted and welcomed can make a world of difference.

Think of intentional hospitality as living out the golden rule—greeting others as you would want to be greeted. But wait! The golden rule might or might not apply here. There's an implicit understanding with the golden rule that everyone is exactly like you and wants the same thing—that might or might not be true. With intentional hospitality, it may be necessary to refer to the “Platinum Rule” which states that you are to “treat others the way THEY want to be treated.” This shifts the focus from you to the other person, calling for you to be aware of the other person in their full and unique humanity and sensitive to their particular needs on Sunday morning. This ministry of hospitality is a sacred calling. Thank your for hearing and heeding that call.

*Love,  
Rick*

*Note: This is Rick's last column before summer. He will return to writing his column sometime in August.*



**LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**  
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem**  
**June 11, 2008**

## **Mark's Message**

*(This column was inadvertently left out of the August 2007 newsletter. We hope you will read it in anticipation of summer 2008. (editors))*

A tall apple tree in the neighbor's yard is overgrown with 3 kinds of grape, so hardly any leaves from the tree are visible. One of the grapes straddles the fence between this house and another neighbor's, and climbs from there into a little hazelnut tree in my backyard. From there it sends down tendrils that clutch at my corn and tomato plants. My daughters have discovered they can climb the thick grape vines, which give, or shift, sometimes as much as a foot, but hold their weight. It is like climbing ropes or a swing set.

I had my first fig a few days ago from the tree in the alley. I have been watching them grow, like ticks lined up along the branches, swelling with the blood of the tree. Soon the smell of ripe and overripe fruit, smashed by cruising cars, will tempt the ants and wasps. Feast or famine, it seems: expectation passes so quickly into decay. Squirrels have been eating the English walnuts that are beginning to drop on the sidewalk and the parking strip south of my house; they are still too bitter for me. I wish that time would stop for a little, and let me savor this moment of ripeness, plenitude.

Behind the church one Sunday we found two species of fish in the little creek and an alderfly larvae, a strange amber-colored little water monster. It remained stock still while the gills at its sides rippled back and forth. Someone had brought a recipient for water with a magnifying lens on the bottom. We caught water striders and looked at their wide hairy legs and the strange dimples they carve into the water's surface to skate on. I'll close with some words of Loren Eiseley: "If there is mystery in the world, it is contained in water."

Mark Babson

## **Treasurer's Update**

For this last newsletter before the UUCS fiscal year ends **June 30**, I'm reporting that pledge payments as of the end of May total about \$205,000. \$233,000 was budgeted for 2007-08, and it will be wonderful if the nearly \$28,000 comes in this month. If you made a pledge in spring 2007 but haven't completed or revised it, please consider writing a check VERY soon!

*Thanks, Elsa Struble, Treasurer*

## **Retake, Retake!**

Sometimes technical difficulties are encountered. And sadly one happened shortly after new member and retake photos were taken May 4 for the UUCS Member and Friends Directory. It's the old "the computer ate my term paper" story. Only it was the photos. We are hoping first that all nineteen of you will forgive us and, secondly, that you will

drop by next Sunday, **June 15**, for a "retake" for first timers and a "retake, retake" for the rest of you. We especially hope new members will do theirs now so we can add them to our new member bulletin board right away. We welcome all others to re-do their retakes now. If you can't make it now, there will be an opportunity again this fall before the scheduled new directory comes out in October.

*Kay Cogswell, Membership Team*

## **Landscape Work Party**

The next work party will be on **Saturday, June 21**, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If you would like more information, call Iris Sea or Sharon Dearman.

*Sharon Dearman*

## **RE Director Absence – July**

Our Director of Religious Education, Lise Adams Sherry, will be off for the month of

July. If you have questions about the summer program please direct them to our Associate DRE, Mark Babson, or to Micky Logan, our Religious Education Team Chair.

## **Recordings Available**

We always hope you can make the Sunday service, but if you can't and want to hear what went on, a CD audio recording can be made for you through the efforts of John Prohodsky and Paul Parmley. If you can't find them, a member of the Lifelines Lay Ministry can pass the request on. There's no charge, but if you have CD rewritable blanks available, they would be useful.

## **New Outreach**

You may have noticed that we've added "podcasts" to our website a few months ago. You need to go to <http://uucs.podbean.com/> or go to our website and click on the link. You can hear sermons for the past several months. Looks like a fair number of people do check us out this way.

Also, last year Rosa Leonardi from CCTV invited me to make a promo for our congregation which she video taped and edited. She did a great job – it's on the CCTV website under "streaming videos" – scroll down to nonprofits and you can see it. I'd forgotten about this and had never seen it until Jill Baker brought it to my attention a week ago. I've asked Rose Drake to work with Loni Barret, our webmaster, to create a link from our website to this welcome/ orientation presentation. I urge you to check it out.

*Rick*

## **Lock the Gate!**

Our gate has a new padlock. Exactly the same keys work on it as worked on the previous one. But now that we again have a working lock, USE IT! Lock the gate when you leave in late afternoon or evening (except Thursday evenings: garbage truck comes early Friday morning), and expect to unlock it in the morning!

*George Struble*

## **Library Distress Call!**

We have an ongoing concern about check-out procedures in the UUCS library. In

your hurry to get to the service, you may have inadvertently neglected to follow procedures.

Please be sure to sign the card found in the back cover of the book and leave the card in the tray by the door. Include your name and date. We suggest books be returned within three weeks. Unfortunately, many books go missing and no cards are left.

Please check your bookshelves for overlooked forgotten books.

*Delores Lusk*

## **Soup Kitchen Report**

Everything went well at the June 1 soup kitchen. We had a large number—56—but have had plenty of soup with more frozen in the freezer at Jason Lee. The volunteers were Daphne, Mike and Rissy Hilton (non-UU friends of mine), Lisa Rangitsch (her first time!), Lorraine Stuart, Catherine Carlson, Shelley and Emmie Kennen.

*Shelley Kennen*

## **Bloomin' Brunch a Success**

Sharon Dearman and Iris Sea reported that the Bloomin' UU Brunch held on June 7 was a great success, with delicious food, excellent speakers and many helpful volunteers. The event raised about \$3000 for the landscape committee.

*Newsletter editors*

## **CHP Volunteers Needed!**

As a UUCS member, you can have a direct impact on the lives of people in need. Congregations Helping People (CHP) needs intake volunteers to assist the staff.

Intake volunteers greet people who come to the CHP office seeking help and assist them in filling out a brief application form. A safe work environment is a priority and volunteers never work with clients in isolation. Intake volunteers will also perform simple office tasks, such as making copies, filling out and filing forms, and making brief phone calls.

If you can commit to three or more hours per week, please contact one of the CHP staff.

*The Rev. Connie Yost*

## Creative Combustion Games

If you were still pondering on whether or not to teach children's religious education this coming year, now you definitely have a reason to sign up!! In addition to our regular nuts and bolts training of how to be a wonderful RE Teacher for our 2008-09 Sunday morning church school classes, we will have Lynne Bacon teach us Creative Combustion Games. These games are a great way to build community with the children and youth in your class and the purpose of the games range from introducing a fun, frolicking atmosphere to creating the potential for deep bonds of trust. Lynne Bacon has used these games throughout her many years as DRE at First Unitarian in Portland (she is now DRE Emeritus there) and her several interim DRE positions. **So save the day** (tentatively 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)—Lynne will be with us in Salem on **Saturday, September 6**, to share her expertise and infectious enthusiasm. If you have more questions, contact Lise Adams Sherry.

## New Members

Three new members signed the book and joined our congregation during the Sunday service on May 4: Marian Milligan, William P. Dugan, and Sunny Jones. Look for their biographies in a future newsletter.

## News of the UUCS Community

UUs view one another as unique individuals, so it follows that UU children and youth are unique as well, but **Deidre McAteer** stands out for a number of reasons. Deidre's completed a home-schooled elementary education and eagerly anticipates her first public school experience as a freshman at Sprague High School this fall. A week ago Sunday she was acknowledged for an unusually insightful essay, delivered by a published author at a Greenpeace gathering on the topic of global warming and held at Salem Library; its topic was "How we stopped global warming by 2050."

Deidre's the daughter of UUCS member **Mary Jo Eyles** and John McAteer. She's the youngest member of our church choir and an

enthusiastic member of the youth group. She participates in the national program sponsored by The Johns Hopkins Center for the Study of Talented Youth, and will attend a CTY program soon on the UO campus. She has studied the Japanese language with a tutor from Tokyo International University who graduated this year, but hopes to continue the tutelage with another TIUA student this year as well as begin studies in French. Prospects for the future excite her but none more than returning in summer 2009 to her ancestral home in Ireland for the her second McAteer "world family reunion" (her first in 2004), this one to be coupled with travel with her parents in England. We'll hear more of her in the future!

UUCS member **Adele Birnbaum** died at her home a week ago Sunday evening after a blessedly brief struggle with bone cancer that began in her spine. Her daughters Alice and Sarah supported her throughout her dying. A service to memorialize her will be held at the church at 10 a.m. on **June 21**.

Congratulations to **Todd Van Osdol**, **Judith's** second son to graduate from Washington's Whitman College! Todd majored in philosophy and will chase work in the Seattle area.

**John Casey** has an acrylic painting in Expressions West at the Coos Art Museum in Coos Bay, a rigorous competition show; it's titled "Willamette Winter," and it took an honorable mention! The exhibit runs through July 5.

**George Struble** participated in the ROPEX (Rochester Philatelic Exhibition) stamp show in Rochester, New York in May. His 144-page exhibit on the development of Swiss airmail earned a ROPEX gold award, the medal from the American Helvetia Philatelic Society (the organization for collectors of Swiss stamps, whose journal George edits) and the award from the American Airmail Society. His 16-page exhibit on the educator Pestalozzi in Swiss philately earned a ROPEX silver award. George had a good time with his fellow collectors.

**Dick Boyle** is another UUCS stamp collector, a member of the Salem Stamp Society since 1972, and life member of the American Philatelic Society. Along with George, he's

always willing to consult and confer with other collectors.

Some years after he retired from his professional, work **Chuck Howard** took on leadership roles at UUCS, first as Board member, then Board Chair, then the obligatory past-Chair, while coping with a series of daunting medical problems. He could have retired on his deserved laurels, collected his retirement income, but instead he launched a new turn in his professional career and now has been accepted as Trainer at the Grantsmanship Center in Los Angeles, an institution teaching prospective grant writers in non-profit organizations how to write proposals when seeking funds to carry out their activities. This year-long project was devoted to one of two types of workshops the Center provides.

The second type demanded that he learn the curriculum for the Center's Research Proposal Workshop, focusing upon helping investigators obtain funds for their own research projects. This model reflects Chuck's own background, so not only does he enjoy it more, but sees it as more fun to teach. Travel throughout the country is part of the job; he'll spend a week in North Carolina in late July. While that's a challenge, he finds it fulfilling as he helps others get funds to support their research, create new knowledge and adapt that to meet human needs.

**David and Virginia Corrie-Cozart** returned last weekend from a Willamette University-sponsored, whirlwind tour of the art and architecture of Florence and its surrounding towns and villages.

**Melissa Bogner's** parents, **Elizabeth and David**, presented her on her eighteenth birthday with a lavish party for family and friends! UUCS elders included were **Kay Young, Barbara Hanneman, and Jo Bate-**man.

More UUCS references to Iceland: Associate Director of RE **Mark Babson** is well-acquainted with Iceland, having been a year-long exchange student there in 1986.

About four years ago new UUCS Board member **Wayne Seely** underwent surgery to have a cochlear implant installed. We wrote then of his excitement at the difference it made in his ability to function in the hearing world. We asked him recently to review his

impressions of the effectiveness of the device from this time-perspective. His response follows: "I have personally experienced a great improvement in my ability to understand speech. My ability to hear on the phone has improved dramatically and enabled me to even use the cell phone. It's so enjoyable to hear environmental sounds such as birdsong or water flowing. Even with an implant, hearing is still influenced by conditions of loud background noise, poor lighting or acoustics, or not having a line of sight to the speaker, but I find the implant to be such an improvement that I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone.

"The Cochlear (CI) is an electronic device with battery powered external speech processor which changes sound to digital information transmitted to the internal implant by electromagnetic induction. The internal implant converts the digital information into electrical signals and sends them to the tiny electrode array curled gently inside the cochlea. The signals from the array bypass the damaged cells to stimulate the hearing nerve, allowing the brain to perceive sound.

"Most private insurance plans and Medicare cover the cost of the implant surgery, with Medicare having a stricter standard, requiring speech understanding ability of 40% or less in the best-aided condition, but the benefits are so great that I encourage anyone with significant hearing loss to inquire about the procedure to meet their needs. I am most willing to discuss these issues."

If you have joys or concerns that you are willing to share in this medium please contact me!

*Joan Erickson*

## ARMS

Members of the Addiction Recovery Ministry Support (ARMS) group are always available to provide assistance to UUCS members struggling with addiction. They can be reached through the "warm" line which is monitored daily.

## **Community Events**

### **Social Justice & Peace on July 4th**

To progressive folks, July 4th weekend is not “blind patriotism” but setting forth a new direction for the US. That points us to supporting social justice and peace, the very theme of the Seabeck Conference sponsored by the nonprofit Fellowship for Reconciliation. Over two dozen workshops on promoting nonviolence as well as boosting environmental causes and human rights await us on **July 3-6**, with lots of nutritious good and sing-alongs to nurture our liberal souls.

Nationally known Prof. George Lakey, author and educator on nonviolence in the

mode of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will sound the clarion as our special keynoter.

Check out the website at Fellowship for Reconciliation/Seaneck for more details.

Or else phone Janet Brown or John Roy Wilson.

### **Salem’s World Beat Festival**

The World Beat Festival is looking for volunteers. There are tons of roles to fill and you get a free t-shirt! The World Beat is always the last weekend in June, this year it’s the 28th and 29th. For volunteer sign-up, contact Social Action Co-Chair, Erin Zysett or go online at [www.worldbeatfestival.org](http://www.worldbeatfestival.org)

*Erin Zysett*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL**

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

**Sunday, June 15      The Big Questions of Life: Religion, Science, and a Nursery Rhyme**

**Paul Rice**

What really is the meaning of life?

**Sunday, June 22      The Meaning of the Summer Solstice**

**Kate Walker and Susan Scott**

We can promise a different start to your summer this year. Come to this service. SCUUPS (Salem Coven of UU Pagans) invites you to celebrate the Solstice (longest day of the year), chant, drum, and have a wonderful start to the summer of 2008. If you have a drum, bells, chimes, etc., please bring them. We will drum according to the I Ching.

**Sunday, June 29**

**Lise Adams Sherry**

**Sunday, July 6**

**The Rev. Craig Moro**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

***THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST***

June 11, 2008

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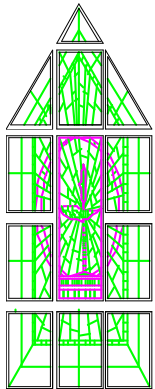
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Salem, Oregon



Wednesday, June 11

Thursday, June 12

Saturday, June 14

Sunday, June 15

Wednesday, June 18

Thursday, June 19

Saturday, June 21

Wednesday, June 25

Monday, June 30

Wednesday, July 2

Wednesday, July 9

Sunday, July 13

**UUCS Calendar**

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

Board Meeting, 7 p.m. (all are welcome)

Life Lines Lay Ministry, 9:30 a.m.

*Note: The Readers' Forum will return in September*

**Photo Retakes for UUCS Directory**

Young Adults, 5 p.m.

UU Meditation, 7 p.m.

Chat & Craft, 7 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays)

Dances of Universal Peace, 7 p.m.

Landscape Work Party, 9 a.m.

Adele Birnbaum Memorial Service, 10 a.m.

UU Meditation, 7 p.m.

UUCS Fiscal Year Ends

UU Meditation, 7 p.m.

UU Meditation, 7 p.m.

**NEXT Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m.**