

# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Salem, Oregon  
July 11, 2007*



## Inside this Issue

GA Witness Vote, Brown Bag	1
Introspections from your Intern	2
Board Chair, Trainings, Full Moon,	
This I Believe, August Tasks	3
RE News, June Board Meeting	4-5
Community News	5-7
Sunday Services	7
Calendar	8

## Actions of Immediate Witness – General Assembly

At each General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of congregations (UUA), Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) are presented. After discussion, delegates vote on whether or not to accept these AIWs for action within their own congregations

during the upcoming year. The following six actions were presented for a vote and all were accepted. At GA, Rob Keithan of the UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy asked us to "Think about what you personally will do and then what your congregation will do" in an effort to explore and respond to these concerns.

You can find a more detailed presentation of these AIWs at the GA portion of the UUA website (<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2007> look under Saturday, Plenary V). Many of us from UUCS who attended GA hope that we can bring at least some of these concerns forward to discuss and act upon in the upcoming year.

- AIW 1: Support for the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- AIW 2: Support Immigrant Families: Stop the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Raids
- AIW 3: Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education at Home and Abroad
- AIW 4: Stop U.S.-Sponsored Torture: A Religious Call to Action
- AIW 5: Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"
- AIW 6: Pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act

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The next **BROWN BAG DISCUSSION** with Intern Minister Kate Lore will be Wednesday noon, July 18. The topic is "Brushes with Death." We will listen to each other's experiences with a focus on the learnings gleaned from them.

\* \* \* \* \*

*This issue was edited by Elsa Struble and Kathleen Ehli. **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. August 5, 2007.** Send news to [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org) or put it in workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter") to church.*

# Introspections from your Intern

## Our Blessed Joys & Concerns

On Sunday, June 17, I facilitated an after-church discussion on Joys & Concerns. This event was organized to elicit ideas, concerns, and suggestions for improvement on this sacred aspect of Sunday worship. It was also designed to give voice to the passion so many of you feel about this ritual—much of which erupted after Rick stated his intention to change Joys & Concerns in one of his recent columns.

Fourteen people participated in the discussion and there was a good mix of folks: people who love the ritual and people who detest it; new members and long-term members; men and women. What follows is an abbreviated report about that rich and inclusive discussion on our Joys & Concerns (Js & Cs) ritual.

### Points of Agreement:

1. Unitarian Universalism is good and should grow.
2. Js & Cs should be reserved for personal sharing—not announcements.
3. Js & Cs help us connect.
4. Js & Cs can run on too long and this is a problem.
5. It is good to have the option of writing down our Js & Cs if we are uncomfortable speaking in front of others.

### Points of Disagreement:

1. Some of us don't like the written form of Js & Cs when it is "imposed" upon the whole group.
2. Some of us think that the Js & Cs ritual is a valid and meaningful part of our worship services and others wish it would be eliminated.
3. Some of us feel comfortable hearing the public airing/sharing of problems while others feel it is too personal a thing to be included in worship.

### Ideas Generated which Received the Most Favorable Number of Votes:

1. We should create a venue for RE teachers to share their Js & Cs because they are not in the sanctuary during worship.
2. We need to clarify the guiding rules for appropriate sharing of Js & Cs (e.g., no announcements, no using Js & Cs as a bully pulpit, etc.).
3. We need to improve publicity about Joan Erickson's newsletter column so that more people use that venue to communicate their milestones, etc. with our community.
4. We could put a limit on the number of Js & Cs shared by buying a candelabrum that has only a set number of candles. Once the candelabrum is lit to capacity, the ritual would be over.
5. We should provide a Js & Cs book out in the foyer for people (including RE teachers), so folks could more freely share their Joys and Concerns. These would be read during service after all the candles are lit.

### Next Steps:

Rick is rewriting the Celebrant/Worship Assistant Guide to incorporate many of these ideas. In addition, I will be experimenting with new ways to introduce and guide this portion of worship each Sunday I preach. Although I don't expect that we'll ever be able to please everyone, I am counting on you—all of you—to give me your honest feedback. I will then pass it on to Rick, who has the onerous task of deciding the very best way to serving all of you.

Blessed be, *Kate*

## Thoughts from the Board Chair

### Thank You to the Board – Past, Present and Future

As you may have noticed, my May newsletter article was accidentally repeated in the June newsletter instead of my June article. I won't re-submit the whole thing, because the topic is not as relevant as it was then, but I there is one part of it that I must include in this newsletter. Our "new church year" just began on July 1st. This means that our board of directors is reconfigured. I will continue on as the board chair (thanks for your vote of confidence), and I want to express my gratitude to those board members who have just stepped off the board, those who have come on, and those who continue to serve. We have said a grateful farewell to Lois Nodland, David Boaz, Leah Knudsen, Lori Jenkins and Paul Rice. Lois Donovan, Bob Johnson, Louise Meyers and Phil Carver will bring continuity as well as new and fresh thinking to the board. Phil Cogswell, Dennis Ehrp, Don Fries, Vicki Cunningham and Elsa Struble are amazing and committed board members, who will continue this year. Vicki is now our vice chair, and Elsa is our treasurer. I really appreciated the amazingly collaborative spirit of our board during the past year, and I anticipate continued good work in the new church year.

*Diana*

### SAVE THE DATES: Leadership Trainings on August 2 and 19

Intern Minister Kate Lore will be conducting two identical leadership development trainings in the month of August. One will take place in the evening (Aug. 2 from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.); the other will take place after church (Aug. 19 from 12:15 - 3:15 p.m.). Refreshments will be provided. **Please make sure that your team is represented.** These trainings will cater to the specific leadership skills sought by the leaders of UUUCS—so please fill out the survey when it arrives next week. For more information, please contact Kate at the church office.

### Full Moon Ritual

Come for a celebration of the full moon on July 29, immediately after the church service. We will also celebrate Lughnasad, or Lammas, a bit early. Lammas is traditionally celebrated on August 1. Please bring fresh fruit, vegetables or grains for the harvest altar. For more information, contact Kate Walker.

### This I Believe Group

Phil Carver is heading up a new covenant group patterned after the National Public Radio series called "This I Believe" and is

looking for 9 to 12 people to compose and share their thoughts, truths, values, and meanings. People interested in becoming a part of this new covenant group should call Phi.

*Jeff Geisler*

### August Tasks

Let's plan on doing some exterior painting and other maintenance/beautification things during the last half of August. If you could spare a couple of half-days, please tell George Struble



# LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

July 11, 2007

### Mark's Message

Across the alley from my house, unripe hazelnuts are starting to fall. The blackberry flowers have turned into green berries; vines of wild clematis and a neighbor's grape are growing visibly from day to day, clothing a chain-link fence and another hazelnut tree in a shifting green carpet. A kiwi plant is winding its red-bristled vines through the same fence; tendrils of it rear like dragon heads that bob in the wind and knock against my kitchen window.

A juvenile jay born in the neighborhood is now fully fledged: still, if a parent is around, it will arch its back, ruffle its neck feathers, open its wings halfway, and squall with wide-open beak in hopes of a free meal. And the little sugar ants have found my kitchen. Every day I have another skirmish with them—the honey jar is now inside a pan half-filled with water. Summer is here for the human residents as well—at my daughter's sixth birthday party, the kids broke a piñata, and the adults drew a life-sized killer whale on the asphalt parking strip south of the house in sidewalk chalk.

This week in children's RE we were talking about native plants. "What does it mean to be wild?" I asked the children. A boy said, "Big animals that are dangerous are wild, like tigers." "What about a ladybug?" I asked. "Is that a wild animal?" "No," a girl answered, "that's an insect." Then another boy raised his hand and said, "Wild is when you've got a lot of energy inside of you, and it wants to come out." Here's wishing us all a little wildness this summer.

**Director of Religious Education: Lise Adams Sherry**  
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**Associate DRE: Mark Babson**

\* \* \* \* \*

### Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met June 14, 2007. Members present were Chair Diana Nicholson-Nelson, Vice Chair Leah Knudsen, Treasurer Paul Rice, Rev. Rick Davis – ex officio, and members Lois Nodland, Don Fries and Dennis Ehrp as well as Director of Religious Education Lise Adams Sherry and UUCS Intern Minister Kate Lore. Also present were new board members Phil Carver, Bob Johnson, Louise Meyers, Lois Donovan and guest Beverly Wright and her daughter.

Rick introduced Beverly Wright, a Cherokee tribal matriarch, who is asking the

UUCS to sponsor her so she can perform tribal weddings in Oregon. Action was tabled until an email vote or the next board meeting.

**DRE Report:** DRE Lise recommended that the board accept Rick's recommendation that background checks on staff and volunteers be done by the Safety Committee.

**Minister's Report:** Rick reported that the Office Administrator Rose Drake may retire in six months and is training volunteers to do various tasks. He explained the staff evaluation process and his written report provided information on staff goals. The report also addressed the Volunteer Stewardship Campaign, the Ministry of Meditation, the Team

Council, and the “Year of Intentional Hospitality”.

**Intern Minister Report:** Kate Lore discussed her goals for the summer and said she is willing to attend any church meetings she will teach her about UUCS operations.

**Vice Chair/Team Council Report:** Leah Knudsen reported that the Team Council is changing from monthly meetings to five meetings a year. Mike Berger will continue as volunteer coordinator, Leah will meet with the new vice chair to provide information about the Team Council; she encourages the council to define their purpose.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Paul Rice provided a written report. The new treasurer is involved in ongoing training with the computer accounting system, new bank signature cards are being processed, and a decision needs to be made about insurance for the church owned car that Rick drives. He said the Green Sanctuary Committee needs to propose distribution of money in the special collection account.

#### **Ongoing Business:**

**Personnel Committee:** Board Chair Diana met with the committee to discuss the need for a new committee chair, and asked for a board member volunteer to serve on the committee. Board members Phil Cogswell and Vicki Cunningham are working on a different committee to study staffing needs and will work with the personnel committee.

**Endowment Committee:** The committee is down to two members and needs more members.

**UUA General Assembly:** UUCS can send five delegates and three alternates to the GA in Portland later in June. A motion was passed to appoint delegates Jane Fields, Stephanie Jernstedt, Dianna Nicholson-Nelson, Phil Carver and Jean Sherbeck and alternates Roger Gillette, Ellen Howard and Barbara Hanneman.

**Intentional Hospitality:** Rick suggested this and board goals be saved for discussion at the retreat for new board members.

**Rick’s Car:** Rick and family have decided to purchase a car and the board discussed how to dispose of the current car owned by the

church and used by Rick. This was tabled until the July meeting.

**Appreciation:** Diana expressed appreciation to outgoing board members Leah, Lori, Lois, Paul and David for their contributions to UUCS during their years on the board.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, July 14, at 7 p.m. All congregation members are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lois Nodland for Secretary Phil Cogswell*

## **News of the UUCS Community**

Thanks to **Nancy Murphy** and her crew for making the beautiful new UUCS banner, which delegate Stephanie Jernstedt carried in the procession at the General Assembly! It’s now hanging in the foyer, where you can admire it from either side.

Congratulations to **Sara Greenleaf-Seitz** for winning the position of Collaborative Pianist for Linfield College’s School of Music! She will provide any accompanying that is needed by students in the college’s music program. She also auditioned for and won the accompanist position for the Masterworks Chorale! She will be in McMinnville 2-3 days per week, a challenge since she also teaches more than 25 private piano students at her home.

Sara’s husband **Noah Seitz** will do the “check ride” for his private pilot’s license on July 22, the date of his 29th birthday! Also a committed professional musician, Noah teaches cello to students in the home studio.

Congratulations to **Diana Nicholson-Nelson** on the completion of her Masters of Social Work degree at Portland State University! How fortunate our community is to have so many talented professionals who manage commitment to our congregation while juggling meeting the needs of their families and the challenges of work and education!

Felicitations to **Linnea Rochester** on her marriage two weeks ago to her long-time partner Ian Balmer! The couple flew west from Tennessee to join the rest of the Rochester clan for the ceremony, performed by Linnea’s mother **Millie** and held at the low-tide line on the beach at Pacific City. The

couple was surrounded by brothers Nate and Isaac and their girlfriends, and sister Danica and her husband, Judah McAuley, and baby Eleanor. Jane Fields and Roger Rochester agreed that Oregon “pulled out all the stops” for the wedding: intense blue skies and sparkling waves. After the wedding the bride and groom punctuated it by walking out into the waves in all their handmade finery!

The same week, **Millie Rochester**, formerly UUCS’ Director of Religious Education and now a pastor at the Clearwater, Florida, UU Congregation, was acknowledged at the GA for attaining “final fellowship,” so she now is a fully accredited UU minister. Congratulations to you, Millie!

Congratulations to **Barbara Hanneman**, UUCS’ sole living charter member, on the occasion of her 85th birthday July 1!

Congratulations to former UUCS member **Ri-Len Lukens**, who was awarded a degree in architecture from the University of Oregon last month!

And congratulations to UUCS’ multi-talented **Alex Reeder** on his high school tennis doubles’ third place win in the Central Valley championship and consolation championship in the Class 6A State Tournament! This adds only more reason that Dartmouth College will welcome him with open arms this fall!

While her housemate/daughter Sharon is traveling in Mexico this month, **Stella Jean Hill** is on a roving family reunion schedule, currently visiting with daughter Catherine in Tacoma. The two of them will then drive to the Bay Area for more visiting with Stella Jean’s son Dorio and his family in Walnut Creek.

**Barbara Stebbins-Boaz** returned recently from the east coast, where she visited older brother Pliny, who had suffered an untimely stroke. She feels assured that he has assembled a strong network of friends with both the training and experience to support his rehabilitation. As she is Chair of Willamette University’s Biology Department, the trip included a professional component, attending the Project Kaleidoscope conference in Virginia. From this she brought back energy to work toward building strong science communities that include other disciplines and ways

of perceiving life. Alas, she also brought back three undesirable “hitch-hikers”: one dog tick and two deer ticks! Because of them, she has had to complete an antibiotic regimen.

**Petra Berger’s** Illinois son, Dr. Steve Shane, a UU in his home community, traveled to Salem last month to meet his new nephew, Noah Patrick Shane, now six months old. The family held a dedication ceremony for Noah, with his Uncle Steve as godparent. Wearing a white baby tuxedo, Noah tried to “prune” the delphinium plant Rick placed in his hands, in place of the usual rose. The family particularly appreciated the reception organized by Women’s Alliance following the ceremony and the classical Bach and Chopin piano accompaniment by Zachary Gulaboff-Davis.

Using this medium we have followed the heart-rending circumstances surrounding the meth addiction of **Michelle Blake’s** brother and sister-in-law; Michelle has been generous in sharing its details with us. She writes, “I think the major revelation here is how quickly everything can fall apart, and how slowly the pieces get put back together. It took about 90 days for their (her) addictions to take away everything they had. It will be a long time, if ever, before they have normal-looking lives again. My brother just completed a 30-day residential treatment and his wife was released from her 50-day jail stay. He and his two young sons are living with a relative; she is staying with a sponsor and getting outpatient treatment and vocational training while she tries to obtain housing assistance.

“This stunningly common situation demonstrates the overburdened system: no serious intervention for the two children, proof that even after several arrests and convictions for violations there is still no enforcement and families remain on their own. By the time people reach this point they’ve burned bridges, and barely have supportive relationships left. People with addictions and drug convictions get turned down for most kinds of jobs and housing. Doors close everywhere.”

UUCS members **Rebecca Burns** and her partner **Calaya Williams** recently left us to return to their native Alaska. Rebecca has sent us some details: “We are currently house-sitting in an Alaska-style log home on 3 acres on the Chena River about 17 miles

southeast of Fairbanks. Calaya has set up space for beading and sculpting, creating art from found objects reflective of this time and place." Rebecca has a new job with the state, in grants, special projects, educational and employment opportunities, which she calls "perfect timing" since they have just bought a home in the town so she can walk to work and Calaya can get rides for medical appointments. Soon after arriving, they attended the UU Fellowship in Fairbanks, found it welcoming, and have already transferred their membership. They invite any of us to come and visit!

Later this week **Ellen and Chuck Howard** will return home from a vacation in France, the first week of which was given to "heavy-duty sightseeing" with granddaughter Audrienne before she returned to Oregon. This week they're visiting Bayeux to view the famous tapestries and also visiting historic Omaha Beach.

**Mako Hayashi-Mayfield** and her husband recently returned to Salem after two and one-half years in Japan. In response to my question: "What's different?" she wrote, "It's a mixed feelings experience! We immediately

missed the look of Japanese cities and countryside, the extensive and on-time trains, the varied classes available (more on this in the next newsletter). Stan and I traveled a lot while there: Tagome and Tsumago, old towns along the Naksendo Road between Kyoto and Tokoyo which travelers walked in the Edo period, Sado Island off Niigata, Hiroshima and nearby Miyajima, Yamamashiken, where Mt. Futujyama is awesome. We are committed to return many times, but friends are also impatiently waiting to visit us here because we showed them how beautiful Oregon is!"

Ken and I are delighted that so very many UUCS families came to our farm to pick cherries, the \$177.50 proceeds all directed to the church's Operations Team! It was a sweet labor of love! I'll report the Team's decision of a needed item for purchase in the next newsletter.

Summer is a challenging time to keep in contact with one another, to share the significant issues in our lives. Please send me your news for publication in August!

*Joan Erickson*

## **SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL**

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

**Sunday, July 15**

**"Learning to Live With Doubt"**

**Reverend Kate Lore**

Doubt is often portrayed as the opposite of and even the enemy of faith. Yet Unitarian Universalists tend to believe that doubt can be the handmaiden of truth. How can we nurture a faith that endures doubt?

**Sunday, July 22**

**"The Highest Dwells Within Us"**

**Reverend Kate Lore**

We are blessed in our tradition with strains of both rationality and mysticism. The focus of this sermon will be the life and insights of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**Sunday, July 29**

**"Why I Think I'm Always Right, and How To Recover"**

**Martin J. Gay, MS, LPC, NCC**

The presentation will illustrate how many personal and relationship problems result from self-deception. Using an enlightening story, Martin will explain what self-deception is, how we get stuck in it, and how it undermines our relationships with self, others, and our spiritual power, and more importantly - the way to recover from it. Martin is a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in marriage and family therapy, in private practice in Salem, Oregon since 1990. He has been a pastoral minister for over 29 years, serving and training in youth and young adult ministry.

**Sunday, August 5**

**"Brushes with Death"**

**Reverend Kate Lore**

Many of us have looked death right in the face and survived. What are the lessons that come with these brushes with death? This sermon will include stories shared in the July 18 Brown Bag Discussion with Kate. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

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***THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST***

July 11, 2007

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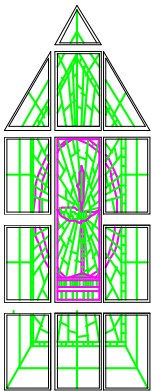
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## UUCS Calendar



**Wednesday, July 11**

UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m. (every Wednesday)

Fellowship Team, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, July 12**

Board Meeting (All welcome)

**Sunday, July 15**

Pathfinders, noon (contact Petra Berger)

**Wednesday, July 18**

UU Meditation, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, July 19**

Chat and Craft, 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesday)

**Saturday, July 21**

Dances of Universal Peace/Solstice Celebration, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, July 29**

Landscape Work Party, 9:00 a.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 2**

Full Moon Ritual, 7:00 p.m. (contact Kate Walker)

**Sunday, Aug. 5**

Leadership Training (contact Kate Lore)

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

*THANKS TO KATHLEEN EHLLI, WHO HAS HELPED WITH THE LAST TWO NEWSLETTERS.*