

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
July 15, 2009*



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Simenfalva Partner Church Visit

The Simenfalva delegation of four - Sandor, Sandor, Levente and Csilla - came and went. Many of you were able to participate in the activities and attended the sermon that Sandor preached about friendship on Sunday June 28. The congregation was great hosts and hostesses and participated generously in heart and in spirit and potluck contributions.

A special thanks to Rick, Gordana, Zachary and Slavka for hosting Sandor and his son Sandor, and to Don Cleveland and his wife Royann for hosting Csilla and Levente. Thanks to Susan Farris and Phil and Kay Cogswell for the use of their vehicles, to Todd Logan, Erin Zysett, Lise, Nelson and Kennan and Derrick Sherry and Cora and Ray Clark and Logan Geissler and Ben Nicholson - Nelson for doing so much with and for the youth - especially enduring a wet camping trip to the beach, to Joan and Ken Erickson and Leroy Kline and his wife for hosting fabulous meals, to Jean Sherbeck, John Prohodsky, George Struble and Mary Kapla for arranging tours and events and keeping track of things, for Nandor Hermann for his translating skills, to Sandra Meredith, Ernest Perez and Kay Young for their support in the kitchen, and to our new friends from Transylvania - Matte and Carmen -for all their work in coordinating, translating and doing just about everything which we could not have done without.

We want to continue to develop this relationship and have been invited to visit Simenfalva in 2011 to celebrate the 200th year of the Simenfalva church building. Keep this idea in your minds and plans. It is a great opportunity for some of our youth. Those of you interested please contact Bonnie Heitsch or Brian Reeder or Jean Sherbeck.

Bonnie Heitsch

Wanted: Woodworkers

We will be constructing the Adele Birnbaum Memorial Garden (on the south and east side of the church) this summer. Part of the garden design includes an approximate 12 foot long curved bench. We are looking for talented woodworkers who would like to construct the bench. We have money budgeted for the materials. If interested or would like more information please speak to Bonnie Heitsch or Brian Reeder.

Bonnie Heitsch

Ministerial Meditations

By The Rev. Connie Yost
UUCS Affiliated Community Minister

On this past 4th of July holiday, I was reflecting on the price our freedom has cost the peoples who were enslaved, made war upon, lied to and abused in the quest of our Independence and prosperity.

While Thomas Jefferson and others eloquently wrote that they would sooner "cease to exist before I yield to a connection on such terms as the British Parliament propose," indigenous peoples were increasingly lied to and manipulated as their ancestral lands were taken from them.

Black Elk was an Oglala Lakota of the Sioux nation, who lived through the battle of the Little Bighorn and the massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890, which pretty much marked the end of the US government's war on the western Indian Nations, as their colonization was now complete. He reflects: "I did not know then how much was ended. When I look back now from this high hill of my old age, I can still see the butchered women and children lying heaped and scattered all along the crooked gulch as plain as when I saw them with eyes still young. And I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud, and was buried in the blizzard. A people's dream died there. It was a beautiful dream...the nation's hoop is broken and scattered. There is no center any longer, and the sacred tree is dead."

I visited the battlefield of the Little Bighorn recently. As a kid we used to travel from Seattle to Montana every summer to visit relatives in the Billings area. Most summers we would stop for a few days in Yellowstone and spend a week or so at my Uncle's ranch in Fishtail, Montana. On the ranch we city kids would help with the milking, herd the cows and sheep, ride the horses and dig in the hillsides for Indian arrowheads and beads. Back then, I never once thought deeply about who these Indians were -- the owners of the arrowheads and beads. Growing up in the 50's, my brother had a coonskin cap, and we played cowboys and Indians. The westerns on TV pretty much portrayed the cowboys as good guys, and the Indians as savages. You know, a good Indian is a dead Indian. But on my recent trip, it was all I could think about -- who were these Indians who walked these lands and lived here for centuries before my country existed?

The Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876 was a great Sioux victory, but there was no way that the Indian nations stood a chance against the US government. What strikes me over and over in reading the history of our nation's westward movement, is that from the beginning, indigenous peoples were made promises that were broken time and time again. Red Cloud, another of the great Oglala Lakota chiefs of the late 19th century said this of the US government: "They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land, and they took it."

What promises are we, as a people of faith, willing to make, and keep, in the name of justice for all living things and for the earth? How can we celebrate not our Independence, but our Interdependence with all living things? How do our actions restore the nation's hoop, and help find a center that is loving, kind and just? Let us be a people of our word, and let us make sure that our promises bring greater life and love to all living beings.

Love, Connie

Note: Rick's column, Reverential Ramblings, will return in August after his summer sabbatical.



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

July 15, 2009

Religious Education Dates to Note

Youth/Adult Wed. – Meditation 7-9 PM

Youth/Adult Sundays – Readers' Forum 9:15 am

Child Sundays – Children's Choir-will return in Sept.

Child/Youth – Sun. July 19th – Learn about manatees/watch a movie and see how we can help them.

Start creating an “energy efficient” mini boat.

Child/Youth – Sun. July 26th – Children Worship in RE Commons. We will practice a skit to perform Aug. 2nd for the Story for All Ages. We will finish the boats.

ALL – Fri. July 31st – Multigenerational ICE CREAM SOCIAL! 6:30 pm. We will create painted tile coaster sets to sell for the Woman's Alliance and create ice cream sundaes. Bring a topping and 1 gal. of ice cream to share.

LOOKING A BIT AHEAD....

ALL – Sat. Aug. 22nd – 10 am. CLOTHING SWAP & STUFF – Come and swap the clothing you are tired of for something “new” at our swap in the fellowship hall. Extra items will be donated to Auburn Elementary families.

TEACHERS – Sat. August 29th – Teacher Orientation From 9 am to 1 pm. Looking forward to a new year!

Christi's Thoughts

I am finding it hard to believe we are in the middle of July! I am thinking about how time passes so quickly as I realize my grandson's first birthday is just a couple weeks away. It took FOREVER for him to arrive and even longer for him to be delivered – and yet he will have been with us for a whole year!

Maybe it is just me as I can't seem to be somewhere at the right time without procrastinating my time away and then having unexpected events take place. I guess I am just not a *time* person.

Whatever it is, I do recognize that time is precious and how we spend it really matters. When I was caught up in trying to make my house always perfectly clean (My mom would ask me growing up “Is your bedroom *Better Homes and Garden Clean?*”) and feeling the stress of being a new mom with a new house, my mom reminded me (the same mom who asked about the quality of my “clean” bedroom) – your kids will only be little once! Your house will be dirty again! I now get to blame her if my house looks lived

in when she arrives ☺ and she would happily take the blame.

I still however find myself caught up in an on-going to-do list with giving my energy to UUCS, finishing my masters in special education, newly collaborating with the Lighthouse farm sanctuary on their education programming, teaching my children at home, keeping up with appointments for our 4 children still at home (2 have their own places ☺ & ☻) and our three foster daughters, – and I am sure you all have similar lists. My husband jokes that if I had free time I would just fill it up – so I should not worry that I don't! With my list what it is, I hear in my head my mom saying “my kids will only be little once” – that sure helps keep the things I do in perspective allowing time for them first.

Though this month, I have felt a bit overwhelmed and am thankful for my family, the people at UUCS and our UU Home School group that has listened to my fussing and has given me energy to keep it up! It also helped taking an evening to stay at the Oregon Garden Lodge with just my husband and me. The weather was beautiful and it was so QUIET. It was almost too quiet considering the level of activity and noise from where I was coming.

That evening, I was reading a magazine and came across a quote that said “Being Happy is a Choice.” I tore out the quote to share with my children. To find it in a magazine, they might now believe it was not just *my* silly notion. This choice of how to feel, as I explain to them, is much harder to practice than say.

I do believe that it is a choice how to react and feel when we come across things in life. Practicing this has helped me make it through the hard times parenting the crew we have taken on!

We should be in control of how to choose to feel.. Do we have to feel bad when we hear a negative comment about ourselves? NO, but do we usually feel bad? YES. If we can be of the mind that we choose how to feel, it is that much easier to “choose to be happy,” avoid the negative feelings after the initial period of deciding how to choose to feel and enjoy our TIME...but be warned – time goes quickly when you are having fun!

Lise Adams Sherry, Director of Religious Education
Office Hours: Wed. 9:30-2:30; Tue., Thurs. by appt.
503-364-0932

Christi Olsen, Associate Director of Religious Education

August CUUPS Meeting

The Coven of Unitarian Universalist Pagans of Salem (CUUPS) invites all interested parties to their meetings. The **Saturday, August 1** meeting will celebrate *Lammas*—also known as *Lughmas*—the early harvest. There will be a potluck meal, ritual and business meeting at UUCS starting at 7 p.m.

Clothing Swap & Stuff

On **Saturday, August 22** at 10 a.m. come to the Fellowship Hall at UUCS with your clothing and stuff to swap. Bring clothing and stuff you are tired of and exchange it for something “new” at our swap. Extra items will be donated to Auburn Elementary School families.

Micro Finance Credit Project

Thank you to everyone who purchased a shirt or donated to the RE fund raiser to the project. T-shirt sales and donations totaled \$131.49. The t-shirts have been ordered and are expected to arrive on or before July 20.

Coffee Team Members Needed!

If you can serve on the coffee team once every 6-8 weeks, contact Megan Jensen. The team is asking for a one-year commitment.

July Foster Parent Night Out

On July 6th UUCS again hosted 22 foster children from the area, giving five foster parent families the evening off to relax. We played at UUCS with the amazing children from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.! We played outside with water trays and enjoyed the swings, the sheep, and climbing structures. We made paper rockets and friendship bracelets which the children could take home. We ate dinner lovingly prepared by our volunteers. There were two babies/toddlers, ten preschool children, and ten school aged children. They all kept the volunteers active and engaged in a positive way.

The volunteers from UUCS were **Andrea Kramer, Bill Stratton, Don Wolf, Harvey Kramer, Janet Neuberg, Jeanette Teta, Joan Stembridge, John Roy Wilson, Keith York, Lynn Percivay, Ruth Larson, Stephanie Jernstadt, and Tom Lancefield**. We also have two marvelous volunteers from Temple Beth Shalom, Randy Fishfader and Abbey Vanderbeek, and one volunteer from Salem Alliance Church, Jean Pedersen. Anyone interested in joining this exciting program please contact Janet Neuberg.

Joan Stembridge

OPENING UUCS Clerical Specialist

Interim Position (10 hours per week, flexible schedule).

The position is temporary. Duties will include typing, copying, answering the office phones, and other tasks as assigned by the office administrator. The person is expected to learn the routine tasks of the office. These include processing payments and reimbursements; using the computers, copy and fax machines; distributing mail; preparing mailings; keeping bulletin boards updated, ordering supplies; and maintaining hard copy and electronic files.

A criminal background check is mandatory. It is the plan of the UUCS Board to reconsider office positions within a year or two. At that time this position may be discontinued. It is board policy that permanent office staff may not be members of the UUCS, however because this is an interim position, members are encouraged to apply.

Please send a letter of interest, resume, and names, addresses and telephone numbers of three current references to Chair, Personnel Committee, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, 5090 Center Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301 or by e-mail to uucsoffice@yahoo.com. To be guaranteed full consideration, applications must be received by July 24, 2009.



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
April 30, 2008

Summer UUCS Sunday Speakers

Mark your calendars for the remaining Sundays in July. Some exciting speakers have answered the call for the UUCS Salient Summer Speakers Series.

- **July 19:** Silverton Mayor Stu Rasmussen—the nation’s first openly transgender mayor—speaks on “Navigating Gender Questions”.
- **July 26:** Educator Jill Callifax works with youth through a unique use of digital photos. Join us for: “Picture This: The Path to Preteen Self-Esteem.”
- **August 2:** Poet Laureate Lawson Inada, an Asian American.

Returning In August

Reverend Rick Davis will return from vacation August 2. Lise Adams Sherry, UUCS Religious Education Director, will be back on August 10th.

UUCS Community News

UUCS member **Eric Schuman** has been honored by Northwest Permanente Physicians and Surgeons with its 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award! After many years of service in Family Practice, Eric has developed an outstanding career in adult and pediatric neurology. A special area of interest is headaches, with scholarly articles in medical journals published in this field.

In addition to being a great clinician, his colleagues write, he is also “an awesome teacher, and a talented, incredible guy!” He’s on the faculty of the PA program at OHSU, lectures there and at Pacific University. He mentors students in his Salem Kaiser-Permanente Clinic as well as conducting bedside learning for primary care physicians, a fine model of how specialist expertise can infuse primary care. Congratulations to you, Eric!

Discretionary Fund

Thanks to donations by compassionate UUCS members, our minister has a discretionary fund for helping people in our religious community in need. If you would like to contribute, place a check in the offering basket and designate it for “Minister’s Discretionary Fund.”

Summer Discussion Group

The UUCS Readers’ Forum book discussion group will be transformed for the summer to be an open discussion group. The group begins in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m.

Call Alan Holland for more information.

Newsletter Summer Deadline

The **next newsletter deadline** is 11:30 a.m. on **Sunday, August 9**. We will resume publishing twice a month starting with the September 9 edition.

Congratulations to **Marian Robison and Willard Eggers** who were married recently in their home, a ceremony conducted by Pastor Davis and witnessed by close friends!

Joyce Bynum had experienced unrelenting back pain until she had a laminectomy, a complex orthopedic surgery which kept her hospitalized for only two days! She’s now on the mend.

Jo Bateman returned last week from a whirlwind bus tour of Eastern Oregon, taking her and 32 others to places where she and her deceased husband, Keith, had traveled extensively years prior. It was Columbia Gorge eastward to Joseph, in the Wallowa Mountains, for two nights at the lake’s historic lodge, a tram ride to the 8000’ mountain top above the lake, and fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July. They proceeded south to Baker City, staying in the restored, historic Geiser Hotel, visiting the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center just east of the town, from whose balconies one can still see the 150+ year old ruts from covered wagons, underscoring the agelessness of desert coun-

try. The homeward route took the group to John Day and the Fossil Beds' new Interpretive Center as well as the Painted Hills Unit.

Warmly remembered Unitarian-Universalist and renowned State Archivist **David Duniway** is recognized once again. This time it's at Salem's Bush Barn Museum and Gallery, where the Salem Art Association honors him for his role in support of local arts. The life-size photocutout brings him quite back to life! His daughters are UUCS members Malissa Duniway Holland and Sancha Alley.

Chuck and Ellen Howard just returned from a trip to Bruges, Belgium and Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Their granddaughter Layla accompanied them for the first week as they explored Europe's best-kept medieval city. Lots of walking, canals, and well-preserved old buildings...and the chocolate factory too! When they returned to Amsterdam, they visited the Anne Frank House and the Van Gogh museum. Then Layla flew back to Portland allowing Chuck and Ellen to continue their exploration of the city. They lived right on the main canal for the final week and left feeling that they'd return in a heart beat!

Anne Alexander has written us of her recent explorations in Morocco: "...one literally enters another world where religion and politics are interwoven into the culture, climate, architecture, geography, sights, sounds, smells, and tastes." The country is the crossroads of Mediterranean, Arabic, and north African history, the western extremity of the Arab and Muslim world with a mix of Arab and Bedouin traditions into which European colonialism attempted inroads. The tour began in Essaouira on the west coast and then on to Casablanca, Morocco's largest city largest city and economic capital. There Islamic architecture dominates, especially the recent Hussan II Mosque, two-thirds of which is built over the Atlantic Ocean. Hand-carved cedar, marble, and tile mosaics are beyond description. The Mosque can accommodate 25,000 worshippers!

Then it was on to Rabat, the center of literary and scientific pursuits. Following, the group headed overland to the World Heritage site, Volubilis, one of the Roman Empire's most remote outposts. After Fez, where flags flew because the King was in town, and a crossing of the Atlas Mountains, the landscape changes to desert. "We were into the Sahara for two days

in a tented camp. I was sitting behind the camel's hump and know I'd have been more comfortable in front of it!"

Toward the tour's end the group was in Marrakesh, cross-roads for both North-South and East-West trade. King Mohammad VI is moving rapidly to build a modern city with all amenities of contemporary western life.

News of your summer adventures as well as your joys or concerns is of interest to others in our spiritual community. In the August edition of this newsletter we'd like to include news of students' summer studies/work and their plans for returning to college or university in the fall. If you're willing to share, please contact me.

Joan Erickson

Community Events

Rainbow Youth

As a Welcoming Congregation, a number of years ago, UUCS committed itself, not only to the principle of endorsing the worth and dignity of all individuals, but more precisely celebrating gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people of all ages.

Rainbow Youth, a Salem organization predated our Welcoming Congregation designation by many years and has met weekly in space at First Methodist Church which is currently in a transition period according to UUCS member Christine Bennett, one of the group's advisors. The youth group is ready to grow but really needs its own space. She says that there are buildings available in the city's core and immediate fringes, but funding is the roadblock.

Christine writes that Rainbow Youth is planning a fund-raising event called Dinner With Friends for October 3. "The premise is that individuals host dinners in their homes, invite friends who are willing to donate to RY what they might have spent on an evening out, and then have all of the house parties/diners convene at a central location for dessert to discuss RY's hopes and plans." If you agree to the rightness of the cause, please consider being involved by hosting such a dinner in your home. Christine is ready to fill in details.

In the meantime, GLBT community activists tell us that there will a Gay Pride celebra-

tion in Salem which is scheduled for August 15 - perhaps another good opportunity to show our support.

Podcasts of Sermons Available

Sermons from past services are available at uucs.podbean.com or you can go to the UUCS website at www.uusalem.org and click on the "Listen to Past Sermons Online" link.

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 at 503-485-6233, which is monitored daily.

* * * * *

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Sunday, July 19

"Navigating Gender Questions"

Stu Rasmussen

Featuring Silverton mayor Stu Rasmussen, who will share the unique journey of transgenderism and help dispel myths and misconceptions over that mysterious s-word (sex).

Sunday, July 26

"Picture This: The Path to Preteen Self-Esteem"

Jill Callifax

Educator Jill Callifax works with youth through a unique use of digital photos

Sunday, August 2:

Poet Laureate Lawson Inada

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

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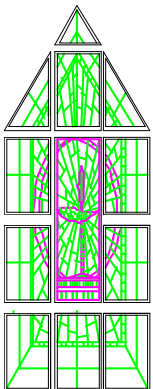
July 15, 2009

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UUCS Calendar

Wednesday, July 15

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

Thursday, July 16

Chat & Craft, 7 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

Wednesday, July 17

Dances of Universal Peace, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 18

Chat N Craft

Sunday, July 19

Landscape Work Party, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, July 21

Summer Discussion Group, 9:15 a.m. (**every** Sunday)

Saturday, August 1

Employment Support Group, 11 a.m. (**every** Tuesday)

Wednesday, August 5

CUUPS

Sunday, August 9

Chat & Craft, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 13

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

Saturday, August 22

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

Clothing Swap, 10:00 a.m.