

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
August 12, 2009*



Inside this Issue

Reverential Ramblings, Betty Reese	2
RE News	3
Auburn Day, Landscape reports, Foster Parents, Soup Kitchen	4
News of UUCS Community	5
PNWD News	6
Hiroshima Observance, Sunday Services	7
UUCS Calendar	8

Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network

In June, UUCS hosted two homeless families through the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network, providing meals, shelter, and a welcoming environment while the families made the transition to permanent housing. Crystal Areal, Miranda Wood, and Chris McDonald would like to acknowledge and give their gratitude to all of the members of the congregation who turned out (on the 4th of July no less!) to give their time and support for this cause. We want to encourage all you volunteers past,

present, and future to continue (or begin) your valuable work with the network, because what you do is so wonderful and important. Many thanks go to Rosa Barton, Barbara Joque, Valerie Neevel, Justin Areal, Susanna Gardner, Beth Meyers-Shenai, Candace Kennedy, Malyssah Halderman, Beth and Phil Malouf-Smith, John Gorman, Leah Knudsen, Joan Erickson, Mary Edith and Grant Gilbertson, George Struble, Loraine Stewart, Delores Lusk, Dani Adams, John Roy Wilson, Eugenia Baker, Barbara and David Stebbins-Boaz, Ed and Jackie Klimowitz, Danna and Paul Parmley, Richard and Betsy Scott, Marian Milligan, Bill Dugan, Lee Coyne, Lydia Gutierrez, Bob Burton, Lois Stanley, Shelley Kennen, Jean Sherbeck, Angela Gross, Roseann Kendall, and Joan and Jim Stenbridge. Thank you so much to everyone for making the week a success!

Clothing & Stuff Swap

Join us for the Clothing and Stuff Swap, **Saturday, August 22** at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For those of you that have not attended a clothing swap, this is what to expect: Arrive with your clean items in a bag. Join the other people who have gathered for the swap. When it is time, dump your clothing out and start shopping (rummaging) for "new" items of your choice. You are welcome to take as many items in exchange for the number of things that you brought. If you are lucky and find a lot of things you would like, leave a donation at the door for the extras! Since we have had a lot of donations of items in advance, you are also welcome to come and shop without bringing something to exchange because there will be enough things to go around. Donations will be accepted at the door as you leave. Items leftover will be donated to the families at Auburn Elementary School. You can also bring items specifically for families at Auburn. Any monetary donations will go toward getting school supplies for Auburn students. Questions? Contact Christi Olsen.

Painting Time Again!

It's again time to do some exterior church painting. Please volunteer to George Struble. **Saturday, August 22** is the day, but if you can't come then but can another day, tell George that; we can be flexible.

Reverential Ramblings

It's early August and right from my office window I see workers completing construction of their phase of our memorial garden. Soon this project will be complete and for years to come we'll have a peaceful, restorative place to sit and remember loved ones who have died - both those whose nameplates will be on the memorial wall and many others whose names are written in our hearts.

For a number of years we've envisioned having a memorial garden, and now, thanks to a generous gift from the family of Adele Birnbaum, who died last spring, it will soon be a reality.

It's altogether fitting that at our congregational age we should have such a garden - after all, on September 28 we will celebrate UUCS's 60th anniversary. Over the years so many people, some remembered, some forgotten, have blessed our religious community with the gift of their presence and commitment. Now we'll have a special place to honor their memory.

Our memorial garden will remind us that we are a community of memory, yet it will also serve as a reminder of our hope for our future. We are indeed a community of memory and hope. Sometime soon (date TBA) we will gather for a memorial garden dedication ceremony - this will be a time for us to acknowledge our gratitude for those members and friends now gone and also reflect upon our continuing dedication to our religious community and our larger free faith tradition.

On Monday, September 21, at 6 p.m. various leaders of the congregation will gather here to show their dedication and commitment. Representatives from each group will be asked to share their "stretch" goals for the coming year - goals that are measurable, attainable and strengthen our community. (Anyone interested in this gathering is welcome - please call the Congregational Office to let us know you're coming.)

As for me, each year, in consultation with the Committee on the Ministry and the Board of Trustees, I formulate my own stretch goals. This practice helps me stay on track and on a path of growth throughout the year.

How about you? Perhaps it would also be helpful for you to have some stretch goals, both in your personal and also in your congregational life. Regarding the latter, maybe you'll decide that volunteering for one of our outreach ministries, or serving on one of our teams or committees, or joining the choir or the meditation group or the Sunday morning book discussion forum or some other activity would be a good way to strengthen your level of involvement and commitment. Or maybe you'll decide to be a bit more generous during our every member canvass or donate funds to some special program - perhaps our micro-credit loan to small businesses in developing nations. Or maybe you'll make a commitment to attend at least three (or four?) Sunday services every month. There are so many possibilities! What would be an appropriate stretch goal for you? You decide.

Thankfully, there were those who came before us who decided to make commitments, and we are blessed by that today. Now it is our turn to bless our congregation, our community, our world and future generations with our commitment.

Love,
Rick

Announcement

There will be a memorial service for Betty Reese (Beatrice Harriet Tegland Reese) on August 16 here at UUCS at 3 p.m.



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
August 12, 2008

Religious Education Dates to Note

Youth/Adult Weds. – Meditation 7-9 PM

Youth/Adult Sundays – Summer Discussion Group, 9:15, Hanneman Hall

Youth/Adult Mon. Aug. 17 – Religious Education Team Meeting, 6 – 8 PM. ALL are welcome. Contact Lise or Christi by Aug. 14 if childcare is needed.

Older Child-Adult Thur. Aug. 20 – Dances of Universal Peace, 7 PM, Hanneman Hall

All Sat. Aug. 22 – Clothing and Stuff Swap begins at 10 AM, Hanneman Hall. Exchange your old stuff for something new (to you). Extra items go to Auburn Elementary families.

All RE Teachers Sat. Aug. 29 – *Teacher Orientation for both returning and new volunteers, 9 AM – 1 PM. Bring your calendars to set your teaching schedules with your teaching cohort. Curricula, fun, good information, and snacks will be available. Contact Lise or Christi if you need childcare.*

All Sun. Sept. 13 – Multigenerational Water Communion Service and Ingathering for the 2009-10 church year. Don't forget to collect/bring water from your summer adventures whether they were far or near.

Lise's Letter

I recently made plans to spend a good part of a couple of days with a friend. The night before my friend was to arrive I found myself stressed because of some unexpected tasks that needed to get done over the next several days. How was I going to do it all? Should I cancel my friend-time? I took a deep breath, wrote and prioritized a list and actually felt better about what was to come. Then, the next morning my friend called and cancelled!

What was I to do? I had been looking forward to this time of connection and was concerned we wouldn't be able to reschedule for a while. It certainly was not a life or death situation, but I'll also admit, I was miffed! One

might think I would have been relieved to have the extra time, but I was not (at least initially). I had planned and worked around my schedule and my friend had the audacity to do something different. Why is it that the unexpected can so easily set us off in a tailspin?

I asked another friend this question and he said he thinks it is because we are all creatures of habit. We plan our days, get into a routine, and unthinkingly go along our merry way. Someone then throws us a curve ball and we get bent out of shape trying to catch it. We actually have to think and figure out how we're going to respond; sometimes we even have to do this quickly. I think it may also have to do with attachment. We plan and project for things to go a certain way; we have a vested interest in a *specific* outcome. If the end result doesn't meet our expectations we can be disappointed, angry, frustrated . . . I'm sure most of us could fill in an appropriate emotion.

So what can we do? The Buddha would tell us to let go of our attachments. We need to be in the moment and accept what comes. Sometimes for me this option seems a little too abstract to enact and downright impossible to remember in the middle of the tailspin. Another choice would be to plan for every contingency—rather than simply grabbing an umbrella when we walk out the door we can take our parka, sunscreen and shorts, an extra \$100 in cash, and uh, maybe the kitchen sink? Then again, who wants to carry all that baggage around?

There are likely many helpful and good answers to my question. What I am currently focusing on to help me with the unexpected are my sense of humor, compassion for myself and others, and the reminder that I am *not* the center of the universe. Hey, things don't always go my way. Other forces are in control.

I *am* glad to be with you again after my six weeks away. I'll see you soon.

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

The Unitarian Universalist

published by

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This issue was edited by Kathleen Ehli. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 6. Send news to editors@uusalem.org (or to Lois Nodland AND Kathleen Ehli, put it in workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter").

Auburn School Beautification Day

Please join us **Tuesday, September 1**, 3-5 p.m. as we work with Auburn School families and staff to spruce up the school grounds. Bring your shovels, rakes and pruners. We will also be having a clothing & stuff swap with items collected from the church (see page 1). You can also bring your items directly to the school on Sept. 1. Refreshments provided. This is a great opportunity to get to know our neighbors. Contact Rev. Connie Yost.

Landscape Work Party Report

The front parking lot has become fully circled in wood chips. Through the efforts of Ted Cory's direction and Alan Holland's contribution of chips, dedicated workers wheeled loads of wood chips to cover weed cloth spread along the Center Street fence. Thanks to Ted Dingman, Angela Gross, Tom Lancefield, Barbara Jaxel, Ri Britton, Christi Olsen and three of her children, the job was completed before noon. Ted Dingman also planted a new tree on our patio where one was destroyed last winter. Bill

Sea continues to supervise the irrigation system, while Iris did weeding and trimming. Good job and thanks, helpers! Join us at our next work party on **August 15**.

Adopt a Tree

Trees are available for adoption to honor specific people with a tree planted in their name. If you have lost a friend and want to acknowledge his or her contribution to your life or want to acknowledge a birthday, anniversary or community effort, you might consider gifting with a tree. Contact Iris Sea or Sharon Dearman for details.

Foster Parents' Night Out

On August 3, UUCS again created a magical evening for 24 foster children from five foster families. From 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the foster parents were gifted with a few hours free from child care responsibilities, and our marvelous volunteers had a grand time hosting the evening. Volunteers from UUCS were Rick Davis, Jackie Klimowitz, Allana McDonald, Lynne Percey, Nancy Murphy, Tom Lancefield, Harvey Kramer, and Janet Neuberg. Volunteers from Temple Beth Shalom were Randy Fishfader and Abbey Vanderbeek. Volunteers from Salem Alliance Church were Jean Pedersen and Bill Stratton. Four Marion County Fire Department firefighters came with their truck, showed their equipment, gave lessons in what to do in case of a house fire, and then each child received a firefighter hat! You can only imagine how much fun we all had this evening!

Please contact Janet Neuberg if you have any questions or wish to join in this program.

Soup Kitchen Report

On Sunday, July 26, the UU Congregation was impressed into service prior to our assigned date and assisted the Kairos Soup Kitchen and served over 60 people with Chili Con Carne and Clam Chowder. We also provided jalapeno peppers, grated cheese, crackers, and hot sauces for the participants. In addition to the soup and condiments, sandwiches were offered along with a dessert of ice cream. The following fine folks helped with the prep, set up and clean up at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in downtown Salem: Will Austin, Pam-

ela Ruona, Jan Munsey, Jim Davidson, Debbie Odom, and the Kairos Soup Kitchen Coordinating Team of Pam Kerr and Ann Maureen Scully. Thank you all!

The cost of the soup is provided by the working church, and any donations to the UU congregation designated for the soup kitchen will help defray expenses of approximately \$100 each time we serve.

Our next serving date is scheduled for **October 11**. Please sign up after Sunday services at the Social Action Table in Hanneman Hall, or call John Maluski.

John T. Maluski

News of the UUCS Community:

One recent happening of which we're immensely proud is the Chalice Circle Players' production this spring of *Evolution Against Fundamentalism: The Scopes Trial Revisited*. Written and later revised by UUCS member **Phil Cogswell**, the play, directed by **Cheri Ulmer** and **Don Fries**, was performed before a highly appreciative audience at our church district's Annual General Meeting. As hoped, the play has moved on to a wider audience, with its "world premier" performance on film shot by CCTV's Wendy Brokaw, assisted by **Dennis Ehrp** and **Don Fries**. It was screened recently at the station's new studio in downtown Salem; in the near future a DVD of the performance will be available for purchase. CCTV will broadcast the play (see www.cctvsalem.org) throughout August.

Cheri Ulmer spent a portion of her summer directing young children in "American Tall Tales" at Salem's Children's Educational Theater. CET is gratifying to Cheri because it allows children to imagine, create, relate comfortably to one another as well as to adults, and step into roles outside themselves, "find a niche," as Cheri says.

Her sons continue in creative arts as well. Eldest, **Galen Brownson**, took his interest from the "Scopes" experience as stage manager to classes at CCTV. He continues his musical interest, playing trumpet in a quartet calling itself "Lust Wagon," which includes keyboard, guitar, and drums, and performing at The Space in downtown Salem. Brother **Miles** continues to live and work in Tigard and will attend Portland Community College beginning next month.

Nicki Brownson, preparing for his senior year at South Salem High School, is a cast member in Pentacle Theater's performance of *My Fair Lady*, which opens next week. His theater interests took him to Omaha, Nebraska recently for the National Thespian Society's conference.

John Roy Wilson and his twelve-year-old grandson flew to Costa Rica last week, planning a lively adventure on the country's Caribbean side, including plenty of time observing the nesting (egg laying) rituals of the of the great green Atlantic turtles. The best sites are in and adjacent to Tortuguero National Park. In addition to visiting jungles and beaches, they'll travel to the north central part of the country with its high mountains, rainforests and active volcanoes.

Three deaths punctuated the past month. First, **Jo Bucklin's** husband of 69 years, **Buck**. Jo had been an enthusiastic and energetic member of UUCS, always part of the core group of volunteers with Women's Alliance until she and Buck decided a few years ago that a move to LaGrange, Georgia was the right thing to do, an opportunity to be closer to their daughter.

The second death was **Eric Weidanz'**. Eric was the third child of former UUCS pastor Adolf Weidanz and his wife, Norma Joyce. We send our condolences to Norma, Eric's sister, Jane Ellen, and brother, Adolf, Jr.

And then the death of 97-year-old **Betty Reese**, our eldest member, fondly remembered by those who knew her for her pragmatism and wit. Her family includes Mary Reese (French), Portland, Tom Reese of Lowthen, Minnesota, and Chuck Reese, Salem. A memorial service will be held next Sunday afternoon, August 16, 3:00 p.m. at church.

Alma Marianos a returned last week from "an unforgettable" three-week trip, first to England to attend her brother's son's wedding in a tiny church in Bramley, Hampshire and the reception at a beautiful estate, The Vine. Following, she flew to Greece for a reunion with family and a childhood friend, swam in the warm sea, and ate wonderful Greek dishes like lentil soup, zucchini pie, imam baildi, local greens called "vieta" and even had time to attend a Greek tragedy!

Alma's second highlight of this summer is this coming Sunday when daughter Marion will be married in the lovely gardens of McMenam-

ins Edgefield Manor, Troutdale. The mother-of-the-bride isn't to be responsible for any of its organization, thankfully!

"Healing Forest", a multi media installation by **Ann Kresge** and her husband **Mike Nord** will open at Project Space II gallery in downtown Salem on First Wednesday, September 2, from 5-7 p.m. This piece incorporates video, printmaking, construction and a soundscape by Mike. It is a reflection upon the forest, community and cancer recovery. Project Space II is located in the former Bank of the Cascades, at State and Liberty next door to the Wild Pear. Ann's work will also be featured at the Wild Pear during the exhibition. Ann currently has work exhibited at the Pines Gallery in Hood River and the Bush Barn's Camus Gallery.

Anne's daughter **Chloe** is busy getting ready for her move to the University of Puget Sound for her freshman year.

One of UUCS' most avid bicyclists and co-editor of this newsletter is **Kathleen Ehli**. A group of bicycle club enthusiasts started a bicycle drill team and premiered at Independence's Western Days parade, red, white, and blue decorations and all. They were joined by members of the Cherry City Derby Girls roller derby team. As a disclaimer, Kathleen writes that "we're not very precise, but have a great time...we call ourselves the Willamette Valley Pedal Pushers." Next showing is on August 28 at the State Fair, where everyone is invited to join the free parade and compete for prizes! The group is on Facebook and no talent is required to join.

Millie and Roger Rochester arrived in Oregon on Monday; they'll spend ten days visiting family and friends and celebrating son **Nate's** wedding to Mykalena Fields next weekend at UUCS. They're in transit to their new home in Winnipeg, Canada, where Millie has been called to be pastor of First UU Church.

We'd hoped to include news of summer activities of UUCS youth and plans for beginning work or college next month, but nothing was forthcoming. Please send me your news for publication in the next newsletter!

Joan Erickson

PNWD News **District Assembly**

Beginning with our 2010 gathering in Bellevue, our annual event will be referred to as a District Assembly rather than an Annual General Meeting. Don't fret – the official PNWD annual meeting will still be a critical part of this Assembly. Undoubtedly we'll slip and occasionally call it AGM, but we'll get used to it! (There are still folks in the district who refer to our district news as *Changes*, a publication that has been defunct for five years.)

Chalice Lighters

The Chalice Lighter call for Westside UU Congregation, Seattle, WA will be open for contributions until July 31. Checks may be mailed to the district office address below or made directly through our secure PNWD Payment Page.

*Diane Brinson, District Administrator
Pacific Northwest District – UUA*

Call for Workshops

2010 District Assembly
(Annual General Meeting)
Pacific Northwest District
Unitarian Universalist Association of
Congregations
Feb 19, 20, 21, at the Hilton Hotel in
Bellevue, Washington
Let Us Shine!

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is a beacon of love and hope for ourselves and for the world. Involvement in our religious communities is an important part of living our values and doing something to make the world a better place. Workshops at this annual gathering of UUA congregations in the Pacific Northwest will focus on ways in which we can better work together as individual congregations and as a denomination. Our goal is to educate and inspire, to walk out into the world shining the message that our lives matter and that what we do makes a difference! Let us shine!

Workshop proposals for sessions lasting 60-75 minutes should support this goal in the areas of Congregational Leadership, Spiritual Development, and Faith in Action. We are seeking "Best Practices" sessions to improve technical skills for new leaders, as well as "frame-

bending” sessions to push generative/ transformational approaches for experienced leaders. (Our workshop model will soon be posted on the PNWD website: www.pnwd.org.)

Full submission details are outlined here: http://www.pnwd.org/pubs/Assembly10_callforworkshops.pdf.

Please submit your workshop proposals as soon as possible by email to Mary Etta Goes. Proposals will be accepted until **September 7**. We will notify you by October 5 if your workshop has been accepted. Questions? Email Mary Etta or call.

Community Events

Hiroshima Observance, Peace Plaza

You are invited to attend the annual Hiroshima Observance at Peace Plaza on Thursday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m. After a brief commemoration, Dr. Andy Harris will be presented with a peace plaque to be mounted on the peace wall. Andy has national involvement with Physicians for Social Responsibility and is involved with many peace projects, including the Global Medical Corp. Music (including Ted Corey) and refreshments will be provided.

* * * * *

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Sunday, August 16

“Theatre Meets Theology”

Lise Adams Sherry

For many, musical theatre has been maligned as fluffy entertainment of no real consequence. But is this necessarily true? Oscar Hammerstein, II, possibly the greatest theatrical librettist of the 20th century, used his art to challenge society's attitudes regarding interracial relationships, classicism, addiction and women's rights. How did Hammerstein's work express his personal values (perhaps even his theology) and how can we use and be inspired by art as one of our theological sources?

Lise Adams Sherry is our Director of Religious Education and a Candidate for UU Ministry.

Sunday, August 23

“Women and Society”

Kate Waller

Sunday, August 30

“Plan B”

The Reverend Connie Yost

Charles Darwin wrote that it is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change. Though we know that change is inevitable, why is it so hard? We'll explore what we can do to prepare ourselves for the changes we want, and the changes thrust upon us.

Rev. Connie Yost is the Affiliated Community Minister of the UU Congregation of Salem and a Hospice Chaplain.

Sunday, September 13

“Flowing Together”

Our Annual Water Communion Sunday

The Reverend Richard R. Davis

Lise Adams Sherry, Director of Religious Education

Bring a small vial or container of Water that symbolizes something meaningful in your life – perhaps water from a river or ocean from a recent travel, or water from a nearby lake or stream you love, or water from a well or your own faucet. The water you bring symbolizes your unique presence in our community. On this Sunday we will mix our waters together during our Annual Water Communion Ceremony.

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

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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

August 12, 2009

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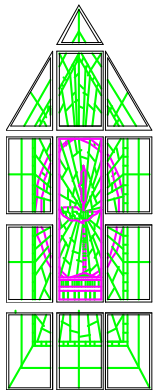
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UUCS Calendar



- Wednesday, August 12, 19, 26 UU Meditation (Compassionate Mind UU Sangha),
7 p.m. (**every** Wednesday)
- Thursday, August 13 Board Meeting **CANCELLED**
- Saturday, August 15 Landscape Work Party, 9 a.m.
- Sunday, August 16, 23, 30 Summer Discussion Group, 9:15 a.m. (**every** Sunday)
Memorial for Betty Reese, 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 18 Employment Support Group, 11 a.m. (**every** Tuesday)
- Wednesday, August 19 Chat & Craft, (1st & 3rd Wed.); UU Meditation, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, August 20 Dances of Universal Peace, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, August 22 Clothing Swap and Stuff, 9 a.m.
Painting Work Party (see page 1)
Salem's Gay Pride, Cascade Gateway Park
(UUCS will have a table. Info: Mary Hart)
- Saturday, August 29 RE Teacher Orientation, 9 a.m.
Contra Dance, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 1 Auburn School Beautification Day, 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 2 UU Meditation, 7 p.m. (**every** Wednesday)
Chat & Craft, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, September 6 Summer Discussion Group, 9:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 9 NEXT **Newsletter Deadline**, 11:30 a.m.
UU Meditation; Chat & Craft, 7 p.m.