

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
September 9, 2009*



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UUCS 60th Birthday Potluck Luncheon

**September 27th in Hanneman Fellowship Hall
During the Coffee and Social Hour**

The Women's Alliance and the Fellowship Team invite you to celebrate UUCS' 60th birthday with a potluck luncheon after the September 27 Sunday Services. Please bring stories and photos to share special times or events from our UU history in Salem.

You may sign-up for the luncheon on the sheets displayed in the Fellowship Hall, which will help us to plan for a successful event.

If you would like to help with this event or if you would like more information, please contact Lydia or Jane. We cannot provide these events without your help and support. We will need at least three people to help with setting up and five people to help with cleaning up and putting away.

~ Women's Alliance and the Fellowship Team

UUCS Grounds Trees

Trees are available for adoption to honor specific people with trees planted in their names. 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 that will be planted on the church grounds. Call Iris See at or Sharon Dearman for details.

UUCS Men's Group

The first meeting of the new UUCS Men's Group will be on **September 13** at 7:00 p.m. in the UUCS Library. All UUCS men are invited. We will be setting up ground rules for our group and deciding on future meetings. Please contact me or e-mail with any questions.

Quentin Smith

Ministerial Meditations

By The Rev. Connie Yost
UUCS Affiliated Community Minister

On a recent Sunday I preached at UUCS on change – why change is always so difficult to process no matter if it is something we want or not. The congregational response was enlightening. It is true none of us are strangers to change!

I was especially struck by the insightful comments coming from the younger people. They said that it was especially difficult to envision their lives in a new way when their dreams have died. It made me realize that we have to grieve our lost dreams every bit as much as the loss of a person, job or other thing we valued and depended upon.

In fact, perhaps the real task of grieving is to give ourselves time to quietly and gently realize that the vision and the dream that we had is over. We "know" these things, but I think it takes quite a long time for this knowledge to truly settle into our body, to become one with who we are now. In the first weeks and months of change, we go into survival mode. We do what we must. We make arrangements, do what has to be done, get help if we are too overwhelmed at the moment. But still, in our mind's eye, we see what was to be. We continue to see the dream that was to be.

If we do our grieving, we will probably go through anger, blame, and guilt. Anger is especially tricky for many people. It can easily manifest itself into depression, the "anger turned inward." This is the ugly, uncomfortable part of grief. Here I am with my dream dead in the water, and I don't have anything to take its place. In fact, I may never have anything very good again.

Cathie Olcott reminded us all that older people, contrary to popular belief, are not resistant to change. In fact, they are experts on change! Whoever said that getting older is not for sissies was right on! The gift of older age is that you come to understand that change is inherent in life. Inevitable, like it or not. Older people have weathered a storm or two, and they know that there is new life available when the initial dream has died. They know that though they have lost youth's beauty and agility, they have gained wisdom, a deeper love, and gratitude for what life still has to offer them.

I am grateful that the changes I didn't ask for in my life have led me to this place. I had to let go of my youth and farm ministry in Los Angeles, but now I have a wonderful ministry here in Salem. In fact, by the time you read this, I will be employed as part-time Chaplain at Salem Hospital in addition to my Hospice Chaplain job, Administrator job with the UU Society for Community Ministries, and my ministry with you.

None of these were ministries that I planned to have. I was grieving the demise of my involvement in my dream ministry in L.A. when I came here. But gradually a new dream took the place of the old one. It was a dream I had to let percolate up from the reality of what presented itself to me in my new life here in Salem. For someone who plots, and plans, and works hard to manifest her dreams, allowing something to percolate was new to me. Scary, even. But what I learned is that once you know who you are and what is important in your life, you can wait and trust that the right opportunity will present itself. A new dream will manifest. And from there, new life and love flow again.

In Gratitude, Connie

(Our minister The Rev. Rick Davis and the Rev. Connie Yost, our Affiliated Community minister, alternate writing columns in this space.)



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
September 9, 2008

Religious Education Dates to Note

Weds. Youth/Adult – Meditation 7-9 PM

Sun. Sept. 13 All – Multigenerational Water Communion Service and Ingathering. Bring water from your summer adventures, far or near; RE registration begins.

Tues. Sept. 15 Youth/Adult – Relig. Ed Team Meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Library. All are welcome. Call Lise for childcare.

Thur. Sept. 17 Older Child/Adult – Dances of Universal Peace, 7 PM, Hanneman Hall

Sun. Sept. 20 Teachers – Teacher Dedication in the service; **Child/Youth** – First day of relig. ed. classes; RE registration continues; **High School-Parent** orientation after church.

Sat. Sept. 26 High School Youth – Sleepover, 7 pm at UUCS, potluck dinner and breakfast.

Lise's Letter

I went to the State Fair this week, and usually that signals it for me—summer is over. Time to put away thoughts of the idyllic days spent lounging in the backyard with a book, taking a bike ride to the next town over for an ice cream cone, and nights at the drive-in theatre (the one in Dallas is open every summer, you know). But with each ending, it also means there's a new beginning. I think we all realize this on some level, but it always helps me to write it down or say it out loud from time to time. *With every ending, there is also a beginning.* Then instead of being absorbed by sadness or regret, we may be encouraged by the excitement of new adventures, the possibilities of the unknown.

I also like to remember that we don't have to put our summer activities too far away. We can still read that book cozied up with hot chocolate, or go bike riding during that consistently irrational week of February sunshine, and there's always Netflix. A bit of the old and comforting to bring with us into the new and exciting makes a nice balance, don't you think?

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

This year our religious education theme works on that same premise; it is our Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Identity. Our children and youth will be learning about the people, ideas and events that have formed the foundation of our religious tradition and reflecting on how they view themselves within it. Adults will have the opportunity to do this as well. Rev. Rick will facilitate four sermon discussions on our faith tradition, and our community minister, Rev. Connie Yost, will offer a class on UU spirituality after the winter holidays. There will be other opportunities throughout the year for young and older to question, share and clarify what Unitarian Universalism has been, is for people now, and what they hope it can be in the future. Check out our RE Calendar printed on green paper in our literature racks.

I also want to recognize all the wonderful people who have volunteered to learn with our young people this year. We are only one person shy of a full slate! **Nursery:** Megan Dunn, Egon Bodtker, Christine Deblock, Ellen Howard, Jean Sherbeck, Beth Malouf. **Pre-school:** Joel Martin, Quentin Smith, Kendra Forster, Valerie Neevel, Megan and Erik Jensen. **Kinder - 2nd Grade:** Nannette Martin, Chris McDonald, Marganne Allen, Angela Gross, Paul Marché, Catherine Carlson. **3rd - 5th Grade:** Lynn Cardiff, Chuck Howard, Micky Logan, Mary Jo Eyler, Barbara Joque, Eugenia Becker. **6th - 8th Grade:** Hudson Schweickert, Vicki Cunningham, James McAteer, Michelle Acheé, Judith Van Osdol, Julie Warncke. **High School:** Todd Logan, Erin Zysett, John Roy Wilson.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the enthusiasm, generosity and passion that Christi Olsen, our ADRE, has brought to our RE ministry. September is her last month with us as a staff member, but she will still contribute as a UUCS member. Please don't hesitate to thank and wish her well when you see her.

Christi Olsen, Associate Director of Religious Education

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This issue was edited by Lois Nodland. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 20. Send news to editors@uusalem.org (or to Lois Nodland AND Kathleen Ehli), put it in work-room newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter").

nance Steering Committee has donated \$2200 and, over the summer, an individual donor and the sale of t-shirts by UUCS Children's Religious Education raised an additional \$300. We are halfway to our goal.

Your donation to UUCS earmarked "Microfinance Fund" is tax-deductible and can be sent to Rose in the UUCS office. Periodically, we send our collective donation to PADETC to loan to a qualified micro-entrepreneur. After the loan is repaid, the funds are loaned out to another qualified applicant and continue to revolve in this fashion.

Interested? Attend a 7 p.m. open meeting **September 17** at the church to learn about our Lao microentrepreneurs and to plan a fall service and additional fund-raising. For more info, ask a steering committee member or see "Microfinance at UUCS," in the UUCS Newsletter, May 6, 2009 that can be found on line at www.uucsalem.org

*Ann Hanus
& Carol Doolittle, co-chairs*

Plus David Boaz, Rick Davis, George Struble and Lorraine Stuart.

Microfinance Update

You can make a difference in the lives of people struggling with poverty in a poor country!

At the Microfinance Forums last spring, we discussed microfinance and introduced several possible microfinance partner organizations in developing countries including the **P**Articipatory **D**Evolution **T**raining **C**enter (www.padetc.org) located in Laos. Forum discussions supported the choice of PADETC as our first partner organization.

PADETC currently serves over 200 poor but entrepreneurial people with microcredit, training, marketing, and other services so they can establish small enterprises. Their small businesses include, for example, silk and textile-related enterprises, food stands for quality food in schools, dried food stalls in rural markets, and fish production.

Our goal is to collect \$5000 this calendar year to support these hard-working microentrepreneurs with loans. So far, the Microfi-

New Membership Series

Fall is nearly here and new activities are beginning at UUCS. If you have been wondering what UUCS is all about, join Rev. Rick Davis and the Membership Team for a new series of Orientation to Membership classes. The first class is in Rick's office on **Sunday, October 4** after the Sunday Service. The second class, Path to Membership, will meet on **October 18**, and New Member Recognition Sunday is **November 1**.

Contact Mary Sohlstrom for more information

The Membership Team

Adopt-A-Road Clean-Up Day

Mark your calendar on **Saturday, October 10** for our second outing this year to clean up a one-mile section of Cordon Road as part of Marion County's Adopt-A-Road Program.

(continued on next page)

All are welcome. The county's rules allow youngsters 12 years and older to participate. Those under 18 must have their parents' permission.

We'll meet at UUCS at 9:30 a.m. When we prove our mettle with two clean-up days, the county will place the name of the congregation on the Adopt-A-Road signs noting our good works.

To sign up, look for the Adopt-A-Road sign-up sheets at the Social Action Team table after church services or email Laura Stine or phone her. She is acting as coordinator for the clean-up events.

Summer Dances of Universal Peace Sunday Service

This summer one of the Sunday Services integrated Dances of Universal Peace into the Sunday Service more fully than before. Rather than including a dance at the end of the service, the words to the dance were included as the centering thought and during the call to worship, the congregation read them chorally and heard about their background. The children learned the dance, taught the chorus sung during the procession into the hall, and modeled the movements for their parents. This integration promoted more people dancing and participant responses were more positive.

Rhea Devery, who wasn't able to dance, said, "I enjoyed it thoroughly. I kicked in time to the music." Ann Alexander expressed, "It was so beautiful and relaxing. You were kind of transported." Kerry Vill stated, "I greatly enjoyed it and seeing Ian, my six-year-old son, having no fear of taking another's hand and going with the other circle. He's confident with the other people and can participate independent of myself. He didn't even look around for me!" Beth Myers-Shenai said, "I think adding motion into worship is refreshing and allows the message to sink in do much more." An anonymous member said, "At first I thought it was very silly and pretentious, but as I got into it, I came around. I came to understand that it was a really good exercise for clearing the spirit."

News of the UUCS Community:

"Worthy of respect, by virtue of age," i.e., "venerable," that title has now passed to 92 year-old UUCS member **Roger Gillette** following the recent death of 97 year-old Betty Reese. Roger remarks that it's only barely his, since there are others close on his heels, but it does appear to be his alone!

A hemorrhage in the brain struck **David Cozart** some two weeks ago. Following surgery and treatment at OHSU in Portland, he's now out of ICU and in a regular hospital bed, Virginia reports. His progress is "slow but steady, all limbs are moving. He recognizes all of his friends and family, but it will be many weeks until full recovery."

Liz McGuinness was at Salem Hospital for brain surgery Saturday before last to repair damage caused by a hematoma. Remarkably, after a week of treatment she was able to return to her home at Redwood Heights. Liz moved to Salem from her home in Florida to be close to her sole family member after she developed Alzheimer's Disease; until recently she came to church regularly with Delores Lusk and also helped her mail out the newsletter.

Willard Eggers recently had a series of small strokes. His wife, **Marian Robison**, wrote that "he lost the little gains he'd made since the earlier episodes, but Salem Hospital's Rehabilitation Therapy staff is very hopeful."

Cheryl and Jim Randall feel fortunate to have had a summer filled with visits from all of their grandchildren, children, and some of their in-laws. Son Colin was especially pleased to see Jo Bateman, his second grade teacher, who was docent at Bush Barn the day the family visited. This week Cheryl and Jim are continuing the family joy by visiting Colin and family in Wisconsin at their new farm and equestrian center.

Heather Burns' and Colleen Henery's family summer activities included a week-long Caribbean cruise with another couple, celebrating their twenty-four years of marriage, as well as a week at Black Butte swimming and relaxing. Heather's energies have gone to gardening at Orchard Heights Community Garden and Colleen's to playing softball with

her women's team, The Reruns! Daughter **Delaney's** Hoopla Girls ten-and-under team won a tournament and then a Hoop Jam in Albany. Her girls' ten-and-under soccer team won the Waterfront Tournament as well!! Daughter **Kendall** took up trumpet this summer, in addition to flute and guitar, and was invited to become a Peer Helper at Walker Middle School. Kendall visited **Olivia Herrera** in Boston for a week in June, and spent a week with Olivia at Horse Camp in August, when she, brother **Mauricio**, and parents **Angela and Carlos** were visiting in Oregon!

Thanks to **Mary Hart and Keith York**, UUCS was represented at Salem's rather too-low-key Gay Pride festival held two weeks ago at Cascades Gateway Park. They and **Gloria Holland**, representing Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), distributed print information on our Principles and Practices as a Welcoming Congregation. Maybe too little coordination and/or publicity explained the small response from a usually vibrant and proud gay community.

Good news for UUCS' past board chair, **Vicki Cunningham**: her teaching assignment (half ninth grade science, half biology) has been changed to full-time and moved to West Salem High School! She writes that there are some intriguing aspects of the new placement—sharing a classroom with a colleague and his six geckos, turtles, lizards, fish, and snakes (who gained notoriety for their escape during the last school year)! Son Allen has completed his associate degree program from Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls and will begin part-time work at an auto parts store in Keizer as well as enroll at Chemeketa. Since her graduation from Eastern Oregon University, daughter Diana has been applying for jobs and now is arranging for an unpaid internship with a State agency in her specialty, accounting.

Long-time UUCS members **Don and Sue Beale** have been unable to attend church recently. Don is in his fourth year living with lung cancer, and Sue writes that it probably has metastasized to his brain. Nonetheless, they have kept in close contact via local care and covenant groups that meet in Silverton, as well as with their church extended family. This unique group from its out-

set more than twenty years ago has included at least two generations at its gatherings, and the elders are always interested in news of subsequent generations. Of the Beales' four children, Don, Jr. and Allen both work for Intel Corporation in Hillsboro. Allen lives in Tigard and works as a chemical engineer, recently in Southeast Asia and China. Don, Jr. is a mechanical engineer with a passion for ocean kayaking. He runs an active sea paddle business out of his home in Forest Grove and recently was invited by kayak enthusiasts to demonstrate his crafts in Japan. Daughter Kasi lives on a fruit and berry farm in Canby and recently completed a lengthy raft trip of the Snake River. Melissa (Mindy) is a computer scientist in Olympia, Washington.

After attending summer term at UO in Eugene, **Christianna Hannegan** has decided to transfer for her sophomore year from Reed College to the University of Oregon: "UO also has a good undergraduate math program!"

Condolences to **Amanda Nelson Jensen** and her family at the recent death of her mother, and to **Phil Carver** and his family at the death of his mother, and to **Ernest Perez** and his family at the death of his mother

Two of UUCS' professional artists have current shows for you to enjoy: **Emily Start** opened recently at the Mary Lou Zeek Gallery on State Street in Salem, with unique, mixed media collages. **Ann Kresge** and her husband, musician **Mike Nord**, have an installation at the Salem Art Association's new Project II Space on the second floor of the former Bank of the Cascades Building.

Samantha Scales wrote a prize-winning essay nominating her neighborhood for its welcoming presence and friendliness. The contest sponsor, Dreyer's Ice Cream, provided a party for the families in the neighborhood, helping them know one another better. Her mother still lives with them, but her health continues to decline. They no longer drive to Portland for treatments; she has had hospice help since February and is slowly accepting the circumstances.

This medium for sharing communal joys and concerns exists when you willingly share your news. **Please e-mail or call me**

Joan Erickson

Community Events

September 10, 7 p.m. Progressive Film Series Documentary, ***The Exonerated***, tells the true stories of six people sent to Death Row for crimes they didn't commit. An all-star cast, including Danny Glover, Susan Sarandon, Brian Dennehy, is featured in the film.

Speakers after the movie include **Ron Steiner**, who was the speaker at an Anti-Death Penalty Forum we had at UUCS last spring, and **Curtis Edward McCarty**, who was exonerated in 2007 after serving 21 years – including 19 years on death row – for a 1982 Oklahoma City murder he didn't commit.

Recommended by the UUCS Social Action Team as part of its Anti-Death Penalty Project. Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE, Salem. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Admission: Adults \$3, Students \$2.

Restoring the Magic, a nonviolent communication weekend retreat for couples, will be held Saturday-Sunday, **October 17 and 18** at Aldersgate Retreat Center, near Turner.

Facilitator Liv Monroe has 12 years mediation experience and is certified with the Center for Nonviolent Communication. The retreat will include a two-hour review and practice with NvC basics for the benefit of those who haven't had prior training, as well as 7 hours of interactive, small group work to increase skills and down time for enjoying each other and the private retreat grounds. See the information on the bulletin board near the library.

Cost is \$299 per couple if fully paid by September 17th and includes lodging, meals and snacks. Later registration costs \$350. Space is limited to 12 couples.

* * * * *

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Sunday, September 13

“Flowing Together”

**The Reverend Richard R. Davis
Lise Adams Sherry, Director of Religious Education**

Our Annual Water Communion Sunday

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.

Sunday, September 20

“Moral Awakenings”

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

The story of the transformation of the ancient Indian Emperor Asoka and its subsequent impact upon his realm has relevance to our own lives, for each of us has our own realm of influence.

Sunday, September 27

“A Vision on our Sixtieth Anniversary”

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

We're sixty (almost). Our congregation was established on September 28, 1949. Let's celebrate (see details in this newsletter) and let's look forward too, for with a compelling vision we will be inspired to fulfill our dreams and flourish.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
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Salem, Oregon 97317

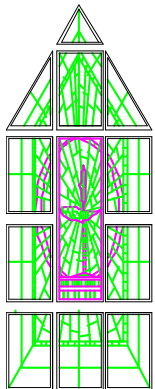
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September 9, 2009



UUCS Calendar

- Wednesday, Sept 9, 16, 23 UU Meditation (Compassionate Mind UU Sangha),
7 p.m. (**every** Wednesday)
- Thursday, September 10 UUCS Board Meeting, 7 p.m. (all are welcome)
- Sunday, September 13 Discussion Group, 9:15 a.m.
Water Communion Sunday
- Monday, September 14 Men's Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 16 Foster Parents Night Out
Chat & Craft, (1st & 3rd Wed.)
UU Meditation, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, September 17 Dances of Universal Peace, 7 p.m.
UUCS Microfinance Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, September 19 Landscape Work Party, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 22 CUUPS, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 26 Landscape Work Party for Memorial Garden, 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, September 20 Discussion Group, 9:15 a.m.
Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m.