

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
September 23, 2009*



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Thanks to Our Greeter Teams!

The warm welcomes and smiling faces you see each Sunday morning are those of our Greeters, a dedicated group who fill a very important role in the life of our congregation. For their service September 14, 2008 through September 20, 2009 we say a special thanks to our following members.

To the Captains: Mary Sohlstrom, Margaret Boyle, Pat Williams, Diana Bodtker, Jim Koch and Katie Howe. To the ever faithful members: Kristy Hollen, Jean Sherbeck,

Rosa Barton, Anna Stavinocha, DeAnn Rathbun, Harvey Kramer, Carol Doolittle, Barbara Smith, Bill Vorachek, Barbara Hanneman, Mary Edith Gilbertson, Oddny Everson, Joyce Bynum, Dave Cozart, Larry Nasset, Cathie Olcott, Nanette Martin, Janice Munsey, Paul Marche, Janet Stevens, Laura Stine, Egon Bodtker, Ellen and Chuck Howard, Martha Flores, Stan Seleen, Angela Gross. And finally to our Greeter team substitutes and those who just stepped in when asked to help: Lois Nodland, Jo Bateman, Paul Ric, Kay and Phil Cogswell, Danna Parmley, Mary Hart, Judith Van Osdol, Linda Geissler, Robin Wengert. If there are those we missed, please know that your service is more than appreciated.

UUCS Membership Team

Member Loans Successful!

Our Congregation's mortgage on our building is now paid off, replaced by loans from ten of our members. We will pay off these loans, which total \$150,000, over a four-and-a-half-year period ending December 2013.

You may recall that we balanced the UUCS operating funds budget for this year by reducing our mortgage payments to \$3000 per month. The loans carry a much lower interest rate than our mortgage did, and allow us to shorten the remaining term by about six months.

For several reasons, the names of the lenders remain confidential. But we can give them our thanks and appreciation; *they* know who they are! We also thank Pioneer Trust Bank, which had the confidence to write our mortgages (six *and* twelve years ago) and has always been most cooperative with us.

George Struble

Reverential Ramblings

Last winter my family went up to play in the snow at Mt. Hoodoo. Generally speaking, folks in such recreational settings are either well heeled or at least adequately heeled – driving safe, reliable vehicles on the icy roads and dressed in warm, water repellent attire to keep the cold at bay.

Yet in the parking lot I spied a down at heel pair – a man and his daughter getting out of an old beat up car which I was surprised had made it up the mountain. They didn't have suitable clothing for this outing, especially the girl, who was wearing a dress and no covering for her legs. They looked so out of place – almost like beggars at a country club. Yet, like everyone else, they had come to have fun and they did, sliding down the hill in an inner tube, but getting soaked and cold in the process.

My heart ached to see them. He seemed like a good dad who wanted his daughter to enjoy the pleasures that others higher up the socio-economic ladder take for granted.

That image of the father and daughter still haunts me. To be sure, in a global context they're far from the lowest rungs of the economic ladder, yet still, the image of them reminds me of the inequities and injustices of life.

As a religious community, we're in a position to do something about this – much more than any of us could alone.

Over the past several years UUUCS' public outreach ministry has steadily expanded. Among other things (space does not allow a complete listing), we have long been a host congregation for the **Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network**, providing food and shelter for homeless families; we make weekly food donations to the **Marion Polk Food Share**; and we provide and serve food for the **Kairos Soup Kitchen**. We are charter members and financial supporters of **Congregations Helping People**, an interfaith organization here in Salem which serves people who fall through the cracks of our social services network; we partner with nearby **Auburn Elementary School** to supply assistance for children at risk; we care for foster children for the **Foster Parents Night Out Program**; we are establishing a **Micro-credit Loan Program** so people in poverty stricken regions of the world can establish small businesses; we helped establish a statewide UU lobbying group **Oregon Voices for Justice** that will advocate for "UU values" (i.e., social, economic and environmental justice)

These are such vital ministries, and I'm so grateful to the many of you who share in this outreach – it certainly makes a difference in the lives of precious people.

Historically our inclusive religious movement has played an important role in welcoming those who have been excluded by others for theological reasons and, more recently, because of sexual orientation. Yet we can't rest on our laurels. There are far too many who are either excluded or neglected socially and economically. We are called to keep widening the circle of our compassionate caring, concern and advocacy.

As for me, one of my goals this year is to help strengthen our relationship with nearby Auburn Elementary School. It has a high percentage of students whose family live in poverty – many of them are Hispanic. I see a unique opportunity here.

How about you? Perhaps you have your own heartrending image of exclusion that moves you to act. We truly need more members to be involved, so if you're not yet involved please consider joining in one outreach option when we have **Participation Opportunity Faire on Sunday, October 25**.

Love,
Rick



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
September 23, 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 Sept. 27 9:30 am – 10:15 am in RE Commons

Youth/Adult: Sun. Oct. 11th – Babysitting Training 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm – Teens and adults interested in paid babysitting for UUCS should attend this training.

Youth – Sat. Sept. -26th YRUU Sleepover 7 pm

MS Parents: Sun. Oct. 11th – Parent Meeting

Youth – Fri.-Sun. Oct. 16th-18th Youth con. In WA

Child – Sat. Oct. 17th MS Sleepover @ UUCS 7 pm

Summer was a success! I am happy that so many people supported our camp out, t-shirt sale, movie night, tile making event, clothing swap and more!
Thanks to you all. . .

Christi's Thoughts

Life is full of change – on one hand this to me is what keeps life interesting and alive and so I create change for myself (new color walls, pictures moved, new ideas to pursue) – while on the other hand (good thing I only have 2 hands – this could be long!) I am someone who likes to always go to the SAME grocery store and park in the same spot and know exactly how the rest of my life will be!

So, going with the hand that thinks change is a good thing, I have made a HARD decision to no longer be the Associate DRE. This will be the last newsletter column I get to share with you. I feel sorry about that, as I have enjoyed giving all of you a glimpse of my life and thoughts. Some have thought I have shared very personal information about myself. I agree that I have – in an environment I feel is safe and supportive. In our congregation, I think it is the Joys and Concerns, the newsletter information about the “News of our Community”, information shared among members and friends, that can bring us together and make us more deeply connected on a spiritual level. To me, it is easier and much more rewarding to walk around the congregation with a sense of what others are going through, happy things or not – to feel that spiritual connection.

So, I am sharing some more information. After I took the ADRE position last October, we made a life decision to use our certification and become foster parents again. A little nagging voice kept

telling me that there are many children who need us! So with the arrival of four little people in December, ages 4 and under, it has been very life changing and – should we say – time consuming? Through being involved again, my fire has been rekindled for the importance of this endeavor on a very personal basis. Yes, being “just a mom” (as I have been called on more than one occasion) I think is an incredibly important job (that could be a whole newsletter topic in itself!) that cannot be taken lightly, so I am okay with the “just-a-Mom” designation.

Currently, our three little girls are all on the path to moving to forever homes and getting a new start in life. We will then be filling our home once again, but this time with a little older set. We miss hiking without going at a 3 year old pace, swimming without holding kids, shopping without strollers, leaving without everyone able to buckle themselves up, and the ability for my husband and me to walk around the block without a babysitter! There will always be my fun Grandma days full of slow walks and the above mentioned things – but I am not responsible for my grandson Riley 24/7. I will still be helping children in need – just older ones ☺!

Being the ADRE, I have learned a lot about myself and reinforced some earlier knowledge – one, I am an idea person and two, a director, not an assistant – I have run my own companies and programs a long time. So for now, I believe the best use of my talents and time will be to volunteer on committees as my life allows, freeing me from responsibilities perhaps difficult to carry out in light of the many variables in my life. By moving back to volunteering I will have more time to tend to my spiritual path, teach my children, and focus on my daughter's doll sculpting business – three things that have been a bit neglected this last year. I will finish my masters this spring and finish the teaching licensure piece after taking a leave of absence from that program and do my student teaching when our youngest girls are finishing middle school (2 yrs out from spring 2010). . . Do I “feel” a bit of breathing room in my future? Humm...

I feel very compassionate and connected to the community here, so my family and I will continue to be an integral part of UUCS.

Until next time – *Christi*

The Unitarian Universalist

published by

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This issue was edited by Elsa Struble. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, October 4. 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").

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet again on **October 4** in the Library at 7:00pm.

John Gorman will be the leader of that meeting. We hope you will join us then.

Quentin Smith

Women's Alliance

All women of the church are invited to the first Women's Alliance meeting of the church year on **Thursday, October 1** at 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Beth Myers-Shenai, who is the Waste Reduction Coordinator for Marion County Public Works Environmental Services, as well as a member of our congregation. Plan to be informed and motivated as Beth brings us along on a curbside recycling journey saving little pieces of our earth. Whether you're interested in the Women's Alliance, recycling or both, plan to join us for this exciting meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Catherine Carlson

Co-secretary, Women's Alliance

Potluck this Sunday

Don't forget to bring a dish to share after the service, when we celebrate UUCS' 60th birthday. For more information or to offer help with setup and cleanup, please contact Lydia Gutierrez or Jane Manning.

Cordon Road Cleanup

Mark your calendar for **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. All are welcome. Those under 18 must have their parents' permission. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. You can sign up at the Social Action table or contact Laura Stine.

Soup Kitchen

UUCS will next be serving at the Soup Kitchen on **Sunday, October 11**. The Soup Kitchen is located at St. Mark Lutheran Church at 790 Marion Street NE at the corner of Marion and Winter. Volunteers should arrive at 12:30 p.m. Guests will be served from 2:00 to 3:00. Entry for volunteers and guests will be off the parking lot, down the stairwell to the left of the office door.

No food prepared off-site can be accepted. We do serve commercially prepared soups purchased at our expense from NOR-PAC, Costco, United Grocers, and others.

If you wish to volunteer, and/or donate for this fine event, please contact John T. Maluski or sign up at the Social Action table in Hanneman Hall following Sunday services.

John T Maluski

Job Opportunity
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSISTANT
(12 hours per week)

12 hours per week, forty-three weeks per year (July 1 – June 30); includes duties on Sundays and evenings. These duties include but are not limited to: preparing class materials and curricula, leading children's worship, recruiting volunteers, organizing social action projects, maintaining administrative records and working with congregation members on various projects. Works under the direction of the Director of Religious Education to implement Lifespan Religious Education program activities. In addition, is responsible for coordinating the summer children's RE program.

Candidates must be members in good standing of a Unitarian Universalist congregation or have a demonstrated comfort with the ideals and principles of Unitarian Universalism. An understanding of children's spiritual, emotional, and physical growth and development, plus strong written and verbal communication and computer skills are desirable. A criminal background check will be a mandatory part of any interview.

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 October 16, 2009.

Participation Opportunity Faire

A UUCS Participation Opportunity Faire will be held on **Sunday, October 25**, in the Fellowship Hall, after the regular service. Team and Committee Leaders will be available to discuss volunteer opportunities. Refreshments will be provided. Come to mix and mingle, and discover all the wonderful things that are happening at UUCS!

Gloria Holland

More Coffee...Helpers

If you can help maintain the UU Coffee Hour tradition by serving coffee and loading the dishwasher, either as a substitute or once every 6-8 weeks, please contact Megan Jensen.

Circle Suppers!

The next Circle Supper is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24**. Signup sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall until October 18. Circle Suppers are potluck-style gatherings at members' homes. Hosts provide a place to meet and guests bring food to share. Conversation and company are enjoyed by

all. These are a great way to get to know other members! Contact one of the organizers if you have any questions.

*Lois Nodland
Leah Knudsen*

Stand For Children

Oregon students today are less likely than their parents to graduate from high school. Fewer Oregonians are going to college this generation than the last. Our school year is among the shortest in the nation. Here are a few examples of the abysmal education system in Oregon.

Stand for Children is exploring ways to best support educators to improve education within the limitations of tough budget times. Do you have thoughts, ideas or concerns? Please join us for a brisk, lively discussion on education reform. All UUCS members are invited to the discussion immediately following services on **October 4** in the RE wing. Questions? Contact:

Christine Ertl

News of the UUCS Community:

Sole remaining charter member of UUCS **Barbara Hanneman** returned last week from a Lewis family reunion held at Bears' Paw Village outside Calgary, Alberta. The event celebrating her father's family gave Barbara, a native of Canada, opportunity to become acquainted with cousins she'd never met before. She was accompanied on the trip by daughter and son-in-law Linda and Peter Batty, who live in Maryland. After returning to Salem, they stayed on with Barbara, extending the celebrations to include the marriage last Saturday of granddaughter Molly Hanneman, daughter of son Craig and his wife Kathleen, to Matthew Hogan. The marriage was held at Oak Grove Church in Rickreall, with reception following at the Hanneman farm in West Salem. Molly and Matt will live in Annapolis and continue their work with the federal government in Washington, D.C.

David Cozart continues to improve from the effects of a 'brain bleed,' a variety of stroke. He's now in treatment at Salem Hospital's Rehabilitation Center, but Virginia anticipates his return home this week. They welcome visitors but ask that you call prior since he has daily therapy and frequent medical appointments, and frequently is asleep during the day.

Congratulations to **Louise Meyers**, for four years library director in Jefferson, who just recently was appointed to direct the much larger Stayton Library! She'll take along her innovative approach to providing library services to the community, which she initiated in Jefferson, but in the new post will have staff assistants to help her in the outreach work.

Congratulations to **Lois Nodland** at the birth of her 7th grandson to son Chad and his wife in Bismarck, North Dakota!

Following the untimely death of her mother, Amanda Nelson Jensen and her husband Eric Jensen assumed custody of the four children for whom her mother had provided a home: two boys and two girls born to an older sister of Amanda's. The instant transition from a one-child family to five children poses all manner of challenges, but Amanda and Eric have shown that they're up to it.

Congratulations to **Ray Clark**, Cora's son, who took a blue ribbon at the State Fair for his Lego construction!

Condolences to **Paul Parmley** at the death last week of his father.

Two birthdays of note were celebrated in the past two weeks: **Bill Sea's** 80th, and **Donna Canning's** 75th!

Former Board Chair **Rob Schiff** has sent us some news: Rob's wife **Jan Coté** has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and has undergone chemotherapy. Rob writes, "It's always a difficult process, but she appears to be responding well and we both are hopeful."

Their daughter **Danielle** graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara with her master's degree in environmental studies and has been hired by an environmental consulting firm in Portland. She and her husband Ryan have bought a home in Beaverton, allowing Rob to visit them more frequently.

After retiring as a staff psychologist for Kaiser Permanente Health, Rob has returned to the setting for part-time work, enjoying seeing patients once again and supervising students in training.

Jerry and Jo Anne Nathan's daughter **Erica**, who joined her father in our choir last year, was married to **Yuya Matsuda** on September 5 at UUCS, with Pastor Davis officiating. Erica's a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. Yuya is a professional drummer and Erica a voice coach for his Portland area band; they live in Salem.

Nancy Murphy's sons are making music in Corvallis, big time! Son Paul Kincaid has constructed custom electric guitars for the past ten years and now he and his brother Sam, on lead guitar, are playing their original music at Bombs Away, across Monroe Street from the OSU campus.

Emily Start writes that it's Emily Stuart who is at the Mary Lou Zeek Gallery, "although I would love to be there!" Our Emily's handmade jewelry is at the Lunaria Gallery in Silverton and at Journeys in downtown Salem, as well as in Forest Grove and Issaquah, WA. She also keeps busy with her massage and Reiki business!

The **UU Church in Eugene** celebrated its 100th birthday on September 20. **George** and **Elsa Struble** attended the early service, hearing not only current minister Stephen Ames, but also their former ministers Carl Nelson and Bob Swain, and UUA President Peter Morales, who decided to enter the ministry when a member of the Eugene church! In the afternoon there were five history booths, old photo albums, and a slide show, as well as information about the Masonic building the church might purchase.

They noticed during the service that many but not all people followed the published advice on swine flu: "Hand holding is a warm tradition at UUCE, especially with Spirit of Life and benediction. To avoid sharing germs, we encourage you to choose to touch your hand to your neighbor's shoulder to care and connect while avoiding direct hand contact."

Now that the newsletter is published twice monthly, we're actively seeking news of your joys and concerns for inclusion. The sharing of communal joys and concerns only works as you communicate.

Joan Erickson

Community Events

Israeli peace activist Gila Svirsky is speaking this Friday, **September 25** at 6:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom.

The Oregon Spirit **Sweet Adelines**, some of whom are UUs, will present a concert in Smith Auditorium on Saturday, **October 3**.

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, **October 8**, at the Grand Theater the Salem Progressive Film Series will **Crossroads on the Columbia**. California has not permitted Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) port and storage terminals because of public safety and environmental concerns. The film deals with attempts to build them near the Columbia River in Oregon. There will also be discussion with Bill Bradbury, Oregon's Global Warming Advisory Commission and former Secretary of State; Dan Serres, Conservation Director of Columbia Riverkeepers; and Olivia Schmidt, Citizens Against the Pipelines. Info: Don Fries or www.salemprogressivefilms.net.

Straub Environmental Learning Center's October events are posted on the bulletin board and at <http://fselc.org/programs.html>.

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

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.

Sunday, October 4 **Finding Balance in an Unbalanced World** **The Reverend Richard R. Davis**

Political polarization is beginning to reach alarming levels in America. What's going on? What can be our response?

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
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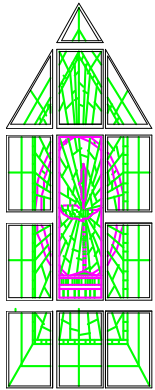
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September 23, 2009

UUCS Calendar



- Wednesday, September 23 UU Meditation (Compassionate Mind UU Sangha),
7 p.m. (**every** Wednesday)
- Saturday, September 26 Landscape Work Party for Memorial Garden, 9:00 a.m.
Youth Group Sleepover starts 6 p.m.
- Sunday, September 27 Discussion Group, 9:15 a.m.
60th Birthday Potluck Luncheon
- Thursday, October 1 Women's Alliance, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 4 Discussion Group, 9:15 a.m.
Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m.
Orientation to UUCS Membership, after service
Stand for Children, after service
Men's Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
Chat & Craft, (1st & 3rd Wed.)
- Wednesday, October 7 UUCS Board Meeting (all welcome)
- Thursday, October 8 Cordon Road cleanup
- Saturday, October 10 Orientation for middle school parents, after service
- Sunday, October 11 Soup Kitchen, St. Mark Lutheran
- Friday, October 16 Turn in RE Assistant applications (see page 5)
- Monday, October 19 Chalice Circle Players
- Saturday, October 24 Circle Suppers
- Sunday, October 25 **Participation Opportunity Faire**