

# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Salem, Oregon  
October 7, 2009*



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## Memorial Garden Update

The Memorial Garden is almost complete. We are still seeking a woodworker or two who would like to fabricate a bench. Please see Bonnie Heitsch or call her if you have even an inkling of interest. We have funds to pay you a stipend for your effort. A dedication plaque and a few additional plantings are still to come.

Thank you to Iris Sea for coordinating the landscape planting work event. Iris, tirelessly and without recognition, makes our grounds so beautiful. A special thanks to all those that helped install the memorial garden plantings, including Ted Cory, Ted Dingman, Paul Rice, Egon Bodtker, Tom Lancefield, Cora Clark, John Gorman, Martin Prather, and others whom I may have inadvertently forgotten.

Thanks to Brian Reeder, Rick Davis, Pam Williams, Sandra Meredith and Nelson Sherry for assistance with the tedious task of covering the wall. Thanks to Brian for installing the irrigation system and taking on the task of finishing the wall. It was a lot harder than we had imagined.

*Bonnie Heitsch*

## September Board Meeting Highlights

At its September 10 meeting, the board

approved increasing Religious Education Director Lise Adams Sherry's hours to 33 per week, until a new RE assistant is hired;

hired (in an earlier e-mail vote) Suzette Moyer as an interim office assistant;

appointed Robin Wengert Green Team Leader;

appointed Kristy Holland to be our contact person with the burglar alarm security people, i.e., to be called when the alarm goes off;

appointed Iris Sea head of a committee to create guidelines for the memorial plaques in the Memorial Garden;

approved making two \$600 contributions to the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network, since none was requested or made during the last fiscal year;

approved three RE fundraisers, including a carved pumpkin sale on October 24, to support social action projects;

approved special offerings for the Micro-Credit Finance Group and the Foster Parents Night Out program.

Since Chair Phil Carver and Vice Chair Gloria Holland will be traveling, the **October 8 board meeting** will be chaired by Paul Rice. Visitors are always welcome at board meetings.

(This is a summary of Secretary Don Wolf's notes; other board members are Past Chair Vicki Cunningham, and Directors Kay Cogswell, John Gorman, Claudia Koch, Danna Parmley, Barabara Stebbins-Boaz, and Erin Zysett.)

**Ministerial Meditations**  
**By The Rev. Connie Yost**  
**UUCS Affiliated Community Minister**

*The mountains are calling and I must go.* --John Muir

This past week, I've enjoyed watching the Ken Burns documentary on our National Parks on PBS. I've had a long love affair with national parks, beginning with those family trips to Montana each year to visit relatives in the Billings area. We'd always stop at Yellowstone on the way, where we'd never fail to see herds of bison, grizzly bears, moose, deer, and elk.

I've always been a nature lover, though as a city kid I didn't get out in the wilderness much except for those trips to Yellowstone. My father was a great gardener and I enjoyed helping him in the garden. It wasn't until I was in my twenties that I had the good fortune to experience the wilderness. I spent my twenties and thirties in Seattle, hiking, X-C skiing, and camping in beautiful and wild places like Olympic, Mount Rainier and North Cascades National Parks.

It was those trips into the wilderness where I felt that I became who I really was. John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club and tireless preservationist of America's wild places wrote: "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." Muir, like our Unitarian forebears Emerson and Thoreau, believed that God reveals him/herself through nature, and that we are "hitched to everything else in the universe." Muir suffered abuse at the hands of his father, an itinerant Presbyterian minister, who took the view that people were to have dominion over the land and animals. Perhaps it was because of his early suffering that Muir was drawn to the wilderness and so profoundly experienced her healing powers.

The modern Deep Ecology movement calls us to look at nature and the Earth not as mechanisms to serve human needs, but as the very ground of our being, infused with a vital force some may call God, Spirit or intelligence. Nature is alive, active, and capable of communicating with us. That is certainly the sense that I get when I am in the wilderness. On my trip to Glacier National Park this summer, I could imagine no more glorious place of worship than the alpine meadows, resplendent with masses of wildflowers, wildlife, glaciers, lakes and tumbling waterfalls.

I am not an expert in horticultural therapy, but I do know that being connected with the earth has a profound stabilizing effect on me. Physicians in ancient Egypt prescribed garden walks for mentally ill patients. Hours after the 9/11 attacks in New York, scores of people were waiting to get into the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Entrance fees were waived, and the garden was thronged with those seeking solace and serenity. *Organic Gardening* magazine readers report that in times of trouble, they go outside or to plant nurseries for comfort. Just looking at the plants brings hope and healing to many.

At Glacier, I sat waiting for the shuttle bus with a woman from Iowa. Her husband had died two years before and she was now dying of cancer. They had visited Glacier together, and she wanted to see it one last time. With tears in her eyes, she said that she had come home. Now she felt at peace, ready to join her husband. John Muir also wrote: "Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."

*Love, Connie*



**LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**  
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem**  
**October 7, 2009**

**Religious Education Dates to Note**

Weds. Youth/Adult – Meditation 7-9 pm

Sundays Child/Youth – Children's Choir, 9:45 – 10:20 am, RE Commons.

Sun. Oct. 11 Middle School and Parent Orientation, 12:05; Youth/Adult UUCS Babysitter training, 12:30.

Mon. Oct. 12 Youth/Adult – Sermon discussion with Rev. Rick, 7 – 8:30 pm; Youth/Adult – Religious Education Team meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Library. All are welcome. Call Lise if childcare is needed.

Thur. Oct. 15 Older Child/Adult – Dances of Universal Peace, 7 PM, Hanneman Hall

Fri. Oct. 16 – Sun. Oct. 18 HS Youth – Youth Conference in Washington

Sat. Oct. 17 Middle School – Sleepover, 7 pm at UUCS. Eat dinner before you arrive and bring potluck snacks and food for breakfast.

Weds. Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4 Adult – Theatre and Theology course focusing on musical theatre lyrics and their meaning for our culture, 7 pm.

Sat. Oct. 24 All – Multigenerational Halloween potluck and pumpkin decorating event.

Sun. Oct. 25 All – Annual costume parade.

**Lise's Letter**

Our religious education year is in full swing. We've been welcoming our children and youth back and getting ready for some adult religious enrichment opportunities, too. (See the calendar above.)

Last week the children and youth decided on their main offering project for the year. Using the democratic process (it is one of our Unitarian Universalist principles), they voted and chose to support the Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary. This is a non-profit group based in Scio; you can check out their web site at: [Lighthousefarmsanctuary.org](http://Lighthousefarmsanctuary.org).

Lise Adams Sherry, Director of Religious Education  
Office Hours: Wed. 9:30-3:30; Mon./Fri. by appt.  
503/364-0932

We will have a collection jar in the RE Commons, and do some collecting in the classrooms as well, so please remember to encourage your family to bring their coins, no matter how small or few, to contribute to the cause. Every little bit helps, and our children are great at raising money! Last year they raised \$164.32 for *Living Lands and Water* and over \$300 for UUCS's micro credit project in Laos.

I'd like to finish by sharing one of my favorite UU hymns with you. It expresses what our children and youth are doing with their offering project as well as other reasons and hopes about why it is so important to be in a religious community.

***We'll Build A Land* (#121)**

*We'll build a land where we bind up the broken. We'll build a land where the captives go free, where the oil of gladness dissolves all mourning. Oh, we'll build a promised land that can be.*

Chorus: *Come build a land where sisters and brothers, anointed by God, may then create peace: where justice shall roll down like waters, and peace like an ever flowing stream.*

*We'll build a land where we bring the good tidings to all the afflicted and all those who mourn. And we'll give them garlands instead of ashes. Oh, we'll build a land where peace is born.* (Chorus)

*We'll be a land building up ancient cities, raising up devastations from old, restoring ruins of generations. Oh, we'll build a land of people so bold.* (Chorus)

*Come, build a land where the mantles of praises resound from spirits once faint and once weak, where like oaks of righteousness stand her people. Oh, come build the land, my people we seek.* (Chorus—last time with feeling! . . .)

?????????, Religious Education Assistant  
Could this be you? See the position announcement in this newsletter and/or talk to Lise if interested

## *The Unitarian Universalist*

*published by*

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Salem, Oregon

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*This issue was edited by Elsa Struble. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, October 18. Send news to [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org) (or to Lois Nodland, Kathleen Ehli, and Elsa Struble), put it in workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter").*

## 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. Info: Laura Stine.

## Opportunities for Child Care

Adults and teens are needed for child care during activities throughout the year. This is a PAID OPPORTUNITY, although volunteers are welcome. **Attend** the training session after the service on **Sunday, October 11**. Contact Christi Olsen or Lise Sherry.

Also, please contact them to VOLUNTEER to take a turn at supervising the children playing outdoors after the service.

## 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*

## Sermon Discussion

You are welcome to come to the church at 7 p.m. on **Monday, October 12**, when Rick Davis will lead a discussion of his recent sermon on Unitarian Universalism. He plans several more discussions in coming months.

## Diwali Celebration

UUCS members and friends are cordially invited to the **October 17** Diwali celebration sponsored by the India-U.S. Friendship Association. This will begin at 5:15 p.m. with a multimedia presentation "Journey to India" followed by music and a potluck (please bring a dish – mark either "vegetarian" or "non-vegetarian").

## Second Membership Class

You can learn more about UUism and this Congregation (and perhaps then decide to join it) by attending the Path to Membership class, led by the Rev. Rick Davis and the Membership Team, on **Sunday, October 18** after the service.

Contact Mary Sohlstrom for more information.

**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](mailto:uucsoffice@yahoo.com). To be guaranteed full consideration applications must be received by October 16, 2009.

## CUUPS News

The Coven of UU Pagans at Salem will be meeting at the church on **October 18** at 1 p.m. for celebrating the new moon and on November 2 at 5:30 p.m. for celebrating the full moon. Each meeting will include a pot luck, ritual and business discussion. All interested people are invited.

*Kate Walker*

## Theatre and Theology

The series "Broadway Showcase: A Look at the Lyrics" begins **Wednesday, October 21** at 7 p.m. The first musical under discussion is *My Fair Lady*. How do we deal with social class? What are our implicit and explicit messages and actions? How do these fit into our theology as UUs? Come join the conversation to find out more. Lee Coyne will facilitate.

## 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 gather-

ings 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*

## Opportunity Faire

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

*Gloria Holland*

## Halloween Contra Dance

On **Saturday, October 31**, celebrate Halloween at UUCS! The pot luck dinner at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by a lesson at 7:30 and dancing from 8:00 to 11:00. The charge is \$8.00. The caller/teacher is Craig Shinn, and

live music will be provided by the Luck Penny Contra Band. No partner is required

Please contact Quentin Smith with any questions.

## GLBT History Month

October is GLBT History Month and is intended to celebrate the many contributions of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people to our culture and our institutions. The first week of listings can be found at <http://www.welcomingcongregations.org/>, the Community of Welcoming Congregations (CWC) website. More people will be presented in the coming weeks. The UUCS is a member congregation of the CWC and I urge all of us to be aware of our ongoing involvement and support of the GLBT community.

*Chuck Howard*

## Kudos to Presenters

The Sunday Services Team expresses thanks to our array of in-house speakers for our summer Sunday services. They include Randy Herrin, Margo Eliescu, Crystal Areal, Lise Sherry, Rev. Connie Yost, and Kate Walker. We ask the congregation for suggestions for the future speakers: please contact

*Lee Coyne*

**Coffee** doesn't pour itself or wash cups. Contact Megan Jensen to offer to help out occasionally. *ES*

## News of the UUCS Community:

Congratulations to **Clancy Devery**, inducted Saturday evening into the South Salem High School's Athletic Hall of Fame! Outstanding in track throughout his high school years, Clancy's marathon record of two hours and twenty-three minutes still stands, thirty one years after his graduation! Parents **Bill** and **Rhea Devery** accompanied him to the annual athletic awards banquet held at SSHS.

Condolences to **Sue Beale** and her sons and daughters on the death last Thursday of husband **Don**. A memorial service at church will be held in the near future.

Condolences to **Julie Warncke's** family on the death of her father.

**Fred Ratzeburg** is enduring a most stressful time with diminishing vision in his remaining sighted eye due to an enlarged optic nerve. His ophthalmologist and retinologist hope that medication will reduce the swelling to allow the surgical removal of cataracts which currently disallow reading and severely limit his mobility. In the meantime Fred is preparing for a worst-case scenario and informing himself of technologies to assist not only in daily tasks but also enhance life quality for blind or low-vision persons. He is willing to consult with others in the community who may be experiencing comparable vision challenges.

**Chuck Howard**, former UUCS Board Chair, recently had a basal cell carcinoma removed from the tip of his nose. Microsurgery restructured the area and it is healing well. It still looks a little "lumpy/bumpy," but it is cancer free!

**David Cozart's** recuperation from his "brain bleed" was interrupted by pneumonia and rehospitalization. He's home again and welcomes notes or telephone calls.

**Dominick** and **Colleen Spedale's** daughter and grandson traveled here from Macedonia this summer for their first visit in over two years. Three year old Kosta had especially great adventures including sitting in the cockpit of the Spruce Goose at Evergreen Air Museum, riding in a small airplane, and becoming acquainted with his great grandparents in Canby. Upon their return to Macedonia, daughter Alison was offered a job teaching English as a second language at an international school in Skopje, where Kosta attends pre-school.

Over the past eight months **Molly** and **Bill O'Dea** have "paved" a cross-country air pathway east to be with son **Alex**. He remained in North Carolina following his graduation from Duke University and was hired as a radiologic technician at University Hospital. His academic background as well as access to excellent medical care has served well since a February diagnosis of osteosarcoma (malignant bone tumor) in his femur. Last week he completed the 15th of 18

chemotherapy sessions. He had six of these prior to surgery May 15, when surgeons replaced much of his femur and knee joint but otherwise saved his leg. Bill writes that Alex "has learned to walk on it but continues to struggle with the chemotherapy."

Dances of Universal Peace director **Pam Pritchard** has begun a new venture: helping her 80-year old father market his local, grass-fed beef by quarter and half. The project draws them closer and also allows Pam to learn more of the health advantages of grass-fed meat and the process for obtaining an "organic" designation for farmland and produce.

A caring community is in part the logical and natural product of sharing one's joys and concerns with others. If you agree, please contact me.

*Joan Erickson*

## Community Events

In conjunction with the World Beat Gallery's current exhibit "**Japanese Voices from**

**the Northwest**", the Salem Multicultural Institute is proud to present a program of poems and stories on the Japanese American Experience on **Thursday, October 8**, at 5:30 pm, on the 2nd floor of the Reed Opera House at Liberty and Court Streets. Speakers will be Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada, who spoke at UUCS this summer, and storyteller Takiyama-Chung. The exhibit continues until November 4, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and noon-4 p.m. Saturday. Info: Mako Hayashi-Mayfield.

At 7 p.m. on the same day, the Salem Progressive Film Series will feature "**Crossroads on the Columbia**" at the Grand Theater and the League of Women Voters will present "**Health Care Issues for Action**" at the First Congregational Church, 700 Marion Street.

## SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

**Sunday, October 11**

**"Oh, My!"**

**The Reverend Craig Moro**

Let's take a walk down the Yellow Brick Road with Dorothy and her friends as we contemplate what it means to affirm and promote "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth." Can we help each other to overcome the disabling enchantments that have burdened recent public discourse with such awful fear?

**Sunday, October 18**

**"Is Reconciliation Possible?"**

**The Reverend Richard R. Davis**

If you follow the news you might be tempted to conclude, as did the poet Matthew Arnold that "...we are here as on a darkling plain/ Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight/ Where ignorant armies clash by night." Can light shine in such dark places? Can we find a better way?

**Sunday, October 25**

**"Death Is My Teacher"**

**The Reverend Richard R. Davis**

We live in a death denying culture – it's considered morbid to talk much about the subject. To the contrary, nothing is more life affirming than an honest awareness of death. *Please bring a picture of a beloved family member or friend who has died. We will display these on a special altar during the service.*

(Afterward, people of all ages are invited and encouraged to participate in the Annual Halloween Costume Parade.)

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

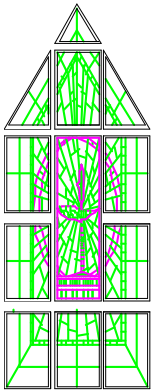
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## ***THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST***

October 7, 2009



### **UUCS Calendar**

- Wednesday, October 7  
UU Meditation, 7 p.m. (**every** Wednesday)  
Chat & Craft, 7 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.)
- Thursday, October 8  
UUCS Board Meeting (all welcome)
- Saturday, October 10  
Cordon Road cleanup, 9:30 a.m.  
RE Team retreat, 10 a.m.
- Sunday, October 11  
Orientation for middle school parents, after service  
Childcare training, after service  
Green Sanctuary meeting, 12:45 p.m.  
Soup Kitchen, St. Mark Lutheran
- Monday, October 12  
Sermon discussion with Rev. Rick, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, October 15  
Dances of Universal Peace, 7 p.m.
- Friday, October 16  
Turn in RE Assistant applications (see page 5)
- Saturday, October 17  
Diwali Celebration, 5:15 p.m.; Middle School sleepover 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 18  
Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m.  
Path to UUCS Membership, after service; CUUPS, 1 p.m.
- Monday, October 19  
Chalice Circle Players
- Wednesday, October 21  
Chat & Craft; Theatre and Theology (both 7 p.m.)
- Saturday, October 24  
Halloween potluck and pumpkin decorating; Circle Suppers
- Sunday, October 25  
Participation Opportunity Faire
- Saturday, October 31  
Contra Dancing