

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Salem, Oregon
November 4, 2009*



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UUCS Annual Christmas Bazaar December 6

December 6 is coming sooner than you think! It's time to begin working on your craft items, freeze your desserts and to contribute your talents to our all-church bazaar.

The Womens Alliance

UUCS Parking

Our parking lot is filling up with great attendance on Sunday mornings. The Operations Team requests that the overflow parking lot across the street from the driveway be used as well by able-bodied members. This way enough space should be available in the main lot for visitors, the handicapped, the elderly, and families with small children. Please remember that no parking is allowed against the curbs that are painted red as these areas must be left open as a fire lane should emergency vehicles be called.

UUCS Welcomes New Members

On Sunday, November 1, having watched them sign the membership book, we welcomed those who had completed the new member classes into UUCS membership. Present at the Sunday Service were **James McAteer, Ted and Cheryl Morrison, Betsy and Richard Scott, Miguel Wahl and Miranda Wood**. Their biographies can be found on pages 8-9.

Delores "Dee" Brooks, Tamera Schnack, Debra Slade and Glenda Hand have completed the classes but were unable to attend this service. They will officially join the Congregation at a future service.

Holiday Newsletter Deadlines

The Unitarian Universalist Newsletter will be mailed only once in December. We ask that you mark these dates on your calendar so a deadline is not overlooked. Deadlines are -

Nov 15
Nov 29
Dec 13
Jan 3

Also, please remember that it is important to send articles/notices to **both** the Sunday Bulletin (i.e., the office) and the newsletter editors if you want them to appear in both publications.

Thanks.

The Newsletter co-editors

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

One of my favorite books is called *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* by John O'Donohue. I used to think that using the word "blessings" was trite and meaningless. But somewhere along the journey, undoubtedly influenced by this book, I began to realize what a blessing really is. O'Donohue writes

Despite all the darkness, human hope is based on the instinct that at the deepest level of reality, some intimate kindness holds sway. This is the heart of blessing. To believe in blessing is to believe that our being here, our very presence in the world, is itself the first gift, the primal blessing. As Rilke says "*Hier zu sein ist so viel -- to be here is immense.*"

It seems that each of us has the opportunity to *be* a blessing, to be a channel of the intimate kindness that resides at the deepest level of reality. Further, we *long for* the presence of kindness which allows us to open ourselves to another, to be known and loved for who we really are.

It is easy to feel the give and take of blessing at work as I go about my chaplain duties. I am the member of the interdisciplinary team who is not expected to cure disease nor negotiate insurance red tape. I expect myself to *be* a blessing in the best way that I can for patients and family members. It always means bringing a compassionate presence and nonjudgmental listening to each encounter. It means offering the ritual, prayer or reading that will be most meaningful in the moment. It means being a channel for hope that doesn't depend on a cure, but affirms the possibility of being loved and at peace despite what it going on physically.

Blessing is highly reciprocal. I may have an intention to be a blessing when I walk into someone's room at the hospital, but I always walk out feeling blessed as well. Surely I'm blessed by the patients who tell me they will keep me in their prayers. But it is more than that. It is what Rilke says, "to be here is immense." I am blessed by being in the presence of this person.

O'Donohue tells the story of an ongoing experiment at a university in which a machine flips coins all day and night in a sealed-off room. The results are usually fifty percent heads and fifty percent tails. Nearby there is another room, in which people are asked to make a choice of what they want the machine to come up: heads or tails. They write their choice down and it is put in a sealed envelope and addressed to the team who conducts the research. Amazingly, if a person wishes for heads, the machine ends up flipping heads up to seventy-five percent of the time, and vice versa.

If our intention can influence a machine, just think what we can (and do) do to one another. Our *blessing* can make a difference. "May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny here, that behind the façade of your life there is something beautiful and eternal happening." (O'Donohue)

Blessings,
Connie



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
November 4, 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.

Weds. Nov. 4, 18, 25 Adult – Theatre and Theology course focusing on musical theatre lyrics and their meaning for our culture, 7 pm.

Sat./Sun. Nov. 7-8 High School Youth – Sleep-over at UUUS, 7 PM, potluck food.

Sun. Nov. 8 RE Teachers - Teachers' Forum, 9-10:15 am, a chance to exchange ideas and check in about your teaching year so far.

Mon. Nov. 9 Youth/Adult – Sermon discussion with Rev. Rick, 7 – 8:30 pm

Tue. Nov. 17 Youth/Adult – RE Team meeting, 6:30 pm. Contact Lise if childcare needed.

Thur. Nov. 19 Older Child/Adult – Dances of Universal Peace, 7 pm.

Sat. Nov. 21 Youth/Adult – Creative Memorial Making for remembering family and friends who have recently died, 10 am.

Sun. Nov. 22 All – Multigenerational Thanksgiving service.

Tue. Nov. 24 Parents – Parent's Night In, 6:15 pm, childcare provided.

Lise's Letter

H1N1, or Swine flu, seems to be on everyone's mind these days. It's an interesting phenomenon of our time. Our society has greater medical expertise to help us fight it than in any era before. We also have a media system that bombards us with information about this flu, helpful, scary, and incorrect information, 24/7—also more than in any other era before. Some of us are feeling panicked, confused, cynical, maybe even indifferent to the situation. What is the proper response? Is there one?

As a religious community, I think the first thing we need to remember is that we have covenanted to walk with one another in love, and that includes the H1N1 journey, too. I know there have been discussions about

whether or not we should hold hands in our services and some congregations are encouraging members to stagger their seating so as to prevent the close contact that encourages the spread of the flu. Others see this as hyper-vigilant nonsense.

I would encourage us to remember some of our principles: the inherent worth and dignity of every individual; acceptance of one another; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; and respect for the interdependent web of existence. As we reach out to take someone's hand who declines our gesture, let's smile and accept their choice. If someone is coughing a lot, I hope you'll feel comfortable excusing yourself politely, especially if you have family members that are at high risk for the flu like many of us do. Our principles of acceptance and respect apply to us in all areas of our lives, not only our religious values.

In the meantime, there are some practical things we can do to alleviate concern and the lack of control we may be feeling about the situation. I'm sure you've all seen the signs in your schools and workplaces: cover your cough, wash your hands and keep them away from your face, stay home if you're ill. These instructions are posted because they have been found to work in the prevention of disease for quite a while now. Another preventative suggestion I recently heard from the medical profession is to use saline solution to rinse your nose and to gargle with salt water daily.

Finally, I hope we can remember that a life well lived is about being in the moment, sharing time with loved ones and learning and growing by trying new things and taking chances. Let's continue to enjoy our time together in community and reach out to help those in need, as we always have, and always will.

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

?????????, Religious Education Assistant

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

The Unitarian Universalist

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The Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Salem, Oregon

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Community Minister: The Rev. Connie Yost

Religious Ed. Director: Lise Adams Sherry

Board Chair: Phil Carver

Office Administrator: Rose Drake

Assistant: Suzette Moyer

Phone: 503-364-0932 **Fax:** 503-364-3280

e-mail: uucsoffice@yahoo.com

Website: www.uusalem.org

This issue was edited by Lois Nodland. NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, November 15. Send news to editors@uusalem.org put it in workroom newsletter "mailbox," or mail it (marked "newsletter").

Theatre & Theology

The Broadway Showcase Series in Theatre & Theology is going strong each Wednesday at 7 p.m. at UUCS. **November 4** will feature songs from "Camelot". Exploring the love triangle of King Arthur, his queen and Sir Lancelot will be in the spotlight, mingled with the king's high ideals and its parallels with President Obama.

We will skip November 11 (Veterans Day) and meet on November 18 at 7 p.m. doing either "Oklahoma" or "Annie Get Your Gun".

Lee Coyne acts as facilitator, seeking round-robin comments and perceptions. Consider coming by. For information, please call Lee Coyne.

SIHN

The Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network will be hosting at UUCS **November 8 to 15**.

We are looking for volunteers, old and new, to provide meals, serve as overnight hosts, and provide a friendly face for parents and children who are going through the difficult transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

Check out the Social Action Team table at the Volunteer Opportunity Faire next Sunday! If you are interested, please contact Miranda Wood.

Annual Winter Clothing Drive

The 11th annual Winter Clothing Drive will begin **Sunday, November 8** and continues through **Sunday, November 22**.

A marked box will be in the foyer by the water fountain. Items needed by H.O.A.P. (Homeless Outreach Advocacy Project, Salem) are: used coats, jackets, sweaters and winter hats in good condition, and new socks and gloves. Miniature toiletries and toothpaste are welcome.

Thanks.

Dick Boyle, Social Action Team

Women's Alliance

All women in the church are invited to attend the next meeting of the Women's Alliance group. These monthly meetings feature guest speakers, refreshments and plenty of good conversation. Join us on **Thursday, November 5** at 7:00 p.m. in Hanneman Fellowship Hall.

Catherine Carlson

Sunday Morning Reader's Forum

Non Zero: The Logic of Human Destiny

By Robert Wright

Is there pattern and meaning in human history? Or are we the product of random forces, and any perceived pattern only imposed by our desire for meaning? Does history have an "arrow", moving us toward more advanced intellectual, spiritual, and moral levels?

Robert Wright manages to add some new perspective by using evolutionary biol-

ogy and game theory to inform his views. Copies are available at Tea Party Bookshop, 420 Ferry St SE, Salem, OR 97301, (503) 990-6471.

Schedule of Readings

November 8: pages 54 to 106

November 15: pages 107 to 154

November 22: pages 155 to 208

Thanksgiving week—no meeting

The Readers' Forum meets before services at 9:15 a.m. in Hanneman Fellowship Hall. The group is open to new people. We don't get too serious about the books or the discussion, and learn a lot about each other and the books. The conversation is lively and far-ranging, so even if you haven't read the week's selection, you'll still fit right in. Please join us for coffee and conversation.

For more information, contact Don Wolf.

UUCS Safety Committee

The UUCS Safety Committee met Thursday, October 22 and recommends that a "First Response Team" be formed to deal with medical emergencies on UUCS property.

We are requesting that members of our congregation who have training in CPR or First Aid, or know any member who does, call or email Mary Jo Eyer. Those who respond must be current in CPR and/or First Aid training.

Holiday Wreaths

The Social Action Team will be ordering wreaths from the farmworker's wives again this year. They sell for \$30.00 prepaid. They are handmade from noble fir and are 24-26 inches in diameter.

Please order by November 23 at the Social Action table in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting John Maluski.

& & & & & &

Brief Items of Interest

Medical Equipment

Are you aware that UUCS has medical equipment (walkers, canes, etc.) available for you to use on a loan basis? Talk to Rose in the office for more information.

Childrens Choir

We are underway and will meet every Sunday from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m. If you miss a practice session, You Tube practice videos will be available. Contact volunteer director Sara Greenleaf-Seitz for more information.

Membership Team Clipboards

Do you have clipboards belonging to the Membership Team? If so please return them. They are marked "Membership" on the back and are easily returnable. Thank you for checking.

Upcoming Events

Womens Alliance Bazaar

Time to begin craft projects and to bake goodies for the UUCS December 6 Bazaar!

CUUPS Book Sale

The Coven of UU Pagans at Salem has received a donation of approximately 3,000 books. The UUCS board has approved a book sale for **Saturday, December 12** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, **December 13** from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

We will provide further information at a later date. If you have books you would like to donate, call Kate Walker. Proceeds will go to fund projects at UUCS.

Kate Walker

News of the UUCS Community:

UUCS' Board Chair **Phil Carver** has returned following a month's trek dedicated to increasing awareness of the climate crisis. The name of the trek which Phil organized, the "350 Mile Climate Crisis Walk," refers to the need to stabilize the concentration of carbon dioxide in the air at 350 parts per million to avoid the negative effects of catastrophic climate changes. Ironically, that level was exceeded in 1988!

The walk began in Coos Bay on September 20 and headed north up the coastline then to Astoria, ending on October 24 at a rally held in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square. Phil was accompanied by family or friends most of the days; some he walked alone. Along the way he had scheduled 16 public meetings, and felt well supported by those he met. His heartfelt appeal to us: reduce your carbon footprint!

Ellen Howard's days have been filled with interesting meetings. The first was the Humboldt Authors' Festival in Eureka, California where, every other year, sponsors bring authors of children's books to the county and for two days put them in every participating school. She writes, "I visited three delightful small schools, ranging from 100-150 students, talking to students in grades 3-8 about my books, and about reading and writing, a fun, stimulating time."

She then went to Boston to attend the Journey to Freedom symposium, which gathers holocaust scholars, educators, film producers from PBS, writers and others interested in the work of Martha and Waitstill Sharp, the first ambassadors of the Unitarian Service Committee. They were sent by the UUA to Europe in 1939 to determine how best to help refugees from the Nazis. Ellen's book, *A Different Kind of Courage*, is based upon a project Martha Sharp organized to send children away from the war to the U.S.; the book is a fictionalized story of two of the children. The Journey to Freedom project hopes to create a school curriculum, and aid in production of a PBS documentary about the Sharps' work.

At the final meetings this week in Austin, Texas, Ellen will be accompanied by Chuck,

who will attend the American Association of Grant Professionals' conference. While there, she hopes to promote her latest children's novel, *The Crimson Cap*, which is set in what is now Texas in the 1680s during the French explorer LaSalle's last expedition. The novel is the story of a real ten year old boy, Pierre Talon, who accompanied LaSalle on his fateful journey. As with her other books, Ellen will gift the UUCS Religious Education Library with a copy!

Congratulations to **Cheryl and Jim Randall** at the engagement of Jim's daughter Merryann, a Salem elementary school teacher, to Bernardino Cid-Meza! Following their December wedding, they will live in Keizer.

The annual Bush Barn Art Gallery's holiday sale opens this weekend and includes UUCS member and artist **Ann Kresge's** works from the series "Sticks and Stones." The sale runs into January.

Kay Cogswell's ordeal with pneumonia continues, but now her physicians, she, and Phil are optimistic that she will emerge with renewed health. She returned home last Thursday following the second hospitalization; she is not yet ready for visitors though welcomes notes or cards. It is significant to note that Kay has just celebrated her one-year anniversary of her surgery for breast cancer.

David Cozart's slow but steady rehabilitation following a stroke continues. He's now able to take walks about his neighborhood as he continues physical therapy at Kaiser's Skyline clinic.

Along with five other women, **Virginia Corrie-Cozart** has been actively involved in the preparation for print of forty-four poems by UUCS member **Adele Birnbaum**, who died last year. Like her earlier *Santiago Tales* (2006), *What Got Me Here* has been published by Walking Stick Press with support of Willamette University and is available at the Willamette Bookstore. Proceeds will go to the publication fund of Willamette's Hallie Ford Museum of Art. Of the collection, Oregon writer Kim Stafford writes, "With beautiful courage [the poems] take us on a pilgrimage of blessings—the moment the ancestors meet

each other, the moment night settled over Istanbul, the moment the cancer wolf in the dream was held at bay. She is our teacher still, our friend, our guide.”

The next issue of the newsletter will include this column, but it will be written by Marge French since **Ken and I** will be enjoying a week in the warmth and sunshine we anticipate at a destination resort some 15 miles north of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico!

Please send your news to Marge.

Joan Erickson

Salem Events

Salem Progressive Film Series

The Salem Progressive Film Series presents "Health, Money and Fear" at the Grand Theater at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening, **November 12**.

America spends more than twice the money per person as other countries, yet gets less actual health care in return. Dr. Paul Hochfeld, an emergency room physician, looked at several reasons for this in the film and found more than enough blame to go around. In this film he and others offer several prescriptions to cure the problem.

The following speakers discuss the issues after the film:

Dr. Paul Hochfeld - a board-certified Emergency Room Physician at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis; and Dr. Michael Huntington - a radiation oncologist from Samaritan Regional Cancer Center in Corvallis.

The Salem Progressive Film Series presents films and discussions on the second Thursday of each month from September through May of each year at 191 High Street NE (corner of Court & High)

Admission: Adults \$3
Students \$2

See www.salemprogressivefilms.net for more information or call me.

Don Fries

Podcasts of Past Sermons Available Online

Sermons from past services are available at <http://uucs.podbean.com> or you can go to the UUCS website at www.uusalem.org and click on the "Listen to Past Sermons Online" link. Download to your iPod for later or listen online now!



UUCS e-mail List

Be sure to join the congregation's e-mail list on Yahoo! Groups—a handy and effective way for our members to keep in touch and keep up to date.

It works like most mailing lists: when you send an e-mail message to the list address, everyone on the list gets a copy of that e-mail.

We don't have more than a couple of messages per week, so it's not really an unbearable addition to your e-mail overload. It does mean you keep up-to-date with UUCS announcements, doings, news, projects, questions, solutions, etc. It is a closed list, meaning only approved UUCS list members can send messages. This means NO SPAM.

It's super easy to join—send any message or blank message from your e-mail account to the subscribe address. You will receive a reply that tells you how to post, how to unsubscribe, etc.

The moderator has to approve new members, to keep out spammers. If you don't get a welcome message within a day or so, please call or e-mail Ernest Perez.

(reprinted from an earlier newsletter)

New Members, November, 2009

James J. McAteer, Jr.: I have been attending the UUCS on and off for several years with my wife, Mary Jo, and daughter, Deirdre, who are already members. Having being on “solo” spiritual journey for most of my life following several East Asian philosophies, I have decided to officially join the UUCS because it does really feel like home and because of the warmth I have received from many members. I am originally from New Jersey and have lived in Maryland, Florida, and Washington before settling in Oregon. I am a self-employed environmental consultant and have dedicated my career to working in this field. My hobbies include astronomy and science fiction and I am very active on many fronts trying to help with our children’s educational needs in any way I can, for they are our future!

Ted and Cheryl Morrison: The Morrison family; Cheryl, Ted, and Dylan are happy to become new members of the UUCS and look forward to getting to know the congregation. Ted was born and raised in Salem and is a real estate broker at Prudential Real Estate Professionals. He loves spending time with his family. Music has always been a big part of his life, and he looks forward to the opportunity to participate in choir and other church related music endeavors. Cheryl was born in Umatilla, Oregon. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon as well as Western Oregon University. Cheryl currently works in Portland at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Good physical health is a very important part of her life and a good workout at the gym is always welcome after a long day of work. Dylan is new to the world. He was born March 19, 2009, and looks forward to the simple things in life like eating, sleeping, and you know the rest. The Morrisons love animals, and their family includes dogs, cats and chinchillas.

Betsy Scott: Despite being a sixth-generation Methodist, I consider myself a born-again agnostic and have found a warm welcome among the Salem UUs. I moved to Salem in July 1987, six months after Richard and I married. Before that, I was for 18 years a reference librarian on the faculty of California State University at Dominguez Hills. In Oregon I joined Richard in his tour company (many of you were treasured customers of Attraction Tours!), taking Salem-area residents on excursions around the Pacific Northwest. My mother, brother, sister and their families all live in Salem. As the descendant of a California '49er, I am finishing research and plan to write a book about him. I am also taming family photo and document archives of several generations. Over the past seven years I have been preoccupied with facilitating a variety of medical maintenance projects on Richard. I've also provided support to my mother and sister as they have dealt with devastating family health circumstances. Richard and I are active audience members of local and regional theater, classical music and Salem Cinema.

Richard Scott: Like my wife, Betsy, I am a multi-generation Methodist, and my school years were happily spent in youth groups at First Methodist here in Salem. After college and one year at Boston University School of Theology I actually served as a Methodist minister, but did not fit spiritually. With further graduate education, I became a professor of human development for 20 years, the final 14 at OCE in Monmouth. During these years I married and had two daughters and a son. In the late '70s I left higher education, and my wife and I divorced. In 1980. I started a small, local tour company, Attraction Tours, which became a very satisfying third career, lasting 22 years. I met Betsy on one of my tours. We rapidly recognized we wanted to spend our lives together. As we read and discussed, we discovered that standard religious answers no longer satisfied us. Since retirement we have found time for more travel and opportunity to pursue interests in reading, classical music, theater and films. With the Unitarians we have found a warm, welcoming group of people, supportive of questioning, and an atmosphere which stimulates and welcomes individual differences.

Miguel J. Wahl: I am an Oregon native, originally from Portland. I moved to Keizer in August 2009 to be closer to my new occupation as the school counselor for Auburn Elementary School. After being an active participant in the Presbyterian Church (11 years), I "church-shopped" in the spring of 2007 until I went to a service at First Unitarian Church in downtown Portland. There ended my shopping. I enjoy reading, writing, drawing, painting, music, physical fitness and the outdoors.

Miranda Wood: I have lived in Salem for the last five years with my husband, Nick. We both grew up in Colorado but moved here so he could attend law school at Willamette University. I studied geography in undergrad and have a job working for the government as a cartographer. Nick passed the bar two years ago and works for a small firm in Albany. We just bought a house in South Salem and are happy to be settling close to my parents and grandparents, who have relocated from Colorado. We have one cat and are hoping to get a dog soon. I like to sing, travel, do yoga, go wine tasting, watch movies, listen to all kinds of music, read all kinds of books, and write sometimes. I also help coordinate the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network here at church. I'm very happy to have found the UUCS community and am looking forward to contributing more as a member.

ARMS

Members of the Addiction Recovery Ministry Support (ARMS) group are always available to provide assistance to UUCS members struggling with addiction. They can be reached through the "warm" line at 503-485-6233, which is monitored daily.

SUNDAY SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

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

Sunday, November 8 **"Should we Delete Our First Principle?" The Reverend Richard R. Davis**

("We covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of EVERY person")

Over the years I've had people ask me if they need to "believe" in our first principle to join our congregation. Others who are long time members say they are not able to wrap their hearts and minds around this one, hence this sermon.

Sunday, November 15 **Confluence Chorus** **Sunday Services Team**

With Halloween now over, the spirit of the Confluence Choir will visit us with haunting melody. Come to reap the harvest of their rich repertoire, a bounty for you and all.

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

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THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

November 4, 2009

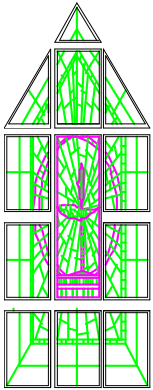
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UUCS Calendar



- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, November 4 | UU Meditation, 7 p.m. (every Wednesday)
Chat & Craft, 7 p.m. (1 st & 3 rd Wed.)
Theatre & Theology, 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, November 5 | Women's Alliance, 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, November 8 | Readers' Forum, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
Green Sanctuary Meeting, 12:45 a.m.
Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network at UUCS |
| November 8-15 | Sermon Discussion with Rick, 7 p.m. |
| Monday, November 9 | UU Meditation, 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, November 11 | UUCS Board Meeting, 7 p.m. (Everyone welcome) |
| Thursday, November 12 | Readers' Forum, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. |
| Sunday, November 15 | Next Newsletter Deadline, 11:30 a.m. |
| Wednesday, November 18 | UU Meditation, 7 p.m.
Chat & Craft, 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, November 19 | Dances of Universal Peace, 7 p.m. |

PLEASE READ Lise's comments and suggestions about H1N1 on page 3!