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UUFC NEWSLETTER

February
 2018

“Listen to each other’s stories. Meet, listen, meet listen. So much in our lives, and in the world, depend upon this.”

Between Us.

Thanks to all of you who have been so supportive of my plan to take a 4-week study leave during February. In my nearly 30 years of ministry, I have taken a total of 6 months of leave (sabbatical), and never a focused study leave such as this one. I’m very much looking forward to time to rest and reflect, to concentrate on my own spiritual practice, to renew my perspective on life and the world, and to find and nurture the sources of strength on which I depend for living in these days. I’ll be spending most of the month in India, for three weeks of retreat (studying yoga and Ayurveda). I’ll also attend a meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists in Kathmandu, Nepal, to officially retire from my work with that organization.

While I’m away, a wonderful month of Sundays is planned. Our ministerial intern, Elizabeth Sollie, will lead the first two, focusing on two important parts of our justice work – immigration and anti-racism. On

Feb. 4, she’ll give an update on the plight of immigrants in Oregon. The service on Feb. 11 will be our part of a UUA-wide project created by Black Lives UU. For the last two services, the Rev. Mark Gallagher, retired from the UU Church of Vancouver WA, will share some of his long practice and teaching of open-hearted living, including a Sunday afternoon workshop on Feb. 25. I’ll be sorry to miss these great services, and I hope you won’t!

All other aspects of the life of the Fellowship are well-tended by those who tend them in general. Elizabeth Sollie will be the minister on-call, supported by several other ministers within and outside of the Fellowship. She and Diana Vezmar-Bailey, our coordinator of Fellowship Care and Support, will be the first responders to needs for pastoral care.

Who to call on if you have questions or needs:

General questions, all categories: Jamie Petts

Pastoral care, emergencies, or help needed:

Elizabeth Sollie, Diana Vezmar Bailey

Sunday Services: Elizabeth Sollie

Religious Exploration classes: Michael Molk, Rachel Kohler

Contacting Jill in an emergency: Jamie Petts

Men’s Shelter operations and questions: Jean Gilbert

Fellowship finances, including pledges and contributions: Jean Gilbert

Board of Trustees (policies): Craig Olbrich, Marcia Shaw

Membership: Chris Bentley

While I’m gone, I invite you to try to get to know someone in the Fellowship you haven’t yet met. Sit together for coffee or tea, or take a walk. Listen to each other’s stories. Meet, listen, meet, listen. So much in our lives, and in the world, depend upon this. And, please observe Black History month by reading at least one article or book to increase your knowledge of Black History. (See suggestions on page 3). I wish you a good and beautiful February.



See you in March! *-Jill*

Governance

Board of Trustees News

The January Board meeting was focused on mid-year (how time flies!!) check-in. This revealed the need to develop a new Board member on-boarding document and the need to clarify Board member responsibilities, particularly as we seek better ways to share responsibility for developing agendas, running meetings, and facilitating discussions. Two small groups of Board members will be working on these documents in the weeks to come, particularly important as Nominating season kicks off.

Budgeting & Stewardship

The Fellowship staff is engaged in a revised budgeting process and will be meeting with Council leaders over the month to put that process into action, so that budget proposals are discussed first in Councils. The Board will look for a draft budget for 2018-19 at the end of March. Budgeting relates to our annual Stewardship campaign, and so the Board engaged in a facilitated, generative discussion about a more sustainable stewardship process. Exciting and challenging ideas emerged, some of which may be utilized in the upcoming campaign. Stay tuned for more on this.

Redrafting UUFC Board Bylaws

The Board met in an extra session on January 22 to begin the first review of the revised Bylaws draft, presented by the Bylaws Task Force. The overhaul is comprehensive and, thus, the review work and discussion will continue into another special session.

To wrap up this month's highlight, a reminder that UUFC Board Meeting minutes are posted online in the File Cabinet (bottom of page). Also, the UUFC Board meetings include a time for Member Comments as a way for Board members to be in conversation with UUFC

members. Generally, meetings are on the second Monday at 7:00pm; the next meeting is February 12, 7:00pm. And with that, we're off to more good work in the month ahead!

We also have a small request: if you have taken any photos during Fellowship events this year (July 2017 - present), please email them to Jamie (office@uucorvallis.org).

Town Hall #4 -- Immigration

Join in the discussion on Thursday evening, **February 15**. What are the current dangers for undocumented refugees? Is the Fellowship engaged in networks to support families and individuals who are at risk? The sanctuary movement is growing across our country -- what would it take for the Fellowship to be part of this work? Members of the Salem UU Congregation will join us to share their experience.

Worship Services



"Undocumented in Oregon"

Elizabeth Sollie, Ministerial Intern

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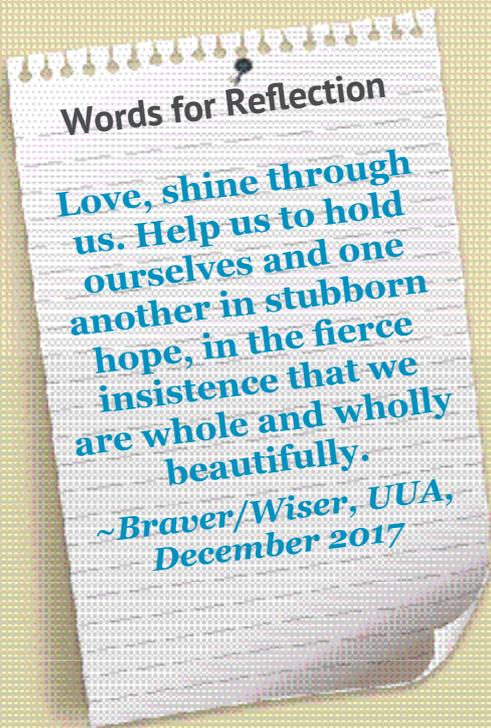
What is it like to live and work and raise a family under the threat of deportation, and of separation from home and family? How are cities, towns and religious organizations responding to the current climate around immigration in the United States? How does it affect us, and the UUFC?

"The Promise and the Practice"

Elizabeth Sollie, Ministerial Intern

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In our commitment to dismantling white supremacy as a system, white Unitarian Universalists are still learning to de-center our whiteness so that people of color are brought from the margins to the center. Join us as we practice and learn more about that work, and promise a new way of being together.



February Events

- 4 Action Lunch to benefit Corvallis Men's Cold Weather Shelter at 12:30 PM in the Social Hall
- 6 Justice Council meeting at 6:00 PM in LIB. All are welcome - we are looking for people to join!
- 8 Transgender Support at 7 PM in Room 7
- 11 "Making Whiteness Visible" film presentation and discussion, 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary.
- 13 Fellowship Pancake Supper
- 15 Town Hall #4 - Immigration and Sanctuary 7 PM
- 25 "Cultivating a Faithful Heart" workshop with Mark Gallagher

Justice

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Presentation

"Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible"

The EDI anti-racism team is facilitating a Heart-to-Heart Conversation following the viewing of "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible." This powerful presentation produced by World Trust Educational Services furthers our journey to racial justice through listening, discussion and journaling. Please join us Sunday February 11th at 12:45pm. A light lunch will be provided before the presentation. Visit the film trailer at <https://world-trust.org/mirrors-of-privilege-making-whiteness-visible/#prettyPhoto>. Please register by Friday February 9th with Lee Holt leeholt46@gmail.com

Religious Exploration

ADULT RE

Reverend Mark Gallagher will be one of our guest ministers while Jill is on her month-long study leave. He will lead our Sunday services on February 18 and 25. Mark was the minister of the UU Church of Vancouver, Washington for 21 years. He has been studying and practicing Buddhism for 30+ years and exploring the mystery of consciousness for considerably longer. He has led numerous classes, workshops, and retreats addressing the matter of living with depth and integrity—both philosophically and experientially.

On Sunday, February 25, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, he will present a workshop titled:

“Cultivating a Faithful Heart”.

Workshop Description: Faith is an attitude toward the living of our lives—with a deep “yes” in our hearts. It’s not the opinion that life is good or that we are good. Nor is it the grit and determination to carry on despite how crappy things are (or we are, or “they” are).

Faith is that enigmatic quality of being willing to live with an honest and open heart, independent of judgments “yea” or “nay.”

That quality cannot be turned on like a light switch, but it can be cultivated. In this workshop, we will invite our hearts to open more deeply and honestly to the living experience of each moment. We will practice bearing heartfelt witness to the inwardness of our experience, and to the mystery of encounter with other souls.

Participants should be able and willing to sit for several minutes at a time in introspection, and to engage respectfully in structured small-group sharing.

For those who register in advance, lunch will be provided at 12:30 PM, for \$10. Scholarships are available. Register at the Adult RE table on Sunday mornings or by emailing your request to office@uucorvallis.org. We must receive your registration by February 18.

Facing Death with Life

This is an adult education opportunity. This class is based on a class in the Tapestry of Faith curricula. It is intended to lead learners through personal exploration and attitudes regarding death; a look at the UU spiritual meaning in death; as well as a practical application of learning about and having available forms like Oregon advanced directives; health care power of attorney; POLST forms. The class will meet March 5, 12, and 19, 7 to 8:30 pm. While the classes will build upon each other, they can each stand on their own, so come to one or come to all.

For more information, Contact Leslie Chartier, mudslingingpyro@gmail.com, 541-740-9001 Call: 541-740-9001.



“Faith as Yes-to-Life”

The Rev. Mark Gallagher, guest minister

Faith, and faithfulness, is an attitude toward the living of our lives – with a deep “yes” in our hearts. Rev. Mark Gallagher served as minister of the UU Church of Vancouver, WA for 21 years. He joins us this week to offer the the first of two sermons exploring an understanding and practice of faithful living.

18

25

“The Heart of Faith”

The Rev. Mark Gallagher, guest minister

Rev. Mark Gallagher returns for the second part of his exploration of the practice of faithful living, drawing from his 30+ years of studying and practicing Buddhism, and an even longer interest in the mystery of consciousness. His workshop “Cultivating a Faithful Heart” will be offered from 1-4 pm with lunch included. (See Adult RE, above, for registration details.)

Council

The Environmental Reading Circle

The next book is the classic, *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl. We meet at 3840 NW Lincoln Ave. in Corvallis from 2-4 PM. Any interested folks are invited to join us.

Observe Black History Month

Read something / anything to learn more about the history of African Americans. A few suggestions:

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward

We Were Eight Years in Power by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi

Social Concerns

Bakes Sales for Men’s Cold Weather Shelter

During the month of February we’re supporting the Corvallis Men’s Cold Weather Shelter, which the Fellowship helped make possible this year by joining with community partners. Our roles include being the fiscal agent, providing volunteer coordination, providing volunteers, and participating in the Steering Group. Shelter operations depend on 8-9 volunteers per night, who greet the men, check bags, serve food, and help with laundry. So far the Fellowship has provided volunteer teams for 2 weeks of shelter operation, and a third week is planned in March.

Thanks to the many dedicated volunteers from the Fellowship and other groups, homeless men in our community are able to have “safe sleep,” spend cold winter nights in a dry warm place, and receive an evening and morning snacks, through the end of March. The shelter is currently meeting it’s capacity to provide beds for 50 men, every night.

The Social Concerns Team will sponsor bake sales after each service in February to raise funds for the Men’s Shelter. Please contact Sylvia Yamada (yamadas@science.oregonstate.edu) if you can help with the bake sales on February 11, 18 or 25. We need refreshments as well as people willing to set-up and clean-up the bake sale table.

UUFC Building Enhancement Project



Connections Council

In this rainy season of long nights, there is much action behind the scenes as we move forward on our new social hall, kitchen and restrooms addition. Fruitful interactions between our architects and the City of Corvallis Planning, Public Works, and Fire Marshall personnel have provided many answers needed to prepare a complete land use application. Submittal of our application to the city is expected within two weeks, which initiates the review process.

Meanwhile, we await a final report from a consultant on the seismic/structural status of our existing structure, and our landscape/forestry team is working towards a plan for removal of some or all of the large cedars on our eastern boundary. The Corvallis Urban Forester has been advising us, and a tree permit will be needed. The sanctuary flooring team is assembling information for a Board decision on replacement of the carpeting, and a kitchen design advisory team has been assembled.

As firm calendar dates are known, they will be posted in newsletters, and on the Building Enhancement Project blog: <https://oursharedfutureuufc.wordpress.com/>.

CONNECT UP offers opportunities for us to gather in a variety of interest based small groups to better get to know one another. **SIGN UP** on Sunday, Feb 25, to participate in or to host an activity in March! In January, our Connect Up opportunities included a hike, potluck & discussion, a craft day with soup lunch, a potluck for LGBTQ & friends, book club, drumming, and wine tasting! What are your interests? Questions: contact Wendy Sutton connect@uucorvallis.org. For current events, visit Connect Up on the UUFC website: http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776.

Senior Co-housing Potluck

There will be a Potluck and Program Thursday, Feb. 1, from 6:15 - 8:15 PM in the Social Hall. Would you like to help create a senior co-housing community in Corvallis, or are you simply curious about what that would entail? You can find out about the latest developments in our Corvallis Senior Co-Ho Project as well as discussion and exercises to define Senior Co-Ho's values and vision. Please provide a list of ingredients in the dish you bring to share. Questions: MaryAnne Sellers sellersm@peak.org or (541) 224-4545 or Anne Jones annewalt@iinet.com.

Other Offerings

09 New World Kirtan Band

7:00 PM Join the New World Kirtan Band for their monthly gathering in the Sanctuary.

13 Living with Depression, Your's or Someone Else's

7:00 PM Tuesday, Feb. 13
A gathering to share and support each other in Room 7. All are welcome.

"To Build Deep Connections..."

Originally organized to respond to people in need, the Fellowship Care & Support Team members are increasing their involvement in the Fellowship: "to build deep connections...". This part of the Fellowship mission statement is providing inspiration for action! To that end, members of the Team will be calling our elder members in the next few weeks to request a visit. Please welcome them! If you wish a visit and are not called, please contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey (541-740-9006; dianavb@inbox.com).

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