

## September 2016 Worship Services

### September 2016

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September Office Hours:  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9:30 AM-1:00 PM

www.uucorvallis.org

#### Summer Schedule: One Sunday Service at 10:00 AM

**Sunday, September 4, 10:00 AM** *Rev. Jill McAllister, David and Lauren Servias*  
“Being Peace: Meditations in Poetry, Readings and Music”

In this final summer Sunday service, we’ll take time to center ourselves for the ongoing work of peace, within us and around us, in these less-than-peaceful times.

#### Fall Schedule: Two Sunday Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

**Sunday, September 11, 9:30 and 11:00 AM** *Rev. Jill McAllister and everyone*  
Ingathering Sunday, with Joining of the Waters

We begin the new church year together, with a service for all ages, and introducing our new ministerial intern Elizabeth Sollie. Bring a SMALL amount of water from or representing a place that is important to you. Baby and Toddler care provided.

#### Sunday, September 18, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

“A Brave Year”

*Rev. Jill McAllister*

So much to worry about? Or so much calling us to be our best selves? Let’s step into this Fellowship year with courage and strength, imagining that “we are the ones we’ve been waiting for.” Let it be a brave year for us, acknowledging the way things are, learning more about our strengths and shared capacities, seeing in new ways, deepening our connections, and being present in all the ways we can be for love, for peace, and for justice. Two special events are part of this service: Joining the #BlackLivesMatter movement, and giving a send-off to member Monica Jacobson Tennesen as she begins a two-year internship with the UU congregation in Salem, OR.

#### Sunday, September 25, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

“Return Again”

*Rev. Jill McAllister*

Election seasons are always a challenge, and the challenges of this election season are certainly formidable. We are called to speak out for our deepest values, and we have to take care to remember the differences between individual and congregational actions. How can we navigate this season in the best possible ways, to nurture hope, and strengthen ourselves and others?

# Between Us...A Brave Year Calls

*Jill McAllister*

We begin a new Fellowship year together. We begin again. This is the hallmark of the religious life, and of most spiritual practice. To begin again and again and again. Our starting place this year is challenging, to say the least. We still face incredible devastation of the life systems of the earth. We face undeniable calls for more justice, for more people. We face political movements in our country which are hard. To say that the year ahead of us requires courage is almost an understatement.

Yet, what a great gift is the call of this year. A call to courage, to pay attention to the most important things. To say that we are entering a brave year means that we have an opportunity to examine our lives, to look again for what is most important and most life-giving for ourselves and for others. Outside of us, the challenges are huge, and sometimes feel overwhelming and insurmountable. Yet, more often than not we move into these challenges with strength and courage, because of our convictions, because of the values we share, and because we have each other, so that we can work hand in hand.

What is asked of us this year is harder, I think. More challenging than all calls to action combined, the brave year ahead of us is a call to self-examination and dedicated practice. It is the inner life that calls us now. This is what the great sages have always tried to say. In the ever-present face of death, and of greed and selfishness and war, in the ever-present face of our own destructive and negative capacities, how do we find and nurture the sources of peace and compassion within us, which are the deepest needs of the world? It is one thing to respond to calls to action out of anger, and frustration, and fear, and self-righteousness. These common motivators bring with them a sense of strength, and they do help or allow us to accomplish certain aims, it is true. But when we work out of anger, frustration, fear or self-righteousness, we also simply add more of these things into the world. We add more anger, and frustration, and fear and self-righteousness, which breed more of the same.

I am making a commitment this year. I will devote more of my time to my inner life and resources. I will try to learn more about my own angers and fears. This practice is not something I will simply add to my schedule – it is not another way to do more. I hope that with practice I will become better at doing less that means more.

Will you join me? Will you undertake this brave year too? Shall we help one another?

See you Sunday! *Jill*

## WELCOME ALL

As the seasons change and we begin a new church year together, we want to extend a special welcome to our newcomers. Our theme this year is “A Brave Year” and we hope you might join us! Once a month, we offer a one-hour *First Steps* orientation session. If you are new to UUFC, exploring Unitarian Universalism for the first time, and trying to find your way around the Fellowship, this is for you. At our *First Steps* class, you’ll find out more about us, how we connect, and get a tour of the building. The next step is to join the formal membership exploration process – *UU Path* and *Membership*. Each quarter, we offer these two classes. Register for them at the Welcome Table on Sundays. We invite you to come be brave with us and take the next steps to join in our mission to ***Explore, Love, and Act. We gather as an inclusive religious community to search for meaning, build deep connections, and inspire action toward a better world for all.***

### WHEN TO CALL YOUR MINISTER

When you have questions about religion or spirituality; when you need a listening ear; when you need some help making an important decision; when you are afraid, or facing illness, dying, loss, change; when you just need someone to talk to; when you are trying out a new path or a new road; when you are not sure what you need, but you want to talk anyway.

Please call on me. Better yet, send an e-mail because that’s the form of communication I see every day ([minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)). My office hours are variable. I’m in the office some of each day, nearly 7 days a week, but I’m also out in the community, with you, doing the work of ministry. I am more than happy to make an appointment. You only need to ask. We can walk, talk, sit, share tea or coffee – whatever is comfortable for you. I’m only as busy as everyone else and I’ll always do my best to get back to you as soon as I can when I’m not immediately available. Our Fellowship Care and Support team is always available too.

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Invitation to Join the UUFC Choir

Are you feeling the urge to sing? The UUFC choir is about to get rolling again after our summer hiatus, so now is a perfect time to join the choir. The choir sings twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, along with a few other special performances throughout the year. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We are a friendly, welcoming group of about 35-40 singers, and we'd love to have you join us.

If you are interested, please email music director, David Servias ([music@uucorvallis.org](mailto:music@uucorvallis.org)), or just show up at the first rehearsal on September 7th at 7:00 PM at the UUFC.

### Wheel of the Year Fall Equinox Celebration, September 25

On Sunday, June 25th, you are invited to join in nature-connected celebration and ceremony honoring the Fall Equinox (Mabon) at an off-site location (still to be determined). This is a time of harvest and preparation for Winter, as well as a time of balance between light and dark. You are welcome to attend any part of this family-friendly event that will happen from 3:00-7:00 PM. There will be time to arrive and greet each other, followed by a ceremony (starting roughly at 4:00 pm), and finally a potluck. Watch for more details closer to the event on posters, the UUannounce emails, and other Fellowship communications.

The Wheel of the Year honors eight special points in the Earth's annual dance around the sun: The solstices, the equinoxes and the four cross-quarter days half way in between. For more information, contact Cliff Pereira at (541)753-9224.

### Save the Date: Music Sharing Night

November 6th 7:00-8:30 PM

Come share your musical talent at the UUFC - vocal or instrumental acts. All levels of experience are welcome. First-timers are especially encouraged to perform and debut their talents at Music Sharing Night. Or, just come and enjoy the music. Space is limited so email music director, David Servias ([music@uucorvallis.org](mailto:music@uucorvallis.org)), to reserve your spot!

## GOVERNANCE & SHARED MINISTRY

### Notes From Board of Trustees President Carl English-Young

The Board had a cushy meeting on August 22, as the Social Hall was full of rummage so we had to meet in room 7 (furnished with couches). The agenda, however, was not so soft. First was a report from President Carl English-Young and Past President Kyle Jansson about progress on the sale of the house next door to the Corvallis Zen Circle. Carl has signed the purchase agreement, which contains several items to be worked out before closing. Carl, Kyle, and Business Manager Jean Gilbert met with representatives of the Zen Circle to identify the items for negotiation, discuss the negotiation process, and set deadlines for actions. Currently, we are aiming for November as the time for closing.

Next was the Finance Council. The Board concluded that a Finance Council to oversee all the financial activities of the Fellowship is a good idea and that the policy on councils should be rewritten to include one. We then discussed an audit of the Fellowship's finances. Russ Karow, chair of the Finance Council, reported that because of changes being made in financial operations, including the new position of Business Manager, it is not the time for a full audit. The Board agreed and asked that Russ and Treasurer Joan Rose investigate a 3<sup>rd</sup> party review of our financial status (which is not a full audit) and report back to the Board in September.

Continuing in the financial vein, Kyle reviewed the budget and balance sheets for fiscal year 2015-16. We ended the year with a surplus, having spent less than budgeted. One of the key reasons was a change in staffing, which resulted in time periods when there were fewer staff and thus lower wage payments. Kyle also noted several quirks in our budget and balance reports, which are items for our financial staff and volunteers to work out. Thanks to all of them for their work to keep our financial operations functioning well!

Safety is a key concern for the Board. We have been considering a firearms policy. Heather Emberson presented policies of other UU churches and a summary of state law, which is rather nonrestrictive regarding the carrying of firearms. At this time, we don't feel we have sufficient sense of the congregation's feelings on the matter, nor a clear way to work with state law. Three Board members volunteered to draft a narrow policy related to the presence of firearms for our rental customers.

Last but certainly not least, the Board approved the contract with DiLoreto Architects for the schematic design of our building enhancement. See the following report, from the Building Design Team, for more information.

### **Building Design Team: Update—Architect Selected!**

This summer has been focused on vetting potential architects for our building upgrade project. In June, we sent out a request for qualifications (RFQ) to a number of architects, both local and regional, to solicit those interested in this type of project. We ultimately selected three firms for an in-person interview.

In July, we completed those interviews and selected an architecture firm who we believe will best meet our needs. We presented a contract for architecture services from Di Loreto Architecture, based in Portland, Oregon, to the UUFC Board of Trustees on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we are happy to report they support our selection choice.

Di Loreto Architecture has extensive experience with building remodel and expansion projects. Eighty percent of their work is with nonprofit and spiritual communities in the northwest. In addition to their sustainable design and building practices, we were impressed by the value they place on using architecture as a tool to building community. They also have a well-developed process for gathering information from large groups to focus the design through a series of workshops they will be providing to our congregation. This first phase will also include a comprehensive site analysis including a seismic evaluation that will also inform the final schematic design and cost projections for this project. You can learn more about Di Loreto and see some of their past work by visiting their website: [www.diloretoarchitecture.com](http://www.diloretoarchitecture.com). We hope all of you will be involved in helping us create a space that will meet our congregation's needs now and in the future. Please contact any of our committee members with questions: Marcia Shaw, Kelley Kendall, Chris Bentley, and Keith Martin.

### **Fellowship Care & Support Team**

We live in anxious times, and some days it seems like everything familiar to us about our world—from local to global—is in crisis. And we still have to make big personal decisions, manage finances, grieve because of loss and disappointment, deal with personal and family crises and conflicts, face deep spiritual questions, and do our work as best we can. Life can be a big mess of love, sorrow, fear, hope, fun, anxiety, and joy all mixed up together!

It's important to share, to talk and listen, to care for each other. There is a group of UUFC members ready to be good listeners when you need to talk. Members of the Fellowship Care and Support Team have received special training in compassionate listening and meet regularly for continued training, along with focused reading and study and conversation with each other.

If you would appreciate meeting with a listening companion—by appointment at a time and place convenient for you, or before or after a service at the Fellowship—contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey (541-740-9006; [dianavb@inbox.com](mailto:dianavb@inbox.com)). Diana will help you schedule an initial appointment with a listening companion. All conversations are completely confidential.

*-Susan Christie*

### **All- Fellowship Building Design Workshop, with Architect**

Mark your calendars for a workshop at the Fellowship with our architect, Chris DiLoreto, on **Sunday, September 25 from 1:30-3:00 PM**. Everyone is invited for a structured process that will help us clarify our needs and communicate to our architect the goals and requirements of our Building Enhancement Project. The proven and thorough workshop process is one of the reasons that the Building Design Team recommended we hire this architecture firm. In addition, our Capital Campaign consultant, Jeff Susor, will be present and available to answer questions. Jeff will also be meeting with John Bailey, Capital Campaign Chair, and others interested in volunteering for the campaign.

# LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Adult Guides are still needed for the coming RE year!

Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism? Want to spend time getting to know our children and teens? We still need some more adults to volunteer to be guides, primarily for the elementary-grade children. Volunteers work on teams, with rotating schedules, so you can still attend worship services and take time off when needed. If you'd like to sign up or learn more about it, write your name and contact information on the easel in the foyer. DRE Michael Molk will get in touch with you. It's fun! Come join us!

### Religious Exploration at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

The theme in Religious Exploration this year is Unitarian Universalist identity. What is it? Using worship, books, discussion, classes, the arts, games, social service and action, and more, we'll examine what our 7 UU principles mean. We'll answer the question "What does it mean to have courage, and how can that serve us, and the world?" We'll learn spiritual practices that help us live good lives, with courage, integrity, and love. If you have any questions about RE, or concerns you'd like to discuss, contact DRE Michael Molk at [molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org) or 541-752-5218 x225.

**Religious Exploration (RE) for all ages resumes Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.** Here's an overview of the program for Fall:

Infants & toddlers: Adult and teen care is provided during both worship services, on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 AM in Rooms 4 and 5. Staff, volunteers, and parents tend to the youngest amongst us, while they grow, play, and explore.

Children, pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grades: We have four age groupings: pre-school/kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grades. All children gather for worship with adults at the start of the 11 a.m. service, leaving after "Time for All Ages", to meet separately with their age group, led by a team of 4 adult guides. Curricula for each group is inclusive and age-appropriate, taking into account multiple intelligences and ways of being. Weekly sessions include check-in, worship, stories, discussions, arts and crafts, playing games, role playing, social service and social action, guest speakers, singing, and more. The children will be part of presenting the worship service on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades: Meet every Sunday from 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM upstairs in Room 9. Adult advisors lead the group through discussions, games, audio-visuals, role-playing, field trips, social service, and more. 7th/8th grade youth will spend a weekend at the coast September 30th through October 2nd. This is a "Coming Of Age" (COA) year for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. COA helps youth learn about themselves, each other, and the world around them. Activities include overnights, a wilderness retreat, high ropes course, social service, writing a credo, presenting a worship service, and more.

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades: High school youth meet with their advisors every Sunday from 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM in Room 7. Activities include presentations, audio-visuals, discussions, field trips, social service and social action, guest speakers, and more. District youth conferences are held in Fall and Spring, with youth from UU churches throughout the northwest. Fall CON for high school youth will be October 21-23 in Randle, Washington.

Adults: See the insert in this newsletter for Adult RE Offerings. Religious Exploration for adults is wide ranging, including classes, book discussions, speakers, workshops, support groups, being outdoors, dancing, retreats, spiritual practices, and more. Most offerings change on a quarterly schedule. We offer a regular rotation of Core Classes for adults on UU philosophy, history, identity, and what it means to join the Fellowship.

**Luncheon and Orientation for RE Teachers/Guides/Advisors**

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-2:30 PM (after second service) in Room 6

This is an opportunity for all RE volunteers to share lunch, hear from staff about the themes and topics for the year, get acquainted, receive curricula, and meet with your teams to schedule and plan. Please plan on attending! RSVP to DRE Michael Molk at [molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org) or 541-752-5218 x225.

**Coast Retreat for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade youth:** Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at South Beach State Park, Newport.

Contact DRE Michael Molk at [molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org) or 541-752-5218 x225.

**District Youth Conference for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades:** Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Camp Cispus in Randle, WA.

Contact DRE Michael Molk at [molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org) or 541-752-5218 x225.

**A note from Rachel Kohler, our new RE Associate**

While on the surface of things, a theatre major and Shakespearean scholar might seem an odd fit for a successful administrator of a Unitarian Universalist Religious Exploration program, the more I learn about this Fellowship, the RE program, and the UU faith, the more that I am delighted to suspect that I have found my niche.

Though I am an actor and a researcher by training, much of my professional experience lies in social services. After trying to find a teaching job after graduate school, I joined the AmeriCorps program and soon discovered to my surprise that I was quite good at nonprofit work. In addition, my theatre education was actually incredibly relevant to my service in rural Douglas County, OR. My training as an actor and a director, my experience as a researcher, and my abilities as a playwright and academic writer helped make me an engaging teacher and organizer, a successful developer of curricula, and a skilled wordsmith of everything from grant narratives to permission slips. Although most AmeriCorps members only serve for the two years, I was enjoying myself so much that I served four. I even became more deeply involved in my community by teaching writing courses at the local community college.

However, since AmeriCorps is not meant as a permanent career choice (and no one can live on an adjunct's salary!), the time came to move on, and I sought employment that might use my enjoyment in working with and teaching youth and my dawning realization that my gifts could better serve the world by helping people rather than entertaining them. When I saw an opening with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis that seemed to describe everything that I was looking for in a job, I applied immediately.

And so here I am. I have much to learn, but I love learning. I hope that my creativity and experience will help the RE program grow. It's been an odd journey from actor to RE Associate, but as Shakespeare observed through the mouth of Ophelia in *Hamlet*, "Lord, we know what we are, but know not what we may be." As I embark upon this new journey to find out what I may be, I invite you to introduce yourself and share with me what you are and what you may be. Like I said, I love to learn, and I am very much looking forward to learning about the Fellowship, its members, and how I may best serve my new community.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS GROWTH AND LEARNING****A note from Ann Mbacke, outgoing Director of Adult Religious Growth and Learning**

In keeping with the theme, "A Brave Year," I've been reflecting on what it means to be brave. I see every day as an opportunity to change, improve, step out of my comfort zones, and break free of oppressions of the mind, heart, and body. The past couple of months have been challenging as I forged ahead with a move to California, in spite of trepidation, illness and the unknown, to follow what I believe to be a greater calling for further growth and development in my own life and my contribution to others. For a "Brave Year" in your life, I ask you – what is calling you forth? Is anything calling you to

step out in “faith”? To stand up or be present for something you say you believe in? To join in with others who are different yet valued? To travel to an unknown place, perhaps somewhere very close? The joy of being brave is in being aware of what you believe, and of what you want to achieve, yet accepting that the journey will be filled with twists and turns and surprises. Being brave is a willingness to keep going, which may mean you blaze a trail for someone else to follow. I leave you with these quotes and wish you all Peace, Joy, and unconditional Love.

"Don't be discouraged by your incapacity to dispel darkness from the world. Light your little candle and step forward."

“Go back?” he thought. “No good at all! Go sideways? Impossible! Go forward? Only thing to do! On we go!”

*Bilbo Baggins, The Hobbit, Riddles in the Dark*

“In today’s world, people experience two types of poverty: the poverty caused by lack of food, clothing and shelter, and the poverty caused by lack of love and compassion. Of these two, the second type needs to be considered first because if we have love and compassion in our hearts, then we will wholeheartedly serve those who suffer from lack of food, clothing and shelter.”

*Mata Amritanandamayi*

**The Adult RE Steering Committee** invites you to learn more about who we are and join us in our work. You can connect with us after Sunday services at our table in the foyer. **The Fall Adult Programs Brochure is included in this newsletter.** We invite you to come to as many of the programs as possible and let us know what your needs are. If there are accommodations you need, please let us know and we will do our best to honor them. The next Adult RE Steering Committee meeting is Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Contact Ann Mbacke ([motherearth3710@yahoo.com](mailto:motherearth3710@yahoo.com)) with questions until mid-September. Ministerial intern Elizabeth Sollie will then take on the role of staff support for Adult RE.

### **Chalice Circles: Introduction and Orientation for Newcomers**

Join us for an introduction on September 11. Chalice Circles are part of the small-group ministry program, which recognizes that in a faith community we each minister to each other. Six to ten people meet twice a month to reflect on a chosen topic to share their own feelings and experience, to listen deeply and respectfully, to share the time equitably, and to focus on what is truly most important. They are a great way for people to connect on a deeper level and we especially encourage newcomers to enroll as a way to develop lasting ties in the Fellowship and their own spirituality. For more information, contact Marcia Olsen at 541-661-0889 or [marcia.olsen29@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.olsen29@gmail.com).

**Sunday, September 11 at 12:30 PM in Room 7:** Introduction for all who would like to know more. Rev. Jill McAllister and Marcia Olsen will describe the process and answer your questions.

**Saturday, September 24, 9:00-11:00 AM in Room 7:** Training session for facilitators. Anyone who is interested is welcome to be trained—it is a skill anyone can learn and we need facilitators!

**October:** New participants will join existing groups or form a new one, as needed. All who are interested are asked to commit to attending a group for a four-session initial term.

## **PROGRAM COUNCIL**

As the structure of programming and religious exploration have shifted in the last several years, Program Council members have come to realize that the current council structure is outdated and in need of revision. And so, your friendly neighborhood Program Council will make some changes this year. Our goal is to become more focused on our part of the UUFC mission statement, the Love portion, which says ‘we work to build deep connections between us.’ Anyone with questions or comments, please contact me (Rachel Houtman, Program Council chair) at [rubisco26@gmail.com](mailto:rubisco26@gmail.com).

## Art Exhibit in the Sanctuary

Attention Artists and Art Appreciators! The UUFC has a long history of gracing our sanctuary with beautiful art shows. A full range of artistic styles (realistic, abstract, avant-garde, scientific, etc.) represent the diversity of our community. The current Art Exhibition committee is in transition and seeks input and involvement from the congregation on the future of exhibitions. Many thanks to Sue Noel for her dedicated leadership of the committee. Sue is stepping down to pursue new endeavors. She had been involved with the committee since 1989 and served in a leadership role since 2007.

Please join us for a meeting on Sunday, September 11 at 12:30 PM (following the 11:00 AM service) in the sanctuary to talk about the future of our gallery and to learn about opportunities for involvement. The agenda will include discussion on history of the gallery, how the gallery connects to our current mission, future exhibits, guidelines and selection of exhibitors, scheduling and procedures for hanging of the shows. The future of the gallery depends on involvement from the community. Please contact Niya Standish (niyabeth@gmail.com) for additional information.

## UUFC Camp Out September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cascadia State Park

Join the UUFC all ages camp-out at Cascadia State Park, September 2-4, Friday and Saturday nights. Spaces are still available, but please register today! To do so, contact Jacob Tennesen (jacob.tennesen@gmail.com), Virginia Shapiro (virginia@virginiashapiro.com) or Roberta Smith (robertasmith2@peak.org). Details available on the UUFC website.

## Labor Day Tuna Roast on Monday, September 5, 3:00-8:00 PM - Don't Miss It!

For the 20th time UUFC has reserved the Lion's Shelter at Avery Park for a Labor Day party for its members and friends old and new. The suggested cost is \$5.00 per adult and whatever you think is appropriate for your kids (but no one is turned away for lack of funds). We provide barbecued tuna, hot dogs, and garden burgers, plus sweet corn, baked potatoes, lemonade, and a sheet cake. You bring potluck food to supplement, such as salads, breads, chips, dips, veggies, fruit, pickles, desserts, etc. Help will be needed with set-up, clean-up, barbequing, corn shucking, cooking, etc. Please volunteer to help. Questions? Contact Rich Brainerd (541-752-2930).

## Women's Retreat

It seems like September is a good time to get away. After many requests to move the UU Women's Retreat to the weekend before Fall Festival, we were finally able to get the weekend of **September 16-18** and are looking forward to some great weather. If you have been thinking about attending this year's Women's Retreat, now is the time. There are still a few spaces! If cost is an issue, we have scholarship money. Register online at <http://uucorvallis.org/?page=2237> or contact Dianne Roth at 541-740-9540 or dkayr@cmug.com.

## Men's Retreat

Save the date for the UUFC Men's Retreat! Friday-Sunday, **October 21-23**, at the Menucha Conference Center in Corbett, OR. We will explore the idea of courage in our personal lives and actions in a beautiful setting overlooking the Columbia Gorge. We will also have fun and get to know each other by sharing experiences and insights. You can learn more on the UU website ([http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=2660](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=2660)) or by contacting Lloyd Wagenschutz (541-753-9071 or lpwz124@comcast.net) or any other members of the planning committee (Gary Barnes, Jim Good, Alan Kirk, Al Ross, and Steve Strauss).

## Connect Up: Sign Up on September 25 for October Activities

The Connect Up committee offers opportunities for us to gather in a variety of interest-based small groups to better get to know one another. SIGN UP on SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> to participate in or to host an activity in OCTOBER! Recent Connect Up opportunities have included walks, Zumba, games, book discussions, drumming, and shared meals. What are your interests? Contact Wendy Sutton to get connected: [connect@uucorvallis.org](mailto:connect@uucorvallis.org).

## Exercise/Aerobics

Exercise/Aerobics returns to our normal afternoon schedule on September 26. Join us Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 4:00-5:00 PM in the social hall. We're a small friendly group that believes in exercise and likes the support and camaraderie of a class. Visit and see who we are and what we do. You can also visit Monday or Thursday at 8:00 AM through September 15. We are led by an exercise professional that pays attention to individual needs and/or limitations. There is a fee to participate. For more information contact Nichele Deutsch at 541-753-4664 or [nandad@peak.org](mailto:nandad@peak.org).

# JUSTICE COUNCIL

## Justice Council Making Progress

The UUFC Justice Council formally came into being almost exactly a year ago, when the Board of Trustees approved Policy 5.1: Justice Council (<http://tinyurl.com/gukqkrw>). According to Policy 5.1, the mission of the Justice Council, in summary, is to guide and support UUFC's social justice work and charity-related projects and to coordinate emergent justice-related responses. The policy states that the Justice Council is to meet at least quarterly, but the past few months, the Council has been meeting twice monthly, in an effort to (eventually):

- Define the scope of the Council's tasks among the multitude of possibilities, then prioritize.
- Understand the wide range of social and environmental justice work going on at UUFC.
- Identify existing committees and learn which ones are active or inactive.
- Resolve the confusion around what constitutes a UUFC committee and how that's decided.
- Study the UUA's Social Justice Empowerment Program Handbook.
- Organize UUFC's justice work in a way that's appropriate for a congregation its size.

Part of this work could involve naming the social justice groups consistently, distinguishing between "council," "committee," and "task force." For example, now that UUFC has several organizing councils, the term "council" has a different meaning than it did in the past. The Justice Council has recently completed three procedures. Developing these was a good way to begin working together and learning how the Council might be able to gracefully facilitate and support the efforts of UUFC's hardworking committees. These are so new that they haven't been posted anywhere yet:

- Urgent Response Procedure (to allow rapid communications when an immediate response is needed, waiving some of the requirements for posting to UUFC's email lists)
- Procedure for Starting a New Social Justice Committee
- Procedure for Renewing a Social Justice Committee

The Justice Council normally meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, in the library. For September, though, the next meeting will be on September 20. Everyone is welcome to attend.

-Susan Christie

## Environmental Reading Circle

The Environmental Reading Circle is currently discussing *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, a national bestseller by Bill Bryson. Bill has written some fine books including *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Anyone who is interested is invited to join us at 3840 NW Lincoln Ave in Corvallis. We meet the second and fourth Sundays from 3:00-5:00 PM. For more information contact Elizabeth Waldorf ([dewaldorf@comcast.net](mailto:dewaldorf@comcast.net)).

## Justice Work in the Wider UU Community

### Film: *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*.

You won't want to miss the new Ken Burns documentary airing on PBS on September 20 at 6:00 PM about Unitarian minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha Sharp and their WWII work in Europe getting people to safety: <http://www.defyingthenazis.org>.

Study materials are available to help us think about how we can carry on the Sharps' legacy by defying the hatred and discrimination that we face in our world today.

~UUA materials: <http://www.uua.org/action/defying-nazis-sharp-story>

~Study guide from Meadville Lombard: <http://www.meadville.edu/fahs-defy-hate>

**Registration is open for the 6th Annual Pacific Northwest UU Justice Summit** at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Townsend, WA on Saturday, October 1, 2016. This year's summit theme is "Bridging the Divides: Faith, Party and Privilege." Join us to explore how we can better connect, understand each other, and work together for a more just and sustainable world. As our morning begins, Rev. Bruce Bode and Rev. Florence Caplow help us understand and reach beyond these divides, so we can better work for justice with those not like ourselves. Poetic Justice Theatre Ensemble then takes center stage (literally) to invite our personal stories and stimulate dialogue and deeper understanding of the divides we face in our justice work and that we strive to bridge in the world around us. During Saturday's afternoon breakout sessions, participants will gather in issue-oriented groups to share knowledge, wrestle with challenges, forge connections and refine plans. Ever present in our sessions will be a deeper awareness of how we manage and overcome our many divides to effect more powerful justice work. Contact D. D. Hilke, Executive Director of NW UU Justice Network and Member of Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church, for more information (NWuujn.Exec@gmail.com, www.NWuujn.org, 425-205-8207).

### Third International Women's Convocation (February 16-19, 2017, Monterey Peninsula, CA)

Good news: the early bird rate has been extended one last time. You can still save \$100 on registration – but only through September 30th! The Convocation will bring together U\*U women from around the world to connect, share, celebrate, and empower in the beautiful, inspirational setting of Asilomar, "a refuge by the sea." An additional \$50 discount is available for UU ministers. Young adults aged 18-40 can register at a special rate of \$490, covering accommodation and all meals in addition to the reduced registration fee. Are you interested in offering a workshop at the Convocation? If so, please submit a proposal. Visit [IntlWomensConvo.org](http://IntlWomensConvo.org) for details.

#### WORDS FOR REFLECTION

O Source of Life and Love and Beauty, may this be our aim:  
 To serve one another and all that lives to the best of our abilities  
 To avoid the superficial, and to welcome each new thing life brings us  
 To be mindful of our own arrogance and selfishness  
 To be able to name our own fears, especially when they hide  
 behind masks of anger, resentment, and grief.  
 To laugh together and share sorrows  
 To give thanks for the wonder of each day  
 To forgive others and to seek forgiveness when we inevitably fall short  
 To make it known to those we love what our hearts feel  
 To gather all our strength so that each and every day we add to the fullness, the beauty and the  
 goodness of life.

## **THE BACK PAGE: What is “Structural Violence” and How Does It Relate to Racism?**

*Monica Jacobson Tennesen*

The word “violence” often brings to mind what is more precisely called “behavioral violence” – the violence that occurs when one person acts directly on another. This is violence like punching or shooting, and it’s pretty clear when it’s happening.

Another kind of violence is “structural violence,” which can also be called “systemic violence” or “state violence.” In this case, a person is being acted on by the systems in which they live.

Economist Peter Joseph illustrates it this way:

“If I put a gun to someone’s head, say, a 30-year-old healthy male, pull the trigger, and kill him, assuming an average life expectancy of, say, 84, you can argue that possibly 54 years of life were stolen from that person in a direct act of violence.

However, if a person is born into poverty in the midst of an abundant society where it is statistically proven that it would hurt no one to facilitate meeting the basic needs of that person and yet they die at the age of 30 due to heart disease, which has been found to statistically relate to those who endure the stress and effects of low socioeconomic status, is that death, the removal of those 54 years once again, an act of violence?

And the answer is “Yes, it is.” You see, our legal system has conditioned us to think that violence is a direct behavioral act. The truth is that violence is a process, not an act, and it can take many forms. You cannot separate any outcome from the system by which it is oriented.”

#BlackLivesMatter calls us to learn to identify and work against structural violence, just as we work against behavioral violence – and indeed, all our justice work involves developing awareness of structural violence.

Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, the founders of #BlackLivesMatter, write, “When we say Black Lives Matter, we are broadening the conversation around state violence to include all of the ways in which Black people are intentionally left powerless at the hands of the state. We are talking about the ways in which Black lives are deprived of our basic human rights and dignity.” They go on to identify poverty, incarceration, intersectional discrimination against “Black queer and trans folks” and Black people with disabilities, and the impact of the stress of racism on Black children as elements of state violence.

The first step in working against structural violence is learning to recognize it: to identify the disparate systems that influence and limit people’s lives. This step is challenging because structural violence is built upon existing prejudice, which becomes a form of justification for the violence: a person who is poor seems to “deserve” to be poor, because of their choices or failure to lift themselves out of poverty. A woman who makes \$0.77 compared to the \$1 earned by an otherwise-identical male counterpart needs to learn to assert herself and negotiate for her salary better. Circumstances are reduced to individual choices.

Structural violence may be clearly identified in this: the CDC reports that the mortality rate for black babies is 2.4 times the rate for white babies. The rate of preterm labor among black pregnant mother is 1.5 times the rate for white pregnant mothers. The structural violence of living in a racist society – the stress of fear, the impact of reduced access to or quality of healthcare, and other factors which are indirect and difficult to identify – is powerful enough to impact the lives of babies based on their race. As part of our awakenings and re-awakenings to justice work, let us continually strive to understand structural violence so that we can begin to honor the lived realities of all and work against structural violence.



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**Explore. Love. Act.**

We gather as an inclusive religious community to search for meaning, build deep connections, and inspire action toward a better world for all.



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