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# UUFC NEWSLETTER

March  
2018

*"There is nothing as constant as change..."*

## Presidential Pondering.

There is nothing as constant as change....

The governance of the Fellowship is changing with the times. The creation of the various Councils enables us to push decisions down into the organization and closer to the people who are actually doing the work. That's beneficial because it means that "everybody" doesn't need to be up to speed on all of the various work that our councils, committees, and task forces are doing, and it means that the board stays focused on 'the business of UUFC' so we can be more efficient and effective.

Jill recently wrote about the changes to the budgeting process: budgets will now be coordinated in the various councils. This means that the congregation will no longer see a line by line budget (but if you're dying to see that, you can), so that we are better able to view the big

picture. Most of us are a bit overwhelmed by the detailed budget that we are used to seeing, so this will be clearer and more focused.

The annual meeting will change too. We've had a variety of town halls this year to encourage discussion of some of the big issues facing us, like how shall UUFC respond to racism, climate change, fund-raising needs, immigration and our new building.

**So, mark your calendar for Saturday night, May 19!** We'll look back on what we've accomplished and forward to our plans for next year. We hope to keep the focus on the long-range goals and to have a celebratory dinner and some fun that night. See you there!

The board has also spent time this year looking at our own activities and how we need to change our process to better align with our

actual practice. We're in the process of re-designing roles so that no board job is so big and complex that few have the time and energy to take it on—so say "yes!" if you're asked to serve on the board. We're making changes to be more inclusive and collaborative with decision-making, and to clarify the roles of the officers.

If you're considering being involved in governance, talk to any board member (we're wearing wooden name tags) about how things are working now and how they'd like to see it change in the next year.

This is very much a work in progress... never a dull moment!

Marcia Shaw, 541-908- 1583 or [shawm@proaxis.com](mailto:shawm@proaxis.com)

# Governance

## Board of Trustees News

### The Board Gets Busy

Since our last report, the Board of Trustees has met twice to discuss many ways to improve the governing of the Fellowship and help deepen our sense of community. These are the key items we've addressed.

### Bylaws Get Streamlined

In a special meeting on February 8, we finished our review of draft bylaws. The current bylaws have grown and changed over the years and are sometimes confusing and contradictory, not to mention inflexible and, well, dated. The revised bylaws will make governance more nimble while meeting all the State of Oregon legal requirements. The revised bylaws draft will be released soon, well ahead of the Town Hall on March 19 where we'll have an open discussion. Mark your calendars!

### Annual Meeting Gets a Shot in the Arm

The Board is revamping the Annual Meeting of the congregation with a shift of focus. We want to celebrate the good work done by our working groups, councils, and the Board. We have plans to make this a fun and inspiring event. Of course we'll take care of business, too. We'll drop more clues as the time gets closer, but, again, **mark your calendars: Saturday evening, May 19!**

### Services Auction Gets a Rest

The Board looked at the level of interest in leading the effort to organize the Services Auction and concluded that absence makes the heart grow fonder. **So we're putting this event on hiatus and will gauge the interest next year.** Enthusiastic volunteers who want to organize the Services Auction are encouraged to talk to a Board member.

### Board Officer Roles May Get Restructured

The specific tasks and responsibilities of Officers of the Board have never been well defined, plus the times they are a'changin'. The Board discussed proposed job descriptions that

aim to clarify the responsibilities of each office. The proposal better defines the tasks to promote the best operation of the Board. A distribution of responsibilities would encourage broader and deeper participation by all Trustees.

Naturally, we had more agenda items and much more discussion, but I think I've hit the word limit. Look for the minutes of the Board on our website at 'About Us/UUFC "File Cabinet".'

Questions? Talk to me, Carl English-Young, or anyone on the Board of Trustees. We're wearing the wooden name tags.

## Worship Services



### "Seeing with New Eyes"

Rev. Jill McAllister

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The world, inside of us and outside of us, is so much more complicated than we think. There is never just one way to see things, but try convincing your brain of that! Sometimes we can choose to see more, to see differently, to try on a new perspective. Sometimes, that makes it more possible to love, to help, and to create justice. Perhaps faithfulness needs broader views.

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### "Help is Definitely Needed"

Rev. Jill McAllister

The main reason to try to live a faithful life is to be able and ready to help as needed. It has never been more true that we need one another, and that the Earth needs all of us. What about asking for help?

### Words for Reflection

Life is worth living for many things, at any time, no matter how harsh and strident that time may be. Life is worth living...for the knowing of it, the power of it, the joy of it, the hurt of it...We can know this as soon as we cease to be afraid.... A person who is not dedicated to the cause of humanity today has no cause at all.

~A. Powell Davies

### March Events at the UUFC

- 4 Action Lunch to benefit WE CARE at 12:30 PM, Social Hall
- 6 Justice Council meeting at 6:00 PM in LIB. All are welcome.
- 8 Transgender Support at 7 PM in Room 7
- 9 New World Kirtan Band, 7 PM in the Sanctuary
- 11 Second Post-Sermon Response, following the 2nd service.
- 12 UUFC Board of Trustees, 7 PM
- 17 UUFC Town Hall Meeting on the new Bylaws, 9 AM, Social Hall.
- 19 Malvina Reynolds Concert, 7:30 PM
- 23 Emma's Revolution Concert, 7:30 PM

## Justice

### Sustainability Survey Results

UUFC members and friends who have attended services recently might remember the questionnaire that Jean Townes, a member of the Climate Justice Task Force, was inviting us to complete. It was a repeat of the survey we did in 2015. This is a brief comparison of the differences in results for the two surveys, taken three years apart. Caveat: A direct comparison might not be valid because there was no "population control," but it's fun anyway!

**First, the positive:** There has been a big increase in the number of us who have installed LED lightbulbs. More of us are refusing to buy bottled water and are carrying our own water bottles. More of us are shopping at the Farmer's Markets, buying used rather than new, reducing material (continued on page 3)

# Religious Exploration

Food is one of those things that never gets old. It's a social, biological, and psychological imperative to eat, and a meal or a snack prepared from scratch and shared with loved ones is hands down the best way to enjoy eating. This was the thinking behind the RE department's decision to launch an RE baking program this year for the children, and it's proved to be a wild success.

Longtime RE volunteer and UUFC member Susan Straight has been coming in to bake with the 1st through 6th grade children twice a month since October. On baking days, she and the children work together to create two or three snacks to share with the congregation after the second service. They've learned to cook sweet and savory dishes, everything from fruit salsa to tiny pecan tarts to miniature calzones. We've been making an effort to explore recipes that embrace a variety of dietary needs and restrictions, in the process teaching the children about the importance of inclusion in all things, food included.

The children enjoy knowing that their efforts are going to support excellent charitable causes, and the RE guides

discuss with them the importance of the donations that they are helping to generate with their portion of the bake sales. (The children particularly enjoyed learning about sage grouses in January.) This month, on Sunday, March 18th, the children's baked goods will be featured on a separate table in order to raise money to lend financial support Coleman Ward during the final phase of his incarceration.



## Save the Dates!

Two big concerts are coming up. You can purchase a joint ticket for both concerts at the Fellowship on Sundays for the discounted price of \$30. See Page 4 for more information!

~**Malvina Reynolds Rides again on Monday, March 19 at 7 PM.**  
~**Emma's Revolution on Friday, March 23 at 7:30 PM.**

Also save the date for:

~**Monica Jacobson-Tennessee's ordination to the UU ministry** by the UU Fellowship of Corvallis and the UU Congregation of Salem

Saturday, May 26, 2 PM at the UU Congregation of Salem, 5090 Center St NE, Salem, OR 97317. (It's Memorial Day weekend.) Reception to follow. All are welcome.



## "What Are Friends For?"

Rev. Jill McAllister

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Friends are important in so many ways – to help and support us, to share ups and downs, events and memories, celebrations and sorrows, and to be companions on life journeys. What part do our friends have in our own faithfulness, in our ability to live a faithful life?

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## "Not A Casual Faith"

Rev. Jill McAllister

There may have been a time, not long ago, when being a Unitarian Universalist was easy, requiring little; a stimulating intellectual and social endeavor, with limited impact. There may have been a time like that, or maybe not, but that time is certainly not now. Everything we do now makes a difference.

# Council

consumption in general (especially holiday gifts), and curtailing travel by air. We have substantially increased our donations to climate justice organizations, and are participating more in educational events, rallies, and political action (letter writing, attending hearings).

**On the down side:** It looks like our use of bicycles for transportation has declined, as has our purchasing of Blue Sky energy. We are not growing as much of our own food as we were three years ago.

Everything else was mostly stable, varying by only one or two numbers. Overall, it looks like awareness of environmental degradation and climate change is growing, which is a very good thing! We can always do better.

## Social Concerns

### The Action Lunch on March 4 will benefit WE CARE

In March we will raise funds and awareness for WE CARE, a Benton County coalition of religious organizations, additionally supported by businesses and private donors. Its mission is to provide one-time financial assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing an emergency. By preventing a utility shut-off or avoiding an eviction or helping cover the cost of getting into safe housing, WE CARE helps these households remain financially viable. All requests are verified through the Community Services Consortium case worker.

This system discourages duplication, waste and fraud, and encourages long-term solutions. It helps to ensure that contributed funds are used for the most urgent needs. More than 98% of funds contributed got directly to those in need.

Please support this important local charity by coming to the action lunch on March 4th and contributing to our bake sales and Sunday collections.

\*Please note that there will NOT be an Action Lunch on Sunday, April 1 (Easter).

## UUFC Building Enhancement Project

We have recently received the seismic evaluation of our existing building. Now we're working with a contractor to obtain some rough cost estimates and a prioritization scheme for the recommended improvements. While none of the improvements are required, UUFC decision-makers may wish to implement some of the consultant's suggestions. Of course the new portions of the building will be built in compliance with current seismic code.

Our architects expect to submit the land use application for our new addition to the City of Corvallis soon, as they work through the final details of a complete application. Some mis-communication among City departments has resulted in a slight delay, and we're working with them to clarify the issue. So far, we have received the following information, which will be posted in the online UUFC File Cabinet:

- ☑ Soils Engineering Report
- ☑ Property survey
- ☑ Seismic Evaluation Report

You can find the File Cabinet under the dropdown "About Us" menu on the main webpage. 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, March 25, to participate in or to host an activity in April! In February, our Connect Up opportunities included two hikes, two book discussions, a sing a-long and potluck, crafts and lunch, drumming, and wine tasting! What are your interests? Questions: contact Wendy Sutton [connect@uucorvallis.org](mailto:connect@uucorvallis.org). For current events, visit Connect Up on the UUFC website: [http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=3776](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776).

### Senior Co-housing community

Would you like to help create a Senior Co-housing community in Corvallis?

Come and find out about the latest developments in our Corvallis Senior Co-Housing Project by joining us for a potluck and program on Thur, March 1, from 6:15 to 8:15 PM in the Social Hall. Please provide a list of the ingredients in the dish you bring to share. The program will include updates on the project's status as well as the end of our series on defining our Senior Coho's values and vision. Questions: MaryAnne Sellers [sellersm@peak.org](mailto:sellersm@peak.org).

## Other Offerings



### Special Concert: Malvina Reynolds Rides Again!

Singer-Songwriter Judy Fjell (formerly of Corvallis) and Songwriter-Storyteller Nancy Schimmel (Malvina's daughter) bring you the music of Malvina Reynolds – a beloved member of the 60's folk scene. The event starts at **7:30 PM, Mon, March 19** at the Fellowship. Advance tickets (\$15) available at Grass Roots Books or from Cliff/Chere Pereira on Sundays. Add \$3 at the door. Info: [judyfjell.com](http://judyfjell.com).

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### Special Concert: Emma's Revolution

**7:30 PM on Friday, March 23** Join us for Emma's Revolution/Pat Humphries & Sandy O's "Fervent and Heartfelt" concert. Advance tickets (\$18) can be purchased in the UUFC office or \$22 day of show.

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## Art Exhibition Opportunities

The Art Exhibit Committee is a group of artists and art appreciators who love art and encourage sharing of the arts in the UUFC. We choose artists, plan exhibits, and determine how to display it. We choose art works that are consistent with our Unitarian Universalist values and are family friendly. We welcome others to join us in this process! Exhibits are generally scheduled a year in advance. Contact Niya Standish for additional information [niyabeth@gmail.com](mailto:niyabeth@gmail.com).

**The March 13 exhibit highlights the creativity of the children from our RE program.** It's titled "Coloring Outside the Lines". Rachel Kohler, RE Associate, describes the show: "The diverse creativity of children is stunning. When adults create, they so often worry if their handiwork is 'good' or 'correct'; When children create, all bets are off. Give them mosaic materials, and they'll construct castles instead. Give them a mass-produced penguin art kit, and they'll reassemble it into an otherworldly monster with rather too many eyes."

**Call to Artists: "Water" is the theme for our next fellowship exhibit.** It is open to fellowship artists of any medium. Three entries per person to be juried for inclusion. This exhibit will be juried in early August and be hung in September to coincide with our annual joining of the waters ritual. So starting thinking about water images and get creating so you'll be ready to participate!

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