



Monthly Newsletter

February 2016 Worship Services

Feb 2016

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2945 NW Circle Blvd.
 Corvallis OR 97330
 541-752-5218
 office@uucorvallis.org

Office Hours:
 Monday-Friday,
 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Sunday, February 7, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“What Can Hold Us Now?”

Rev. Jill McAllister

The great sages and teachers have always taught that it is from the Center we must live. Is there a center which can hold in these days? Which can hold our lives? How do we move toward the Center?

Sunday, February 14, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“Justice is What Love Looks Like in Public”

Rev. Jill McAllister

In a 2011 article titled “A Love Supreme,” Dr. Cornel West wrote: “... we intend to sustain our momentum by nurturing our bonds of trust, fortifying our bodies, hearts and minds and sticking together ... in order to create a better world...” These movements of love are necessary for what he calls a “deep democratic revolution.” Love which is tender in private must be strong and courageous in public. A broader perspective on love for Valentines Day.

Sunday, February 21, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“Civil Rights: How Fragile They Can Be”

Russell Yamada

Sunday, February 21, is called the “Day of Remembrance” by Japanese-Americans, for on this day in 1940 Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, ordering the imprisonment of this group of people. In hearing this story, we consider how delicate and easily lost our civil rights can be, and we open up to hearing “other histories” or the true stories of many Americans.

The coming months at the UUFC will feature more “other histories” from several perspectives. Watch the weekly announcements and future newsletters for more information!

Sunday, February 28, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“Take Absurd Care”

Rev. Jill McAllister

A favorite reading in our hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition* includes the words: “we must hold the whole world in our hands.” What a huge responsibility! Yet remembering all that is in our care, perhaps “the whole world” is exactly right. A consideration of shared-caretaking, as we begin our annual stewardship drive.

Between Us ...

Jill McAllister

We live in interesting times – as always! We live in a country actively engaged in change, yet at the same time nearly paralyzed by ideology and fears, or so it feels to many. A country deeply divided, with so many working so hard to take the lives of all citizens seriously by addressing racism, education, health care, climate change, immigration and more, and where a shocking number of people still believe that the current President was not born in the United States, that contraceptives should be outlawed, that public schools should teach the book of Genesis to explain how God created the world, and more.

If there ever was a time, for some of us, recently or long ago, when we imagined a life of steadily increasing security, stability, comfort (even luxury) and prosperity, that time is not now, and that time was probably an illusion, or evidence of one's own privileged position. The real world is extremely volatile, tumultuous, and broken in so many ways. We are called every day to accept this reality and to do our best to respond, even as we are called to not ignore the incredible beauty, goodness, love, and peace which are also ever-present, and which are more than enough to give us the strength and the courage we need. How to do this is the question, and it has always been the penultimate question for humans. The answers we find, like the times we live in, constantly change. But one thing remains constant over generations, and that is the power of people working together, to think, to feel, and to act. This is why we come together as the UU Fellowship.

In September, more than forty Fellowship leaders of councils, committees, task forces and events, came together for an evening of leadership training and support. We spent time imagining and practicing orienting ourselves toward each other – seeing and envisioning what the work of the church looks like when at least 40 people understand that we are working together. And we discovered that between us we had 100 questions about how things get done in the Fellowship! It became clear that shared answers would have to emerge between us, and that's an ongoing task.

In the months since September, we've tried to invite everyone else to orient themselves toward others in the Fellowship too, to feel that sense of being together and working together, and to understand that there is rarely a "they" but there is always "we" and "us." So much is emerging between us as we take our world and our lives seriously: a new task force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, a working group on emergency preparedness and emergency response, a growing capacity for compassionate listening and Fellowship Care and Support, the beginnings of improving our buildings to serve well into the future.

On February 18, leaders and all interested others are invited to come together once again, to focus on how these projects and this work is the work of all us, our shared ministry. The Committee on Ministry will help us focus and discern as once again we turn toward each other. Supper will be provided. I hope you'll consider coming. In this tumultuous, volatile and still beautiful world, this is truly the most important thing we can do – to work together, with and for each other, with and for all.

See you Sunday – *Jill*

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

In spite of all their complications and distractions, these are "the good old days." And if we do not find the spiritual wisdom to settle in and enjoy our lives now ... then we never will... we never will... and we will arrive at the end of our lives having missed much of the gift we were so blessedly given.

The Rev. Scott Alexander

WORSHIP

MUSIC: Now is a great time to join the Choir!

In May the UUFC Choir will present the Requiem of 20th Century composer John Rutter. This full-bodied choral piece includes solos and instrumental support. If you have been thinking about getting back to singing, or getting started, this is a great time to do so. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM. All are welcome. Contact Music Director David Servais for more information (music@uucorvallis.org).

WHEEL OF THE YEAR

Cliff Pereira

Light Really is Returning: This Point on the Wheel of the Year

Take some time in early February to honor this special point in Mother Earth's annual dance around the sun – a time to celebrate the returning light as we reach the end of the three months of greatest darkness. The solar winter that began in early November (Samhain) and was centered on the Winter Solstice (Yule, Midwinter) now ends in early February.

Patricia Montley, in her book *In Nature's Honor*, writes: "Although in the United States we think of spring as beginning in March at the time of the Vernal Equinox, this is largely a twentieth-century American shift. In many other places and in earlier times, spring was welcomed at the start of February."

Take a walk and observe that: the first small bulbs like snowdrops and crocus are blooming; Indian Plum is the first native shrub to soon bloom in the forest; the green shoots of daffodils are growing taller; lambs are being born; each day the sun rises earlier and sets later; you can plant snap peas like my favorite, Oregon Sugar Pod II. Here in the Willamette Valley we can look forward to a long spring with an extended parade of blooms starting now and reaching their crescendo in the summer blooms of roses and dahlias.

This time of waxing light reminds us that our seeds of creativity are now stirring within us. One theme is cleansing: What needs to be swept out to allow the new creative seeds in your life to grow? Another theme is patience: The increasing light brings the promise of spring, but we must be patient for the warmth that naturally lags behind the increasing light. Patience also benefits our creative seeds, allowing them to unfold naturally without being forced.

The "cross-quarter" day around February 2nd has many names. One Celtic name for this time is "Imbolc" which many think refers to sheep's milk. Brigid, the Celtic goddess of fire, poetry, healing, and childbirth, is honored in many European countries at this time.

The Wheel of the Year is about connections to the cycles of nature, to the cycles of our own lives, to community, to the world, to ancestors and generations to come. We honor special points in the annual cycle of light and dark: solstices, equinoxes and the 4 "cross-quarter" days in between. Happy Imbolc! Happy Brigid's Day!

Next Wheel of the Year gathering: Sunday, March 20th for the Spring Equinox.

NatureWise Immersion Program to begin February 19th

The year-long NatureWise Immersion Program in creating nature-connected rituals and community is accepting registrations. Session will begin on February 19th. One of the primary intentions for NatureWise is to generate additional leadership for our UUFC Wheel of the Year earth-centered ceremonies.

The creator and facilitator for NatureWise is Jessica Heiler, a German citizen temporarily in the United States while her husband pursues a PhD in Forestry. Jessica writes: “This year long immersion program offers you an experience-based learning model that will support you to connect deeply with yourself, nature, spirit and your community. It will empower you to create nature-connected rituals which recognize and honor our connections to all of life, including our own ancestors and the generations yet to come. This training program is for people who are dedicated to building and strengthening their own connections in order to become role models in their communities.”

Jessica Heiler brings eight years of experience working with groups and leading nature-connected community events and then combines that experience with knowledge and on-going training from several groups and traditions including The 8 Shield Institute, which researches nature and other connection practices worldwide, and Sobonfu Some, keeper of the rituals of the Dagara tribe and a foremost voice in African spirituality and connection through community and ritual.

To learn about NatureWise go to http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=2886 for a program description, FAQs and online registration. Please share this information with anyone you know who might be interested. This program is open to both UUs and non-UUs. There is scholarship money available for those that need it.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Michael Molke

RE Sessions for Children and Youth, preschool through 12th grade, meet 11:00 AM-12:15 PM every Sunday. **Infant/Toddler care** is available every Sunday, during both worship services, at 9:30 and 11:00 AM.

Date	1st-4th Curriculum: Moral Tales	5th/6th Curriculum: Sing to the Power
February 7	Welcome One & All: - Mullah Nasruddin Feeds His Coat	Power of Presence: Prayer & Ministry of Presence
February 14	Seeing Others with Awe: The Messiah Is Among You	Power of Silence: Nature, Retreat & Reflection
February 21	Do Unto Others: The Good Samaritan	Power of Listening: Helping by Real Listening
February 28	Generosity: Give & You Receive The Better Offer	Power to Shine: Bullying & Acting for Justice

OWL Classes Underway

Every Sunday afternoon our building is filled with children and youth in four different segments of the UU curriculum “Our Whole Lives,” which offers comprehensive sexuality education, within the context of our religious community, at developmentally appropriate levels. This program is one of the most important learning opportunities we offer to members and friends of the UUFC, and their families. And, word of its value is spreading! Many families who are not part of the Fellowship are bringing their children and youth. Many thanks for the support of our staff, advisors and parents for the strength of this program, which offers so much to our whole community.

ADULT RELIGIOUS GROWTH AND LEARNING

Ann Mbacke

Information about our Adult Religious Growth and Learning offerings, including the brochure of this quarter’s programs and forms for submitting a future offering to the Director of Adult Religious Growth and Learning, are available on the UUFC website at http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=223. Classes and programs are also listed in the weekly announcements, available on Sundays in print and online.

SHARED MINISTRY

Shared Ministry Means Listening

Kelley Kendall

For most of our lives we walk in deep dialogue only with ourselves, alone with our thoughts. Do you feel that way too? Have you also had the satisfying personal gratification that comes when you communicate with another and were also fully understood? For those of us in the congregation who meet monthly in a compassionate listening group, this is a sacred time for us to learn and practice listening skills. This is truly one gift of shared ministry that we can offer each other every day; the deceptively simple commitment to listen to one another.

Call on Me Brother, Sister

Diana Vezmar-Bailey

Recently during a Sunday service we sang “Lean On Me.” As I sang and listened the decades dropped away and I was again reminded of how I managed the struggles of my life by leaning. And how gratifying it was to have others lean on me. Members of the Fellowship Care and Support Team are trained and committed to listening, without judgment, without advice. Might you wish to lean for a while? Contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey to explore this opportunity (541-740-9006, dianavb@inbox.com).

Living with Chronic Debilitating Disease Group

Many of us have had our daily functioning compromised by a chronic debilitating disease. These include stroke, Parkinson’s Disease, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and other conditions. Our symptoms frequently involve ongoing pain, fatigue, and memory problems. We often feel overwhelmed, and sometimes hopeless. We wonder if we will ever feel “normal” again, able to do the things we used to do so easily.

Several members are holding a UUFC peer support group for folks with chronic debilitating diseases and their families and friends. We share support and information, and discuss coping strategies, resources, and options. The group meets on first and third Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 PM in UUFC room 7. If you are interested, please call Christine Robins (541-738-2610).

Ministerial Students at the UUFC

The UUFC has a long history of nurturing and launching new UU ministers, beginning in the 1970’s. We have also hosted student/intern ministers several times. Presently, we have several members who are working their ways toward ministry, and we are about to become a teaching congregation once again.

Leslie Chartier was a member of congregations in Wisconsin before joining the UUFC in 2007. She has completed her Master’s of Divinity degree (Marylhurst University 2013), as well as the required unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (doing chaplaincy in a hospital). This month she begins the final major requirement for ministerial training, which is a congregational internship. Beginning this month, Leslie will be working as a part-time student/intern minister at First United Methodist Church here in Corvallis. She will “defend” her training and education in front of the UUA’s Ministerial Fellowship Committee, which grants ministerial credentials, in September 2016. Leslie’s eventual goal in ministry is to work as a chaplain focusing on end-of-life issues and care.

Jesse Ford has just been accepted to Starr King School for the Ministry, to begin the process of earning a Master’s of Divinity degree. In January she traveled to Berkeley CA for her orientation. She will also begin studying toward certification in chaplaincy.

Monica Jacobson Tennessen has just begun working on her Master’s of Divinity (MDiv) degree at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Meadville Lombard’s program is low-residency, meaning that students do not move to Chicago but instead study and prepare for class individually, meet with classmates in online discussion boards and via

phone and videochat, and come together in Chicago for “intensives” four times a year during which students are in class with professors for 40 hours a week. As part of Meadville’s program, Monica is taking a full course load and also serving in a community internship (at Community Outreach, Inc, in Corvallis). She plans to do her Clinical Pastoral Education, in the summer of 2016, and then in September 2016 she will begin a two-year half time congregational internship, working as Intern Minister for the UU Congregation of Salem while continuing her coursework. Her anticipated graduation date from Meadville Lombard is May 2018.

Elizabeth Sollie is not a member of the UUFC. She is an MDiv student at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, in the same program as Monica Jacobson Tennesen. Elizabeth lives and works in Denver, Colorado, where she is a member and lay leader of the First Unitarian Church of Denver. Jill McAllister is her “teaching pastor” through the Meadville program, and they communicate monthly by phone while she studies and works in a community internship at a GLBT community resource center in Denver. In September 2016, Elizabeth will move to Corvallis to become our half-time student/intern minister for two years.

Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response

When the big earthquake comes, will we be prepared? No one can say for sure, but at least we can try! Several things are underway at the Fellowship to move us in the right directions.

First, a small task force has begun to meet to talk about preparing our buildings for emergency events, including at the very least earthquakes, other weather, and possibilities of violence (which, we know now more than ever, can happen anywhere.) They'll also discuss the possibilities of the Fellowship being called on to provide emergency shelter, or power, or other responses for a wider community. It is highly likely this task force will host several opportunities for Fellowship members and friends to learn about preparedness at home.

In addition, much work has already been done on setting up plans and procedures for emergency response at the Fellowship, for events such as fires, or earthquakes, or violence, thanks to Wolfgang Dengler. These protocols are posted on the web site - it would be good for all of us to read through them. See an update on alarms and evacuation elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, there have been many questions and suggestions about how to manage the emotional and spiritual aspects of emergency response – such as, in what situations do we open our buildings and make it possible for people to gather to share their fears and grief and shock? Should we respond to any event, anywhere in the world (which would mean gathering every day)? Or to events in our towns or state or region? Should we simply gather every evening that there are meetings at the Fellowship (almost every evening) and start together in a circle of solidarity and concern and encouragement? The Fellowship Care and Support Team, Worship Committee, Committee on Ministry and the Climate Justice Committee are all talking about these possibilities, together. If you have suggestions, ideas, or concerns you'd like to add to these conversations, please let Jill McAllister (minister@uucorvallis.org) know, or contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey (dianavb@inbox.com) or Susan Christie (crypto716@gmail.com).

PROGRAM COUNCIL

Leadership Needed: Rummage Sale and Holiday Bazaar

Two of our three big annual fund-raisers are in need of leadership – a chairperson, or co-chairs or an organizing team. The logistics for each of these events are well-documented and well-honed. Many volunteers take part in each. Creative forms of leadership are welcome! Are you ready to try something new? Eager to help maintain and improve one of these events? Contact Wendy Sutton for more information (connect@uucorvallis.org).

February Art Exhibit

We are pleased to have the acrylic paintings of Dale Draeger in our Sanctuary exhibit space from January 19th through February 14th. Enjoy! In Dale's words:

"It wasn't until I heard the voice in my ear, encouraging me to paint what I loved that I began to paint in 1989. The voice was Meher Baba, who is considered the Avatar of this age. Even though he hasn't been in the body since early 1969 and whispering to me is probably the least of his accomplishments, it started me on my road as a fine artist. The group of paintings and drawings at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship show Meher Baba as well as some scenes in India. Though I have painted these subjects, as well as murals and portraits, most people associate me with my river and landscapes. The Oregon river scenes often contain so much lush green, I often start painting on a red canvas while letting some of that red show through to contrast with the green. Usually it is how light falls on a scene or reflects in the water that is the whisper of divinity in nature."

Save the Date!

Who is your favorite *Harry Potter* character? Get your costume ready for an evening of fun at the **UUFC Services Auction** on April, 30, 2016. Details coming soon!

JUSTICE COUNCIL

February Social Concerns and Action Lunch: Responding to the Global Refugee Crisis

In December and January, the UUFC supported Syrian refugees in Europe by assembling hygiene kits. In February we continue this important work by supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Refugee Crisis Fund (<http://www.uusc.org/updates/much-needed-relief-for-refugees>). UUSC works directly with partners in host and transit countries to provide: a) effective protection for refugees and access to legal avenues for relief; b) capacity building for overburdened nongovernmental organizations on the ground working with vulnerable groups such as women, children, and stateless refugees; and c) advocacy for medium-to long-term relief needs such as education access, asylum policy and procedure, and positive public reception to resettlement. In the United States, UUSC is working to ensure that the U.S. government lives up to its international obligations to protect those most vulnerable in situations of conflict. The Social Concerns committee asks for your help in providing snacks after the Sunday services each week. If you can help with the Action Lunch on February 7, contact Sylvia Yamada (yamadas@science.oregonstate.edu).

Social Concern of the Month

How does the Social Concerns committee choose which organization we'll support each month? Usually a member comes to the committee and says "I am working with this Good Cause and I would like to help you raise some money for this Good Cause." During the 15 years for which we have records we have disbursed \$200,000 among 60 different causes. Some have been one-month collections; others have occurred annually.

Looking ahead to the next church year, the recipient for October 2016 has not yet been chosen. What organization would you like to have considered? We will have a bowl on the snacks table in the social hall. Drop in your suggestion with your name and contact info.

The UUFC Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI): An Invitation

This new task force is charged with developing programs and offering opportunities to explore issues and responses to racism, oppression, and exclusion. Although census data show Oregon's population becoming more racially diverse, the state remains one of the whitest in the nation. Many Oregonians value racial diversity and the dimension and depth it adds to our lives, yet we remain largely isolated from one another and have yet to fulfill the vision of a racially integrated society.

“White Out? The Future of Racial Diversity in Oregon”

Corvallis Public Library, February 7, 2:00-3:30 PM

Willamette University professor Emily Drew will lead participants in a conversation about the challenges to creating racially diverse, inclusive communities despite the accomplishments since the civil rights era. What does the racial integration of place require of us, and how might we prepare to create and embrace this opportunity? RSVP for this FREE event to Faith Reidenbach (fer@caleyreidenbach.com).

Emily Drew is an associate professor of sociology at Willamette University, where she teaches courses about racism, race and ethnicity, immigration, and social change. Her primary areas of research involve understanding how race and racism operate inside of institutions. She serves as a co-trainer of “Understanding Institutional Racism” workshops for Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training.

Join with the Climate Justice Committee

The Climate Justice Committee (CJC) will meet Thursday, February 11, at 7:00 PM, at UUFC. CJC meetings are usually the first Thursday of each month, but there is a special presentation the evening of February 4, hence the change. As always, CJC welcomes anyone who is concerned about the climate crisis to attend the meeting. For more information, contact Susan Christie, CJC chair (crypto716@gmail.com).

Great March for Climate Action Report from Judy Todd

UUFC Sanctuary Thursday, February 4, 7:00 PM

Judy Todd is an Oregon native who has been guiding excursions into natural and wild landscapes for over 15 years, as the founder of NatureConnect NW. She is an accomplished naturalist and poet. Her passion for the Earth and its creatures has inspired hundreds of people over many years to engage more deeply with the natural world.

The Great March for Climate Action began on March 1, 2014 in Los Angeles. Dozens of climate activists set out to walk across the United States to Washington DC. They walked 3,000 miles, across America, in 9 months. Their goal was to inspire action to help resolve the climate crisis. This march was one of the largest coast-to-coast marches in American history. People joined in for varying distances along the way.

In 2014, Judy felt called to join the Great March for Climate Action, where she walked and biked sections covering over 700 miles and over 90 days. In her presentation, Judy will tell how this experience has changed her, what she has learned, and her thinking about what’s needed now in these times of great change.

Helping Increase Solar Power

The UUFC has received \$18,000 in donations to begin a micro-lending fund for the Corvallis-based organization Seeds for the Sol. The Board and Climate Justice Committee are working to make it possible for this fund and this project to increase. Thank you to the anonymous donors, from the climate justice committee.

Natural gas and electricity use at UUFC

The Environmental Action Committee (EAC) has been monitoring the Fellowship’s use of fossil fuels and comparing its usage with the same months of past years. We have a mix of furnaces. It’s tricky to make comparisons since we have changed heating in some areas from gas to electric, or the opposite, and we’ve upgraded too. Some UU congregations have set specific long-term plans to be carbon-neutral, and this must be our goal too. We have moderately good news—slight downturns in use of natural gas, but not in electricity. The EAC asks all of us to be even more mindful: turn lights off when not needed; control heat by keeping thermostats low; close doors of heated areas to confine warmth, etc. We all know the drill – we just need to remind ourselves to do it.

UUFC Composting and recycling

For a year we've worked at putting all food waste plus white napkins and paper towels into the organic waste bins. We have a volunteer who will check plastic "film" (bread and vegetable sacks etc.) and take appropriate ones to be recycled, so feel free to put these into a small plastic tub in the kitchen that is marked for it. Around town, some restaurants and non-profits have arrangements with Republic Services to compost certain types of paper plates and cups, but the UUFC does NOT have that arrangement so we cannot put paper cups and plates into our compost bin. We have an excellent system to sanitize glassware and china so we need to use only these washable items. Our goal is to have almost NO land-fill trash, as it takes space and contributes methane. Republic can capture some of the methane, but not all. Thanks for your participation toward making UUFC as close to zero waste as possible!

National News: UUSC/UUA Border Justice Program

The UU College of Social Justice still has a number of spots available on our upcoming **Border Justice program from March 29-April 3!** As individuals who have seen firsthand how powerful it can be to witness the injustices happening along the border, we would like to ask for your help to get the word out among friends, family, and colleagues that have much to gain from the experience. There is no form of marketing better than word of mouth, and we know that you have a lot to share.

We are also happy that this summer, UU College of Social Justice is again offering a way for high school youth to have their own transformative journey learning about immigration justice. Please also help us spread the word about *Activate Tucson: Immigration Justice*, taking place from **July 23-31, 2016** in partnership with BorderLinks! This is one of our three *Activate* programs, each with their own justice focus, in addition to our one-day Activate sampler at General Assembly. Information and registration can be found at uucsj.org/youth.

FINANCE COUNCIL

From the Stewardship Committee: A new pledge drive process for 2016!

At the UUFC, this is the time of year when we pause to reflect on all that we value and appreciate here, and how each of us can financially support all that we seek to accomplish together. Our annual pledge drive secures vital financial commitments from our members and friends for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2016. This year, the UUFC Stewardship team is offering an innovative approach to the pledge drive.

Thanks to the dedication of our UUFC videographer John Myers, we have videotaped a representative group of UUFC members and staff to give us all a broader and deeper picture of who we are as a congregation, as well as what is happening throughout our diverse community. Each videotaped vignette is brief (2-5 minutes) and encapsulates what that particular member or staff person most values about the UUFC. We will be sending these to your email inbox at a probable rate of two to three per week, starting the week before the month-long pledge drive begins on February 21. We find these pieces fascinating and inspiring, and we hope you do, too. If you are reading this in the paper newsletter and do not have email access, please contact us by phone and we will arrange for you to see the videos in a different venue.

Also, in order to save trees, time, and money, we will be expanding the process of online pledging, which we began last year. In early February we will send the entire congregation an email request, asking each of you to let us know (via simple checkbox) whether you are willing to read the pledge materials and to make a pledge online during the pledge drive. If you do not receive or respond to that email request, you will receive paper pledge materials as always. For more information, contact Virginia Shapiro (541-223-8859, virginiashapiro@gmail.com) or Anna Sontag (541-221-6962, anna.sontag@gmail.com).

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Future Structures: Next Steps in Considering Building Renovation or Expansion

A Concepts Design Team has just been appointed by the Board of Trustees. This team is charged with consolidating all of the research and input we have gathered so far about how to update and improve our physical facilities. The team is charged with consolidating all of the research and input we've gathered so far (see Future Structures Reports, available on uucorvallis.org), about how to update and improve our buildings/physical facilities. Representing a wide range of perspectives and ages, they will put together a “concept design” for building renovation and/or expansion. This means a list and images of what should be included, such as: (for example only – this is not yet the report of the concept design team!) an improved/enlarged kitchen, a larger social hall, energy efficient heat sources, several more meeting rooms... Once we have a general design, or a few suggested designs to choose from, the congregation will be asked for a decision to move forward, or not. Moving forward would mean getting architectural drawings to flesh out the design, and starting a capital campaign to fund the project. In this phase of concept design, several opportunities for congregational discussion and input are planned. If we really work hard on this we could have a chance to make a decision at the congregational annual meeting in May. So get ready to participate! Marcia Shaw has agreed to chair this team (shawm@proaxis.com).

Kitchen Review!

Tuesday, February 2, 1:00 PM

Sunday coffee. Potluck suppers. Lunches and brunches and snacks for committee meetings. Memorial receptions, Hungarian dinners, community meeting. Our kitchen is in use almost every day! We are in need of some kitchen volunteers – a few people who would work together to keep track of supplies, maintenance and kitchen aesthetics. For example, you and a friend could share an hour a week together in the Fellowship kitchen, as part of a team of 3-4 others. Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 1:00 PM if you can help with this essential part of Fellowship life.

Meet the Global UU Community, July 2016 in the Netherlands and Transylvania

Are you interested in knowing more about and connecting with UUs from around the world? If so, you are invited to attend the biennial meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, July 18-23, 2016, in the Netherlands. Information and registration are now available at www.icuu.net. In addition, we're considering a visit to our UUFC partner congregation in Transylvania following the ICUU meeting. Let Jill McAllister know if you are interested (minister@uucorvallis.org).

Emergency Response News

We had an incident that tested our fire alarm system recently; a fire broke out in one of the ovens, filling the kitchen with smoke. The source of the fire was cardboard pizza boxes. No one was injured, the oven has been repaired, and we learned the following:

1. NEVER PUT ANY COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS IN THE OVEN.
2. There was a delay until the Fire Alarm sounded, because the kitchen doors and partitions were closed. There is no sensor in the kitchen (too many false alarms) or office/library area (we are exploring whether to add a smoke sensor there). For now, we plan to leave the smaller partition open at all times when the building is not occupied.
3. The volume is painfully loud in the RE wing, because of the lower ceilings. We are considering additional hearing protection measures for RE teachers. The volume cannot be lowered – set according to state law.
4. Remember – if the fire alarm sounds, evacuate the building and go to **the Primary Assembly Point** at the north end of the parking lot, and the **Secondary Assembly Point** is the wide asphalt drive that leads from the back deck to Circle Blvd. There are now signs designating those areas. Bags of emergency supplies and radios are stored in the Sanctuary bench next to the sound system, and in the RE hall closet right outside Michael Molk's office.
5. The fire alarm alerts the Circle Alarm monitoring stations, which calls the Fire Department. The Fire Department did respond to this incident in 7-8 minutes, but did not need to enter the building. A fire extinguisher had been used, and the kitchen one has been recharged.

THE BACK PAGE: WHOLENESS AND THE UUFC

In 1979, the Fellowship adopted our current statement of purpose:

Our Fellowship is a community bound together in the quest for the significance of our common existence and for meaning and direction in our individual lives. In the free tradition of Unitarian Universalism we seek for ourselves and our children to grow in religious dimensions of existence. We are committed to those processes which create wholeness in the life of man and society, and stand opposed to those which distort and destroy that wholeness.

Ten years prior, our congregation experienced a time of conflict which brought with it a feeling of division. Rev. RCA Moore, our minister at the time, had taken very public positions in opposition to the draft and military action in Viet Nam. The UUFC Board of 1969 surveyed the members and friends of UUFC to determine where the congregation stood, and how many people stood where. Robert Phillips, who was Fellowship President at the time, wrote the following in a letter to the congregation:

“First of all, I think the data show that we are not as badly divided as some seem to think. We are diverse; we are not divided. Division suggests a gap between polar positions, with little or no graduations of opinion in between. To use the technical term, division is indicated by bi-modality or multi-modality.

Diversity, on the other hand, suggests graduations of opinion which serve to bridge the extremes. Again, to use the technical terminology, several key questions in the survey show normal distribution or a distribution that is skewed toward one end of the scale or the other.

That, I confess, is very reassuring. Unitarians know how to handle diversity; they’re not so good at handling division.”

The lesson we learn and re-learn in our religious community, as we come at it from different angles, is that diversity is part of our wholeness. We grow in our individual wholeness when we practice holding all the disparate parts of ourselves – the contradictions, the changes in direction, the mistakes and the successes and the uncertainty. We grow in our community wholeness when we practice holding our disagreements, when we see ourselves as diverse rather than divided, when we step outside of ourselves to value that which challenges us to understand.

“Unitarians know how to handle diversity; they’re not so good at handling division,” Robert Phillips wrote. Divisions break us apart from each other; diversity enriches our lives and makes our differences part of our relationships. As we stand in support of processes which create wholeness at all levels, from our individual lives to our society and the world, let us remember that agreement is less important than the capacity to hold difference in love.

Communication Changes

The Fellowship has more-or-less completed the switch over to the new email distribution lists, announce@uucorvallis.org and discuss@uucorvallis.org. Starting February 1, these lists will be used and messages to the AboutUUFC Google Group will no longer go through. If you have not yet subscribed to the new lists, you may find instructions for doing so at http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3015 or use the form at goo.gl/forms/4hdKTdgtUo to request to have your information added by UUFC staff.

These are “Mailman” lists, which means that they look a bit different from the Google Group that was previously in use. We are learning together how best to work with them. If you have questions or difficulties, email news@uucorvallis.org to contact the moderators.



**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Corvallis**
2945 NW Circle Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97330
Phone: (541) 752-5218
E-mail: office@uucorvallis.org
Website: uucorvallis.org

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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.



UUFC Staff		
<i>Minister</i> the Reverend Jill McAllister	minister@uucorvallis.org	Extension 224
<i>Co-Directors of Religious Exploration</i> Michael Molk Ann Mbacke	molk@uucorvallis.org reassociate@uucorvallis.org	Extension 225 Extension 226
Music Director Dr. David Servias Pianist Lauren Servias	music@uucorvallis.org	Extension 222
Interim Office Administrator Jean Gilbert	office@uucorvallis.org	Extension 100

Looking for the calendar?
For the most up-to-date information, see our website at http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=211
Our online calendar is updated weekly or sometimes even more frequently!