



# Monthly Newsletter

## December 2016 Worship Services

### December 2016

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9:00 AM-2:00 PM

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#### **Sunday, December 4, 9:30 & 11:00 AM**

“Different Ways to Wait”

*Rev. Jill McAllister*

We are in a time of waiting, to see what will emerge from a time of much strife. We hope for the best, and it is hard to feel settled. Over time, much has been learned in and from waiting, and it might help us to consider some of those lessons.

#### **Sunday, December 11, 9:30 & 11:00 AM**

“What if Christmas Doesn’t Come?”

*Rev. Jill McAllister*

For most of us, Christmas is about tradition and culture much more than religious beliefs. Do we need what Christmas brings, or something else entirely?

#### **Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM**

Evening Vespers

*Elizabeth Sollie*

A short, quiet service of centering, silence and singing, with intern minister Elizabeth Sollie.

#### **Sunday, December 18, 9:30 & 11:00 AM**

“The Longest Nights”

*David Servias, UUFC Choir, Rev. Jill McAllister*

The choir presents a choral work by award-winning composer Timothy Takach. “The Longest Nights” a work in 7 movements, uses winter texts that invite listeners to journey through winter and nestle in for the darkest month.

#### **Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

**5:00 PM** – A Family Service of music, carols, stories and sharing for all ages, including dedication of babies and children. Please let Jill know if you wish to have a child dedicated.

**9:00 PM** – A Meditative Service of readings, meditations, silence, and music. Child dedications are also welcome at this service.

#### **Sunday, December 25, 11:00 AM**

Christmas Day

*Rev. Jill McAllister*

One service only, followed by potluck brunch. Please bring food to share. All ages are welcome (no childcare or RE classes).

#### **Fourth Annual Christmas Carol Sing-along**

Tuesday, December 20, from 5:00-6:00 PM: singing in the Sanctuary, food to share in the Social Hall.

## Between Us...

*Jill McAllister*

This month does not feel like a traditional December, if there ever was such a thing. The stories and rituals of the holidays of this month are all up for grabs, ready for new interpretations, in my opinion. So much is unfolding that calls us now. Better to pay attention and see what opportunities will emerge.

I'm watching for suggestions of strategic actions. For example, the head of the Anti-Defamation League (a Jewish organization) has pledged to register as a Muslim if a registry is instituted. A UU colleague noted: "Can we imagine all UUs, the UCC, and so on, overwhelming the system in a massive wave of registration, should this registry become a reality?"

The UUA Office of Multi-Cultural Ministries has offered a list – you can read it on the back page of this newsletter. Jim Wallis, the director of Sojourners, an evangelical Christian organization, also offers a list of actions to consider:

We will go deeper in faith. We will lift up truth. We will reject White Nationalism. We will love our neighbors by protecting them from hate speech and attacks. We will welcome the stranger, as scriptures instruct. We will expose and oppose racial profiling in policing. We will defend religious liberty. We will work to end the misogyny that enables rape culture. We will protest with our best values. We will listen.

In this time of waiting, and of discerning, I invite you to think of December differently than you may have before. I invite you to consider Alternative Giving this year. Instead of things and stuff, will you join me in making a gift that could really make a difference in our communities? I will make homelessness and access to housing my focus this year. Together we could aim to raise \$5000, which would be a gift that truly makes a difference, for several organizations that are on the front lines of this work. Please let me know if you will join me in this.

And, it is more important than ever that we keep getting to know each other and practice having conversations that matter. For that, we aim to contact every household listed as active in our UUFC data base this month – that's about 475 households. When someone from the Fellowship calls, I hope you'll welcome the call and talk about how you are connected to the Fellowship.

It is a time of waiting, of discernment, of reaching out and connecting as much as possible. It is a time for grounding ourselves in sources of courage and compassion. This is the religious life we are called to, every day.

See you Sunday! *Jill*

### Words for Reflection

As we face a troubled and puzzled world, we too are troubled and puzzled.

As our fond dreams remain unrealized and our bright hopes of yesterday wither in the bitter disappointments of today, our courage fails, our spirits droop, our faith trembles, and frustrated, we bow our heads in despair.

Nevertheless, we come ... to the source of life.... As we pray for peace in our time, may we be at peace with ourselves, with the world, and with life. May we know that without real love there will never be peace. Therefore, may we learn, once again, to love.

*Egbert Ethelred Brown*

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Brown Bag Church and Talk Back

Join Ministerial Intern, Elizabeth Sollie on December 20th at noon in the Sanctuary for the first Brown Bag Lunch Church and Talk Back. Elizabeth will deliver a half hour service with homily and then open the floor for discussion (Talk Back)—an old UU tradition. Bring your brown bag (cloth of course) lunch and join us for a little mid-week spiritual boost.

### Child Dedications: Christmas Eve

Fellowship members who wish to have their children dedicated at either of the Christmas Eve services (the early service at 5:00 PM or the late service at 9:00 PM) should contact Jill McAllister ([minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)). Child Dedication is a Unitarian Universalist tradition of naming, blessing and welcome for babies and children.

### Yule/Winter Solstice gathering at the Fellowship

Join us on Sunday, December 18, to celebrate the stillness of midwinter and the seeds of new beginnings, while we welcome the returning light. Service begins with some time to gather and connect, then a ceremony around 4:00 PM and a potluck to follow; the entire event goes from 3:00-7:00 PM at the Fellowship. You can come to any part of it.

This event honoring the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year, called Yule in some traditions, is one of our Wheel of the Year gatherings. We come together to honor eight special points on the Earth's annual dance around the sun: the two solstices, the two equinoxes and the four cross-quarter days in between.

Watch for more details in our UUFC communications as the event approaches or contact Cliff Pereira ([541-753-9224](tel:541-753-9224), [peartree15@comcast.net](mailto:peartree15@comcast.net)). Go to [http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=3112](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3112) (UUFC >Worship > Wheel of the Year FAQ) for more on why there is a 4-hour window for the full Wheel of the Year event.

### Children/Youth Choir on Christmas Eve

We will be assembling a group of children and youth to sing at the early service on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in singing, please come to the following short rehearsals to learn the songs (30 minutes or less):

**December 20th at 6:15** (right after the Christmas Carol Sing Along)

**December 24th at 4:15** (just before the early service Christmas Eve)

Parents are welcome to join and sing along as well. Hope you can join us!

## GOVERNANCE & SHARED MINISTRY

### Board Notes

*Carl English-Young*

**Development of UU Ministry.** As Virginia is said to be the birthplace of presidents, Corvallis may be the birthplace of ministers. At our meeting on Monday, November 14, the Board took two actions in support of members of the congregation and UU ministry as a whole. We approved the ordination of Leslie Chartier, who is currently serving an internship at the Corvallis Methodist Church. Her ordination ceremony will be on July 16, 2017, so mark your calendars. We also approved sponsorship of Jesse Ford as a candidate for UU ministry. As the UUA website states, "The Ministerial Fellowship Committee regards sponsorship as evidence that the candidate is actively committed to the Purposes and Principles of the UUA and the institutions which uphold them." Congratulations to Leslie and Jesse!

**Sunday, November 20, Congregational Vote on House Lot Adjustment.**

The question on the ballot was “Shall the UUFC add a 10-foot strip of land to the west side of the lot of the house next door, making that area part of the sale of the house and lot to the Corvallis Zen Circle?” This additional bit of land will provide a setback for the Zen Circle’s planned new worship space at the house and will be developed as a common use area for both congregations. (Results of the meeting will be published in the next Weekly Announcements).

**Boring but Important.**

(I stole that title from *The Week* magazine.) Discharging our fiduciary responsibilities, the Board approved a plan for a “Church Checkup” of our financial procedures. In addition, Finance Council Chair Russ Karow presented a plan to review and improve our financial policies and procedures. Both actions were greeted with “Huzzahs” from the Board.

**Notes from the Intern Minister**

I’m starting to get to know you and what a lovely group of people you are! A lot of you have signed up for a one-to-one conversation with me. These conversations have been a wonderful way to get to know what is on your hearts. I hope everyone will sign up. My e-mail is [intern@uucorvallis.org](mailto:intern@uucorvallis.org).

I have also been attending the book groups for our anti-racism work. “Profoundly transformative” is an overused phrase that often sets my teeth on edge. I would venture to guess, however, that the participants in these book groups have been changed. Once the door has been opened on new knowledge, there is no going back. Perhaps the most important thing people are taking away is that inextricably bound as we are, anti-racism work is not optional. If you have not yet read one of the books Rev. McAllister suggested, please do. It isn’t always comfortable work, but it is good work.

Thank you for all your many acts of inclusion and welcome.

*Elizabeth Sollie*

**Fellowship Care & Support Team: Listening Companions**

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.

The Fellowship Care and Support Team also supports pastoral care activities including visits to members and friends, memorial service receptions, and helping to arrange food or other support for families in need. If you need help or support in times of emergency, illness, transitions, births, or deaths, please contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey.

*Submitted by Susan Christie, for the Fellowship Care and Support Team*

## UUFC Emergency Aid Fund

The Emergency Aid Fund (EAF) is for members and friends of the Fellowship in a time of need: a one-time, emergency situation when assistance is not available through any other sources. Examples of needs include food, shelter, utilities, medical prescriptions or bills, transportation. All inquiries are confidential. To make a request, contact EAF Committee Chair Judy Malouf ([j.malouf@comcast.net](mailto:j.malouf@comcast.net)), or Rev. Jill McAllister ([minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)). The emergency aid fund is created by donations from members and friends. Donations are always welcome.

# LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

*Michael Molk*

Lately I have been thinking about how we can teach children to practice our UU principles, especially respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It's easy for us to pay lip service to that high ideal; it's quite another thing to live and act on it. I know that I've been present numerous times over the years to a racist comment, or a derogatory joke about women or people of other ethnicities. It takes personal courage to speak up when we perceive social pressure to conform. Besides these personal challenges, we live in a society that has historically subjugated and exploited poor people, ethnic minorities, and women. Many of us take for granted the institutions and processes that perpetuate these injustices. Those of us privileged, who benefit from our social order, are often not taught to look with a critical eye, and question or challenge the status quo.

New research is finding that children start to learn and be conditioned at a very early, pre-verbal age, to identify who is safe and friendly, and who is considered questionable and untrustworthy. Facial expressions, tone of voice, body language, and environment are all factors in forming these associations. As children grow, we absorb many of the assumptions and attitudes about how the world works from our caregivers. By the time children enter school, much of this conditioning is subconscious and considered "normal." Children who have been raised with prejudices find it easy and appropriate to ridicule, ostracize, shame and bully those different from themselves.

As UUs, we have two significant challenges in front of us: one is to realize our own personal prejudices, assumptions, privileges and blind spots; the other is to find ways to take individual and collective action that will fundamentally change our society, so that our institutions and practices interrupt and overturn the many forms of "rank-ism" we live with and take for granted: racism, sexism, classism, age-ism, ability-ism, nationalism. Rank-ism is an assertion of superiority, of putting others down. It's what people who think they're "somebodies" do to people they think are "nobodies".

One simple method for learning new ways of being is to listen to others. The stories of life experiences, from people who are different from us, have much to teach us. We listen not in order for us to appropriate their stories as our own, but to open ourselves to be changed by what we hear. Children love stories, and there are many ways for us to hear others' stories, but we have to seek them out. This can mean getting outside our "comfort zone" to have conversations with people different from ourselves. But being uncomfortable is not the same as being unsafe. We need to teach our children, and, as adults, learn various ways of "relaxing with discomfort", as one of my teachers says. It can be uncomfortable to walk up and say hello to a stranger, at school, or out about town, who looks different, acts differently, speaks differently, especially if others are shunning that person. This requires a small act of courage, to be intentional about acting on our principles, and reaching out to befriend someone. Something as simple as taking a deep breath can help us get centered and gain confidence to move. It also takes courage to speak up when we see or hear an act of injustice, however seemingly inconsequential: when someone is ridiculed, ostracized, bullied or shamed. The most significant way children learn behavior is from watching what the adults around them do. It is up to us to model the world we want to live in. May we have the courage to act, for ourselves, for each other, and for future generations.

**FROM THE RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION ASSOCIATE***Rachel Kohler*

When I was fifteen, my entire grade was ushered into a classroom right after lunch. A woman in her late twenties stood in front of the blackboard and solemnly explained that we were going to talk about pre-marital sex. She was, she told us, a born-again virgin, and although her repentance had restored her purity, she was there to encourage all of us to learn from her mistakes and remain abstinent until marriage. She held up a Hershey's Kiss and said, "Girls, right now, you're all like this delicious piece of perfectly wrapped chocolate." She unwrapped the chocolate, and, handing it to a boy in the first row, asked that he pass it around the room. As the chocolate moved from palm to sweaty teenage palm, gradually melting and inspiring nervous giggles, the woman told us, "When you have sex, it's like you've unwrapped yourself. Just like chocolate that gets touched by a lot of people, you become melted and dirty." The bedraggled Hershey's Kiss returned to the front of the room, looking rather worse for the wear. She held it up. "Would any of you want to eat this chocolate? No, of course not. So if you have sex before you're married, no one will want you, either."

This was the extent of my school-sponsored sexual education as a teenager. Fifteen years later, things are not so different. Sexual education in this country is overwhelmingly abstinence-based, and even when it isn't, it spends most of its time telling young people why they should not have sex rather than answering their questions honestly and openly.

That's starting to change, though, and the Our Whole Lives Lifespan Sexuality Education Program is at the forefront of this shift. A joint effort between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ, the program offers workshop cycles for all age groups, starting in Kindergarten all the way through adulthood. OWL starts with the basic premise that all human beings are sexual creatures from the moment of birth until the minute they die. The program does contain plenty of information on the nuts and bolts of sexual health, but spends more time promoting understanding of sexual self worth, responsibility, inclusivity, and justice.

This past weekend, I had the privilege to attend an OWL facilitation training in Washington, where I spent three days with a wonderful group of humans dedicated to celebrating the joy of sexuality within the context of a spiritual life. People of many genders, orientations, and faith backgrounds worked together peacefully and respectfully to learn how to bring an understanding of total sexual well being back to their communities. Now that I am a certified OWL facilitator, I am excited at the thought of bringing this amazing program back to my new community. While the Fellowship has been offering OWL programs for children and youth for some time now, it is my understanding that the adult program hasn't yet been made available here. I'm thrilled that this is about to change! Stay tuned for more information in the coming months about upcoming OWL workshops through Adult RE. I can't wait to start sharing what I've learned about positive and inclusive sexuality!

**Children's & Youth's Religious Exploration for December**

There will be no RE sessions for children and youth on December 25th and January 1st. RE will resume on January 8th, 2017. All children and youth, including infants and toddlers, are invited to attend the worship services on those days.

**Needed: Volunteers to spend time with young children during early worship services**

Do you enjoy spending time playing and interacting with young children? Recently we've been getting more young children, ages 4-5-6, coming to the Fellowship with their parents during the 9:30 worship services on Sunday mornings. We need to add a play session for these children, separate from the infant/toddler care already provided at that time. You can still attend the 11:00 AM worship services while helping with this much-needed service. To volunteer, speak with DLRE Michael Molk or RE Associate Rachel Kohler, or email Michael at [molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org).

### Coming of Age (COA) for 7th/8th Grade Youth

Registration deadline for participation is December 18th.

Contact DLRE Michael Molk for more information and to sign up ([molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org), 541-752-5218 x225).

### Adult Religious Growth and Learning

Have you thought about teaching or leading an Adult Religious Growth and Learning class? Maybe this is your brave year. Proposals for winter term are due by December 7. You can find the form online: [http://uucorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/AdultProgramsProposalForm\\_14-15FY.pdf](http://uucorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/AdultProgramsProposalForm_14-15FY.pdf)

One class we hope to offer this winter is a Spiritual Practice Sampler. There are likely as many practices as there are people in the Fellowship. We are imagining people taking about 10 minutes to say a few words about their spiritual practice and providing a taste. In our small committee we read poetry, listen to chants and take an angst break with Linda Ronstadt's Mariachi music. If you have a spiritual practice that grounds you in this complicated world, please contact us at [intern@uucorvallis.org](mailto:intern@uucorvallis.org).

Meanwhile, if you haven't been to one of the 7 Principle Cafés you are missing some juicy conversations. These sessions are a great way to figure out what those principles have to do with your religion. Join us! All class information is on a bulletin board in the social hall—check there for times and dates.

## PROGRAM COUNCIL

### Winter Lights: A UUFC Holiday Open House *Friday, December 2, 4:00-8:30 PM*

Come out, and come in to a cozy evening at the Fellowship, with new friends and old. Enjoy snacks and libations, or supper, in the cafe; listen to the music of Fellowship musicians; find holiday gifts from Fellowship artists and craftspeople; take home delicious holiday goodies, including home-made breads and soups. Children can join in making holiday ornaments for home or the UUFC.

All are invited and welcomed to enjoy a winter evening together – come for a short time or stay for the whole evening!

### UUFC Building Workparty *Saturday, December 3, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM*

On Saturday, December 3, the Building Maintenance Committee will host a workparty to tend to our building as winter begins. Coffee and refreshments will be available for workers, beginning at 8:30 AM.

Tasks include cleaning the leaves off the roof and applying a moss treatment (weather permitting); re-installing the fluorescent ceiling light in Room 5; putting a new weatherstrip on the bottom of the door in the gallery; cleaning dust off the mobiles and above the fluorescent wall lights in the sanctuary; cleaning dust out of the Cadet heaters in the foyer and room 7; inspecting and cleaning the vacuum cleaners; washing windows; inspecting and repairing (if necessary) the building perimeter for possible entry points for rodents; applying touch-up paint to the fascia by the Firwood entry doors; cutting down and chipping the dead cedar tree at the parking lot entrance along Firwood; raking and removing leaves.

Email Nick Houtman ([nickhoutman8@aol.com](mailto:nickhoutman8@aol.com)) to sign up.

## Connect Up

Connect Up provides a variety of wonderful interest based activities for us to better get to know one another. Sign up on December 18th (note change to 3rd Sunday for December) to participate in or to host an activity in January! Recent Connect Up opportunities have included Mah Jong, wine tasting, mushrooming, making embroidered Christmas cards, a drum & rhythm circle, and a sing along. What are your interests?

For more information, contact Wendy Sutton at [connect@uucorvallis.org](mailto:connect@uucorvallis.org) or visit the Connect Up page on the UUFC website ([http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=3776](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776)) for more information. December events will be posted shortly after November sign-ups occur on November 27.

## Art Exhibit in the Sanctuary

The newly revived Art Exhibition committee has been busy the past few months defining our goals, revising our mission and scheduling exhibits for the new year. A new focus for this year will be artists from within the UUFC community. Exhibits will be scheduled by specific mediums or around themes relevant to our UU values. Our hope is to present works from as many Fellowship artists as possible. We've scheduled shows for the year and now need to find out who is interested in exhibiting. We know it takes time to prepare work to be juried and displayed so we're giving you plenty of advance notice. If you are interested in participating, or would like additional information, contact committee chair Niya Standish ([niyabeth@gmail.com](mailto:niyabeth@gmail.com), 541-754-6328). For submissions to juried exhibits, please submit 3 electronic images and include dimensions and approximate weight.

### Schedule and Call for Artists:

Feb 28	Watercolors ( <i>deadline of January 10 for submissions</i> )
April 18	Fiber Art / Textiles ( <i>deadline of February 1 for submissions</i> )
June 8	RE Program Children and Youth
July 11	Mixed-Media / 2-Dimensional work by ALL UUFC community members (children through professional artists) – non-juried, each person many submit one piece. All encouraged to participate.
Aug 29	Photography
Oct 10	Mixed-Media / 2-Dimensional work on the theme “Our Endangered Earth”

## Partner Church Committee News

*Our Körispatak Partner Church Minister to visit us in February*

We communicate with the minister of our Partner Church through email, Skype, and digital photos. However, a week-long visit is so much better! Rev. Katalin Szász-Cserey is minister to two congregations in Transylvania. She lives with her husband and son in the parish house of the larger church and travels over winding dirt roads to our Partner Church in the village of Körispatak. With encouragement from her two US partner churches, Kati applied for and received a scholarship to attend the February 2017 International UU Women's Conference in California. Combining a week in Corvallis before the conference and a week after the conference with the Omaha Nebraska UU congregation offers an amazing opportunity for Rev. Kati to widen her vision and opportunities for connections with her partner congregations.

Some of you may remember Rev. Kati when she and her husband were here in October 2013. Would you like to share some time with Kati? It might be a few minutes, an hour, morning, or day. Three years ago on her first “big trip” Kati and her husband were hosted in three UU homes, and had many experiences in Corvallis and with the UUFC community. How would you like to be involved in hosting Kati on this trip? Let us know. Your Partner Church Committee will put together plans for a wonderful week-long visit, about Feb. 9-15.

*Submitted by Janet Throop and Beverly McFarland, for the Partner Church Committee*

# JUSTICE COUNCIL

## Report from Oregon UU Voices for Justice Annual Meeting

*Held Saturday, October 29, 2016, report by Susan Christie*

On Saturday, October 29, six people from UUFC attended the Oregon UU Voices for Justice annual meeting at the church of the UU Congregation of Salem: Susan Breckenridge, Susan Christie, Bob Ozretich, Claudia Keith, Diane Conrad, and Dana Edwards. Diane and Dana are new to our congregation, and we were pleased that they wanted to share in this justice excursion.

Rev. Katie Larsell, Executive Director, lit the chalice, welcomed attendees, and introduced the members of the Board who were present. We all introduced ourselves and told a little about the justice work our congregations are doing.

Rev. Katie explained the focus of Oregon UU voices for Justice: Advocacy for justice in the Oregon State Legislature on issues that are relevant to, and affect, our state. She emphasized that it's important to know your state senator and representative and their contact information.

The highlight of the morning was the keynote talk by Melissa Bennett, "Native Nations Rising." With the events at Standing Rock in North Dakota weighing heavily on our minds, Melissa's words, spoken from the depths of her heart, touched our souls.

After lunch, we could choose to participate in one of four breakout sessions and consider proposals brought forward in that justice area in preparation for the meeting:

- Environmental Justice (including climate change)
- Deepening Democracy
- Economic Inequality
- Human Rights

I attended the session on Environmental Justice, as climate change is the area in which I work at UUFC. Our own Leslie Chartier was there to facilitate, which she did with grace and competence. Two of the four proposals we discussed address a goal of the UUFC Climate Justice Committee for 2016-2017: (1) "Putting a Price on Carbon" and (2) "Supporting Oregon Solutions to Climate Change and Supporting Oregon Communities Fighting Fossil Fuel Infrastructure." Our group decided to combine these two into one. Two people will do that task, after which we will convene a net meeting of the whole group via Zoom to continue our work.

To finish this process, all attendees reconvened to share with each other the results of the breakout sessions. It was a rewarding process that left us feeling hopeful and encouraged about advocating for justice in the Oregon legislature, based on our UU principles.

Rev. Katie and members of the board finished the day by telling us how UU Voices for Justice can help us in our work in our congregations and encouraging us to invite other congregants to participate in Oregon UU Voices for Justice. This meeting was very well organized and facilitated, and it was wonderful meeting UUs from around the state who are committed to justice work in their communities and congregations.

## **"COP 22 – My experiences in Marrakech"**

*Sunday, December 4, 12:30 PM*

Martha Clemons will report on her experiences as a UUA observer to the Climate Summit in Morocco in November. All are welcome.

## WIDER UU WORLD

### UU Buddhists and other meditators!

The national UU Buddhist convocation will be held in the Pacific Northwest at Menucha Lodge next spring, March 31-April 2. This convocation will be led by Rev. James Ford, UU minister, author, and Zen teacher. For more information and to register, please visit the UUBF website at <http://uubf.org/wp/>.

### International UU Women's Convocation

Do not miss this opportunity to hear **bell hooks**, one of the most influential voices in the American feminist movement! She will give a keynote address at the **Third Women's Convocation, Asilomar, CA, February 16-19, 2017**. Writer, professor, feminist theorist, and activist, hooks is the author of numerous critically acclaimed and widely influential books on the function of race, gender, class, and culture. Her most well-known works, such as *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (1981) and *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center* (1984) focus on issues surrounding the invisibility of black women from common discourses of racism and gender. *Feminism Is For Everybody: Passionate Politics* (2000) details her beliefs on the significance of feminist values in everyone's lives - women and men alike. hooks is currently the Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies at Berea College in Kentucky. Register at [Third International Women's Convocation](#). Consult [the latest edition of the Program Guide](#).

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In an effort to get to know one another and deepen our connections, we will be interviewing a UUFC member each month. This month, **Dianne Roth** answers the question, *How did you come to the UUFC and why do you stay?*

Knowing nothing of the Unitarian Universalists, when I was invited to the Fellowship 30 years ago, I said, "No." My experiences with religion turned me away and I was not interested in revisiting that relationship.

I was invited again, and then again. My invitations came from someone who knew me and knew I "was a Unitarian and didn't even know it."

That invitation changed my life. I discovered people who were open about the questions I kept under cover. They questioned everything. They worked for freedom and justice for all. They were driven by a love for our planet and everyone who walked upon her. They allowed me to be myself with no judgment. They touched my hidden soul.

It was one person's invitations that brought me here, but it was this community that keep me coming back. You inspire me with your dreams and humble me with your hard, enduring commitment to work for what is right.

I owe a debt of gratitude to this place and everyone in it for allowing me to discover the Unitarian within that I did not even know existed.

**Please join us for the Fourth Annual Christmas Carol Sing-along!**

It's a wonderful way to share holiday music with your family. Celebrate the season with song! We'll gather on Tuesday, December 20, from 5:00-6:00 PM to sing in the Sanctuary. Food to share will be in the Social Hall.

## THE BACK PAGE: What We Can Do *UUA Office of Multi-Cultural Ministries*

1. Join the [We Say Enough!](#) campaign of the Interfaith Organizing Initiative (a coalition of denominations and organizing networks). Sign the Moral Manifesto, sign up for the On Call for the Movement Virtual Mass Meetings, and attend or host a radical truth-telling speak-out in your community. We recently livestreamed [13th](#) and recommend showing it in your congregation.
2. Step up our support for [Black Lives of UU](#) and the [Movement for Black Lives](#). We are launching a campaign next week at the request of [Black Lives Matter](#) to transform Black Friday and contribute to their effort to purchase books and clothing for Black children (watch for our special alert next week). Partner with an organization in your community.
3. [Report hate](#): The Southern Poverty Law Center has set up a special web page to report hate incidents and crimes.
4. Be prepared to intervene when you see people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ people, Muslims, women, and people with disabilities being harassed or threatened. This [video](#) from our Standing on the Side of Love Campaign Director Caitlin Breedlove will help you be prepared.
5. Connect with the Sanctuary Movement to fight for migrant and refugee rights and to provide welcome and safe harbor. The Sanctuary movement helps congregations become sanctuaries, support others that are sanctuaries, and advocate for sanctuary city policies in their communities. Watch this Interfaith Immigration Coalition [webinar](#) and [sign the pledge](#) to resist deportation and discrimination through sanctuary.
6. Support Standing Rock by contributing to [Black Lives Matter Stand with Standing Rock Fund](#), [Bismarck-Mandan UU congregation's ministry to Standing Rock](#), and the [UU Presence at Oceti Sakowin Yurt Fund](#).
7. Engage in the UUA [Social Witness Process](#). Our draft Statement on Escalating Inequality is now up for review and comment. The new Study Action Guide on the Corruption of Our Democracy (the Congregational Study Action Issue that was chosen at General Assembly) is now posted as well. Both look at how structural racism undergirds these systemic problems and are timely for the moment we face.
8. Stay strong, stay loving, stay connected with the [Moral Movement](#) and faith coalitions and community organizations in your area. We need each other now more than ever and our communities need us too.

(This list has been reposted on the UUFC website at <http://uucorvallis.org/?p=3977> – if you are reading this on paper, visit that page to access these links.)

Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act. When you recognize uncertainty, you recognize that you may be able to influence the outcomes - you alone or you in concert with a few dozen or several million others. Hope is an embrace of the unknown and the unknowable, an alternative to the certainty of both optimists and pessimists. Optimists think it will all be fine without our involvement; pessimists take the opposite position; both excuse themselves from acting. It's the belief that what we do matters even though how and when it may matter, who and what it may impact, are not things we can know beforehand. We may not, in fact, know them afterward either, but they matter all the same, and history is full of people whose influence was most powerful after they were gone.

-Rebecca Solnit, *Hope in the Dark*



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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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