



# The Chalice *and the* Flame

A Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, OR

## February 2016

### Together We Can Do It

Money by itself cannot create spiritual growth or cure injustice. However, it can help our religious community promote spiritual growth and leverage efforts to improve the lives of those who are impacted by inequality, discrimination and injustice. We can accomplish more by acting together than we can by acting individually.

Your stewardship allows us to meet our members' diverse spiritual needs. There are Sunday Services, Meditation Groups (UU Compassionate Mind Sangha), Religious Exploration for children and adults, Covenant Groups, Dances of Universal Peace, Rituals like those of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, and prayer groups like Taize. We also support members' spiritual needs through Life Lines Ministry, pastoral care by our minister, and Compassionate Connection every second Sunday.

Another spiritual practice, often overlooked, is giving of ourselves to improve the lives of others. As a congregation most of us are committed to justice for those who are denied justice and increasing equality and fairness in all aspects of life. To help all individuals reach their potential, UUCS and its Social Justice in Action Team actively support marriage equality, transportation equity, abolition of the death penalty, efforts to slow climate change, racial justice, immigration reform, and a living wage.

Besides attempting to meet the spiritual needs of our growing membership and have an effective social justice program, we must maintain (and gradually improve) our beloved building and grounds. We have over \$100,000 in deferred maintenance, including a new Sanctuary sound system, refinishing the Hanneman Hall floor, and repairing the heating system. A successful stewardship campaign will enable UUCS to meet our most current needs.

Thank you so much for your dedication to UUCS and your generosity, at whatever level works best for your family's needs, your needs at UUCS, and your ideals.

*Remember this is an opportunity to expand your generous heart and feel good about your connection to your congregation.*

John Prohodsky/ Phil Carver, Stewardship Team Leaders

### Munsel Purchase Nearly Complete

Nearly all of the steps in purchasing the strip of land from Dave and Kathy Munsel, our neighbors to the east, are complete. We hope to complete the transaction in early February.

- Marion County has approved the "boundary adjustment" that results from the purchase of the 40 by 340 foot strip adjacent to the east boundary of the church's property. The County set one condition: trimming the shrubbery to improve sightlines where our driveway meets the street. That trimming will be done about the time you receive this newsletter; Thank you, Brian Kilpatrick! Then there will be an inspection and a little more paperwork.
- John Gorman has finished the surveying work and has filed the "plat" with Marion County. Thank you, John!
- Dave and Kathy Munsel and UUCS have executed a sale agreement, and the \$25,000 purchase price is now in the hands of the escrow agent, who is also preparing the title insurance policy.
- John Gear is acting as our attorney on this project; he has guided us through the steps and will prepare the new deed. Thank you, John!

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## Reverential Ramblings

### ~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

When I was in theology school learning about the origins of Unitarianism in the faraway lands of Transylvania (within the present day borders of Romania) and Poland (where it once thrived but was completely eradicated as a result of religious intolerance) I never thought I'd ever have the opportunity to visit the place where King John Sigismund (the only Unitarian King in history) once reigned, where Francis David, the renowned Unitarian minister, used to prevail in theological debates with Trinitarians and where Unitarian churches have existed for more than four centuries (mostly in smaller villages since the Catholics expelled the Unitarians from the larger cities and took possession of their church buildings). Not only was this a faraway land, it lay behind the seemingly impenetrable "iron curtain" that separated Soviet bloc nations from Western Europe. Thus, North American Unitarian Universalists had minimal contact with our fellow Unitarians in Romania and Hungary.

Well, the iron curtain finally rusted away and toppled over. Now Unitarians in Transylvania and we Unitarian Universalists in North America, who had been separated for centuries, finally had the opportunity to meet our long lost spiritual kin. The "UU Partner Church Council" (see *UUPCC below*) formed to help UU Congregations establish meaningful partnerships with Unitarian congregations in Transylvania as well as other countries that have Unitarian congregations (e.g., India, Philippines).

The Partner Church Council matched us up with the Unitarian Church of Simenfalva (founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century). Over the years a number of us have been fortunate enough to make the amazing journey to this picturesque Transylvanian village and to significant Unitarian historical sites nearby. A few years ago their minister, my good friend and colleague The Rev. Sandor Szen, his son and a few other members of the Simenfalva congregation were able to visit us.

It amazes me that the ancient Unitarian Church in Simenfalva and the modern UU Congregation in Salem, OR forged this special relationship. It delights me to note that we have an opportunity to deepen our friendship this coming summer when we will embark on a pilgrimage to Simenfalva and other Unitarian sites from June 23 through July 5. O, the beautiful sights, sounds, experiences and new friendships that await us! ***Are you interested in joining us? See the announcement in this newsletter on page 7 for further details.*** I'd love to share this experience with you.

Love, Rick

*UUPCC believes that international engagement is a moral and spiritual principle that enhances Unitarian Universalist congregational life. Global partnerships can be a first step to building world community. Through shared experience, partners become increasingly aware of the interdependency of all people.*

*Partnerships provide individuals, small groups and full congregations a way to connect with the larger fellowship of our faith. Our models are not based on charity—we value building relationships between UUs that benefit all in both small and large ways—improving cultural understanding, supporting communities and helping to develop individual, religious, educational and economic opportunities.*



## Lifespan Religious Exploration

### ~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

February is upon us and we are now six months through the Religious Exploration program year. I thought this would be a good time to reflect upon our program and share some of my thoughts.

I am sharing my thoughts from the high school youth Winter Cluster Retreat at 3:20 am, at the end of my shift being awake and available for any needs youth may have through the night. Five of our UUCS youth were able to attend. They prepared a workshop to share entitled, "Environmental Activism" and a worship service, "Love of Planet". I am certain both will be very successful!

This program year, we have explored themes around our seven principles, studied about famous Unitarian Universalists and history heroes, practiced meditation and breathing techniques for relaxation, danced while singing, shared fellowship time in our classrooms, followed the lesson and extension for older children, learned hymns and their history, worshiped together in the sanctuary for Soul Matters Sundays, participated in our RE offering project and mitten drive to learn about social justice work and more.

During our second half of the program year, we will be creating a mural for our RE Commons area that all the children and youth will have a part in. Marnie Jeffers, our RE Assistant, will be leading the creation and will be teaching about how the creation of art can be spiritual. Watch for our RE program to branch out into Bateman Woods and begin to understand the spirituality of being in a natural environment.

In January, our high school youth returned to meeting on Sundays with their Advisor. Watch for the Sunday that the youth, in collaboration with Reverend Rick, share a worship service they create.

Our Middle School students have returned to meeting in their own classroom with their advisors. Watch for activities and special projects that they will be working on!

For the next five months, Mary Mangione Gear, MSW Consulting Minister, UU Fellowship of McMinnville Candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry, will be joining our program two Sundays a month through June! I look forward to her shared time with us! She will meet with our youth on Soul Matter Sundays to lead a discussion, over lunch. Following the service, the middle school and high school students attend with their advisors.

Our Women's Retreat Bake Sale, to raise funds for scholarships for the Women's Retreat (April 22nd-24th) will be February 14th! Please help us by bringing baked items to sell and/or by purchasing treats for your special someone!

Our Annual Easter Egg hunt will include a search for canned food items to donate to Marion Polk Food Share. Please consider bringing extra cans for your regular Sunday offering and help the children/youth with this special canned food drive!

A lot will be happening the second half of our program year and I look forward to the learning and fellowship that will take place!

Until next time....in faith, Christi

# Words from Our Intern Minister

**“To burn with desire and keep quiet about it is the greatest punishment we can bring on ourselves.” Federico García Lorca, *Blood Wedding and Yerma***

The ethical and spiritual life has many facets. They all reflect the light and truth within each of us to the wider world. For many ministers, the work of ministry is an opportunity to support, challenge, and encourage congregations and communities. But what happens when that desire to serve is deflected by barriers? Lewis McGee was a former African Methodist Episcopal (AME) minister who served as an Army chaplain. When he returned, he took a job as a mail carrier and found a Christian Register Unitarian magazine. He kept it a few days to read it, but then took it to the owner and apologized for the delay. Her reaction was to invite McGee to read the magazine and to invite him to church. The seed of desire to serve Unitarian Universalism was planted in McGee's heart when he heard the peaceful, inspiring service. He especially identified with humanism, leaving behind the dogmatic theology of his AME background.



**Lewis Allen McGee**

Lewis McGee studied and worked in the Chicago area, and had a connection with Curtis Reese, a Unitarian minister who, along with John Dewey, signed the Humanist Manifesto. When McGee spoke with Reese about pursuing Unitarian ministry, Reese said, “If you want to be a Unitarian minister, you’ll have to bring your own church.” After all, the year was 1927, and Unitarian Universalism was not yet ready for a Black minister. McGee did not let that barrier dampen his desire.

In 1943, McGee reenlisted as an Army chaplain. When he returned from service, he was decided that to fulfill his purpose was to occupy a free faith pulpit. Eventually, McGee would be the second person to try to bring liberal religion to Black communities. McGee believed strongly that, “we choose our own destiny.” He did that by supporting the expression of humanism within Unitarianism and by answering the call to become the minister of the Free Religious Fellowship on Chicago’s South Side. McGee met the desire of his heart with flexibility and tenacity in order to be a Black minister in a mostly white denomination. Look around this spiritual community. Do you see someone whose desire to serve is blocked? How can you support them?

Theresa Soto  
Intern Minister

## Happenings and Highlights

(continued from page 1)

- Barry Halgrimson took the lead in removing the old fence and putting in the new one. The Munsels wanted fencing on the new line so their buyers could see the extent of the property. Fence posts are in, connected with a pink ribbon. Completion of the fence awaits several days of better weather. Thank you, Barry! Thanks also to Barry for *initiating* the project last spring and summer!
- Joan Erickson has offered blueberry bushes to plant along our new eastern boundary, and Angela Gross has volunteered to care for them. Blueberry pies in our future! Thank you, Joan and Angela!

Our estimate of project expenses in addition to the \$25,000 purchase price was \$5000. We received pledges for \$30,350. A couple of the pledges have not been fulfilled, and the projected costs are now \$6130. So we would be grateful for a few additional contributions to the project. Be sure to designate "Munsel project" on your checks to UUUS.

*THANK YOU* to all of you who have contributed and worked toward this project. It will enhance our Congregation in the years to come!

George Struble

## Join the Fun Celebrating Stewardship 2016



On **Saturday, February 27**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Stewardship Team is hosting a light buffet dinner to celebrate and support the great works of our congregation. Please join the fun. A short play will be performed by the Chalice Circle Players along with other surprises.

There will be a continuation of the celebration with a brunch served in Hanneman Hall during fellowship between the first and second services, on **Sunday, February 28** from 10:30 to 11:10 a.m., You are invited to enjoy delicious quiche along with fruit or fruit salad you may choose to bring and share as a supplement to the entrée.

Note: The Stewardship Team have asked our Hosts to hand out and collect RSVP cards at four services prior to the celebrations.

## Mid-Month Newsletter Update is Changing!

The Chalice and Flame staff and the communications team are experimenting with the look of an "email only" mid-month update beginning this February. Keeping the current mid-month format requires significant editor time and effort. The January mid-month update had very little new information for the amount of editor and formatting work required. The full monthly newsletter on the first Tuesday of each month will remain the same.

A new format for the news update will be a Constant Contact email with the information embedded right in the email--no link to click on, or downloading of files. It will be sent on the weekend prior to the 3rd Tuesday, at nearly the same monthly time as previous updates. The content of the mid-month update will be the Announcements from that Sunday's service.

We are aware that this will take planning ahead by each team. The full monthly newsletter will continue to be published on the first Tuesday of the month. Articles for the full monthly newsletter need to be submitted on **or before** the Friday preceding publication. Like many other teams, we are working on avoiding duplication of effort, and making the very best use of our volunteer resources. Many of the UU churches we have surveyed in the past have just one newsletter per month.

The newsletter editors will use a Constant Contact email for unusual, time sensitive situations that affect the whole congregation, such as the special congregational meeting to approve purchase of the Munsel property. However, we hope it's understood that missing a newsletter deadline is usually not reason for a special newsletter edition.

Vicki Cunningham, Communications team  
[vickicunningham11003@gmail.com](mailto:vickicunningham11003@gmail.com)

## Sneak Peak: The Connection Card Making a Difference

On January 3, we asked the members and visitors in attendance at our Sunday services to fill out a Connection Card. Then a week later, we did it again. And again... and again. Why have we added this to our weekly services? Because we want to know who our Congregation is!

We are still building the process of integrating the Connection Card into our week in the office, so I don't have raw data, numbers, or graphs to share with you. **But it has been wonderful to realize that we have many individuals and families who are identifying themselves as members of our community, who are finding a place here with us.** Becoming a member of UUCS, signing the membership book, is secondary to finding one's niche here. Previous to using the Connection Card, we wouldn't necessarily have known who was here "trying out" our community—until they came forward to become a member. But how much nicer to be recognized and welcomed and offered help in the journey to membership!

The next important piece of making our community feel as welcoming as possible is to build a group of volunteers to help reach out and connect with people. The Engagement Team will be an extension of the Membership Team, but will not be focused on the Path to Membership. It will be using the data from the Connection Cards to help UUCS meet the needs of the people in our community, members or otherwise.

The goal is to have an Engagement Team of 15 people who are each willing to commit to making a connection with a small number of people in our community. **Bring your passion for living our third principle, "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations," and make a difference in our UUCS community!** Contact me in the office for details!

In Faith & Gratitude,  
Samantha Scales,

Office Manager/Engagement Team Coordinator

## Roy Zimmerman Returns

You are invited to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Valentine's Day Concert, featuring Roy Zimmerman, **Saturday, February 13** at 7 p.m.! ***This Machine*** is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's hilarious, rhyme-intensive original songs. The title is a reference to Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to be sure, but also an acknowledgement that songwriting does good work in the world. "Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression," says Roy, "because in calling out the world's absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the real possibility of change."

Roy's songs have been heard on HBO Showtime. He's shared stages with Bill Maher, and Robin Williams, Ellen DeGeneres, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin. He's been profiled on NPR's "All Things Considered," and he's a featured blogger for the Huffington Post. Tickets are \$18 at the door. Or you can purchase them during the fellowship hour after church on Sundays until the event.

For a preview of Roy's work, check out the YouTube links below:

[Creation Science 101](#), [The Big Republican Tent](#), [To Be a Liberal](#), [My Vote, My Voice, My Right](#)



## We Want Your Stories!

What does being a member of UUCS mean to you? Have you been helped through a difficult time? Do you have special memories from Religious Exploration or volunteering with Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network?



Experienced spiritual growth participating in our Wednesday meditation with the UU Compassionate Mind Sangha or in rituals with the Salem Covenant of UU Pagans?

Found a new, special friend while participating in a fundraiser or singing in the UUCS Choir? Would you share your story with our congregation?

Please email your story (one page, please) by **February 14** to Denise Hughes at [salemhughes@gmail.com](mailto:salemhughes@gmail.com). Or use this sheet to write your story. There will be a basket in the foyer to drop it in.

Several stories will be read aloud during Celebration Sunday on February 27. And Reverend Rick may share other stories during services.

## Earth Care, People Care, Fair Share Film Series on Fourth Thursdays

Permaculture is "Earth Care, People Care and Return of Surplus." Permaculture creates systems that are not only sustainable but also enriching to soils and all life, in keeping with our UU principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Please join us every 4th Thursday (except November and December) at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a finger food potluck and showing of a permaculture inspired film. A new film and discussion every month.

Contact the [NW Permaculture Institute](#) for more information. 503-449-8077.

## Sustainability Tips

As Climate Wise partners with Marion County, UUCS has agreed to conduct our congregation's operations in accordance with energy efficient and sustainable practices. In addition, the Climate Wise best practices encourage us to routinely communicate with members of the congregation on opportunities for them to be more effective in their energy efficiency and sustainability efforts. Each month, The Chalice and the Flame will share a sustainability tip with its readers.

### Unplug your electronics

Many appliances consume energy even when you're not using them. This is called "phantom load," and it can cost you \$100 or more per year. Prevent it by directly unplugging electronics or by plugging items into a surge protector/power strip and turning the whole strip off when you leave a room. And, it doesn't hurt your computer, TV, stereo or other appliances to be completely powered down periodically or for long periods of time.

### **Got Junk?**

Armed with a good back and hefty hand truck, Tom Lancefield will haul your junk TV, computer monitor, and other electronic items to the Marion County's waste transfer station which accepts such items for recycling at no cost. If you have such an item and would like to properly dispose of it, Tom will haul it to the transfer station for the cost of gas. Refrigerators, clothes washers, or dishwashers are also recyclable at the transfer station, but a modest fee is charged on top of Tom's gas reimbursement and some limitations apply.

Call Tom Lancefield at (503) 364-2550.

## Partner Church Pilgrimage Update

It is not too late to consider joining the group from Salem who will travel to Transylvania to explore Unitarian historical sites and enjoy home stays with our partner church friends in Simenfalva. Travelers will enjoy an emphasis on history and music with Rev. Rick Davis and son Zachary on the trip. We expect our trip guide to be John Dale, the very experienced UU Partner Church Council trip coordinator, who knows all the best places to eat and stay. The dates of the trip are June 23 (from PDX) thru July 5, 2016 (leaving Romanian airport Cluj-Napoca). Please contact Jean Sherbeck for more detailed information. [jean@sherbeck.net](mailto:jean@sherbeck.net)

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting for travelers will be February 28, at 12:30 after second service. All interested people are welcome to attend.

## New Administrative Committee

A new **Administrative Committee** has been introduced for a six-month trial period. Its purpose is to make decisions at a lower level on issues not related to the Board and to recommend options or solutions for items that do need a Board decision. The Administrative Committee will keep the Board apprised on all decisions. Paul Parmley will provide a summary of discussion from the Administrative Committee meeting.

Current members are: Rev. Rick, Paul Parmley, LJ Frederickson, Lorna Youngs, and Sam Scales.

LJ Frederickson, Board Chair, [lifrederic@gmail.com](mailto:lifrederic@gmail.com) or 503-602-2194

## 'Splinters' from the Board Secretary...

The January 14 board meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. Highlights are as follows...

- Petra Berger was nominated to fill Tom Lancefield's term on the board and unanimously accepted.
- Paul Parmley, who was already a director was asked to fill George Struble's term as Secretary on the board, a motion was made and unanimously accepted. There is now one open position on the board, Paul Parmley's prior position as director.
- John Prohodsky, Paul & Carol Manka were approved by the board as co-chair of the Finance Committee.
- The Fellowship and Fundraising positions are still open and need to be filled. This could be one person doing both jobs or two people sharing.
- There was discussion regarding a new committee to handle building rentals and generally agreed upon that this should fall under the Fundraising position.
- A policy is being created that says all funds collected at UUCS should run through the UUCS books.
- Facilities is looking for a handyman to help with building maintenance issues.
- The board is asking the Communications Team to help make sure UUCS is perceived as a free faith religion in all internal and external advertising.
- The next board meeting will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

The full drafts of the meeting minutes are available on the UUCS website - usually just a couple of days after the board meeting. Please go to [uusalem.org](http://www.uusalem.org) and select Our Congregation > Governance (<http://www.uusalem.org/Governance>) for the full meeting minutes. Additionally, once finalized, the board meeting minutes are kept in hard copy in the binder in the hallway.

Normal Board meetings are open to all visitors. We do ask that if you wish to address the board at a meeting that you contact the board chair in advance of the meeting so you can be added to the agenda.

### 2015-2016 Board Members:

- Chair (term ending June 30, 2016): LJ Frederickson
- Vice-Chair (term ending June 30, 2016): Jeff Geissler
- Secretary (term ending June 30, 2016): Paul Parmley
- Treasurer (term ending June 30, 2017): Lorna Youngs
- Directors (term ending June 30, 2016): John Prohodsky, David Jeffers, Petra Berger
- Directors (term ending June 30, 2017): Stephanie Jernstedt, Elenie Smith, (open)
- Past Chair: Barry Halgrimson

Submitted by: Paul Parmley, Board Secretary

## Minimum Wage Rally

On January 14, several members of the Social Justice in Action Team participated in a rally at the Capitol in support of raising Oregon's minimum wage. We listened to speakers talk about their struggle to survive on a minimum wage, heard religious leaders speak to the morality of paying workers fairly, and witnessed members of the Black and farm worker communities testify to their unique challenges.

After the rally, a few SJAT members attended a legislative hearing. Speakers both for and against raising the minimum wage shared their perspectives. At the hearing, Governor Brown introduced her plan to for raising the minimum wage. While the governor's proposal spreads a minimum wage increase out over a longer timeframe, it largely matches the request that minimum wage activists have asked for.

The legislature is expected to debate the issue in their February session. Signatures have already begun to be collected for a ballot initiative if the minimum wage is not raised to a level satisfactory to coalition advocacy groups.

Stop by the social justice table during the fellowship hour for information about raising Oregon's minimum wage and ways you might advocate for the wage increase.

Submitted by: Chad Halsey, Social Justice Chair

## January Share-the-Plate

Each month, UUCS shares a percentage of the monies it receives during a Time for Generosity at each Sunday service with an internal or external program that matches Unitarian Universalist principles. In January, the recipient program was the [Willamette Humane Society](#) (WHS). WHS is dedicated to assist pets and people in transition, complete families through adoption, reduce pet overpopulation, teach responsible pet care, and alleviate pet suffering. UUCS will be sending WHS \$538.15 from offerings collected at the first four Sunday services in January. Additionally, in months that have five Sundays, part of that Sunday's collection goes specifically to an internal program. January's fifth Sunday collections will be collected after the deadline for inclusion in this newsletter, but those funds will be shared with UUCS' [Child Care Program](#).

February's share-the-plate recipient is [Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network](#) (SIHN). SIHN is a coalition of congregations practicing hospitality to stand together against homelessness and to see lives changed, including their own.

Thank you for your generosity!

## Find Your Niche

### Kairos Community Lunch

An alternative way to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. was enjoyed by UUCS volunteers on Sunday, January 17 at St. Mark Lutheran during the Kairos Community Lunch. Many thanks to Caroline Bridges, Gayle Gilmour, Joel and Carolyn Woodman, Sandi Guenther, Danielle Shearer, Diane Mitchell, Adele Moore, Angela Gross, John Maluski (double yay!) and special thanks to Loraine Stuart for providing music while our guests dined. If I have left anyone out (we had some lovely last minute additions) consider yourself thanked! We served a lunch of nachos, soup, chili, tangerines, candy and cake to 71 hungry diners who consumed all but one small container of chili. Our remaining 2016 dates to serve are **June 12, August 14 & November 20** from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. It really is a lot of fun -- consider yourself invited! Sign up at the Social Justice table after Sunday service or by calling Mary Beth Hustoles at 503-587-7949.

## News of the UUCS Community

For questions or comments, contact column author Petra S. Berger at [petraoregon@comcast.net](mailto:petraoregon@comcast.net). You may send stories to UUCS editors at [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org) or call 503-400-7646. This column is dedicated to sharing news of the UUCS community, such as vignettes of "Caught in the Act of Kindness," Health Concerns, Volunteer Honors, Accomplishments at all Ages, Leadership, and The Spirit of UU among us & beyond us.

## Caught in the Act of Kindness

**Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick** is the personification of kindness at UUCS. Offering valuable yet complex services like **taking meeting minutes** comes naturally to her, whether it is at Membership meetings, Worship team meetings, or previously at the UUCS Board, or elsewhere. Gratitude of those team chairs is limitless. Here is a note from the Worship team chair: "Blessings be on you, Arrhiannon! What a generous soul. I am so appreciative that you will take on being secretary. In endless gratitude, Lennie." Of course, Arrhiannon is also a celebrant at Sunday services, as well as indispensable contributor to our UUCS hospitality /kitchen services, and so many other kindness contributions! THANK YOU, Arrhiannon!

## Volunteer Honors

Here are a few affirmations from the December and January **Shout-Out Board**:

- Thank you **Ted Dingman** for your dependable service on the "Welcome Table".
- Thanks always to **Jim Koch**. "Mr. Vacuum" cleans the carpet every week.
- Thanks to the **Randalls** for generosity that reaches the coast.
- Thanks to **Chad** for leadership in Social Justice.
- Thank you to all the **RE volunteers**.
- **Mom**...thank you so much for everything you do. You help soooo much and you care so much. I love you. **Danielle** [daughter of Christi, RE]
- **Loraine Stuart**, thank you for your radiant smiles that light up the room.
- I played music with three nice people. [**Dale**]
- Thank you, **LJ** for great dedicated leadership. Amen.
- **Carolyn** and **Joel** are awesome.
- **Lilla** sings wonderfully.
- Thanks to **George** and **Elsa** for everything they have done.
- Thanks to **Jorge** and **Cheryl Ramirez** for encouraging me to come to UUCS through their example.

## Accomplishments at All Ages

Submitted by **Eric Schuman**, long-time member of UUCS, active in social justice & denominational affairs:

"Bob Kimball, who was President of Starr King at the time (1969), told me that the decision had been made not to admit anyone who was right out of their undergraduate studies. He said, "We're not going to accept you, but I'd love if you would apply again in a few years." So that's how it started. Instead of attending seminary, I became a community organizer in rural Illinois and Mississippi, and I became interested in medicine through my work with free clinics. I enrolled in a Physician Assistant program and practiced medicine for 40 years.

I never gave up my desire and lifelong dream to attend Starr King. What I gave up was my desire to become a parish minister. The school's curriculum and educational philosophy appealed to me in 1968 and it continues to this day. After I retired from full time medical practice in 2011, I began to visit Starr King each year during trips to the Bay area. I got to know students and I met with Rebecca Parker and some faculty members. I realized that in 45 years, my affinity for the school hadn't waned. I looked at intersession classes and finally saw one I was interested in attending.

The reason I donate to the school is because I believe in ministry very, very strongly as a layperson and I want to support seminarians who will do great things in the world, whether it is in a parish or in the wider community through anti-racist efforts or fighting other kinds of oppression."

## The Spirit of UU – Among us & Beyond us

A letter of affirmation from our Minister, **Reverend Rick Davis**:

"The Solstice service was beautiful (thanks to CUUPS!) - I believe there were 88 in attendance. Many were visitors. This year we had an early Christmas Eve service for families with young children - I wasn't sure there was a need, but Christi saw that there was and she was right - there was a nice attendance at this simple and fun service aimed at young children. I'd say there were almost 40 in attendance (parents, grandparents and children). Christi and her girls produced a delightful service.

This year we had the highest attendance ever at our Christmas Eve Service and I could tell by around 7:15 pm that it was going to be an overflow crowd, so my son Zachary and I sprang into action and opened the folding door and set up extra chairs in the fellowship hall, all of which were soon filled. There were

about 300 folks in attendance at the 7:30 service - the place was packed! We carefully rehearsed this service (under Cherie Ulmer's skillful direction) and the service flowed very nicely. The music was delightful and many visitors seemed to leave feeling uplifted. The volunteers who hosted the fellowship hour afterwards did a wonderful job. It was a big night and having the hosts on hand made a tremendous difference. Thanks for organizing that, Joel. In sum, with the Solstice Service, the early family friendly Christmas Eve service, and the regular Christmas Eve service, we are really creating a welcoming place for our community.

Take care everyone, Reverend Rick”

### “Social Justice Prevails!

The **Membership Team** would like to give a “shout out” to three new members of our community not yet officially recognized. Their story is a fascinating journey touched by drama, intrigue, conflict and finally triumphs over what first appeared as insurmountable obstacles.

It all began when the Salem City Council passed an ordinance steeped in gender discrimination. This social injustice is what motivated our three new members to seek sanctuary at the UUUCS. They and their friends were aware of our belief in the inherent dignity of all beings and that we live our belief by being a “welcoming community.”

So it was that Dell, Jane, and Pootis were granted sanctuary and are now living in a protective environment next to the Religious Exploration wing. Yes, Dell, Pootis, and Jane are our resident roosters.

This odyssey began when Samantha Scales, our office manager, acceded to her children’s pleading to have backyard chickens. The city chicken ordinance allows one to have six chickens within the city limits; however, it specifically states, “No Roosters.” Samantha received the three chicks from a friend when they were a mere two days old knowing they could be roosters, but hoping at least two would be hens. As they grew, it became apparent all three of the chicks were roosters. It became obvious when early one morning all three made preadolescent attempts at crowing. At this moment the Scales family realized they were violating the discriminatory city ordinance banning roosters in the city limits. How could they solve this dilemma and still make sure Dell, Jane, and Pootis had full, happy lives?

Trying to figure out a solution, knowing the most common one for young roosters was sadly the stew pot; Samantha asked Rev. Rick if he knew any congregation members who might consider adopting three refugee juvenile roosters. His response, “Bring them here.”

In the true spirit of UU, they were allowed to move into a safe, comfortable refuge; a coop and pen designed and constructed by volunteers following city recommendations.

Roosters have historic ties to literature and to most of the world’s religions, and have been symbols for pride, honesty, courage, vigilance, arrogance, strength, and flamboyance. However, our roosters soon demonstrated a peculiar behavior that was an annoyance to the congregation: they took Rev. Rick’s stepping up to the pulpit to begin his sermon as their cue to begin crowing. The resulting snickers from the congregation didn’t add to the solemnity of the moment, and it was soon decided to relocate the rooster’s home further away from the sanctuary and closer to the RE wing.....the spirit of UU among us and now a little more beyond us.

This solved the problem. It also made visiting Dell, Pootis and Jane easier. They’re more visible and closer to the parking lot. Dell is beautifully adorned in white feathers, Jane is resplendent in gold and black, and Pootis is a dream in black and white. Aside from their crowing interruptions, they have generated the expected conversations centered around “Why roosters?” This is the very thing that the RE program was hoping for. Because, why not roosters? Roosters are annoying, loud, sometimes aggressive, and aren’t capable of egg production. Some would say, “They’re worthless”.

But are they? Our 7th principle states, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” It’s unconditional. Dell, Jane, and Pootis are part of Nature’s design, thereby having inherent worth.

It’s been a great learning opportunity for visitors and members to experience our feathered residents as being valued for just being roosters. Make a point of welcoming them as you would any new member. These three handsome bachelors are looking forward to meeting you.”

Submitted by **Joel Woodman**, Membership Co-Chair, with gratitude to Petra, Elsa and Sam for their helpful editing and suggestions:

# The Calendar

## Event Scheduling and Rescheduling

To schedule an event at UUCS, go to the website ([uusalem.org/Calendar](http://uusalem.org/Calendar)). While you are on the calendar page, click on the Event Scheduling Request Form link to reserve the room and time. If you later need to reschedule your meeting or event, please submit a new Event Scheduling Request Form **and** follow up with an email to [office@uusalem.org](mailto:office@uusalem.org) asking that your prior meeting or event time be cancelled. If you don't have access to email, call the office; leave a message if your call isn't answered. Please do not ask office staff to remember spoken information when they're away from their desks.

## UU Compassionate Sangha

Wednesday, February 3, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A welcoming place for meditation practice. Folks are asked to minimize movement and come enjoy the silence together. There is a bell for stretching half way through. Those new to meditation are invited to come at 7:00 p.m. From 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., attendees are provided with basic instruction and explanation. The last hour, 8:00 to 9 p.m., is for discussion, compassion, and about how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

## Microfinance Committee meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 6:00 p.m.

The Microfinance Committee will meet to discuss potential projects and to plan for a spring fundraising event.

## Membership Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 6:30 p.m.

## UU 101

Thursday, February 4, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of discussion about Unitarian Universalism, the history, the movement, and what it means to be a UU. The discussion is designed for those who are new to Unitarian Universalism, but all are welcome and encouraged to come and share their experiences. A light dinner will be served. Please rsvp to: UUCS Office, 503-364-0932

## Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.

## Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.

Simple, easy-to-learn movements and songs honoring spiritual traditions from around the world. The dances bring together sacred phrases from the world's religious traditions in heart-awakening circle dances dedicated to peace within and without. See [SalemDances.com](http://SalemDances.com) for more information.

## Membership Open House

Sunday, February 7, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Do you have questions about your membership at UUCS? Questions about what it means to be a member of UUCS? You are invited to stop by the front office and chat with our Office Manager, Samantha Scales. And, if you are ready to become a member, the Membership Book will be open and available to sign.

## Women's Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 p.m.

Women's Alliance 1st meeting of 2016. All are welcome. Program: Willamette Valley Children's Charity, a new organization to support families after the loss of a child, i.e. groceries, burial clothing and remembrances during the holidays. Business meeting with dessert follows. For more information, contact Ruth Larson or Lynn Cardiff

## UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Wednesday, February 10, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A welcoming place for meditation practice.

## Board Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 6:00 p.m.

## Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.

## Kabbalistic Shabbat Salem

Friday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Jonathan Seidel in an accessible mystically oriented service of joyful prayer, chant, kirtan and mediation with lots of music, as well as Drash (short teaching or homily)

Our goal is monthly prayerful gatherings of singing and study in joy, forming a new caring community of Jewish devotion in Salem. Please spread the news!

For further information, please email Jonathan Seidel at [rabbiSeidel@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiSeidel@gmail.com) or call him at 541-520-3434 or the UUCS office at 503-364-0932. UUCS contact is Angela Gross [uu4peace@gmail.com](mailto:uu4peace@gmail.com)

## This Machine

Saturday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.

'This Machine' is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's hilarious, rhyme-intensive original songs. See page 6 for more information.

## Compassionate Connection

Sunday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.

Are you going through a hard time? Would you like to feel the compassionate support of others? Please join us in the front of the sanctuary, following service, for Compassionate Connection, a time when we lay our hands upon those in distress and our minister offers a prayerful reflection. We also invite other members to join us and offer compassionate support.

### **Women's Retreat Bake Sale**

Sunday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.

Proceeds go towards scholarships for women to attend the Retreat.

### **Contemplative Sung Prayer Service**

Sunday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.

Contemplative sung prayer, led in the style of the Taize Community of Taize, France. Led by vocal choir, guitar, viola/violin, and flute. Includes an anointing/laying on of hands for the purpose of healing for those attendees wishing this. Led in dim candlelight, includes a period of silent meditation

### **Worship Team Meeting**

Monday, February 15, 6:00 p.m.

### **Committee on Human Resources Meeting**

Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 p.m.

### **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha**

Wednesday, February 17, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A welcoming place for meditation practice.

### **Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

### **Dances of Universal Peace**

Thursday, February 18, 7:00 p.m.

Simple, easy-to-learn movements and songs honoring spiritual traditions from around the world. The dances bring together sacred phrases from the world's religious traditions in heart-awakening circle dances dedicated to peace within and without. See [SalemDances.com](http://SalemDances.com) for more information.

### **Salem Covenant of UU Pagans Meet & Greet**

Friday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.

A place for pagans to gather, connect, and share. All are welcome to discuss and learn about each other, events, and shared spirituality. Bring a snack to share and a smile. We'd like to get to know you.

### **Animal Chalice Group**

Sunday, February 21, 12:45 p.m.

Join us for this month's meeting as we discuss our plans for 2016. We are in the process of planning and scheduling volunteer opportunities, guest speakers, and more. The group was off to a strong start in 2015 and we are excited about where we will go next. Come join us for that discussion!

### **Facilities Team Meeting**

Tuesday, February 23, 6:00 p.m.

### **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha**

Wednesday, February 24, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A welcoming place for meditation practice.

### **NW Permaculture Film Series**

Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.

## **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem**

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

**Minister:** The Rev. Richard R. Davis

[rdavis@uuma.org](mailto:rdavis@uuma.org)

**Intern Minister:** Theresa Soto

[Tisoto@gmail.com](mailto:Tisoto@gmail.com)

**Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:**

Christi Olsen, [christi@uusalem.org](mailto:christi@uusalem.org)

**Music Director:** Aimee Larsen-Amend

Sara Greenleaf Seitz, **Pianist**

[music@uusalem.org](mailto:music@uusalem.org)

**Board Chair:** L.J. Frederickson

[lifrederic@gmail.com](mailto:lifrederic@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Samantha Scales

**Office open Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Phone:** 503-364-0932

**Fax:** 503-364-3280

**E-mail:** [office@uusalem.org](mailto:office@uusalem.org)

**UUCS Internet Links to:**

**Website:** [www.uusalem.org](http://www.uusalem.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/UUSalem](https://facebook.com/UUSalem)

**Newsletter Editors:** [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org)

This issue was edited by Joel Woodman and formatted by Mike Berger.

### **DEADLINES:**

**Newsletter Submissions** for *The Chalice and the Flame* must be received by the Friday before publication. The deadline for the March newsletter is noon on **Friday, February 26**.

Please send your submissions, including personal news items, directly to the editors at the following email address: [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org).

**Announcements** for the separate **Sunday Bulletin** must be at the **office** by 9 a.m. **Tuesday**.

**EVENT SCHEDULING:** please use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website! Note that all fields are required. When complete, remember to click the submit button.

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:** to subscribe to *The Chalice and the Flame* monthly newsletter and mid-month update (September thru May), email your request to the UUCS office at [office@uusalem.org](mailto:office@uusalem.org) and include your full name and email address. If you are a pledging member and want to receive a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail, also include a physical address.

### **Salem Philharmonia Orchestra**

Friday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

Program "MUSIC that captures your DREAMS".  
Pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m. See [salemphil.org](http://salemphil.org) for details.

### **Celebration Dinner**

Saturday, February 27, 5:30 p.m.

The Stewardship Team is hosting a buffet dinner to celebrate and support the great works of UUCS. More information, page 5.

### **Partner Church Travelers Meeting**

Sunday, February 28, 12:30 p.m.

### **Social Action Meeting**

Sunday, February 28, 12:30 p.m.

### **RE Team Meeting**

Sunday, February 28, 12:45 p.m.

### **Celebration Brunch**

Sunday, February 28, 10:30 a.m.

The Stewardship Team is sponsoring a Brunch between services. The congregation is invited to bring fruit and/or fruit salad to supplement the quiches that will be provided. For more information, contact

Bob Muir [bob.muir@comcast.net](mailto:bob.muir@comcast.net) or  
Ginny Merrimen [merriman.vp@gmail.com](mailto:merriman.vp@gmail.com).

### **Communications Team Meeting**

Monday, February 29, 4:00 p.m.

## **Worship Services and Religious Exploration**

### **February Theme: *Desire***

The sermon topic is similar at both the early and later services, with the early 9:30 a.m. service being more interactive. Childcare and Religious Exploration (RE) classes for children through 5th grade are available at both services. RE for grades 6 through 12 is offered at 11:15 only.

### **Sunday, February 7**

### **"It's a Stretch"**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**Gloria Holland**, Celebrant; **Steve Rosen**, Anchor Music, **Loraine Stuart**

Our 3rd UU Principle states that "we covenant to affirm and promote...acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." What is "spiritual growth"? How can you grow spiritually?

### **Sunday, February 14 " Unfurling Ourselves: Intersections of Desire, Growth and Truth"**

**Theresa Soto**, Intern Minister

**Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick**, Celebrant; **Gloria Holland**, Anchor

First Service Music, **Aimee Larsen-Amend and Ryan Amend**; Second Service Music, **UUCS Choir**

In this service, we will examine the ways that desire feeds our search for an ethical or believing life. We will consider what it means to trust our own intuitions and longings and how they fit into our greater goal of Beloved Community. Come prepared to think of something that isn't real for you yet, except as a longing in your heart.

### **Sunday, February 21**

### **"Minestrone Ministry"**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**  
& **The Rev. Millie Rochester**

**Lennie Martin**, Celebrant; **David Gortner**, Anchor Music, **Ted Cory**

Just as each contribution is an essential ingredient in the popular story "Stone Soup," every person brings significant gifts to the life of a congregation. Through our gifts, offered with a generous heart, we share ministry.

### **Sunday, February 28**

### **"Celebration Sunday"**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**Steve Rosen**, Celebrant; **Ann Hanus**, Anchor Music, **UUCS Choir**

Join us as we celebrate our beloved community through story and song. and offer our pledges of financial support for the coming congregational year



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem**  
**5090 Center Street NE**  
**Salem, Oregon 97317**

