



# *The Chalice and the Flame*

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## August 2017

### **Choir Season Begins Soon**

Our 2017-2018 Choir season will begin with our annual potluck at UUCS on Thursday, August 31, at 6 pm. We invite anyone interested in joining the choir to gather with us, share delicious food, and have some fun! If you have questions or would like more information, please email Director of Music Aimee Larson-Amend at [music@uusalem.org](mailto:music@uusalem.org).

### **Aimee Larsen-Amend Concert, Sept. 1**

Aimee Larsen-Amend, an accomplished soprano as well as our Director of Music, will be giving a concert at Silverton's United Methodist Church, 203 W Main Street, on Friday, September 1, at 7 pm. She will sing music by J.S. Bach, Franz Schubert and Christopher Wicks. The concert is free; donations will be accepted.

### **Chemeketans Clear Lake Hike, Sept. 4**

On Labor Day, September 4, George Struble leads his annual hike around Clear Lake. Clear Lake is a jewel; the trail is good, and the scenery magnificent! UUs are welcome; this is a Chemeketans hike, so we are all expected to abide by Chemeketans rules. If you want to go, phone George at (503) 364-3929.

### **Meet UUCS Members – Become a Host!**

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve our church, please consider volunteering to become a Sunday Service Host. Hosting is an excellent way to meet UUCS members and visitors, make sure they feel welcome, and answer some of their questions. These volunteers host one service a month and choose which Sunday and which service will work for them.

To volunteer or to learn more, please contact Membership Team co-chair Michael Pollard at [mpollard608@aol.com](mailto:mpollard608@aol.com) or (503) 779-7793.

There will be an orientation meeting on Sunday, August 27 in the sanctuary from 12 noon to 1 pm. A light lunch will be provided.

### **Annual August Collection for Our Partner Church in Simenfalva, Romania**

Again, this August we will continue our tradition of collecting needed items to send to our partners in Simenfalva, Transylvania.

Our partner minister, Rev. Sandor Szen, suggests that easy-to-read books for beginning English students would be appreciated. The English teacher reported that some books we sent earlier were too difficult for the students, so let's concentrate on books aimed at the lower grades.

The doctors in Simenfalva and the nearby village where Dr. Csilla Szen practices could use over-the-counter pain relievers (please check for extended expiration dates) and vitamins B and C. The above items are very expensive in Transylvania, and some households do not routinely have a supply. This is always a fun project, and the items we send are much appreciated by our Unitarian friends.

Please drop off your donations at the Social Justice Table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you all for your help. Contact Jean Sherbeck with any questions at (503) 623-8365.

### **August Share The Plate Recipient is Family Building Blocks**

Family Building Blocks exists with the mission of keeping children safe and families together in Marion and Polk counties. The agency focuses on families with the greatest needs. Services include home visits, child abuse prevention programs and early Head Start. Brandy O'Bannon, Senior Resource Development Director, will speak to our congregation at the August 6 service and tell us more about Family Building Blocks. For more details on this agency go to <https://familybuildingblocks.org/>.



## Reverential Ramblings

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

I am writing this on the eve of my staycation (why leave Oregon in the summer?), and you'll be reading it just as that's ending. If past experience is any guide I will be glad to take a vacation from my staycation and return our shared ministry. I especially cherish ministry because of YOU, the people amongst whom I fulfill my calling.

You are a diverse group, but one thing you have in common is that you have chosen to be part of a Unitarian Universalist religious community. Now I try to be sparing in giving advice, but I can't restrain myself – You should get to know one another better – **JOIN A COVENANT GROUP THIS YEAR!** You'll make new friends, find and be able to offer support in meaningful ways and thus strengthen our community.

Stay tuned for opportunities to sign up – we'll do our best to make this easy for you.

The purpose of our covenant groups is simple yet profound. They are called covenant groups because the members of each group covenant (promise) to do their best to attend regularly and to respect and support one another. Each group has a trained facilitator who will help offer gentle guidance and support.

Members of each small group gather once a month to have a facilitated conversation focusing on certain themes chosen by members of our UU Soul Matters Sharing Circle (we are one of over 200 congregations who pool our best ideas to create engaging themes to explore in our covenant groups and in our worship). In the course of these monthly conversations you get to share, explore, discover and bond with the members of your group.

One of the greatest social ills in our country today is widespread social isolation, which has dire consequences for so many – loneliness, alienation, despair, death. It's painfully ironic that the cruelest form of punishment still allowed in our society is solitary confinement in prisons, and yet because of many modern factors – social, political, technological, etc. – too many outside the prison walls end up living lives of solitary confinement. We are called to counter socially atomizing forces and create loving community.

Everyone needs/deserves to be loved, listened to, appreciated, and affirmed and we're simply trying to create meaningful opportunities for this to happen through our covenant groups.

You may be reading this and thinking that you like the general idea of covenant groups but also be thinking "it's not for me." Yet remember that your presence could make a positive, deepening influence on another. And isn't it true that so often in life we don't really know what we need until we receive it?

Please give this your serious consideration. The more of us who participate, the stronger we will be as a congregation in a time when our world needs strong, open minded communities of conscience and connection.

Love,  
Rick



## Lifespan Religious Exploration

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

**August is here!** We are over half way through our summer program with four Sundays to go!

One of our six Unitarian Universalist Sources is "Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit." We will culminate our summer time together by reflecting on science--and by creating solar ovens to bake s'mores! Donations of cereal boxes or small pizza boxes to create these ovens would be appreciated!



### Looking Ahead:

**September 3**, we will be preparing for our fall program to begin. Therefore, **we will not be having individual Religious Exploration (RE) classes or nursery care.**

On **September 10**, we all gather and worship together for the annual **Water Communion Service**. Plan to bring a small amount of water from your summer travels and activities, whether that be from a local park, a body of water across the country or out of the country. Some even bring water from a faucet in their home! (If you forget, there will be water for you to share at the service~) The water brought is symbolic of our shared faith that comes from many different sources. I hope you will join in this tradition.

To make this year's RE program possible, we need people to serve our children/youth in leading and assisting in our individual classes or helping with nursery care. We need people to commit to one Sunday a month during second service. This is a great opportunity to grow in spirit and mind! I have never left on a Sunday without gaining some learning from working with our amazing children and youth! **September 12 from 6:45-8:00 pm**, I will be offering a **WELCOME BACK TO RE DESSERT and VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** for all of our volunteers! This is a time to meet other RE volunteers, review the volunteer handbook, fill out and/or update your volunteer forms, set-up your volunteer schedule and eat wonderful desserts! PLEASE plan to attend.

Our **fall individual RE Classes** and our new first service RE offering will **begin on September 17!** PLEASE be sure to fill out a new registration form if you are new to our RE program this fall. If you have already filled out a registration form a previous year, please take time to update your information as needed. The registration form can be accessed on our website, and hard copies will be available in the hallway from an RE Team member.

Enjoy your summer with your families--fall will be here before you know it! I hope that you have wonderful times planned to just be together enjoying your time no matter the activity. . .

In spirit and *until next time.....Christi*

Christi J Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

# Highlights

## Opal Creek Waters Artist in SJ

You may have noticed a familiar face and name on the front page of the July 12 Statesman Journal. April Waters, whose "Opal Creek Waters" hangs on the west wall of the sanctuary, was shown with her recently painted portrait of World War I Medal of Honor recipient Edward Alworth. The portrait is displayed in the Edward Alworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon. [Read the article.](#)

## Board Minutes

The latest board minutes are available on the UUCS website. The draft minutes from the July meeting are posted on the [Our Elected Leaders webpage](#).

## Safer Congregation Committee's Policies on Website

At their June meeting, the UUCS board approved four policies that define the role of the Safer Congregation Committee. The committee was formed to address and reduce sexual harassment in our congregation. To read about the Committee and their governing policies visit [the Safer Congregation Committee webpage](#).

## Many Thanks To SIHN Volunteers

UUCS was honored to host Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network (SIHN) guests for two weeks: what a show of volunteers! When the call went out for emergency overnight hosts this week, the response was overwhelming! Huge thanks to UUCS volunteers: Sara Rohrs, Caroline Bridges, Jon Chinburg, Iris Sea, Michael Preston, Mary Beth Hustoles, Michael Pollard, Diana Nicholson-Nelson, Lisa Marcus, Joel Martin, Lennie Martin, Travis Kanucchi, John Prohodski, Ted & Carolyn Cory, Sara Pickett, Janet Stevens, Jorge & Cheryl Ramirez, Jean Sherbeck, Patrice & Michael Pollard, Rebeka & Jay Gipson-King, Sharon Pierson, Joan Erickson, Elenie Smith, Ed Kramer, Ben Cavaletto, Beth Anne Huffine, Alan & Gloria Holland, Maria Danek, Virginia Merriman, Stephanie Jernstedt, Peggy Ann Burton, Ed & Jackie Klimowicz, Diane Kirk, Megan Altorfer, George and Elsa Struble, Angela Gross, DeAnn Rathbun, Eugenia Becker, and Loraine Stuart. From SIHN, thanks to Lee Effinger and Cody Martin.

Much gratitude to Denise Hughes for coordinating all the pieces of hosting (SIHN). There are many, many moving parts to hosting. Well done Denise!!

## SJAT Joined PCUN Event

Two SJAT members – Michael Pollard and Sarah Rohrs - joined Intern Minister Monica Jacobsen for the Woodburn Farm tour on July 22 in Woodburn. This tour helped inform us for our immigrant social justice work.

We saw how some farm workers live, met fellow allies in the faith community and heard from PCUN Director Ramon Ramirez about struggles and successes. PCUN is **Oregon's farmworkers union and the largest Latino organization in the state.**

We joined 50 others from the First Unitarian Church in Portland, and other faith-based organizations, far more than the 12-15 people PCUN expected. Former UUCS community minister Connie Yost, now the First Unitarian Church affiliated community minister, invited us.

From PCUN we learned farm worker lives are hard. Life expectancy is just 49. They live in chronic pain, go hungry and have no access to health care. Nearly 300,000 are poisoned annually by pesticides. They work 7-days a week but get no overtime.

Temporary farm laborers, recruited from Mexico, get temporary legal status. But PCUN characterizes their lives as "indentured slaves." If they complain they are deported.

Some conditions are appalling. One labor camp we saw had ten people crammed into one room. They pay \$100 per person per month. There is a common bathroom for camp members and common kitchen for 120 people. Transportation is their biggest need.

However, a new labor camp, being built now, is one sign of improvement. PCUN also showed us one of its housing complexes for agricultural workers that is a vast improvement over farm labor camps. In this complex, families are not isolated and not living in crisis conditions. Parents can take classes, and be in good positions to help their children succeed.

Our team is hoping to go on another farm work tour with PCUN in the near future. We will keep the congregation informed in case others would like to go. If you'd like more information on PCUN go to [www.pcun.org](http://www.pcun.org).

## 20 Years Ago This Month



July and August of 1997 were productive months. No rain to hold things up. The weather was warm; the contractors often started at 7:00 so they could be done before the heat of the late afternoon. Framing, roofing, siding, interior walls, plumbing, electrical installation, heating ...

The site was a beehive of activity, carefully coordinated so workers didn't get in each other's way! The first photo shows the roof in progress, and the foyer and kitchen taking shape. Note that the 1997 foyer was about half the size of the current one; the front wall of the foyer was lifted up and moved about 20 feet north in

2003 to expand the foyer! The kitchen was small, adjoining the northwest corner of the sanctuary; that kitchen area became the southeast corner of Hanneman Hall.

The parking lot was paved in the latter half of August. We were very happy that we were able to afford that! Most of the grading of the site was done in August, preparatory to our work on the landscaping; more about the landscaping in the next two reports!

Our members continued their daily cleanup. Serious painting started in late July; we got into a rhythm in which we painted interior walls as fast as the drywall folks finished them. The electrical contractor confided to me later that when he hears that the customer will do the painting, he expects lots of delays because the painting isn't done when he is ready to install the fixtures. But not on this job! We were on top of it. The second photo, taken August 7, shows us painting the library. Dick French's back is in the foreground; John Davenport is in the corner. Painting the siding started in earnest later in August.

We applied for a UUA grant under a Mortgage Guarantee and Grant program that provided 2% of all the money we had raised ourselves for the project. We were able to include components like the separate fund being raised toward a good piano, and the Chair Fund that was financed by Barbara Hanneman's Chair Dinners! The grant eventually provided \$17,320.



Into July we were still considering different options for our septic system. It would have been better to have figured that out earlier, but the relevant County department was not to be hurried. The result was our sand filter system with a drainage field smaller than might have been required; that helped us to save most of our trees. We were able to do that partly because we documented our water use in our old building with daily water meter readings over two months!

~Submitted By George Struble

# Calendar

## **Membership Team Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 1, 6:30 pm**

## **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation**

**Wednesday, August 2, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm**

A welcoming place for meditation practice.

Session I is for experienced meditation practitioners. Session II provides attendees with basic instruction, and explanation. The last hour, 8 - 9 pm, is for discussion, compassion, about how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

## **Dances of Universal Peace**

**Friday, August 4, 7:00 pm**

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.

## **Refuge Recovery**

**Friday, August 4, 7:00 pm**

UUCS' Addiction Recovery Ministry and Support program is glad to sponsor the Refuge Recovery group meeting every Friday from 7 to 8 pm at UUCS. The mission of this national non-profit organization is to build an extensive and comprehensive network of groups, meetings, and communities that practice and promulgate Buddhist teachings and meditations for anyone seeking recovery from addiction. Drawing inspiration from the core teachings of the Four Noble Truths, emphasis is placed on both knowledge and empathy as means for overcoming addiction and its causes. Those struggling with any form of addiction greatly benefit when they understand the suffering that addiction has created while developing compassion for the pain they have experienced.

## **Landscape Work Party**

**Saturday, August 5, 9:00 am**

We are gathering to move yards of compost and plants in order to make space for our shed that will be delivered August 14. Please bring work gloves. Please bring a snack to share so we have a chance to get to know each other during break time.

## **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation**

**Wednesday, August 9, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm**

(See August 2)

## **Refuge Recovery**

**Friday, August 11, 7:00 pm**

(See August 4)

## **Zazenkai**

**Saturday, August 12, 6:00 am**

All day silent retreat. Walking meditations, sitting, chanting, dharma talk. Silent potluck lunch.

## **Salem Covenant of UU Pagans meeting**

**Monday, August 14, 6:30 pm**

Monthly business meeting for the executive team of Salem Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, discussing items that are relevant to the spiritual and business needs of the group, planning for events, and addressing and supporting the greater pagan community at UUCS. The meeting is open to anyone.

## **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation**

**Wednesday, August 16, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm**

(See August 2)

## **Dances of Universal Peace**

**Thursday, August 17, 7:00 pm**

(See August 4)

## **Finance Team meeting**

**Friday, August 18, 10:00 am**

## **Refuge Recovery**

**Friday, August 18, 7:00 pm**

(See August 4)

## **RE Team Meeting**

**Sunday, August 20, 11:45 am**

## **Social Justice in Action Team meeting**

**Sunday, August 20, 11:45 am**

Regular monthly Social Justice In Action Team meeting.

## **Worship Team meeting**

**Monday, August 21, 6:00 pm**

Monthly Meeting of the Worship Team to plan & discuss Sunday Services

## **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation**

**Wednesday, August 23, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm**

(See August 2)

## **NW Permaculture Film Series**

**Thursday, August 24, 6:30 pm**

Permaculture is: "Earth Care, People Care, and Return of Surplus", creating systems that are not only sustainable but also enriching to the soil and all life. Please join us every 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm for a finger food potluck & showing of a permaculture inspired film. New film and discussion every month!

## **Refuge Recovery**

**Friday, August 25, 7:00 pm**

(See August 4)

### Host training

Sunday, August 27, 12:00 pm

[\(See article\)](#)

### Communications Team Meeting

Monday, August 28, 4:00 pm

Join the communications team for discussion of progress on our UUCS newsletter, website, Facebook, publicity and video projects. Newcomers or visitors welcome.

### Microfinance Committee meeting

Monday, August 28, 6:00 pm

The UUCS Microfinance Committee will meet to discuss the October 1 Service and October 1 & 8 Fundraiser. A meeting of those individuals interested in traveling to Nicaragua will follow our regular meeting.

### Salem Covenant of UU Pagans Meet & Greet

Monday, August 28, 7:00 pm

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.

### UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, August 30, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm

[\(See August 2\)](#)

### First Choir Rehearsal & Potluck

Thursday, August 31, 6:00 pm

[\(See article\)](#)

### Newsletter Deadline

Friday, September 1, 8:00 pm

### Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, September 1, 7:00 pm

[\(See August 4\)](#)

### Refuge Recovery

Friday, September 1, 7:00 pm

[\(See August 4\)](#)

### Life Lines Lay Ministry meeting

Saturday, September 2, 9:30 am

### Membership Team meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 6:30 pm

FIRST FRIDAY MUSIC AT SILVERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**AIMÉE LARSEN-AMEND**  
SOPRANO



J.S. BACH - CANTATA 51  
CHRISTOPHER WICKS - FIVE SONGS ON POEMS  
OF ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS  
FRANZ SCHUBERT - SHEPHERD ON THE ROCK

*Friday, September 1, 2017 7pm*

203 W Main St, Silverton, OR 97381  
Donations Accepted

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:** to subscribe to *The Chalice and the Flame* monthly newsletter, 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.

# Worship Services and Religious Exploration

August Share the Plate Recipient: [Family Building Blocks](#)

Service Time: 10:30 am

**Sunday, August 6**

**Monica Jacobson**

## "To Welcome All"

**Celebrant:** Gloria Holland; **Anchor:** David Jeffers  
**Music:** Sara Greenleaf

"Radical hospitality" sounds like a wonderful thing to offer, but what does it really look like? There are serious challenges - and beautiful gifts - to be had in striving to welcome all.

**RE Information:** We will hear the story "The Seeds of Peace" by Laura Berkeley and Alison Dexter and then create a mosaic of a chalice with seeds and beans.

**Sunday, August 13**

**Monica Jacobson**

## "Do You See What I'm Hearing?"

**Celebrant:** Lennie Martin; **Anchor:** David Gortner

Music is a vital part of how we communicate with the world. It exists not only in song but in every facet of language, spoken and unspoken. Join me in August 13th as we delve into a world of sound.

**RE Information:** We will be discussing spiritual practices and creating nature scene meditation jars! (Thank you **Sarah Rohrs** for our collection of plastic jars!)

**Sunday, August 20**

**Bob Francis**

## "The Good Samaritan"

**Celebrant:** Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick; **Anchor:** Janet Stevens  
**Music:** Ted Cory

**RE Information:** Gil Nichol森 Nelson will share photos of their trip to Simenfalva, Romania. This week, we will start our RE Pen Pal program with our sister congregation!

**Sunday, August 27**

**Paul Wilson**

## "Oneness Coalition in Today's World"

**Celebrant:** Joanne Manson; **Anchor:** Laura Christian

Paul Wilson is part of the original Oneness Coalition team, which is a group of individuals from diverse faith traditions who promote peace by worshipping together. This team has provided interfaith worship services at various Salem area locations about twice per year since early 2003. Paul's talk will focus on Oneness Coalition's efforts and their relevance in today's world.

**Sunday, August 27**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## "Sparkle & Clean Day"

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens; **Anchor:** Sara Pickett

Come dressed informally! After a brief service, we'll don our gloves for a couple hours and take special care of our facilities. As a community, we will wash windows, vacuum in all the corners, dust our chairs, window ledges and art, oil the wood, sweep and damp mop our hardwood floors, deep clean our kitchen and generally take stock of the welcoming nature of a clean and safe home, so carefully watched over by our Facilities Team.

**RE Information:** **No RE classes today!** Thank you to everyone that is helping with cleaning the RE wing today!!



AUGUST COLLECTION FOR OUR  
SIMENFALVA PARTNERS

**SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR PARTNER CHURCH**

ENGLISH BOOKS FOR AGES 10 – 14, VERY EASY-TO-  
READ, FOR BEGINNING ENGLISH STUDENTS

OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN RELIEVERS

VITAMINS B AND C - Please choose bottles with extended  
expiration dates.

Bring your donations to the Social Justice Table  
in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

***Darn that auto-correct!***

*In an email about honoring the donor of a donated piano: “we will  
put a small plague on the piano.”*

*In a Board minutes draft: “He is recommending that the  
Leadership Dinner be opened up to the general membership next  
year as the evening was a wonderful time to learn of the mired  
church activities which happened throughout the year.”*

*~Submitted by George Struble*

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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**Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:**  
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**RE Sunday Assistants:** Marnie Jeffers,  
Elsa McKinney-Menchaca

**Music Director:** Aimee Larsen-Amend  
**Pianist:** Sara Greenleaf Seitz  
[music@uusalem.org](mailto:music@uusalem.org)

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This issue was edited and formatted by Sharon Pierson, edited and proofed by Elsa Struble and Vicki Cunningham.

### DEADLINES:

**Newsletter Submissions** for *The Chalice and the Flame* must be received by the Friday before publication. The deadline for the **September 5** newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **September 1**. Please send your submissions, including personal news items, directly to [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org).

**Announcements** for "This Week At UUCS" must be submitted to [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org) by noon **Tuesday**.

**EVENT SCHEDULING:** please use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add your event to the UUCS calendar and/or reserve a UUCS space.

**PUBLICITY:** please use the [Event Publicity Request](#) form on the UUCS website! This form is a one-stop place to put a notice in the Sunday announcements, the UUCS newsletter, the UUCS website and or Facebook.