



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

September 2017

UUUs Sharing a Lifetime Memory

The "Great American Eclipse" exceeded all expectation for many of us. It was a spectacular, thought provoking experience that bordered on the spiritual. As the eclipse transitioned from the moments of totality to the new light, it brought to mind the lighting of the UU Chalice. Thoughts turned to all the meanings the light of the chalice have come to represent.

*Let there be light
The light of joy, the light of happiness, and the light of contentment
May it illuminate our paths and fill our lives with peace
And let there be dark
For it is from our dark places that we are brought forward
Tried and tested
And impelled toward growth
It is in these places that we realize compassion and learn to love
And there was day and there was night.
And there was joy and there was sorrow.
And it was good.*

Andrew Pakula, Unitarian Universalist Association

We want to thank all those UUUCS members and friends who opened their homes providing lodging and hospitality to UU guests in exchange for their generous donations to UUUCS. Our UU Hosts included: **Bob Muir and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz**, **Ted and Carolyn Cory**, **Allana McDonald**, **Sharon Walsh**, **Joan Erickson**, **Steve Rosen**, **Gloria and Alan Holland**, **George and Elsa Struble**, **Janet Neuburg**, **Jo and Jerry Nathan**, **Mary and John Gear**, **Lyndsey and Jerry Houser**, **Melanie Weston**, **Susan Farris-Gosser**, **Anna and Jack Tally**, and **Mako Hayashi-Mayfield**, **Joel and Carolyn Woodman**, **Vicki Darden**, and **Weston and Nancy Heringer**.

We are pleased to report that after some incidental expenses the Eclipse B & B Fund Raiser proceeds totaled \$9321.66

Additional "Thanks" to **Vicki Cunningham**, **Sharon Pierson**, and **Lynn Albright** who provided promotional suggestions and gave the project a prominent place on the UUUCS website. Our gratitude also goes to **Samantha Scales** who coordinated the payments and made it easy for our guests to make their donations to UUUCS.

It all began several months ago when **Mary Bray**, **Marnie Jeffers**, **Gloria Holland**, **Lennie Martin**, and **Lorna Youngs** made calls to our congregants inquiring if they had a guest room and would be interested in hosting out of town UU's for the eclipse. It was a mixed bag of success, but they managed to get enough host volunteers to allow us to launch the program. Additional host volunteers stepped forward as the weeks passed.

[*Read stories and comments from hosts and guests on [Page 10](#).*]

Covenant Groups Start Soon – Sign up now!

If you want to grow spiritually while building fellowship with other UUUCS folks, consider joining a covenant group. There are many options for the type of group you join and the monthly meeting time. For more information and a link to the online registration form [see our website](#).



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Years ago when I was first entering the ministry I had my eyes on Charlottesville, Virginia as a possible place to settle – it is a lovely city with a thriving UU congregation. At the time I'd never been to Oregon and couldn't have told you what city was the state capital. Now I'm grateful to call Salem, OR my home. What a shame it is that today when you hear the name "Charlottesville" it calls to mind the white supremacists who invaded and paraded through that town with their hateful racist, anti-Semitic symbols and slogans.

The president's failure to unequivocally condemn this display of bigotry was a gross dereliction of his moral duty. Then, to rub salt in our nation's wounds and show his contempt for our laws, he abused his presidential power to pardon a remorseless Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who was convicted by the courts for refusing to cease his racial profiling and mass incarceration of Hispanics in Phoenix, AZ. All of this came on top of Trump's cruel and unnecessary ban of transgender people in the military, not to mention his continuing efforts to ban Moslems from entering the country.

Even as the president was issuing this unpardonable pardon, Hurricane Harvey's torrential rains – greatly exacerbated by the global climate change he calls a "hoax" – were flooding much of eastern Texas, claiming lives, leaving thousands homeless and a toxic stew of floodwaters.

Meanwhile, at yet another political rally the president – climbing to ever loftier heights of hypocrisy - accused the press of propagating "fake news." Thus continues the steady rain of lies from Hurricane Donald, flooding our beloved homeland with a toxic stew of misinformation, mistrust, misunderstanding and misanthropy. His relentless attacks on the free press drew an unprecedented rebuke from the Chief of the UN Human Rights commission, who noted how this has put journalists around the world at risk and emboldened autocrats who seek to silence the press.

I'm not inclined to be judgmental and censorious, but the president is unfit for office and poses a real danger to our democracy. So much of what he is doing is cruel, divisive and antithetical to the spirit of love, compassion and justice. This compels me (and you and millions of others) to speak out in opposition. Indeed, we are called to speak out and actively resist this administration's many abuses of power – they are assaults on the values we cherish (so beautifully expressed by our UUA Purposes and Principles).

At such a moment as this I am profoundly grateful that we are part of a religious movement that encourages us to embody and promote these sacred values that call for us to respect the inherent worth and dignity of all people (especially those who are marginalized and scapegoated).

After reading this indictment of President Trump you might conclude that I despise him. After searching my heart I can attest that this is not so. He cannot possibly know true joy and peace in his heart while inflicting so much harm, causing such discord. I don't wish him ill – I only wish that he could be removed from office and someday begin to reflect upon and repent for all the wrongs he has done.

Love, Rick



Lifespan Religious Exploration

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

WELCOME to September in Religious Exploration (RE)! I love this time of year when we are starting new things and planning the fun that we will have together for our program year.

In September, the Soul Matter's theme our congregation will be exploring is WELCOME. What does it *really* mean to be "a people of WELCOME?" Our month together will give you opportunities to really think about this and talk with your children/youth about what this means to each of you.

Our new RE offering, beginning September 17 at 9:30 is an opportunity to stay together as a family and experience worshipful moments together. We will WELCOME all ages in this offering! All participants will meet in the RE Commons, gather for chalice lighting and reading and then have the opportunity to participate in a thematic group activity. We are adapting "Spirit Jam" (<http://www.spiritjam.info>) to accommodate UUCS RE learning. We are looking forward to singing, dancing, knitting, reading, writing, sculpting, building, gardening, drumming, and much more with all ages. Come WORSHIP TOGETHER with your children and build new connections! You could then send your children to the second service RE offering and attend second service in the sanctuary. Make first service a new opportunity to experience time together as a family – SO looking forward to leading this offering!

Kimberly Sweeney, a director in the New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association, says in an article entitled "[The Death of Sunday School and the Future of Faith Formation](#)" (a copy is on the RE bulletin board), that families report having to choose between spending time together or going to church and being separated. I feel that participation in a religious community could provide opportunities to bridge that gap by having activities that include multiple ages. Come enjoy an hour with your family and other congregants in this **new multigenerational 1st service offering beginning, September 17!**

Another opportunity to spend time worshiping together as a family is every second Sunday. The service will be our Soul Matters Sunday service, which will focus on the monthly theme. We will provide a quiet activity at a table in the front and the back of the sanctuary that children can enjoy while they experience the service. This **begins with our annual Water Communion service on September 10!**

Our more traditional RE program will begin during the second service September 17. We will offer Childcare in the nursery (Infants, 3 - 4 year olds are welcome as requested), Wisdom of Wondering (pre-k-3rd), UU Explorers (4th - 7th grade) and YRUU (8th - 12th grade). Parents of 8th - 12th graders, please note on your calendars that our **YRUUs will be attending a different faith service on the third Sunday of every month!** Transportation is provided.

Thinking about our theme of Welcome, I wanted to share with you twelve reasons to welcome the children and youth into our Sunday space of worship. Welcoming the children, I feel, is an important part of growing our children's UU Identity. The following points are written by Kimberly Sweeney:

1. Children are people too: When we welcome children in church, we acknowledge that they are important humans and community members in the present, not just in the future.
2. A child friendly church is a parent-friendly church: When we welcome children, we are making their caregivers feel welcome too.
3. Children learn by participating: When we welcome children, we invite them to experience the sacred in community with adults.
4. Children can handle sermons: When we involve children in church, we expose them to deep, important ideas.
5. It is good for everyone: When we include children in church, we all get to practice being more generous with each other.

6. It makes services better: When we plan for children to be involved, we plan better, richer services.
 7. Children have a lot to offer: When we welcome children, they are able to contribute their time and skills.
 8. It makes us stronger: When we welcome children in church, we strengthen relationships across generations.
 9. It can improve preaching: When we include children in church, our preachers are prompted to make sermons more accessible to all.
 10. Adults don't miss out: When children are part of the church service, adults don't have to choose between worshipping and leading or attending children's programs.
 11. It helps young people bridge the gap: When we include people in services from a young age, they have a less jolting transition when they bridge from the high school programming.
 12. It models welcome: When we welcome children in church, we demonstrate how welcome everyone is.
- Those twelve points can be good "talking points" to get us started on our journey to discussing what it means to be a "people of welcome"!

I look forward to the Sundays that I spend with you all and please remember that I WELCOME your questions or concerns about our Religious Exploration programming – good communication is so important!

In spirit, *Until Next Time, Christi*

RE NOTES:

- **Please fill out new registration forms for your children/youth.** These can be found in the rack by the RE Bulletin Board or [on-line at our website](#) under Learning.
- Keep up-to-date with RE happenings by requesting to join our UUCS Family Connections page as well as providing your email to be added to our parent email group. The UUCS website is a great resource for accessing the RE Calendar and updates about RE.
- Our RE Offering will be helping to support the Microfinance Project in Nicaragua! We will have many opportunities to engage in this work.

SAVE THE DATES:

- **October 29** – Get your costumes ready....all ages can wear Halloween costumes to RE for the annual parade through the sanctuary!
- **February – March** = *Our Whole Lives*, Lifespan Sexuality Curriculum will be offered for Kindergarten – 2nd grade.
- **May 27** will be our RE Sunday Service on Creativity. If your child would like to share music, art, a reading, etc. please save this Sunday on your calendar to plan to attend the Sunday service!
- **June 25 – 28** we will offer a UU summer day camp for children. This will be offered to our community as well.

DEADLINES:

Newsletter Submissions for *The Chalice and the Flame* must be received by the Friday before publication. The deadline for the October newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **September 29**. Please send your submissions, including personal news items, directly to editors@uusalem.org.

Announcements for "This Week at UUCS" must be submitted to 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.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION: to subscribe to *The Chalice and the Flame* monthly newsletter, email your request to the UUCS office at 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.

Words from Our Intern Minister



A New York Times article from a few years ago asks the question, “Why is it so hard to make friends over the age of 30?” They tell the stories of adults who met potential friends but never were able to make the relationship fall into place, or who were on their way to becoming friends until their kids stopped wanting to play together. Finally, the article cites three conditions that sociologists have long considered crucial to making close friends: proximity; repeated, unplanned interactions; and a setting that encourages people to let their guard down and confide in each other, according to

Rebecca G. Adams, a professor of sociology and gerontology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This combination of elements explains why so many people meet their lifelong friends in college, where all three conditions are easily met.

Reading this, I was struck by the potential of religious community to meet those three conditions. Attending worship services, meeting in teams, and joining small groups such as our covenant groups are great ways to achieve proximity. Chatting with people over coffee in the fellowship hall and greeting UUCS members when you happen to see them, whether at the grocery store, at a rally at the capitol, or just unexpectedly in a coffee shop, provide repeated, unplanned interactions. And settings where you can let your guard down and form deep relationships with people are built into congregational life: small groups are a structured way to share your stories and insights, and the relationships you form from proximity and interaction become more places to let your guard down, confide in a newer friend, and hear their confidences in return.

One big problem (among many, to be sure) in twenty-first century American life is loneliness. We live in a time of individuality and self-sufficiency taken so far that many people struggle to overcome isolation. Whether you are struggling with loneliness, or whether you have a friend, neighbor, or coworker who may be, I hope you’ll take seriously this fall the potential of our congregational community to help you make friends, at any stage of life.

The poet Mary Oliver wrote that we live in a world of “hope and risk” and that our best response to this may be to “open our lives.” Let’s open our lives just a little more this fall: join a covenant group, start a conversation with someone new, invite a friend to attend UUCS with you, strengthen a relationship by sharing something deeper than you’ve done before. May we enrich each other’s lives, day by day. May it be so.

Warmly,
Monica

Happenings and Highlights

Fall Auction Coming in November!

The Fall Auction & Dinner is scheduled for November 4. Come join us for a full night of entertainment, including live music, refreshments before a dinner that foodies will love, and a chance to win wonderful services and other items donated by the congregation. Stay tuned for information about tickets.

Meanwhile, **consider making a donation or contributing some time** to help make the event a success. You can submit a donation using our [online form](#) or by contacting JP Batmale. We need several more silent auction items (<\$300), two more live auction items (>\$500), and about 15 bottles of good wine for the wine auction.

We need about **15 people** to donate their time for various tasks such as preparing auction items, tracking sales, serving food or refreshments and cleanup. You can sign up to help with some part of the auction and still enjoy the evening! Look for sign-up sheets during fellowship hour or just show up at an Auction Team meeting. The next meeting is **Thursday, September 14**, 11:30 am.

Questions? Contact JP Batmale at [503-961-4145](tel:503-961-4145) or jbatmale@gmail.com.

Choir Rehearsals Begin September 7

The UUCS Choir's first rehearsal of the 2017-2018 season will begin on Thursday, September 7 at 6:30 pm. Please feel free to join in as the choir begins with music for the Water Communion Service. No audition is necessary! Also, we are so excited to offer free childcare at every rehearsal this year. (Your contributions to the budget have made that possible, thank you!) Email questions to the Director of Music, Aimee Larsen-Amend, at music@uusalem.org.

Water Communion Service September 10

Water Communion is a fall ritual in which members bring a small vial of water from home or from their travels to combine in a large container, usually choosing to share in words what it represents in their lives. This will be the last Sunday on summer schedule, with one service at 10:30 am.

Women's Alliance Meeting September 12

All are welcome at the first fall meeting of the Women's Alliance on Tuesday, September 12 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. (Women's Alliance is the traditional name for UU groups affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation.) Program Co-Chairs Gloria Holland and Cheryl Randall will lead a welcoming activity, so old timers and newcomers can join in, share (confess?!), and laugh! Refreshments will follow, and we will begin to plan for the upcoming winter bazaar.

Rebuild Rooster Coop September 15-16

Want to help upgrade the Roosters' coop? Join us at 9 am on Friday, September 15 to construct the 6 wall sections and roof for the new shed. Then, beginning at 8 am the next day, we'll take down the old coop, prepare the ground for the new coop, and then put the pieces of the new coop together.

If you enjoy building and teamwork, please join us! Contact Ted Cory at tedcory48@gmail.com or Samantha Scales at office@uusalem.org, to let them know to expect you. Basic tools will be provided, though you are welcome to bring your own to use. Be sure to bring gloves, something to eat/drink, and to dress for the weather!

Fall Equinox Celebration September 22

Join the Salem Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) for our Fall Equinox Celebration, Friday September 22: Gathering and potluck at 7:00 pm with the ritual starting promptly at 7:30 pm. Please remember to bring a list of ingredients for your potluck dish so that people with food sensitivities can make healthy choices. Contact Angela Gross (uu4peace@gmail.com) with questions.



Concert In The Sanctuary September 28

Concerts in the Sanctuary is proud to present the first concert for this year on September 28 at 7:00 pm. The concert will feature **Guy Davis**, American blues musician. Guy is a modern, down home acoustic blues man who is sure to bring down the house with his Pete Seeger- inspired compositions. You can find out more about him [at his website](#). A donation of \$15 is suggested.

Service Opportunity Fair October 22

A UUCS Service Opportunity Fair will be held on Sunday, October 22 after each service in the Fellowship Hall. Members of teams will provide information that will help you match your talents and time available to services you could provide for our church community. Service can be rewarding and lead to your own personal growth. It allows you to find new friends among your co-workers, polish your own skills, learn something new, teach someone else what you know, and help advance our UU principles in the community.

Team leaders or members with questions can contact Fair Coordinator Angela Gross at uu4peace@gmail.com.

UU Men's Retreat November 10-12

The UU Men's Retreat is scheduled for November 10-12 at the 4-H Center in West Salem. If you are interested, contact Steve Rosen at [503-551-5501](tel:503-551-5501) or sjr1948@gmail.com.

Towels and Tablecloths: Please come back!

Thank you to everyone willing to wash towels after coffee service. Please remember to bring them back to the UUCS kitchen. Both of our towel drawers are almost empty! The same request applies to tablecloths.

Kairos Community Lunch Thank You

We were able to celebrate a day of cooler temperatures by serving lunch at the weekly Kairos Community Lunch on August 13. 60 diners had as much food as they could possibly want (with piled on nachos, chili, clam chowder, fruit salad and pie!) Many thanks to Adele Moore and Glen Morrison, Joan Erickson and her daughter Angie, Loraine Stuart, Michael and Patrice Pollard, Diane Mitchell and Danielle Shearer (with Joel and Carolyn Woodman there in our thoughts.) Our last day to serve this year is a special Thanksgiving feast on November 19. Sign up at the Social Justice Table closer to the date. Questions? Call Mary Beth Hustoles at [503-587-7949](tel:503-587-7949).

News of the Community

Mary Gear

UUCS Member Mary Gear has accepted a position with First Unitarian Church in Portland as the Acting Director of Adult Programs. Mary hopes to be accepted as a minister when she sees the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in September. Nobody wants to get ahead of that process, so the final job title and responsibilities in Portland will wait until after the MFC meeting. Mary has begun her work which will involve some Sundays in Portland, so we are likely to see less of her than we have.

Mike and Petra Berger

The Bergers have settled into their new home in Prineville, Oregon. Mike is heavily involved with star-gazing activities, building an observatory with a retractable roof. Petra has gotten involved with the SMART reading program, the local library and the Central Oregon Writers' Guild. They send their best.

Neil and Sharon Pierson

The Piersons had a very busy August helping their daughter, Marcy, settle in for teaching music theory at the University of Pittsburgh followed by seeing their son, Max, marry a French woman first in San Francisco and then in France. They are happy to be home again, though it could be cooler...

Bill O'Dea

Bill O'Dea is recuperating from brain surgery and is also being treated for kidney cancer. You can send a card via his daughter: Rachael O'Dea, 395 Wilson Street S, Salem OR 97302.

Social Justice Updates

Sanctuary Update From Our Social Justice in Action Team

The sanctuary team put in many hours and much effort throughout the summer to form a Salem interfaith group working for immigrant justice. Despite our best efforts, many churches in the Salem area have not yet committed to joining an interfaith group to support this work. SJAT will continue to work with [Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice](#) (IMIrJ) to form a Marion County interfaith group to support immigrant justice. We have a list of potential individual volunteers from various faith groups and our Latino community partners to help should UUCS accept a guest into physical sanctuary.

SJAT has also been working on other sanctuary issues (sanctuary meaning protection, safety, justice, and hope for all who are persecuted and are marginalized). Some of our members attended a tour of local farm labor camps, a "rapid response/know your rights" training sponsored by the Willamette Valley Rapid Response Collective. We now know that Trump may soon be getting rid of the DACA program. On September 5, ten states are planning to sue the federal government if Trump does not get rid of the DACA program. There are about 800,000 "Daquistas" in danger of deportation (over 40,000 live in Oregon). Some of our team members attended a rally and a forum in support of this program. We have worked with and have gotten to know many of these young people and we know that their fear is overwhelming.

Learn more and take a pledge against hate in Oregon

On Sunday, September 10, Causa Coalition Coordinator Joel Iboa will join us during and after the 10:30 a.m. service to talk about how we can join the fight to defend UU values and keep hate out of our state by supporting the Stop IP 22 campaign. (Causa is a leading immigrant rights and justice group in Oregon.)

Initiative Petition 22 is targeted for the November, 2018 ballot. Its goal is to repeal Oregon's sanctuary cities statute. Joel will talk for a few minutes during the service and then be available afterwards in the sanctuary for those who want to learn more. The Social Justice in Action Team will serve light refreshments and have pledge cards for volunteer time available to sign. These cards will also be at the SJAT information table in Fellowship Hall.

Social Justice Events and Workshops

In the wake of the racist-led violence in Charlottesville, VA, several social justice groups in the Salem area are sponsoring events and trainings to help folks gain understanding and become more involved. Here are a few that the SJAT team encourages congregation members to attend:

- **“Organizing for Success,” Wednesday, September 13, 6:15 pm.** A talk by Lamar Wise, Oregon Student Association executive director, at First Congregational Church, 700 Marion St. NE in Salem. Wise will discuss what we can learn from the campaign students and a coalition of activists led to block tuition increases. Sponsored by Racial Justice Organizing Committee (RJOC).
- **“Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America,” Tuesday, September 19, 7 pm** at Grand Theater, 191 High St. Salem. This documentary focuses on origins of massive migrations from seven Latin American regions closest to the United States. Salem Progressive Film Series.
- **“Owning and Confronting Racism: A Discussion on Anti-Racist Strategies,” Monday, October 16, 6:15 pm** at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 790 Marion St. NE in Salem. This community forum will focus on strategies and tactics to confront racism in our community. Speakers and open forum. Sponsored by Racial Justice Organizing Committee (RJOC).
- **Oregon Strategic Planning Summit Saturday, October 21,** with nonviolence trainer George Lakey,. Sponsored by Oregon PeaceWorks, the summit is for anyone working for human rights, justice, good government, corporate responsibility, animal and children’s rights. [Details and registration information.](#)

Microfinance News

Transforming Lives of the Poorest of the Poor, October 1 Service

At the October 1 service, Ron Hockley, Executive Director of our partner organization, The NEO Fund, will share how the poorest of the poor in Nicaragua are benefitting from our UUCS microloans. He spoke last year to our congregation and gave a riveting sermon on their efforts to help individuals who subsist near the dump in Managua. Also, we will report on the results of our fundraising efforts at this service. October Share the Plate will be devoted to the Microfinance Project, and there will be a sale of Zimbabwe Art in the Fellowship Hall following services on October 1 and 8 (see below).

Kenya Project Brings Much Needed Maize in Drought Stricken Area

IMANI, our partner organization in Kenya, reported that after the drought-caused poor first maize harvest, the rains arrived in time for the second harvest. The women were all paid in flour and school fees for their children. Hunger is a huge issue for the villagers. As you can see in the photo, the crop was quite good, with large ears of corn. Sadly, AIDS is devastating Kenya and IMANI is very worried about proposed U.S. budget cuts for AIDS assistance.



The Zimbabwe Artists Project Sale is Coming to UUCS October 1 and October 8!

We will be holding a sale of Zimbabwe Art on Sundays October 1 and October 8 to benefit the UUCS Microfinance Project and Zimbabwe artists. The last time this very popular sale was held was about eight years ago.



The Zimbabwe Artists Project (ZAP) works with women artists (and a few men) from rural Weya in Eastern Zimbabwe, buying art for cash and selling to people in the U.S. who want to support beautiful and meaningful art

These women of Weya are subsistence farmers, mothers, and householders as well as artists. Some are widowed, others are single heads of households, since throughout Zimbabwe men leave the rural areas to seek work in cities. Women’s income from agriculture is unpredictable and limited, and sales of their art help with food, clothing, school fees, medicines, transport, seeds and fertilizer.

20 Years Ago This Month



August and September were exciting times. The contractors finished the exterior siding. The drywall contractor finished their work – the sanctuary last. Lighting, electric outlets, and heating became functional, but the plumbing not yet. The contractor finished the rough grading around the building. We finished the interior painting; the sanctuary was a challenge, as you can imagine! We finished the exterior painting too, working hard to beat the rains. On the last day before the serious rain we knew was coming, John Davenport and I started at 7:00 a.m. and finished the last bits, the foyer and sanctuary north walls, at 6:00 p.m. The rain began at 6:20!

A word about John Davenport. We could not have accomplished what we did without John. He had much more construction and handyman experience than I, so knew how to do things. He was also willing to put in the time day in and day out when I needed him. I don't think we gave John enough credit for our achievements!

We had planned to do the installation of the hardwood floor section at the front of the sanctuary ourselves – in addition to the cleanup, painting, and landscaping. But later we realized we didn't have the energy and expertise, so ceded that task back to Elliott-Sheets.

The focus shifted to landscaping. Bonnie Heitsch designed the landscaping plan and supervised the work. Her husband, Brian Reeder, spearheaded the irrigation system.

Bonnie put out a call for landscape materials, especially some trees and bushes. Entry plantings were donated by Gladys Teeple in honor of Howard Teeple, the first president of our Salem fellowship. Nina and Mel Cleveland contributed a flowering dogwood. Rod and Kazuko Husted gave us another dogwood and three Japanese maples. Debbie Mills gave a flame ash tree. Cathie Olcott and Lorene Roberts gave pink rhododendrons. Kay Young donated a maple shade tree. Mako Hayashi-Mayfield provided some big hostas. Liz Julee and Peter Neketin donated a vine maple. There were still more donors than there is space for here.

All this led up to a huge landscape work party on September 20. Out of our small congregation, fifty people came out! Carol Barrineau and Wanda McMaster furnished lunch; Jessica Barrineau provided child care. The grounds were transformed that day! The major tasks were to complete the grading and plant the lawn. Much of the other planting was done in an October work party.



John Davenport removing masking tape from beams

Our membership had been so generous – starting with our capital campaign in 1994 and another in the spring of 1997, with a major gift campaign in 1996 – that we were able to pay all our expenses through August with our own money. The \$17,000 grant from the UUA helped. So did a separate campaign for a piano, and of course Barbara Hanneman's chair dinners! We started drawing on our mortgage for our September payment to Elliott-Sheets.

~Submitted by George Struble

UUs Sharing a Lifetime Memory [Continued from Page 1]

Shared thoughts from guests and hosts

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Bob Muir reported, "We loved our couple from Washington. Fabulous people (Bob and Sally). Somehow, they ended up feeding us occasionally and sharing garden bounty, even leaving a couple of T-bone steaks in our freezer for us to enjoy. Thank you for the opportunity to make new connections."



Gloria and Alan Holland shared, "... pleased to report that our hosting experience was an outstanding success! Our guests, Brian and Fumiko Coyne, arrived on Sunday from Olympia after having attended our UUCS service."

The Coynes settled in, enjoyed dinner and conversation, and seemed to find our little guest bedroom quite comfortable. After breakfast on Monday morning, we found a spot on a field by a school close to our house to watch the amazing eclipse. Following the big event and lunch, we toured Bush Park, got ice cream cones, and walked to Riverfront Park. We also made a brief stop at our daughter's house to congratulate her and her new fiancé. (Seth proposed during the eclipse, so it's truly a day to remember!) Our guests seemed to appreciate our taking time to show them around Salem. During breakfast on Tuesday morning, Fumiko shared her very compelling story of being a child in Tokyo during World War II. The Coynes accepted our hospitality with such ease and grace that we felt as if they were long-time friends. We are so very grateful that they made OUR experience fun and effortless."

Laurie Porter and Marianne Brennan from Kirkland, Washington were planning to sleep in their cars in the church parking lot. As an act of kindness, Rev. Rick Davis invited them to put up their tent behind the church. But then the sprinklers came on. Then... a critter ran past. They slept in their cars!



Jetta and Rob Whittaker from Juneau, Alaska wrote Joan Erickson, "We can't thank you enough for the wonderful welcome you gave us, despite having a full house. You were the consummate host, providing great tips on things to see and do on the property and in Salem, plenty of thoughtful, lively conversation, and even inviting us to join your family in several delicious meals you prepared. Looking out the windows at the incredible view was a constant treat, and seeing the eclipse from your roof was incomparable. We felt so spoiled and rested -- it was just what we needed. Thanks so much for making it happen!"

Jerry and Lyndsey Houser hold the record for the number of guests hosted for the eclipse.

Lindsey shared that they "hosted 11 people; 3 in guest bedrooms, 4 in tents, 2 in a pop-up camper and a couple in a Vanagon. Interesting life journeys and profound discussions around the breakfast table were a staple.

Evening music on the deck, featured guests/hosts sharing harmonicas, penny whistles, ukuleles, Djembe African drum and even a bagpipe! After the Eclipse, we grilled burgers and had a Kubb tournament in the backyard. Kubb is a traditional Viking game. Part of the fun was coming up with our team names, "*The Radioactive Squirrels*" and "*The Velvet Belch*".

Rev. Rick joined us for Sunday lunch, to meet everyone, especially Kendra Smith of Berkeley CA. Her late husband, Dr. Huston Smith, author of the highly regarded "*The World's Religions*", has been an invaluable resource for Rev. Rick in his ministry.



Lyndsey sums it up by saying, "Thanks to the creative thinking of our UU members, not only is our church budget healthier but our church family is richer in friends."

~Submitted by Joel Woodman

Calendar

Membership Team meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 6:30 pm

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, September 6, 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 - 9pm, is for discussion, compassion, about how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 7, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
Childcare provided.

Refuge Recovery

Friday, September 8, 7:00 pm, Green Classroom
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. This national non-profit organization sponsors a network of groups that practice Buddhist teachings and meditations for anyone seeking recovery from addiction. Drawing inspiration from the Four Noble Truths, Refuge Recovery emphasizes both knowledge and empathy as means for overcoming addiction and its causes. Those struggling with addiction greatly benefit by understanding the suffering that addiction has created while developing compassion for the pain they have experienced.

Cordon Road Clean Up

Saturday, September 9, 9:00 am, UUCS parking lot

Life Lines Lay Ministry meeting

Saturday, September 9, 9:30 am, Library

Sanctuary Team Meeting

Monday, September 11, 6:30 pm, Minister's Office

Salem Covenant of UU Pagans meeting

Monday, September 11, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
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 to attend.

Welcome Back to RE Volunteer Dessert and Orientation

Tuesday, September 12, 6:45 pm, RE Wing

Women's Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
[See Article](#)

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm
(See September 6)

Auction Team meeting

Thursday, September 14, 11:30 am, Library
[See article.](#)

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 14, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary

Finance Team meeting

Friday, September 15, 10:00 am, Library

Refuge Recovery

Friday, September 15, 7:00 pm, Green Classroom
(See September 8)

RE Team Meeting

Sunday, September 17, 12:45pm, Library

Worship Team meeting

Monday, September 18, 6:00 pm, Minister's Office
Monthly Meeting of the Worship Team to plan & discuss Sunday Services

Social Justice in Action Team meeting

Monday, September 18, 6:00 pm, Green Classroom
Regular monthly Social Justice In Action Team meeting.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, September 20, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm
(See September 6)

Safer Congregation Committee meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 6:00 pm, Library

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 21, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary

Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, September 21, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
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.

Mabon/Fall Equinox Celebration

Thursday, September 21, 7:00 pm, RE Wing
Celebrate the second harvest and one of the times of the year when day and night are equal length. Gathering and potluck at 7:00 with ritual starting at 7:30. Please remember to bring a list of ingredients so people with food sensitivities can make healthy choices.

Refuge Recovery

Friday, September 22, 7:00 pm, Green Classroom
(See September 8)

Communications Team Meeting

Monday, September 25, 4:00 pm, Library

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

Salem Covenant of UU Pagans Meet & Greet

Monday, September 25, 7:00 pm, RE Wing

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, September 27, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm

(See September 6)

Compassionate Knitting group

Wednesday, September 27, 7:00 pm, Blue Classroom

This is an organizational meeting to start a new group for the purpose of knitting, crocheting, etc. items such as shawls and blankets that can be given away by the ministerial staff and lifelines lay ministry, to give comfort to members of our congregation and the larger community that are facing difficult challenges. We'll talk about the goals of the group, provisioning of materials, meeting times and structure,

and other ideas to get the group successfully going. Feel free to bring a project to work on while we talk! Please be mindful of the meditation activity in the Fellowship Hall by entering and exiting the building quietly.

Strategic Planning meeting

Thursday, September 28, 7:00 pm, Library

Concert in the Sanctuary

Thursday, September 28, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

[See article](#)

Newsletter Deadline

Friday, September 29, 8:00 pm

Refuge Recovery

Friday, September 29, 7:00 pm, Green Classroom

(See September 8)

Microfinance Art Sale

Sunday, October 1, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sales of Zimbabwe Art proceeds will benefit the UUCS Microfinance Project and Zimbabwe artists.

Auction Team Meeting

Sunday, October 1, 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Team meeting to prepare for the Auction

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

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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 **October** newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **September 29**. Please send your submissions, including personal news items, directly to editors@uusalem.org.

Announcements for "This Week At UUCS" must be submitted to 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.

Worship Services and Religious Exploration

September Share the Plate Recipient: [Minister's Discretionary Fund](#)

Note: Service times change on September 17

Sunday, September 10

10:30 am

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Water Communion Service

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

Music: UUCS Choir

A few years ago I visited another UU congregation as a stranger. How did it go? I'll tell you about it. Also, Joel Iboa from CAUSA will do short presentation about stopping an anti-immigrant ballot initiative.

For our **Water Communion Ceremony** please bring a small container of water that comes from or symbolically represents something precious in your life. If you forget... no worries! We'll have extra water and containers on hand so that everyone can participate in this community building ritual."

RE Information: All ages will join in the annual Water Communion Service.

Sunday, September 17

9:30 & 11:15 am

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"What Does Unitarian Universalism Require of You?"

Begin Two Service Schedule

Celebrant: Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick; **Anchor:** Laura Christian

Music Both Services: Ted Cory

Unitarian Universalism has often been characterized as a "religion where you can believe whatever you want." Is this true? What does it mean to be a member of our free faith tradition?

RE Information: *Welcome Back to RE* party for all ages. Looking forward to our times together.

Parents: Please be sure that [registration](#) is complete for all children/youth participating in our program.

Sunday, September 24

9:30 & 11:15 am

Monica Jacobson

"We're All In This Together"

Celebrant: Gloria Holland; **Anchor:** Benjahmin Boschee

First Service Music: UUCS Choir

Second Service Music: Ryan Amend and Aimee Larsen-Amend

About ten years ago, singer Ben Lee wrote, "Woke up this morning, I suddenly realized: we're all in this together." In addition to making a catchy song, these words are useful for our religious lives.

Sunday, October 1

9:30 & 11:15 am

Monica Jacobson

"Transforming Lives of the Poorest of the Poor"

Celebrant: Ann Hanus; **Anchor:** David Jeffers

First Service Music: Name; **Second Service Music:** Name

Ron Hockley, Executive Director of the NEO Fund, will talk about Nicaraguan families whose lives have changed as a result of our UUCS Microfinance Project.

RE Information: Our Explorers (4th-7th grade) and YRUU classes will stay for the service and learn about the Microfinance Project our RE Offering will support this year. Our WoW group will also be learning about our new RE Offering.



Eclipse pictures taken by Diane Penn,
guest of Joan Erickson

