



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

February 2020

Congregation Appreciation Dinner February 15



Plan to join us Saturday, February 15, at 5 pm for our second annual Congregation Appreciation Dinner! We look forward to celebrating this amazing congregation with a wonderful evening.

This year we are providing a main dish and those who wish to bring a side can indicate what they'll bring on their RSVP. We can't wait for this get-together – spread the word as all are welcome!

To make your reservation, call the office or **click the RSVP button.**



Pledge Drive Begins February 23

When we start to think about hearts and valentines, you know that it's time to also think about the pledge drive. Throughout the year, our congregation gives love to our community through time and labor and donations. It's time to begin thinking about how you will show your love for UUCS in the upcoming fiscal year.

Donations from our members form a critical part of our well-being. Without your support, we cannot continue our efforts to “nurture our beloved community and heal a hurting world”. Your contributions are what allow us to host Family Promise so that many homeless families can transition back to stable housing. They allow us to “share the plate” with many local organizations doing important social justice work in our community. And, they are critical to keeping the building in good repair, lights on and staff paid. All of these define who we are as a congregation.

Kickoff Sunday is February 23. During fellowship, we invite you to bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre and share some community while we fill out the Estimate of Giving forms. Make a commitment to UUCS for next year. Everything you can give is appreciated!

Congregational Meeting March 1

There will be a congregational meeting held immediately after the Sunday Service on March 1. Members of the congregation will vote on a statement to be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and to the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA). The statement was drafted by the Committee on Ministry at the request of members who attended several discussions in September and October.

This is an important meeting. To validate the vote on the statement we must have a quorum of at least 25 percent of our membership attending, and it will carry more significance if a large percentage of our congregation attends and votes for the statement.

Members of the Committee on Ministry will be available after Sunday services to discuss the proposed statement. They are Dina Triest, Megan Roller, Eric Schuman, Joel Martin, and Ruth Larson.

Copies of the statement have been circulated to people attending Sunday services in early January. Or you can find the [full Public Statement to UUA and UUMA online](#).

The Heart of Buddhism February 5,12,19

Come Investigate the 'Heart of Buddhism' during the first three Wednesday evenings in February (5,12,19) from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. We'll begin with shared poems based on the Heart Sutra, continue with guest speaker Greg Smith (a Diamond Sangha Zen teacher) and conclude with our resident Zen master. Each week includes two meditation periods interspersed with walking, silent tea ceremony and chanting. A short introductory lecture is also available for those totally new to meditation practice. The Heart Sutra is considered a cornerstone text of Mahayana Buddhism. Please join us for this fun (free) exploration with your UUCS Buddhist Sangha!

~Submitted by [Lee Ann Nail](#)



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Several times in these past few months there have been instances when we really needed the right person to step into some key volunteer/leadership role. Happily, our needs were well met when various ones of you offered the gifts of your time, energy and creativity. Very helpful! This never ceases to amaze me – you never know where such help will come from, but so often it does come. Simply put, I am learning to trust that things will work out even if you don't know how in the present moment. This is not to say that I take such help for granted – rather, I receive it with ongoing gratitude.

So, yes, I do believe in angels. The classic image of angels is winged beings who glide down from the heavens. Yet, the angels I know appear in earthly form. The blessings you bestow are real and essential for us to fulfill our mission of “building beloved community, healing a hurting world.” So, thanks to you angels who have recently blessed our community in more ways than any of us individually knows.

Indeed, there are so many angels at work at UUCS that we are creating a “halo effect” in our surrounding community. What is that? Economists in Canada conducted a study to examine the economic impact that congregations have on the surrounding community. Among other things they considered the value of the community services, the enhanced physical and mental well-being that comes from social and spiritual connections for members, the benefit the community receives from use of the congregation's facility, monetary contributions made to other nonprofits, etc. The congregations studied had an annual economic benefit over **four times greater** than their annual operating budgets. Talk about exponential returns on an investment!

We don't know the full extent of UUCS's halo effect, but I am confident, given all we do, that our balance sheet would show that we have a beneficial economic impact several times greater than our annual operating budget. Yet, even the most finely tuned economic analysis could not capture the true and lasting spiritual benefits our free faith community bestows upon many today and for the future. Think of the mighty old White Oaks in the rear of our property that were mere saplings a century and a half ago. Look at them now! So grows UUCS – slowly and steadily over the years.

Such natural growth is a direct consequence of the blessings of many angels, past and present. Please know that such blessings make more of a difference than we can say.

During the next few weeks leading up to our pledge drive kickoff on Sunday February 23, I invite you to consider how you will bless UUCS with your giving – giving that will strengthen and renew us. Our financial circumstances do vary, but each of us can—according to our means—be generous. Our congregation has a vital role to play in our lives and in our community – may we continue to grow steady and strong!

Love,
Rick

Lifespan Religious Education



Hello! I am Ben Cavaletto, the new Chair of the Lifespan Religious Education Team. I have two kids enrolled in LRE and I am a frequent volunteer for the program. This year has seen some real changes for Religious Education here at UUCS, and with change come new opportunities!

Our new name

Firstly, please note that the name of "RE" was recently updated. The word "lifespan" was re-added to the title to recognize our new focus on religious programming for all ages and stages of life. This decision follows directly from the congregation's strategic plan. While members may continue to say "RE" to refer to activities that happen each Sunday for our children and youth, more often you will begin to hear "LRE" to refer to the program, the ministry team, and the director(s). Additionally, the LRE Team has decided to revert to "education", rather than "exploration", because it brings us back in line with language used by the larger Unitarian Universalist Association and creates less confusion for newcomers.

Our leadership transition plan

In September, we were sad to say goodbye to Christi Olson, longtime Director of the "RE" Program. Now we are pleased to have Elsa McKinney and James Snowcarp as interim co-directors while we conduct a search for a permanent Director of Lifespan Religious Education. If you know someone who might be a good candidate for the position, please encourage them to apply! For more information send an email to re.team@uusalem.org.

Our volunteer plan – action requested

What's the best way to build new relationships with UUCS children and families? Volunteer in LRE, of course! The LRE program has always been fueled by wonderful volunteers from our congregation, and during this time of transition, even more so! If you have been a volunteer in the past, thank you! We are trying to update our list of volunteers with current background checks, so we ask that you please reach out to re.team@uusalem.org to make sure we have your info and your background check is up-to-date, or to volunteer for the first time. Going forward, we would like to offer volunteers clear position descriptions, frequent communication about programming, and sincere appreciation for their meaningful contributions!

Save the date!

Mark your calendars for Leap Day, February 29th, when the LRE Team is hosting a Family Fun Night and Dance, at 6:30 pm. This event is free, and your friends are welcome! We will provide snacks, games, crafts, music, and even teach everyone a dance! If you are interested in volunteering, please use our handy [online form](#), or contact ben.cavaletto@gmail.com.

I hope this update is helpful!

Ben

Happenings and Highlights

Women's Alliance Meets February 11

What do third graders, golden retrievers, hospice clients, and the mentally ill have to do with UU values? Come to Women's Alliance on February 11, 2020 at 6:30 pm to hear UUCS member Eric Schuman explain.

Eric's presentation will be followed with light refreshments and a business meeting. Women's Alliance meets in the UUCS Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

~Submitted by [Gloria Holland](#)



Join Jolly Diners! On February 18



UU Jolly Diners is back! We had an enjoyable dinner at Marco Polo on January 21, and we'll be back there on February 18 at 6:00 pm for more good cheer and good fellowship! All are welcome, so bring friends! And let Steve know in advance if finances are an issue; there is assistance available and it will be confidential. Join us!

Contact Steve Rosen at sjr1948@gmail.com or 503 551-5501, if you plan to be there, so we can have the right size table ready!

Date Change: Men's Group Meeting on February 22

The UUCS Men's Group will meet on February 22 at 12:00 noon, for lunch, instead of February 23. This scheduling change allows the group to help with setup for the Pledge Kickoff meal, which is scheduled for the following day. The meeting dates for the following 3 months are March 22, April 19 and May 17 at 8:30 am.

~Submitted by [Ben Cavaletto](#)

Family Fun Night and Dance February 29

Join with UUCS families on Leap Day, February 29, at 6:30 pm for a night of fun and dance, hosted by the Lifespan Religious Education team. This event is free, and your friends are welcome! We will provide snacks, games, crafts, music, and even teach everyone a dance! If you are interested in volunteering, contact ben.cavaletto@gmail.com or 503-999-4967.



Circle Suppers March 6 and 7

The Membership Committee is coordinating Winter Circle Suppers March 6 and 7. Circle Suppers are potluck-style gatherings at members' homes. Hosts provide their homes to gather in, and guests bring food to share. These are a great opportunity for an evening of fellowship and fun with a handful of members and friends of UUCS. Hosts decide the menu and call/email people who have signed up. Sign up using the [online form](#) or at the Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall after services on Feb. 16 and Feb. 23. Contact Brenna Norval at 503-409-2161 if you have questions or if you would like to volunteer as a host.

~Submitted by [Ann Tally](#)

How to Set Up and Publicize Events

The UUCS Communications team produces all manner of communications. If you would like to tell our community about some event, you can easily have it publicized in each of the UUCS platforms: Monthly newsletter (online and print), Weekly email, Facebook and the UUCS website. Just fill out the [Publicity Request form](#).



Scheduling events is handled by the office. To add or update an event date, time or title, fill out the [Event Scheduling Request](#). The office will verify that the requested room is available (and contact you for discussion if there's a conflict) and put the event on the UUCS calendar. TIP: Enter a description of your event in the form. This description goes on the calendar and is copied to the newsletter and weekly emails.

All forms related to the setup and scheduling of events can be found at the top of the [Calendar page](#) on the UUCS website.

If you want to publicize an event outside of UUCS, you must request help and/or approval from Communications. Our team ensures that any

representation of UUCS is consistent with our style guide and policies. We can also help you create a poster for your UUCS event for use in publicity outside of UUCS. To get help with publicizing outside of UUCS, email publicity@uusalem.org.

News of the Community

Cathie Olcott's Bequest for Music



Cathie Olcott had been a member of UUCS for over 25 years when she died last May at the age of 93. She left over \$40,000 to UUCS. The UUCS Board is considering how best to honor Cathie's request that her bequest be used "for the music program." Since music encompasses so many aspects of congregational life, the Board and Music Team are exploring all the possible opportunities available to us now, to enhance our spiritual paths.



Cathie grew up in Yamhill and Lincoln Counties in Oregon where she learned to love the Oregon outdoors. Walking three miles to school every day prepared her for a lifetime of hiking, which she enjoyed with the Chemeketans as well as in places like the Swiss Alps and the Grand Tetons. In high school she was a standout in volleyball. She was also a champion speller.

Cathie was a very positive person – energetic and optimistic, and ready to take on challenges – like the defense of the Opal Creek area a few decades ago.

Music was among the joys of Cathie's life. She not only went to concerts; she sang in Festival Chorale Oregon and relished the European tours with that chorus. She also sang in our own choir in earlier years. So, it was fitting that she left a legacy to support our music program.

Cathie's legacy will live among us. Each of us will remember her in our own way. Together, we are grateful for her thoughtfulness and forward thinking;.

Splinters from the Board

Strategic Plan Team report – Craig Rowland, Chair of the Committee on Human Resources presented the first monthly Strategic Plan Team Report. He highlighted CHR's need to work on training for staff, the new open-door staff meetings which have been very successful, and the plan to start having a designated volunteer and staff rotate staffing the Resource Room on Sundays.

DLRE Position Description - The board voted to accept the job description for Director of Lifespan Religious Education position as written for a 20-30 hr/wk position. The position announcement will be posted on various websites.

Olcott donation -The Board joyfully acknowledged this bequest of \$44,000, which was given to the congregation for the music program. More information on this bequest can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Staff survey –Janet Stevens outlined the process of a congregational survey, which will fulfill the by-law that we do an annual review of our shared ministry. She will ensure that both an electronic and a paper form of the survey will be available to congregants.

Petition for Special Congregational meeting - Enough signatures were gathered to submit the petition from the Committee on Ministry for a Special Congregational meeting addressing the censure of the Reverend Todd Eklof. The Committee on Ministry will go forward in planning the special meeting.

Hope and Habitat Letter of Intent –the board voted to sign a letter of intent to Hope and Habitat that will give them standing to work with county and city agencies in planning for the potential site which would be on our north lot. The content of the letter reads as follows:

Subject to approval by a vote of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem (UUCS), the Board intends to lease a site on our north lot (the property north of Center Street) to Hope and Habitat Village to be used for building and operating a transitional housing home for homeless women.

The lease will be contingent on: County approvals for well, septic system, and structure design, a viable plan to operate the facility and construction funds.

The lease agreement will contain provisions that will protect UUCS from any liability arising from operation of the facility and provide a path for termination of the lease by UUCS for good and sufficient reason

Free!



Family Fun Night and Dance

Snacks - Games - Crafts - Music - Dancing!

Leap Day! (Sat. 2/29)

6:30 pm



Friends welcome!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

Calendar

Membership Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 6:00 pm

Danza Azteca

Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 pm

The teachings of the Aztec Dance are tied to the Pre-Hispanic roots of ancient Mexico. It serves to connect the dancer to a universal view of the Anawak culture and the Nawatl philosophy: a worldview of nature. Aztec dance awakens and develops various human faculties which are essential across society but which the current educational system fails to implement in a conscious and permanent manner. All are welcome to attend.

Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Every Wednesday, 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, 8:00 – 9:00 pm, is for discussion, compassion, about how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

Choir Rehearsal

Every Thursday, 6:30 pm

Open Door Staff Meeting

Friday, February 7, 1:00 pm

The First Friday of the month the regularly scheduled employee meeting will be open to the community. Join Reverend Rick, office staff, and the Committee on Human resources as we discuss agenda items and upcoming events. If you have specific items to discuss or present email admin@uusalem.org. Hot chocolate, cider, and snacks will be provided.

Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, February 7, 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.

Recovery Dharma

Every Friday, 7:00 pm

UUCS' Addiction Recovery Ministry and Support program is glad to sponsor the Recovery Dharma 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, that practice and promulgate Buddhist teachings and meditations for anyone seeking recovery from addiction. 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.

Compassionate Connection

Sunday, February 9, 11:30 am

Please join us, following the 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.

Building Sacred Ground - Session 2

Sunday, February 9, 12:00 pm

UU101 - Those who attended the first session on February 2 will meet from 12:00 – 2:00 pm in the front of the sanctuary.

Annual Congregational Dinner Planning

Sunday, February 9, 12:00 pm

Everyone involved in hosting, helping at the Annual dinner will meet to coordinate final planning for dinner.

Social Justice Team Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 12:30 pm

The monthly SJT meeting

Microfinance Team Meeting

Monday, February 10, 11:00 am

Board Meeting

Monday, February 10, 5:30 pm

All are welcome to attend!

Recovery Dharma

Every Monday, 6:00 pm

PFLAG Meeting

Monday, February 10, 7:00 pm

PFLAG is the extended family of the LGBTQ community. We're made up of LGBTQ individuals, family members and allies. Because together, we're stronger.

Landscape Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 10:00 am

Women's Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 pm

See Article. All are welcome!

Habitat and Hope Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 12:30 pm

Homeless Coalition partnership with other Interfaith groups

ArtWorks Team Meeting

Friday, February 14, 10:00 am

Monthly business meeting of the ArtWorks Team. Open to all interested UUCS members.

Annual Congregational Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, February 15, 5:00 pm

See Article.

Circle Supper Sign up - Welcome Table

Sunday, February 16, 10:00 am

See Article.

Building Sacred Ground, Session 3

Sunday, February 16, 12:00 pm

(See February 9)

Partner Church Team Meeting

Sunday, February 16, 12:15 pm

Worship Team Meeting

Monday, February 17, 5:30 pm

The Worship Team meetings are not open to the general public, but if you are interested in serving on the committee or have information/concerns you wish to present, please email worshipteam@uusalem.org.

Committee on Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 10:30 am

The Committee on Ministry meetings are not open to the general public, but if you are interested in serving on the committee or have information/concerns you wish to present, please email rdavis@uuma.org.

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 5:30 pm

Music Team Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 5:00 pm

Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, February 20, 7:00 pm

(See February 7)

Finance Team Meeting

Friday, February 21, 10:30 am

Men's Group Meeting

Saturday, February 22, 12:00 pm

See Article.

Kickoff Sunday

Sunday, Feb 23

See Article.

Circle Supper Sign up - Welcome Table

Sunday, February 23, 10:00 am

See Article.

Building Sacred Ground, Session 4

Sunday, February 23, 12:00

(See February 9)

Communications Team Meeting

Monday, February 24, 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.

Board Retreat

Monday, February 24, 5:30 pm

Safer Congregation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 5:00 pm

The Safer Congregation Committee meetings are not open to the general public, but if you would like to join the committee or have information/concerns to present, please email rdavis@uuma.org.

Facilities Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 6:00 pm

Danza Azteca

Tuesday, February 25, 6:30 pm

(See February 4)

Habitat and Hope Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 6:00 pm

ArtWorks Art Making

Friday, February 28, 10:00 am

February Family Fun Night and Dance

Saturday, February 29, 6:30 pm

See Article.

Building Sacred Ground, Session 4 (If Needed)

Sunday, March 1, 12:00 pm

Worship Services and Religious Education

Month Share the Plate Recipient: [Mid-Valley Literacy Center](#)

Service Time: 10:30 am

Sunday, February 9

The Rev. Richard R. Davis and Eric Schuman

"Does Unitarian Universalism Support Our Freedom of Conscience? "

Celebrant: Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Geoff Hutchinson
Music: UUCS Choir

Eric and Rev. Rick will explore the history of the principle of freedom of conscience and current struggles within our own movement over this freedom regarding the censure of Todd Eklof's book, *The Gadfly Papers*.

Join us for further Q and A with Eric and Rev. Rick about 10 minutes after this service.

Sunday, February 16

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Metanoia Magic "

Celebrant: Janet Stevens; **Anchor:** Tom Ellis

How do we change for the better? What are the conditions that enable this to happen? What gets in the way?

Sunday, February 23

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"A Gadfly in Salem: Why Oregon's State Capital Needs UUCS "

Celebrant: Gloria Holland; **Anchor:** Sara Pickett
Music: UUCS Choir

These are troubling times for liberals. Our government seems more Orwellian than ever, even as the leaders of our religious Association have taken a dystopian page from Fahrenheit 451. In **1984**, George Orwell wrote, "Orthodoxy means not thinking—not needing to think. Orthodoxy is unconsciousness." And in *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury wrote, "Remember, the firemen are rarely necessary. The public itself stopped reading of its own accord." Today, more than ever in our lifetime, our liberal religious values—reason, freedom of conscience, and our humanistic ethic—are being discarded by both sides of the ideological spectrum. That's why Oregon's Capital city needs the presence and courage of UUCS now more than ever.

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.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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

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 and ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fill out the [Publication Request](#) form on the UUCS website for any announcement, event or news item. This form is a one-stop place to put a notice in the Sunday announcements, the UUCS newsletter, the UUCS website, the *This Week* email and or Facebook.

DEADLINES:

Newsletter: The deadline for the next newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **February 28,** **Sunday Announcements and This Week** submissions are due by noon, **Tuesday.**