



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

April 2023

Dancing the Aramaic Lord's Prayer April 8



On Saturday, April 8, from 3 to 5 pm in the UUCS Fellowship Hall, join us for "Dancing the Aramaic Lord's Prayer" sponsored by the Dances of Universal Peace. Suggested donation is \$10 to \$30.

Encountering this prayer re-translated directly from Aramaic is nothing less than a revelation! Dancing the full cycle can be a potent catalyst for waking up to the Christ presence within. Each of the eight Dances of the cycle created by Saadi (Neil Douglas-Klotz, PhD) is fully taught and guided in the style of the Dances of Universal Peace. Please join us for this hybrid event in person or by Zoom. Email Stephen at stephen@peacesong.org

for the Zoom link.

Community Easter Egg Hunt April 9

Everyone is welcome to a Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 9. Registration will be at 12:30 pm after the service. The hunt will start at 1 pm. There will be a bounce house, crafts, coffee and pastries, and the Easter Bunny! If you'd like to donate eggs for the hunt or volunteer, contact Molly at dlre@uusalem.org.



Community Alzheimer's Class April 10



Learn about Alzheimer's in a free community class on Monday, April 10 at 5 pm at UUCS. The class will be taught by Alise Liepnieks, Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association Oregon, and SW Washington Chapter. This class includes information from expert professionals in the field and first-hand accounts from people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Ms. Liepnieks' will also provide other resources from the Alzheimer's Association and will offer an opportunity to address participant questions.

Latin and Ballroom Dance Classes Begin April 12

Join us for beginning ballroom dancing classes on Wednesdays from April 12 through May 31. Class One is Latin dance and runs from 6 to 7 pm. Class Two is Ballroom dancing and runs from 7 to 8 pm. The possible dances we may cover are Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing, Tango, Cha Cha, and Salsa. Our teacher is Donna Hurlless.

Classes will be in the UUCS Fellowship Hall. No partner is necessary. Youth are welcome. Unfortunately, we cannot offer childcare. ASL interpreting is available upon request. Masks are welcome, but not required.



Celeste Lizanich and the UUCS' Lifespan Religious Education program are organizing. Part of the funds raised will go to the LRE youth. The cost is \$60 per class for eight weekly 60-minute lessons. Payment is due at the first class. [Sign up on this weblink.](#)

Jolly Diners Meet April 20

Eleven courageous Salem Unitarian Universalists *braved* 60-degree weather and sunshine to go to Marco Polo restaurant and share a meal and enjoyment on March 16. We are doing it again at 6 pm on Thursday, April 20, at Marco Polo Restaurant. The theme is Be Positive and Share Your Joy. All identifying as hungry and friendly are welcome! Email Steve (Mr. Jolly) Rosen at Sjr1948@gmail.com if you plan to go or want more information.





Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

There is so much that is important in life that is hidden from plain view. Consider the root systems of Oregon White Oak trees, which run deep and wider than the trunk and branches of the tree that are visible. Indeed, horizontal roots in the topsoil spread out several times wider than these trees do above ground, while their deeper taproots anchor each tree—trees which can grow for up to 500 years.

The white oaks to the south of our sanctuary are estimated to be over a century and a half old. We lost one of them during the severe ice storm a winter ago (and we counted the rings that gave us this time estimate), but the others at UUCS continue to thrive. There were once many more of these native trees in Oregon, but continued development has taken a toll. It's good that we have some we can protect, hopefully for many future generations.

The presence of these majestic trees reminds us of steadfast members of UUCS who have put their roots down here, who have steadily shown their commitment to our congregation through good times and hard ones. Such commitment and generosity have enabled us to grow and thrive as a community. Without such deeply rooted members, without their anchoring, nurturing roots, a congregation can be toppled by the first strong storm or just wither and die over time. A congregation needs a healthy root system for stability and ongoing sustenance.

As we continue to grow and thrive and appreciate all we can see, it's important to look deeper, beneath the surface, and be aware of the grounding commitment that is necessary for community to take root and thrive. One way we do this is by honoring those who have shown such depth of enduring commitment with our **Mighty Oak** recognition.

Notice that we don't call this an "award" because we do not want this recognition to be framed as someone "winning" something in a competition. Rather, it is our way of saying to the recipients of this recognition that we are profoundly grateful for what you have given UUCS and want you to know that we love you. Or, as our Mighty Oak plaque in the foyer states: "UUCS gives thanks for your loving care and enduring generosity. You will live in our memory as Mighty Oaks."

Memory is important in our individual lives and also in our congregational life. An individual who loses their memory suffers from amnesia, forgetting who they are, where they have been and where they are going. Likewise, a congregation without a sense of its history, traditions, its theological and spiritual reasons for being, will wander to and fro without a steady, ongoing sense of meaning and purpose. Thus, we say to these **Mighty Oaks: "thanks for the memories!"**

In 2021 we recognized George and Elsa Struble as "Mighty Oaks." In 2022 we honored Jo Bateman. On April 30 in our worship service, we will honor another beloved member who has been a strong and steadying Mighty Oak for us. We are pleased to announce that that 2023 recipient of the Mighty Oak recognition is none other than... Please do join us at this service when we will fill in this blank.

Love,
Rick

Robert Dressler Has Passed Away

UUCS members Marilyn Sander and Robert Dressler kept up their interest in the congregation long after they moved north. Marilyn informs us that her husband, Robert W. Dressler, passed away at home February 24, 2023. His obituary is in the March 29 edition of The Lake Oswego Review and is also online.



Lifespan Religious Exploration

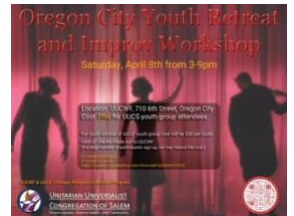


Welcome Spring! Spring is here! Even though it might snow next week, we had a few beautiful days over the last couple of weeks and I hope you got to take advantage of them!

This month in the LRE Program, we will explore the challenges and paths of resistance. Each path includes an exploration of a practice of resistance. Each path is connected to and rooted in a religious or secular holiday (not necessarily on the date it is celebrated). Our aim is to explore the holiday through its relationship to our theme of “Resistance”.

We practice resistance when...

- We Breathe; Honoring Vesak (Buddha’s Life) on April 2
- We Speak Truth to Power; Honoring Easter on April 9
- We Join Together; Honoring Passover on April 16
- We Change Habits; Honoring Earth Day on April 23
- We Stay the Course; Honoring Ramadan on April 30



A new youth group event is coming April 8. Please RSVP for the Oregon City Youth Retreat and Improv Workshop as soon as possible. For more information or to sign up, [click here for the weblink.](#)



Next week on April 9 after the service **we will be hosting the Community Easter Egg Hunt!** For those of you that came last year, we have definitely learned our lesson and haven’t posted it as an event on Facebook! It will start at 12:30 pm to give enough time for people to park and for those not staying for the Egg Hunt to leave after the service without having a parking lot jam! There will be extra parking across the street this time. Thanks to so many of you, we will have *3 times* the amount of eggs as last year! We also will have a new, bigger bounce house, face paint, and crafts. Starbucks and Costco have donated coffee, tea, cocoa, and croissants. We hope you all can make it! The Egg Hunt itself starts at 1:00 pm.

Kaleidoscope Community School is offering an Open House on April 22 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. For all our UUUCS friends and family, we offer a 10% discount on monthly tuition (that includes summer, winter & spring break camps, now called KEES: Kaleidoscope Enrichment & Educational Sessions)!

For all of you that would like to **keep up on LRE events**, please follow **our Facebook page** “UUUCS Family Connections” by [clicking here for the weblink.](#) (You will need a Facebook account and the password.)

The LRE Team is meeting soon to create an annual calendar! If you would like to host a class or help with a fun event for our families, please email me at DLRE@uusalem.org!

Speaking of hosting, summer will be here before we know it! From June through August the weekly LRE Program will be less structured and will be based on the talents and interests of a variety of volunteers, as well as staff. **That’s where you come in! I’m looking for volunteers that have a specific talent or hobby that they would love to teach the kids during the summer!** Anything you have a passion about that you would love to share with the children of your congregation, we want to see it! Anything from music, to art, to rock collecting, to ballroom dancing... You name it! How fun will it be for the children to learn about something new from a new member of the congregation every week?! Please think about it and let me know your ideas! This will be a great way to start the new year and get to know new members of the congregation! Who knows what will come from your idea?! You might find a young UU member that shares your passion!

For new and current families, we now have an LRE classroom available for our infant and toddler UU's. If you are newer to UUCS or have a younger child and you aren't sure how they will handle being away from you, please sit in the far back right row (closest to the Fellowship Hall) in the Sanctuary during the Sunday Service. That way, you will be found easily and if you need a moment, you can go right through the folding doors into the Cozy Corner (in the Fellowship Hall) with your family and watch the service on the big screen TV in there.

I'm so excited for Spring! Flip flops come out of hibernation, red and pink trees are blooming, tulips ♥ and rainbows ♥! Enjoy every moment of it! Say "YES" to a walk! Say "YES" to a dance! LIVE YOUR LIFE...



Molly Brown, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, (503) 239-7384

More Happenings and Highlights

Painting Class May 13

Join Faith Rockenstein for a painting class on Saturday, May 13 from 10 am to 2 pm. Faith is a professional artist and art educator. She loves to help release the creativity muse in her students!

All materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own watercolors and/or acrylic paints, canvases, paper, brushes, etc. Bring your lunch. The cost is \$100 for each class. Enrollment is limited. To sign up, email Faith at EHDONTYAKNOW@GMAIL.COM or call the office during open hours.



Invitation to Offer Changes to Proposed UUA Article II Revisions

The UUA is inviting "all UUs" to submit ideas for specific changes to the proposed revisions to UUA Article II by April 30. The guidelines and form for submissions can be [found online by clicking here](#).

Pledge Drive at 69.5%, Not Meeting Budget Goal

As the month comes to an end, "Tending our Flame," this year's Pledge Drive, has reached \$214,050 in pledges, which is only 69.5% of next year's budget goal of \$308,000. We are seriously behind where we need to be to fully fund UUCS operations and programs next year. Our goal is 9% over last year's due to inflation and cost of living increases for staff, reflecting what we need to maintain our budget at current levels without "extras."

UUCS's annual operating budget is primarily funded by the Annual Pledge Drive. Other sources of income, such as building rentals, have not yet recovered from the financial hit of the pandemic.

We need all UUCS members and friends to make a commitment to the church with their pledge to maintain our worship and music experiences, pastoral care, children's and adult religious education, and our community outreach. Without a fully funded budget, the Finance Team will have to look at making cuts in programs.

All members and friends who have not yet pledged are asked to do so as soon as possible by filling out the online Estimate of Giving form by clicking on this Make Pledge button:

[Make Pledge](#)

Kay Young – A Keeper of the Flame



Our long-time beloved and stalwart member Kay Young passed away last June. Our congregation has received a bequest from her estate of over \$60,000. Part of that has been designated for our Endowment Fund. The rest has been credited to our Memorial Fund, which is used for special purposes at the discretion of the UUCS Board of Trustees.

Kay's name has been added to the "Keepers of the Flame" plaque, hanging in our foyer, honoring end-of-life contributions to our Congregation. You have seen this plaque, along with another that lists significant non-pledge contributions made during the givers' lives.

Kay was born in Wyoming in 1924, the youngest of four children and a third-generation Unitarian. The family moved to Syracuse, New York, then to Corvallis before there was a Unitarian church there. She graduated from Oregon State College and had an internship in dietetics at Johns Hopkins University.

She married Bill Young in 1947 and moved to Salem, joining the Unitarian fellowship here in 1957. She and Bill raised their two daughters as UUs. Her daughter Jane Manning has been an active member of our congregation—and especially in the Women’s Alliance—for decades.

Kay was a dietician for Salem public schools and Shangri-La Corporation. She created a continuing education program for school lunch personnel.

She was active in our congregation, attending most Sundays and most events, and very active in the Women’s Alliance. She was the kind of person who, if something needed to be done, was there doing it!

Kay had two parties when she turned 98 last year. One was with family at the home of her daughter and the other was in her apartment at Bonaventure with her long-time friends Jo Bateman and Cora Clarke.

Kay joins her mother, Laura Wells, on this plaque. Laura made a \$50,000 contribution at a crucial time to get this church built in 1997; then her bequest paid off the mortgage so we could start raising money to add the fellowship hall.

Stories like this are important to our congregational life. We need to know who and what we are grateful for, so we know our place in the span of history and our responsibility to do our part toward that history.

There are not many names on this plaque. There should be more. But it didn’t occur to too many of our members who could have made their own end-of-life contributions. That’s why we tried to do our very first endowment campaign three years ago, just as COVID began, which naturally took much of our congregation’s attention. I hope that in this decade more of our members—*this means you!*—will make plans to give generously to support our congregation’s future.

~George Struble

Behind the Chalice

Three years ago... Four people sat in the living room of one of their houses. They sat as far away from each other as they could and still hear one another. They sat and they tried to figure out how, in less than 7 days, they could deliver a Sunday Worship Service to over one hundred people without seeing any of them, much less seeing each other.

They sat and talked and thought and one remembered there was a camera—somewhere in a closet buried under cords and microphones and tissue boxes for memorials there was a small camera that one might record a child’s birthday party. If they used that camera, taking turns filming each other or themselves, and then...and then...and then they found a 5th and 6th person who could take those bits of recording and put them together.

A 7th person appeared who organized the sections of the service into colorful and visually interesting slides. Then an 8th person came forward, someone who knew something about sound. So, they turned a Minister’s sanctuary into a recording studio. We’ll do this for just a few months, they said. And thus it went...

But it was lasting longer than a few months and soon they were finding themselves away from the camera and in their own homes on this web platform called Zoom where they could meet and record all at once. Well, except for the music—that still needed to be spliced in. But still, it felt a little more cohesive and there was this 8th person who now helped record the Zoom and then put it all neatly together and sent it out into YouTube land. A 9th person appeared to do ASL interpreting, and a 10th person now checked the closed captioning—which led to forming a new team. Things were growing and becoming routine; guests could show up on the Zoom recordings from the comfort of their homes and everyone had a space in their house that was their “recording studio.”

But more changes were to come as the people came back into the sanctuary with masks of different colors and patterns, to film the services all together in sequence. Now it was not Zoom, but two separate hand operated cameras, stage lights and microphones that were more concerned about how it sounded on live stream than in person, because the audience was still at home.

And so, each Sunday the slide guy, sound engineer, video engineer, ASL interpreter, 2 camera operators, pianist, cantor, celebrant, minister and a “stage manager” (called a production coordinator), came and through their worshipping together created a “live stream” service for web broadcast.

Then, change came once more as the other congregants started coming back, cameras becoming automatic, and with it came the choir, hosts, LRE and Time for All Ages with the children and finally, coffee service.

Who are these mysterious people who didn't stop three years ago, but kept stepping forward, many of them continuing today? Here, in no particular order, are most of the names: Janet Stevens, Gloria Holland, Bob Muir, Barbara Stebbins- Boaz, Sara Pickett, Brenna Norval, Rev. Rick Davis, Doc Hadley, Laura Christian, Emma Kreger, Jo Sweeney, John Prohodsky, Christine Ertl, Sharon Pierson, Ben Cavaletto, Beth Anne Huffine, Cherie Ulmer, Kit Abrahamson, Anna Tally, Becky Harrison, Gil Nicholson-Nelson, Jack Simmons, Connie Anderson, Pete Ley, Ezra Alexander, Loriann Schmidt, Marcia Christenson, Jon Chinburg, Lily Walker, Molly Brown (and sister Sara), the many Hosts and all who help with Coffee Service—so many. I apologize if I missed someone.

It has been quite a journey. Some of it has been recorded here, Behind the Chalice. Thank you for being with us along the path. May we keep going along together for many years to come.

~In service from Behind the Chalice.

Social Justice News

UUCS Commitments to Family Promise for 2023



This year Family Promise is going to a “hybrid” model, described as follows. Until July, families will be staying at one of the two houses belonging to Family Promise. After that, families will be staying at host churches, including UUCS. We will deliver 4 evening meals to the two houses during the week of May 14 - 21. Subsequently, we will house and feed the families during the weeks of August 13 - 20 and November 19 - 26. Sign-ups will begin a few weeks before each of these weeks. Thanks!

~The UUCS Family Promise Team

Our Social Justice Survey Results Are In!

The results of our March Social Justice survey appear on the UUCS website, which can be reached [by clicking here](#). I feel good about it. It will provide a starting point for future discussions about choosing our congregation's social justice goals. So, now is your chance to take a look and consider what UUCS should do.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Team Chair

Splinters from the Board

Minister's Report

Rev. Rick noted that a new Mighty Oak recipient will be recognized in April. He inquired about the status for air conditioning installation, as he would like to be able to offer UUCS facilities for weddings and other events this summer. The Facilities Team is working on that project.

Treasurer Report and Pledge Drive Update

Lorna expressed concern that, despite efforts by the Pledge Drive Team, only about 40% of the needed funds have been raised. The Board discussed options to address this problem, including phone calls and other options. The options will be discussed at the March Board retreat.

Carpet Installation

The Board voted to approve a proposal from the Facilities Team for Tim's Carpet and Interiors to replace the carpet in the sanctuary with carpet tiles. The color scheme is complimentary to the existing color scheme. The Board also authorized payment for the carpet tiles and installation. The timeline for carpet installation is not yet determined and will depend on the availability of the tiles and the schedule of the installer.

Update on Strategic Plan Process

Sara discussed the monthly strategic plan goal reports from teams, which document many of the activities of the congregation. There is ongoing discussion about how to improve the reporting process to assure communication to the congregation of all the work that is being done.

Annual Meeting Planning

The Board is actively preparing for this year's UUCS Annual Meeting which will be held on May 21. Lynn confirmed that all assignments have been filled.

Sunday Services and Religious Education

Religious Education <i>In person, during service</i>	Sunday Service <i>In-person and Live-streamed</i>	Fellowship Time <i>In person</i>
10:30 am	10:30 am	Noon
April Share the Plate Recipient: <u>Minster's Discretionary Fund</u>		

Sunday, April 9

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Was Jesus a Religious Extremist?"

Easter Sunday, come hear Rev. Rick's views on the historical Jesus and if he was considered an extremist in his day. Then check out the Fellowship Hall to see if the Easter Bunny has left any treats to munch on. Before you go, head out to Bateman's Woods and see if you can find any hidden Easter eggs.

Celebrant: Sara Pickett
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, April 16

Sara Pickett

"Forgive My Trespasses"

We all have made mistakes and have felt the need to apologize. We have also all been hurt by others and sometimes been given an apology, and sometimes not been given one. Yet we are constantly told of the importance of forgiveness for hurts done to us, at least for our own sake, if not for the benefit of others. Is giving and receiving an apology an artform and is it necessary to maintain positive healthy relationships with others as well as a positive relationship with ourselves?

Celebrant: Brenna Norval
Piano: Ezra Alexander
Cantor: Marcia Christenson

Sunday, April 23

David Roth

"Spiritual Music"

Come see and more importantly hear a musical service through the gift of spiritual musician David Roth.

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: UUCS Choir with David Roth

Sunday, April 30

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"All the Lonely People"

Come hear Rev. Rick about the compassion and love in our hearts and how it can help others who are going through a hard time. Also, there will be a short ceremony introducing the new Life Lines Lay Ministry members.

Celebrant: Gloria Holland

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

revrick@uusalem.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education:

Molly Brown dlre@uusalem.org

RE Sunday Assistant: Open

Director of Music: Jon Chinburg

musicdirection@uusalem.org

Board Chair: Lynn Cardiff

boardchair@uusalem.org

Congregational Administrator: Emma Kreger

Office Assistant: Jo Sweeney

Office open Tuesday-Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Phone: 503-364-0932

E-mail: office@uusalem.org

UUCS Internet Links to:

Website: www.uusalem.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uusalem.org

Newsletter Editors: editors@uusalem.org

This issue was edited by Bob Muir with help from Vicki Cunningham, Elsa Struble and Kathleen McKinney.

EVENT SCHEDULING: use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add events 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 monthly 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, **April 28, 2023.**

This Week submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.