



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

October 2023

Ballroom and Latin Dance Classes Still Open!

Join us Wednesdays for beginning Ballroom and beginning Latin dancing classes in the UUCS Fellowship Hall. Ballroom sessions will be from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm and Latin sessions will be from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Classes began September 27, but remain open through October 4. Each of the two classes costs \$60. Payment is due at the first class you attend. [Register by clicking here.](#)

This program is organized by Ben Cavaletto and UUCS's Lifespan Religious Education program. Our teacher is Donna Hurless. Masks are welcome, but not required. No partner is necessary. Youth are welcome. Childcare and ASL interpreting are available upon request.

Life Story Group Meetings Begin October 9

You are invited to join Life Story Group meetings on October 9, November 13 and December 11 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm at UUCS in Hanneman Hall. Extra space will be made for those who are COVID-wary. A free 26-page manual will be provided based on the "2-page technique" in which life-story sharing limited to 2 pages or 5 minutes is explained. We need from 6 to 10 participants to register through email to hold this class, with preference given to those aged 60 and older. Contact David Haber at haberd@wou.edu.



OR UU Voices for Justice Meets October 14

The OUUVfJ Annual meeting is being hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Eugene this year. It will be multiplatform. The theme is Connecting Communities for Justice. The speakers are the Rev. Allison Miller, First Unitarian Church, Portland and Brenda Smith, Executive Director of High Desert Partnership. Join with other UUs from around the state to learn about and discuss these issues. [Click here for OUUVfJ website.](#)

Trunk or Treat on October 28!

Music!! Candy!! Games!! Cars with elaborate decorations wrapped around the entire parking lot to pass out candy to the Salem community! Join us Saturday, October 28 from 3 pm to 6 pm for these free activities. For more information, text or call DLRE Molly Brown at 971-239-7384 or email her at DLRE@uusalem.org. To reserve a parking spot to pass out candy from your car, contact Molly by October 15. Spaces are limited!

Appreciate Our Ancestors October 29

At our Appreciating Our Ancestors service on October 29 we will be hearing stories about some of our fellow congregation members. We each have our own unique stories of how we got to this place, how we chose UU, our experiences with UUCS, and how UU has influenced our lives. Come hear Marge's, Mary's, Andy's, Lynn's, Vicki's, Don's, Stephanie's, Joel's, and Carolyn's stories and see how they resonate with your own.

Celebrate Same Sex Unions November 5

On November 5, we will be commemorating 50+ years of same sex union services in Unitarian Universalism, and we invite you to be recognized! If you and a partner have had a same sex union service in a church (UU or otherwise), please contact Eric Schuman at ericpa3@comcast.net or speak to him on Sunday.

Join Men's Group Meetings Twice a Month

All who identify as men are welcome to join the Men's Group twice a month. One is a Wednesday dinner potluck from 6 to 8 pm in Rev. Rick's office; the other is a Sunday breakfast potluck from 8 to 10 am in Hanneman Hall. The next dinner is October 11, and the next breakfast is October 22. Each meeting happens once every 4 weeks. After a check-in, there will be discussion. Discussions are confidential unless the safety of a participant or someone else is at risk.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

As far as I'm concerned, UUCS is for the birds—and every single member I've consulted about this matter agrees. So, to ensure all the birds who live in or migrate through UUCS's grounds do thrive, we invited folks from the Audubon Society to tour our grounds and make recommendations for how we can protect and enhance their habitat and general well-being. After their initial tour the Audubon folks told us they had identified 30 different species—at least—and they'll tell us what they know about helping them thrive. We celebrated this relationship at our service on October 1 by hanging hummingbird feeders around our building and that's just the beginning.



Our hardworking landscape volunteers are already planning on strengthening our avian hospitality program by putting in native plants and shrubs that will attract the birds and enable us to be good stewards of this land.

This is a good start, but there is always more to do—for example runoff water from parking lots picks up litter, petroleum, chemicals, and other toxic substances which flow into streams and rivers. A good portion of our property is covered by asphalt and thus we contribute to this problem. There is at least one green solution: bioswales adjacent to our parking lot would enable plants to filter out the harmful substances from the water.

Perhaps this could be part of a UUCS green strategic plan; it would make such a positive difference! *(Here is a "happy note": Our facility's newly installed heat pumps will use 50% less energy than our last system and will not use gas at all. So, huge **thanks** go to a couple of very generous donors. This will not only help us keep warm in chilly weather and cool in the summer months, but also serve to lighten UUCS' carbon footprint.)*

We are entrusted with stewardship of this property, and we are always called to discern how to be here in ways that are ever more congruent with our values.

In this regard, here's more hopeful news! Our Social Justice Team, with Board and Ministerial support, is exploring the option of using our overflow parking lot, or perhaps our regular lot, as a temporary refuge for those who are forced by circumstances to live in their vehicles.

We have been consulting regularly with the Church at the Park ([Church@thePark](#)), which currently operates sites in parking lots of several churches in our community. We will be describing this program in greater detail in coming days so you can better understand how this program actually works. Then, we will be asking for your support in canvassing our neighborhood to describe this program to seek surrounding community support as well. If all goes well, we can both become better acquainted with our neighbors and show the Marion County Commissioners that there is support for such a program, which is currently not allowed *outside city limits*. Since the commissioners are interested in helping alleviate homelessness, we anticipate their support and cooperation.

It's so hard for so many folks right now and offering a safe space to park at night could make a huge difference for some of them as Church at the Park works to help them transition toward better solutions.

We'll be having informational meetings about all of this soon. Stay tuned!

Love,
Rick



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Hello everyone!

I **LOVE** fall !! The beautiful red and golden leaves falling from the trees; boot weather, pumpkin spice lattes; warm fires in the fireplace while reading to my children! My kids love it too! Christmas is coming, no PE outside, hot cocoa stand for the neighbors and of course, winter break! So many events happen this time of year! We have our Annual “**Trunk or Treat**” event coming up on Saturday, October 28. See details above in this newsletter.

This year’s theme in the LRE Program is “The Gifts of Our Faith.” We’ll focus on ten beloved UU values and explore their potential to shape us and, in turn, shape the world. We will get at such questions as: How do these values offer us both challenge and comfort? What might it mean to place them at the center of our living and loving? What promise do they hold for us individually and collectively?

With all this in mind, during the month of October, we will explore The Gifts of Roots. Each week we will explore different gifts related to our roots:

- Week 1: The Gifts of Staying Close to Our Roots
- Week 2: The Gifts of Reclaiming Our Roots (Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day)
- Week 3: The Gifts of Our LGBTQ+ Roots (LGBTQ+ History Month)
- Week 4: The Gifts of Being Rooted in Science and Reason
- Week 5: The Gifts of Honoring and Grieving Our Roots (Samhain and Pagan Roots)

On October 8 there will be no LRE Program, as it will be a multigenerational service. I will send home our lesson that week for you to discuss with your children and an activity to do together if you choose! As always, feel free to use the Cozy Corner in the Fellowship Hall if your children need a break from the service!

On October 15, the Youth Collective (for middle school and high school children) will be going to EZ Orchards Harvest Fest from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm! We can create a carpool if the kids want to ride over together! Please let me know if you plan on going and have a space in your car!

Our OWL Facilitators are working hard with others to make the program happen by January! If you know of any middle school families that might be wondering about the program, feel free to share the following information:

Why do we offer sexuality education in our religious communities? Our Unitarian Universalist Principles call us to offer such programs:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person: Every person's sexuality is sacred and worthy of respect; it is not to be violated.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations: We treat others as we would want to be treated; therefore, sexual exploitation and interpersonal violence are wrong.

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations: Accepting each other as we are means doing no harm and fostering well-being in one's self and others.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning: In our relationship to others, our freedom of sexuality is as important as the responsibility for it.



The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large: As a community and an institution, we are responsible for creating a secure, safe, and nonviolent environment.

The goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all: We have the opportunity to create the kind of environment that lends itself to peace, liberty, and justice in human interactions, and we can become a model for the rest of society.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part: When we respect each person's sexual integrity, we honor the wholeness of life and respect the web of all existence.

I look forward to seeing you all at the events to come and at the Sunday Service! Take care,
Molly Brown, DLRE, she/her

More Happenings and Highlights

Board Forum Topics for October 15

Following the service on October 15, get your coffee and treat and then come back into the Sanctuary at noon to chat with the UUCS Board members. You will be able to learn more about all the improvements the Facilities Team has made this year, check on any news regarding the Ministerial Search, and bring your questions about UUCS and see if the Board members have answers.

In addition, you are invited to attend board meetings on the second Monday of the month at 5:30 via Zoom. If you would like the link to Zoom, send a request to secretary@uusalem.org.

Coffee Service Schedule for All Members

Once again, as part of the shared ministry campaign, we are asking that all members of the congregation help with coffee service one or two times throughout the year. [Click here to see the schedule](#) for the days you are assigned to help. We are hoping this will give everyone an opportunity to meet other members and to be part of service to our community. If you would like to be a team leader for dates with ???? on the schedule, or if you have questions or concerns, contact Anna or Sara at connectionsteam@uusalem.org.

News of the Community

Hey, have you heard the exciting news? Well, you will hear some of it here. Some of the fun things people have been doing or will be doing soon are:

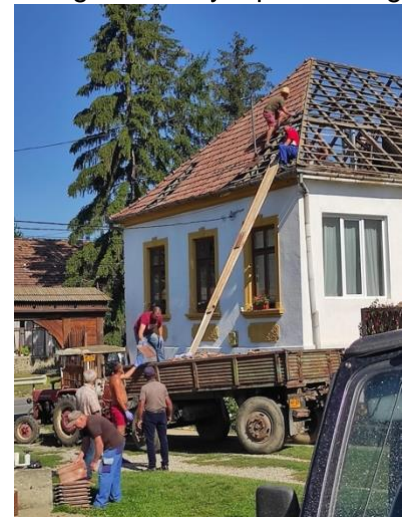
Becky Harrison recently posted in the UUCSlistserv: "Look who isn't just a fantastic pianist, but also is a director—**Loriann Schmidt!** Currently she is supervising the production of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, which is playing at the [Pentacle Theater](#) in Salem from September 29 through October 21."

Eric Schuman reports: **Diane Rombach** joined **Lorn Folsom** and **Eric Schuman** on a European excursion that included Amsterdam, Paris, a Normandy cruise, and a tour of Cornwall in southwest England. They report seeing fabulous sights, eating scrumptious food, and meeting wonderful people. This was despite challenges from a pickpocket, a phone thief and that vicious viral marauder who stole 4 days of their journey while they languished in isolation.

Lisa Leirmo writes: "Happily, we've had some books checked out from our **Banned Book Library** in the Fellowship Hall! We hope people will keep checking out the books and that we can get more banned books donated so we have more to offer. Simply Google your books to see if they've been banned from anywhere in the U.S., or look it up on our list, and then donate them on the cart. Thank you!"

Our **friends in Simenfalva, Romania**, our Partner Church, just put a much-needed roof on the Minister's house and this time of year they will be celebrating their Thanksgiving for the year.

Do you have something you want to share for the November Newsletter? Email me at sara@uusalem.org by October 31 or catch me some Sunday and tell me!



A big thank you to everyone who helped with Coffee Service this summer. We couldn't have kept our caffeine addiction without you! To check out when it is your turn to help with coffee and treats, go to the website and click on the Coffee Service Schedule for All Members in Hot Topics. Also, thanks to those who have already looked at their yearly schedule and identified dates that don't work yet want to find dates that do work! It takes a village to brew a decent cup of coffee.

~Sara Pickett.

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

General Assembly Delegates Wanted

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for conducting business of the Association. As a democratic organization, UUA has member delegates vote on issues before the Association. Our congregation can have 5 voting delegates. Next year's meeting will be virtual, making it more feasible for delegates to participate. We have 2 openings for new delegates, appointed by the Board. Current Delegates are Sara Pickett, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Joel Martin. With questions or to volunteer for these open positions, contact any current delegate or Board Chair Lynn Cardiff at boardchair@uusalem.org.

Part-time Custodian Needed

Do you enjoy or do you know someone who enjoys cleaning and would want to work for UUCS? We are looking for a part time custodian. The hours average 10 per week and are fairly flexible. We need someone with cleaning experience to provide a clean, safe, healthy, welcoming building for the congregation and rentals. Please send a resume to office@uusalem.org!

Social Justice News

It's the giving season! I don't mean Christmas... With the weather getting cooler and damper, the homeless need socks, coats, hats, gloves, and other warm clothing. Clothing drives help and are cost effective if no longer used clothes are donated. If you intend to buy socks, gloves, hats, etc. for the homeless your money is better spent by donating it so UUCS can buy in bulk. For example [a three piece winter set](#) (hat, gloves and socks) can be had for less than \$1.50 (including shipping) when bought in bulk. [Winter coats](#) can be bought in bulk for less than \$25. Clothing drives will be announced soon.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Chair

Salem Peace Lecture is October 18

The 34th Annual Salem Peace Lecture will feature the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the national Poor People's Campaign on Wednesday, October 18 at 7:30 pm. It will be held at Hudson Hall in the Rogers Music Center at Willamette University. Her talk is titled "Peace, Peace When There is No Peace: Addressing Poverty, Racism and Militarism from the Bottom Up." The lecture is free, though donations will be gratefully accepted. [Click here for more information on the UUCS website.](#)

Splinters from the Board

Connections and Chalice Circle Groups: Connections groups have started up for this church year. There are 7 Connection groups and 2 Chalice Circle groups. About 70 to 75 are involved in the groups.

Limited Parking Considered for Those Living in Cars: The board in conjunction with the Social Justice Team is considering allowing up to 5 cars to be parked in the north parking lot from 7 pm to 7 am. This is a program of Church at the Park that is happening in several churches around Salem. Joan Stenbridge has visited all the other sites and reports they are clean and well-coordinated. Church at the Park runs the program and monitors it 3 times during the 12-hour period as well as screening the individuals who will park there and sets limits on the number of people. A representative from UUCS will be in constant contact with Church at the Park. The Social Justice Team is still gathering information from the county and Church at the Park will be drawing up a proposal which will come to the board.

Heat Pump System Being Installed: The heat pump system which includes air conditioning is being installed as I write this. Facilities and Landscape Teams have been working on the placement of the outside units. The

expected end of this project is in two to two and a half weeks. There may still need to be some electrical work done.

Board Considering Fundraising to Aid UUCS Budget: The board has been discussing the need for more fundraising to aid our budget. This will be discussed further at the Team Council meeting in October. The Finance Committee is seeking people for the Fundraising Team.

Additional Delegates Sought for 2024 UUA General Assembly: There is still a need for more delegates to General Assembly, the UUA sponsored conference held once a year at the end of June. The next GA in June 2024 will be virtual. We qualify for five voting members and at this time we have three, so two more are needed.

~Lynn Cardiff, Board Chair



Meet, Question and Hear your Board at Board Forums!

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	After Service
October Share the Plate Recipient: Salem for Refugees		

Sunday, October 8

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Can You Shape Your Soul?"

It's good when we recognize what we can do and can't do. Can we actually improve upon ourselves? Do we need to do that? Why?

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: Nadene LeCheminant

Sunday, October 15

Bob Muir, Homilist/Storyteller

"Me or We"

The Enlightenment celebrated individualism and intellectual freedom, the benefits of which we still cherish. But do those qualities alone assure a healthy and just society? What do our UU principles affirm?

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, October 22

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"The Longest Sermon in the World"

Some years ago, I entertained the thought of entering the Guinness Book of World Records by preaching the longest sermon in the world. Should I go for it? Or not?

Celebrant: Bob Muir
Music: Alicia Rasmussen (flute); Terry Bay (piano)

Sunday, October 29

**Gloria Holland, Nadene La Cheminant, Sara Pickett,
Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Homilists/Storytellers**

"Celebrating our Roots"

We each have our own unique stories of how we got to this place. How we chose UU and our experiences with UUCS.

Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, November 5

The Rev. Richard R. Davis and Eric Schuman

"You can't preach here! You can't marry here!"

Eric Schuman will share stories of challenges and opposition to the goal of marriage equality for same sex couples in Unitarian Universalism, and Rev. Rick will discuss his experience officiating at same sex unions over three decades. Be prepared for surprise guests on the dais at the conclusion of the service!

Celebrant: Bob Muir

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

EVENT SCHEDULING: use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add 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 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, **November 3, 2023.**

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