



Unitariana

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2200 East End Street NW Olympia, Washington 98502

This Month's Highlights

Make a Difference today by signing up for the CROP Walk on May 4th Contact Ruth rabad@live.com

Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 11 AM – 4 PM

Phone: 360-786-6383

Email: liberafaith@olyuu.org

Web: www.olyuu.org

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Administrator: Darlene Sarkela

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Associated Minister: Rev. Bill Arensmeyer

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Deadline for Newsletter

Submissions: Third Sunday of the preceding month. Email articles to

liberafaith@olyuu.org

Sunday Worship Services: 9:15 & 11 AM

April 6 Addictive Behaviors: Science, Symptoms & Successful Recovery

While addictive behaviors are as old as human history, major progress on understanding and treating such compulsions is less than a century old. Tom Ten Eyck and David Maynard will present an overview of addictions work today.

Thomas G. Ten Eyck, is an addictions specialist with emphasis on co-occurring disorders and pathological gambling. He is adjunct faculty at Lewis & Clark College, Mount Hood Community College, and Chemeketa Community College. He also serves as one of Oregon's Approved Clinical Consultants to problem gambling counselors and their supervisors. Reverend David Maynard is an Addictions Counselor and has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for thirty-three years. He currently serves the Eastrose Fellowship and has a separate counseling practice.

April 13 A Network of Mutuality

Rev. Carol McKinley and Sister Mimi Maloney, SNJM

Care of the Earth is more than a scientific or political issue. As Earth Day approaches, we look at environmental action as justice-making work, a moral and religious imperative to bring us into right relationship with all life.

April 20 Sacred Threads and Webs

Marian Stewart

In the chaos of this world, it is difficult to know where we belong. Work, work, work. Rush, rush, rush. Does who we are matter? We live in a culture of fear, gloom and doom. Is anything sacred?

Marian Stewart is a ministerial consultant serving Unitarian congregations on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. She is originally from North Carolina but confesses to loving the northern Pacific coast and over the past few years she has begun to call this area home.

April 27 The Van Gogh Cafe'

Rev. Keith Kron

How do we heal a world filled with oppression and evil? What can one person do to improve her or his life and the lives of those nearby? Whether the oppression is sexism, racism, heterosexism, homophobia, ableism, or ageism, each of us can do something. But what? Maybe you need a little magic. This service will explore how to work to end oppression and how to create the magic that will do it.

Rev. Keith Kron is Director of the Office for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns for the Unitarian Universalist Association. He is co-chair of the UUA's Family Matters Task Force and serves on the board for the UU Men's Network. Keith is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, where he is currently an adjunct professor for an on-line religious education class on children's literature. He grew up in the Appalachian hills of Anderson County, Tennessee.

Changing the World, One Fun Badge at a Time

This year, the Religious Education Committee decided to support the formation of an Earth Scouts Group in Olympia. Earth Scouts is a national program for boys and girls ages 3 to 17, with badges that explore themes related to the US Earth Charter. The themes are: Participatory Democracy, Human Rights, Peace and Non-Violence, Economic Justice, and Respect for Nature. This sounds like a UU friendly program, doesn't it? That's exactly what we thought.

My son and I have enjoyed this program immensely. In order to earn a badge, a scout must participate in a meeting that is supposed to "inspire" them to learn and think about an issue, then create something unique and bring it to a Sharing Circle to tell other scouts about their creative process, and finally take a real action in the world related to that issue. When we were working on a Respect for Nature badge, we made the interesting discovery that all of the scouts had chosen a tree as their creation. We had a 3D tree sculpture, a jigsaw puzzle of a tree, drawings of trees ... and a great chance to talk more about why trees inspire us. Scouts' actions have included working with the Nature Conservancy, raising money for Heifer International, and distributing sandwiches to homeless people.



As much as possible, we have the kids themselves decide what they want to do, and what they care about. We have fun, and try to be part of the solution to problems we see. We have hope for the future, and know that kids can be part of a community that tries to find peaceful solutions to conflict, ways to be independent and cooperate, and appreciation for the uniqueness of each individual. If this sounds good to you, please join us! You can find out more by contacting **Sara Lewis** or sending an email to olympiaearthscouts@yahoo.com

2008 BOOKS~BROWNIES~BEANS – B R A V O! by Linda Crabtree

Another successful book sale – with **\$5,986** net income for Out of the Woods coffers! And, we can anticipate another **\$1,000+** from the online sales of our leftover books. Not bad for five hours and 50¢ - \$2 sale items!

The statistics are always interesting: we had 1,067 linear feet of books, CDs, videos... plus a pile of cassettes. About 42% were fiction (25% categorized "Fiction", another 15% "Mystery/Science Fiction" and 2% "Romance"). Nine percent were children/youth with the rest being a wide variety of non-fiction.

We had 406 buyers between 10am and 3pm on Saturday, February 23rd, more than half of whom came in the first hour; average sale was \$14.37. The great majority heard about the sale from the street banners (27.4%, up from 9% last year). The new banner on State Street made a big difference. The lead story in the Olympian on the South Sound section also made a difference, not only in attendance but in book donations.....and of course, in publicity for OUUC and OTW!

Set-up, sorting, book sale, bistro and entertainment -- more than 93 volunteers were involved, most from our church but several family and friends. It was a great event for community building -- ours and the greater community! So see you next year.....FEBRUARY 28, 2009!!

Meantime, our first year of online sales from last year's leftover books brought \$1,140 additional income for 870 books sold. Prices ranged from \$41.07 to \$.24 with 16 selling for over twenty dollars each; average sale was \$4.42 of which we get 30%. At year end, there were still 697 of last year's books listed; this year's leftovers will be added to that number. Here's to another **\$1,200** to our profits from this sale – or over **\$7,000** total!

Book sale team: Carol Allen, Linda Crabtree, Jean Phillips, Jan Spiller.



The Word from Out of the Woods by Riley McLaughlin

New Life Arrives at the Shelter



Fran and her four year old son Elija arrived at the OTW shelter in January, and on February 25, she gave birth to a beautiful new daughter, Neveah. Fran has now found herself in a supportive and helpful community after some difficult earlier years. She was born and raised in Guam until she graduated high school, the youngest girl in a family of ten children.

"My dad was in the navy, so I was a 'military brat' and moved several times throughout the years."

Eventually she came to Washington, where she earned an AA degree in business management, but got involved in a community that led her into drug use.

"I got into the bad stuff because of intimidation - I was surrounded by it, and that's why I had to move from the county and come down here. I've been clean for eighteen months now, and proud of it."

Fran graduates from the BHR Harvest Program (for drug and alcohol recovery) at the end of the month, and will continue to check in once a month for another three months while she looks for permanent housing. She is excited about enrolling in an ESD 113 class to become a facilitator, going to schools to do talk about chemical dependency.

"I can go talk about how drugs can affect a person's life. Because I am a previous addict, I can tell stories that can help other lives. If I can keep some of the kids out of the streets, I'll be pleased."

Fran appreciates the chance she's been given by BHR and Out of the Woods.

"Yes, I know what I got myself into. Now, I can actually look forward to a better tomorrow."

EARTH DAY AND US

Not since Gaylord Nelson founded the first Earth Day in 1970, thirty-eight years ago, has there been so much focus, world-wide, on our natural environment and our impacts on it. Global-warming, greenhouse gases, oil spills, endangered species, carbon footprints, sky-rocketing gas prices and population growth—every day, now, the news is dominated by environmental catastrophes, approaching meltdowns, and “big-ticket” fixes that may have come too late.

But the news is not all bad, especially close to home. A new initiative to save Puget Sound has begun, perhaps this time armed with the necessary tools—buckets of money and political clout—to make real progress. Residents and businesses of the Pacific Northwest have long been at the forefront of the development of solar, wind and tidal power, Green building, low impact housing and, to judge by the number of hybrid cars on our roads these days, reducing the personal and environmental costs of transportation. (The failure of mass transit in the region is *another* story).

OUUC's Green Sanctuary Program

Here at OUUC, environmental activism has always been a strong feature of our culture, thanks to our 7th UU Principle, honoring the interdependent web of all existence, and to the dedicated work of many of our members in their daily lives. Organized several years ago as part of our social justice efforts by Leslie Romer, our Green Sanctuary Program achieved full committee status last year as it worked to obtain recognition from the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) for OUUC as a Green Sanctuary Congregation. Steps in the process included undertaking an environmental audit of OUUC and developing action and communication plans for improving our performance. Our application for candidate status is currently under review, and we expect acceptance of our action plan by the UUMFE imminently.

Earth Day 2008 at OUUC

Our service on Sunday, April 13, will be a special Earth Day service, conducted by Rev. Carol McKinley and Sister Mimi Maloney. In addition to celebrating this special day for Gaia, our home, there will be information available on our carbon footprint (What does it mean? How is it determined?), and the announcement of the nomination of a UUMFE “Guardian of the Future” (otherwise known as an UUnsung environmental hero) from our congregation. So join us for this special celebration of the Earth and our own ability to save it.

How you can help

The next meeting of the Green Sanctuary Committee is also Sunday, April 13 at 11:30 am in the church. Join us to learn about all the projects in our Green Sanctuary Action Plan and how you can make a difference.

Tim Ransom

SPACE 4.0 Building Expansion Committee – A New Site Plan

The civil engineer has prepared a storm water system design for a much improved site plan. The design is sized to meet our needs for full buildout of our master plan. It features improved access to parking and greater retention of trees. Look for this site plan to be put on display in the foyer in the very near future.

Next we will prepare a landscaping plan and be ready to submit our conditional use permit application to the City.

Warren Dawes

Adult Education Classes

Beginning in April (all meet at OUUC) are: **Digital Photography for the Not-Quite Beginner**, 3 sessions, Tuesdays April 14&28, 7:00-9:00pm, and Saturday, April 19, 10:00am-12:00noon; **The End of Faith – Part 2**, 5 session, Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm, April 1, 8, 15, 22 &,29; and **Membership Class**, one session, Saturday, April 26, 9:00am-2:00pm. The **Digital Photography** class has limited enrollment and is filled. Other classes are unlimited and still open. Consult the Winter-Spring 2008 Adult Education Program Guide to find more details of all classes and how to register for them. Copies are available at OUUC, or the same information can be viewed on the OUUC website www.olyuu.org (see More About Us, Our Religious Education Programs, Adult). **Meditation**, a continuing class, will meet Friday, April 11, 7:00 pm at OUUC; registration is not required. The **Book Group** will meet Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm at OUUC, to discuss **Eat Pray Love**, by Elizabeth Gilbert (2006). Registration is not required; just read the book and show up.

Pete Taylor

Make a difference... Help stop hunger ...Be part of the Olympia UU Crop Walk team

This year's **Thurston County Crop Walk** is **Sunday afternoon, May 4th**. This is a fun way to raise money for local and international food programs and improve your health by walking around Capitol Lake. Twenty five percent of funds raised go to seven local hunger agencies including Out of the Woods Food Pantry. Seventy five percent of funds are earmarked for international organizations. None of the funds go for local administration costs.

You can participate in two ways:

- Sign up to be a walker: it's fun and easy
- Support an OUUC walker by making a donation to stop hunger

This year your donation will do further with the generous match from Jim Sinegal, Costco's CEO.

Each Year Thurston County competes with other Washington counties to see who can raise the most money. Last year we raised \$50,000 and beat out our main competitor; Bainbridge Island. With your help and the COSTCO match we will do even better in 2008.

To participate or make a donation watch for Deb Ross and Ruth Abad at the CROP walk table between services during April. You may also contact Deb (see directory for e-mail) or Ruth: rabad@live.com

SPRING CHURCH GROUNDS WORK PARTY

The Building & Grounds Committee is sponsoring our first church grounds work party of the year on **Sunday, April 13, 2008**, right after second church service (noon – 5:00 p.m.) to weed, prune, fertilize, and do some heavy duty spring cleanup. If you wish to volunteer or have questions, contact **Jean Phillips** at (jeanieph@comcast.net), or just show up. Bring your own work gloves and hand tools if you have them. We have some big tools in the shed. Hope to see you there.

Classified:

1998 Ford Ranger FOR SALE \$6,250

XLT 4D SuperCab, 4 Liter, Automatic, 2WD, 83,000 miles

Excellent condition and gas mileage

Standard Equipment: Power steering, tilt wheel, AM/FM stereo with cassette, Dual front air bags, cruise control, towing package, fog lamps, alloy wheels, Sliding rear window and canopy. **Call John at (360) 264-5623.**

APRIL CALENDAR

			16	7:00 PM	The End of Faith-Part 2
				<i>Wednesday</i>	
1	<i>Tuesday</i>			10:30 AM	PUGs
	6:15 PM	Partner Church Committee		7:00 PM	Choir
	7:00 PM	The End of Faith-Part 2	17	<i>Thursday</i>	
	7:30 PM	Covenant of UU Pagans		10:00 AM	MUG
		Monthly Circle		6:00 PM	Earth Scouts
2	<i>Wednesday</i>		18	7:00 PM	Out of the Woods Board
	10:30 AM	PUGs(Powerful Unitarian Gals)		7:00 PM	Living by Heart Class
	1:30 PM	Hinduism		<i>Friday</i>	
	5:30 PM	Worship Arts		6:00 PM	Taiji Class
	7:00 PM	Pastoral Care Team		6:00 PM	YRUU Overnight
	7:00 PM	Choir	19	<i>Saturday</i>	
3	<i>Thursday</i>			10:00 AM	Digital Photography for the
	10:00 AM	MUG(Mighty Unitarian Guys)			Not-Quite Beginner
	6:30 PM	Earth Scouts		10:00 AM	Religious Education
	7:00 PM	Committee on Ministry			Committee
4	<i>Friday</i>			1:40 PM	Voice Class
	6:00 PM	Taiji Class	20	<i>Sunday</i>	
6	<i>Sunday</i>			11:00 AM	Newsletter Deadline
	9:15 AM	Worship		9:15 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Religious Education		9:15 AM	Our Whole Lives Class
		Committee		10:45 AM	Heritage Class
	11:00 AM	Worship		11:00 AM	Worship
	12:15 PM	Green Sanctuary Committee			
7	<i>Monday</i>		21	<i>Monday</i>	
	7:00 PM	Build Your Own Theology		7:00 PM	Build Your Own Theology
		Class			Class
	7:00 PM	Global Gourmet Class	22	<i>Tuesday</i>	
8	<i>Tuesday</i>			7:00 PM	The End of Faith-Part 2
	7:00 PM	Communications Committee			
	7:00 PM	The End of Faith-Part 2	23	<i>Wednesday</i>	
9	<i>Wednesday</i>			10:30 AM	PUGs
	10:30 AM	PUGs		1:30 PM	Hinduism
	1:30 PM	Hinduism		7:00 PM	Choir
	5:30 PM	Small Group Ministry			
		Facilitators	24	<i>Thursday</i>	
	7:00 PM	Conflict Management Team		10:00 AM	MUG
	7:00 PM	Choir		1:00 PM	Adult Education Committee
10	<i>Thursday</i>		25	<i>Friday</i>	
	10:00 AM	MUG		6:00 PM	Taiji Class
	7:00 PM	Board Meeting			
	7:00 PM	Book Group	26	<i>Saturday</i>	
11	<i>Friday</i>			9:00 AM	Membership Class
	4:00 PM	PNWD Young Adult Con		1:40 PM	Voice Class
	6:00 PM	Taiji Class			
	7:00 PM	Meditation	27	<i>Sunday</i>	
13	<i>Sunday</i>			9:15 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Worship		11:00 AM	Worship
	11:00 AM	Worship		12:00 PM	ANNUAL MEETING
	12:00 PM	Building & Grounds Work			
		Party	28	<i>Monday</i>	
14	<i>Monday</i>			7:00 PM	Digital Photography for the
	7:00 PM	Out of the Woods Exec.			Non-Quite Beginner
		Committee	29	<i>Tuesday</i>	
	7:00 PM	Digital Photography for the		7:00 PM	The End of Faith-Part 2
		Not-Quite Beginner			
	7:00 PM	Global Gourmet	30	<i>Wednesday</i>	
	7:00 PM	Choir		10:30 AM	PUGs
15	<i>Tuesday</i>			7:00 PM	Choir

Along the Ministerial Way



By the time you're reading this column, I should be back in Olympia, having returned on March 29th. I may be exhibiting a bit of arrogance imagining that I can write about what I'm doing more than two months hence –as if I actually had that much control over life. Nonetheless, if life proceeds as I'm planning at the time I write this in January, I will have completed my two-month retreat.

I had said at the end of last month's column that I hoped my retreat would result in my learning "to let go a little more, and...to trust life's natural rhythm a little more." That may happen, but what I may find upon completing the retreat is that the preponderance of what I have to learn from it will occur mostly after I leave.

In his book, *After the Ecstasy, the Laundry*, the Buddhist teacher, Jack Kornfield writes about the after effects of a three-month retreat. I suspect a two-month retreat may have similar, if somewhat slighter effects. Mr. Kornfield writes: "After a three-month silent insight meditation, retreat participants are cautioned to expect twelve months of transition states, of joys and disappointments and newfound wisdom, as they learn to take into their lives all they have seen." Most likely, it will be helpful having this final sabbatical month as a time of adjustment before returning to work.

Yet, in this final month I hope to continue down the path of becoming a mediator at the Dispute Resolution Center. During January I completed all but one of my required observations of mediation sessions before I can undergo the mock mediation. Upon successful completion of the mock mediation I'll begin participating in mediation sessions as an apprentice mediator. Once I have successfully participated in a sufficient number of sessions to demonstrate my competence, then I will have fulfilled the requirements to become a lead mediator. We'll see how far I can move along that path during this month.

While I shouldn't try to project too much about how I'll be feeling in that last month, I can imagine that my feelings will, at least, be mixed. While on the one hand I'll not want to see my sabbatical come to an end. On the other, I'm guessing that I'll be looking forward to renewing our relationship beginning May 1st as I re-engage my ministry with you. Perhaps, though, if I learned anything over the preceding months, I will find it in myself to have both of those experiences and then let them go, realizing that life will unfold regardless, and I will know it most fully to the extent I can let it be what it is.

In the spirit of love and peace, Art

OLYMPIA UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION
2200 East End Street NW
Olympia WA 98502
360-78/6-6383
liberafaith@olyuu.org
www.olyuu.org

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Visitors: If there is a color on your mailing label, this is your last issue. If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter please call or email the church office or sign up for the on-line version at <http://www.olyuu.org/MailingLists/>

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation Mission Statement

Our community is a place to grow in mind and spirit.
We promote a loving, just and sustainable world through service, learning and action.

Notice of Annual Meeting - April 27, 2008

Come one! Come all! To the "**Pizza-(salad)-Palooza Annual Meeting**". Our agenda will include updates on growing our building, our friends at Camp Quixote, a little speech from our new Volunteer Coordinator and the very important honor of voting for new board and nominating committee candidates.

On April 27 at high noon (after second service). The church will buy yummy pizzas and asks that members bring salads to tempt our taste buds. Children will have a fabulous time in activities planned just for them (after they are stuffed with pizza). A work party starting after first service will keep little and big hands busy - and build up appetites - if folks want to stay all the way through, after first service.



This column is about my thoughts, as is any column written by a UU. We have no thought police, no doctrinaire line one must toe. But we do exist and there are things we are and things we are not (at least in my opinion). I have been thinking a lot about what it is to be a Unitarian Universalist and how we define ourselves. Many of my ideas on this subject are gleefully borrowed from other thinkers around us.*

I sometimes wonder what the heck I am doing donating so much time, energy and money to OUUC. What is UU and why bother? Before I came to OUUC, I already had a life that seemed pretty full without any church. Why be absorbed into the pod?

The first thing that drew me to Unitarian Universalism was the long history we inherit and profoundly change. Nothing against today's thinkers, but I don't identify with a religious organization someone made up yesterday or ten years ago. Nothing against religions based on long ago ideas, but I demand sound reasoning and the option to think my thoughts.

The companionship and mutual focus on ideas and personal growth with such a delightful group of people at OUUC is a compelling reason to jump in. I still have a very good life with friends and family who are not UU, but the addition of OUUC to my life has enriched me where it counts most - in growing my (insert here: "mind, soul, spirit" or whatever profound "makes life worth living" appendage you are comfortable with). It also feels really good to be part of a group that works together to make a positive difference in the outside world.

The UU seven principles resonate with me. I am so grateful to have such a safe place to think, feel and be. UUs delight in open and positive discussion of ideas and we try hard to keep open minds. Wouldn't anyone just love to be hanging out with us? Nope.

Part of who we are is defined by who we are not. OUUC (in my humble opinion) is not the right place for people who believe that all who disagree with them will go to hell after death. That's a lot of people! UU is not comfortable for those who believe that some person or entity is the only source of absolute truth. I would not want to hang out with someone who saw it as their duty to convert me with no openness on their part for the possibility of rightness of my ideas.

It seems a paradox that we UUs want to reach out to others who would join us when the notion of "converting" someone to a set of religious beliefs is distasteful to us. UUs do recognize that our way is not for everyone. When I think about our outreach, I think of other folks who, like me, will be so enriched when they find the UU community and all we offer to each other.

So, I will go about preaching to the masses that my church is a great place to be and our beliefs are ever so wonderful. It makes me very happy when other compatible folks learn about us and join with OUUC in making our personal worlds and the greater world better. Glory be!

Melissa Denton
OUUC Board President

* For stimulating ideas to borrow, check out podcasts online at OlyUU.org. What a resource!

Insert page A

Social Justice Corner

by Molly Gibbs

There are lots of messages to convey, so will start with a huge thanks to Riley McLaughlin for getting the Blog up and going! You can locate it easily at the bottom of our OUUC website home page. It's easy to send replies, ask questions. Hope you are all using it while I'm learning Spanish in Oaxaca. I'll check in when I return April 28. This Blog will be where a lot of social justice issues are addressed while we await a new Social Justice Chair. So stay tuned, please add your thoughts and info on your favorite projects.

I've been in conversation with Charlie Clements, our UUSC President. He is bringing Camilo Mejia, well-known conscientious objector and speaker, to WA on the same weekend a group of us are organizing the Conference on Immigration. We hope to soon announce that Camilo is speaking at SPSCC on May 18 late in the day, check the Blog for confirmation. Hope to see you there!

Please put the dates, May 15 (evening) through May 18 on your calendars. Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference is taking place at Evergreen, here in Oly. The speakers, panel discussions, theater, arts and seminars will move us to take action locally. Please go to <http://oly-wa.us/bridges> for details.

Ruth Abad, Shelley and others have expressed interest in finding out more about sanctuary for undocumented workers. St. David's now provides Sanctuary to victims of ICE Raids in Shelton. We will learn more at this conference, and I will post what I learn from discussions with our Portland UU Sanctuary team. Come to the conference, check the blog for a program and fliers to distribute.

I attended a community dialogue conference in Seattle that was excellent, and I hope to offer this session at our church. It's an engaging, empowering way to learn basics about immigration, and builds on many of our own stories.

Thanks to those of you who attended the fundraising dinner we had March 9 at Gloria Dei. We raised \$2300 to help families affected by ICE raids and for those involved in CIELO's ESL program. Great attendance—we served over 120 authentic Mexican dinners!

Joan Forst has a message for us about FINCA, an organization that offers loans to women, and health care for low income Thurston families. Find out more on the Blog.

Put April 10 on your calendar to hear Father Roy Bourgeois, of the long-term movement to close the School of the Americas in Georgia (it has a new name). This death squad training camp sent men back to Latin America trained to kill "insurgents"—this is an incredible man and I'm sure his talk will be inspirational.

April 17 at the Olympia Center, Ann Wright will be here to promote her new book, featuring stories of many who have resigned from governmental positions in opposition to US foreign policies and the occupation of Iraq. Colonel Ann Wright is definitely inspiring. Again, see her article on the Blog for more info.

Have a great month, look forward to seeing you in May!