



UNITARIANA

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Highlights

- Youth and flood cleanup
- Board of Directors elected
- OTW family success story
- Green sanctuary candidacy
- Vision & 5-year goals vote

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

Inside this issue:

Leaders' Messages	2
Space 4.0 Update	3
YRUU Flood Cleanup	4
Words from OTW	5
Why Green?	6
Board of Directors	6
Social Justice	7
Volunteer Voice	7
Adult Education	8
Calendar	9

Sunday Worship Services 9:15 & 11 am

June 1

Rev. Arthur Vaeni

How Can We Tolerate Torture?

What does it mean for our country and the world if we determine that the threat of terrorism justifies torture? What is the price of security and the cost of torture?

Summer Worship Schedule 10 am only

June 8

Rev. Arthur Vaeni

Always Coming of Age

One of the remarkable transitions in the human journey is our passage from childhood into adolescence. In this phase of life one can still access the world of childhood even as adulthood comes into view. As such, adolescence can provide a unique experience that brings a rich understanding of life. In this service we hear, affirm and celebrate those youth who are coming-of-age as adolescents.

June 15

Rev. Arthur Vaeni

To Fathers We Know and Love

The first Fathers Day to be observed in this country was celebrated in Spokane, Washington on June 19, 1910, nearly a century ago. On this Fathers Day we will reflect on what it means to be a father.

June 22

Rev. Arthur Vaeni

The Search for a Good Death

Through the end of this month signatures are being gathered in order to qualify the Washington State Death with Dignity Initiative. What is this initiative and how might we understand what it means to our relationship with death?

June 29

Members of YRUU

Our Parents' Break with Tradition is Our Tradition: Growing Up UU

What do youth in our congregation believe about Unitarian Universalism? What roles do our community and our tradition play in their lives? Come learn how liberal religious homes and a liberal religious education have shaped their values, spirituality, and attitudes toward religion. (YRUU are OUUC's high school youth group.)

Along the Ministerial Midway

Rev. Arthur Vaeni, Minister

As I have mentioned before, a religious community does not exist primarily to serve its members. An organization that exists primarily for its members is a club. A religious community exists to serve the truth that its faith, vision and values point toward. A large part of the truth our congregation serves is defined by the principles we share with other Unitarian Universalists.



A vital part of our service is fulfilled through our social justice efforts. Another significant part is fulfilled through our service to those who are in search of a liberal religious home. Our building expansion program is a result of our commitment to provide adequate facilities for all who are in search of such a religious home.

Yet as crucial as it is to expand our physical space, that in itself isn't adequate to ensure that those who are seeking a religious community will find it within our walls. For that to occur we need to move beyond our walls, literally and metaphorically, to welcome and guide newcomers, so they can participate fully, feeling accepted and valued.

We have members who have done and continue to do such good work in helping newcomers navigate our sometimes obscure pathways to inclusion. Nonetheless, we need more members to actively participate in our welcoming ministry, particularly on Sunday mornings. Yet, even if ten more people decide they want to participate in that way, it won't be enough. For, what's finally necessary, of course, is for each of us to be willing to move beyond the walls of our customary ways of being.

At the outset I said that a religious community doesn't exist primarily to serve its members, but here's the delicious irony. In a religious community where its members are able to function outside their customary ways of being — even just some of the time — then its capacity for hospitality grows, and as a result the members serve themselves as fully as they do others.

How often when I've spoken about our need to extend ourselves, particularly on Sunday mornings, I've heard the response, "But I don't know who is new!" And my reply is, "That doesn't matter. If you don't know someone, even if they've been attending for the past thirty years, they're new to you."

When you're ready to extend yourself, don't begin by asking, "Are you new here?" Rather, you might say, "I don't recall that

we've met before," or even more daringly you could say, "I don't know you, but I'd like to." Once the ice is broken and you've taken the plunge, if you have social skills that are akin to mine, you may still flounder a bit. But even with floundering you've brought into being the possibility of relationship through the revelation of your caring. What a gift to the other person, to our congregation, to the world and to yourself!

Among the things I considered during my sabbatical was how we might deepen our experience of the spirit as religious community. Fundamental to that experience is continual attention to our ways of being hospitable, for by doing so, we will realize that we are best served by extending our caring to one another and our service to others.

In the spirit of love and peace,

—*Arthur*

P.S. So, what's with signing my column as Arthur rather than Art? Since I registered for my two-month silent retreat as Arthur, that's what my teachers called me when I met with them, and I discovered that I liked the sound of it. That doesn't mean I expect people who have always called me Art to change. Art is fine as long as you continue to "appreciate Art for Art's sake!"

It's a New Year

Mike Harbour, Board President

On May 8 the board of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation elected me to be the president of the board for the next year. Timing is everything.

I become president at a time when everything is ready. For example:

- Art has returned from his sabbatical. He is rested (maybe), vibrating with energy, full of ideas and ready to resume being the wonderful minister he has been for the past 7 years.
- We have a wonderful, energetic, new Volunteer Coordinator – Sarah Rocker. She has already made her presence felt and will have a positive impact on all parts of our church community.
- We move from a part-time to a full-time Religious Education Director in August with the search committee soon to complete their work. Kathleen has done an amazing job in a part-time role over the past year and the RE program is poised to explode.
- The Space Committee continues to make progress on our facility expansion with actual construction expected within a year.
- We recently completed a successful capital



campaign raising over \$1.2 million and are coming off an incredibly successful annual stewardship drive led by Curtis Tanner.

- We have reaffirmed our commitment to Camp Quixote and to addressing poverty in our community.

I could go on and on with the many great things happening in our church community.

I could also name many people who have had an important part in bringing us where we are today. I want to particularly thank two people today — Melissa Denton and Shelley Ferer. Melissa recently completed a year as the president of our board and almost two terms on the board. She led us through Art's sabbatical and many other challenges. Shelley completed two terms on the board, selflessly devoting many hours to board and congregational activities. I cannot thank Melissa and Shelley enough.

I look forward to the coming year. We have a great board, an amazing staff and a wonderful congregation. There is a great need in these times and in this place for a liberal religious community that is willing and able to take our mission and vision into the larger community. We are ready.

SPACE 4.0 Building Expansion Committee

We have finally completed the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application! Look for new drawings posted in our foyer and on our web site. The design has changed considerably from the original Phase One shown in our Master Plan. The Religious Education wing is larger and a lower floor has been added. It will house the future classrooms that would have been added in the former Phase Two. The foyer is lengthened. A new entry design is featured. More parking spaces have been added. The storm water detention pond has been relocated and sized to meet our full build-out needs.

Unfortunately, although we see these changes as greatly improving our design and functionality, they have increased the Phase One costs. We will be investigating how to implement this in two sub-phases, and plan a congregation meeting to present our ideas when they are ready. In the meantime, please give us your thoughts and comments.

—Warren Dawes

OUUC Youth Group Helps with Flood Cleanup

"I can't remember the first time I laughed and smiled since the flood, except for the times it was easier than crying. Thank you again for all your help and caring. It was a very special day."

Quahlee Lassila's small farm near Dryad in Lewis County is about 100 yards from the Chehalis River, and when the river suddenly flooded in December, her house was destroyed and her farm covered with mud and debris. She and her husband have been working since then to rebuild and restart their lives.

Members of our OUUC high school youth group recently joined with the youth group from the Port Townsend UU Fellowship to work for a day on the farm with Quahlee clearing debris, recovering and stacking firewood, and saving young trees that had

been left deep in mud. Maybe the best thing they did that day was to bring energy, laughter and hope to Quahlee's farm on a day that began with a snowstorm and ended in sunshine.

Since her home was already obviously lost when the first wave of volunteers came through soon after the floods, Quahlee had told them to go on and help people whose homes were salvageable. When our group arrived in April, we were the first volunteers to come and help on her farm. We learned that the damage done by the floods, while not visible from the repaired sections of I-5, is still there, affecting many lives. There is much still to be done, and the OUUC and Port Townsend youth are making plans for another trip down. The two youth groups enjoyed meeting and working together, and agreed with Quahlee - it was a very special day.

—Riley McLaughlin



One of our Many Stories

Robbie and Michaela and their two sons lived in an apartment in Lacey. The older boy could ride his bike to school and both boys could play and be little boys. Mom and dad both worked part-time jobs.

Unwise holiday spending choices led to insufficient funds to pay the rent. A promised DSHS rental assistance payment didn't arrive in time to meet the landlord's needs and the family was evicted and found itself homeless. Michaela recalls vividly her sense of powerlessness, fear, frustration, and most of all, the expression of hopelessness and confusion on her sons' faces. She tried to keep it light, calling this all a great adventure. Their car was sold to cover expenses and both parents lost their part-time jobs. Michaela called it a "frightening daily roller coaster ride with no end in sight."

Michaela found the Emergency Shelter Network and the Overflow Nightly Shelter provided by community churches, but the stress of being "out on the streets" during the days led the boys' behavior to deteriorate into confusion and lack of control. Robbie, an ex-felon, was taken into custody, arrested, charged and found guilty of a felony and sentenced to several months.

Michaela remembers a day when things were at their worst, but she learned there was an opening for her and her boys at the Out of the Woods Family Shelter.

Since arriving at OTW, she has been able to reestablish a sense of the family's daily routines –

meals together, the older boy back into school regularly, safe place for the boys to play, regular baths and bedtime patterns. Her boys know that this "is home" for now, and their behavior is settling back to typical child behavior. Dad has been released early on the Jail Release Work Program, so he is now home with his family.



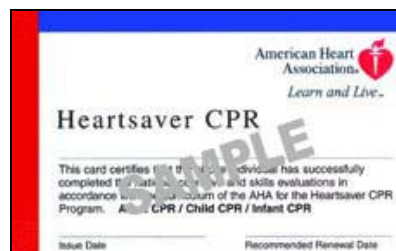
The family, with a Housing Authority voucher and additional OTW support if needed, is house hunting and job hunting. Their efforts are complicated by Robbie's status as a felon, but knowing the value of education in helping to overcome mistakes of the past, Robbie hopes to begin school in the fall. Michaela has received her GED while homeless and is honing skills through an on-line program.

Robbie and Michaela appreciate what Out of the Woods is providing their family. "Its a homelike, therapeutic and warm environment. Our family feels safe and stable and encouraged in our efforts to move on. Thank God for Out of the Woods.

—Riley McLaughlin

Residents and Staff Receive CPR Training at OTW

Seven new Heartsaver® CPR certificates were awarded to residents and staff when a Medic One instructor completed teaching a recent May morning class at the shelter. Participants learned techniques to save both child and adult choking victims, and learned and demonstrated CPR according to the most recent



standards established by the American Heart Association. The class, organized by Chris Biondolillo and taught by Paula Willadsen from Medic One, is one of the ways the shelter extends its value into the wider community – in this case, providing life-saving skills to people to take with them as they go back out into the community.

—Riley McLaughlin

Why Green?

Satellite images show Planet Earth in shades of blue, white, brown, and green. Much of our planet is blue, the color of the world's oceans. The other colors represent the land. White is snow or ice (some floating). Browns and other earthy colors are barren land. And GREEN? Green, the color of healthy land plants, is where life is most abundant and friendly to us. Green is the color we care most about. We want more of it, not less.

Global climate change and human land use are affecting the geographic patterns significantly, changing ecologically productive green lands to earth-colored, relatively barren lands. Desertification underway in northern Africa is a conspicuous example. The Dust Bowl of our nation's Great Plains during the 1930s, still not fully recovered, is another. Green is the metaphor for our trying to set things right about how we use, and not abuse, our HOME, Planet Earth, including the little part where we live. The **OUUC Green Sanctuary Committee** is working to involve our congregation in doing something

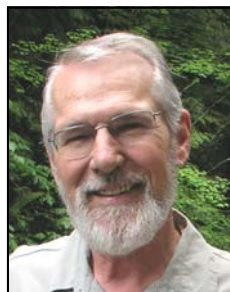
especially about the local part we influence the most directly.

Our candidacy for recognition as a Green Sanctuary by the UU Ministry for the Earth is a first step. Kermit the Frog sings "It's Not That Easy Being Green." Especially true for post-industrial humans! But we've got to try. Summer is a good time to green up our lifestyles and plan new programs for the next church year. Contact Green Sanctuary Committee members if you need ideas on how to get greener.

[P.S. We need to care about the other colors, too. The blue oceans have much of the green (chlorophyll) masked as golden-brown plant plankton. Worldwide declines of marine fisheries show that we affect the oceans big-time. Global reductions of white (snow and ice) reflect warming climate, now widely recognized as driven in large measure by human activities.]

—Pete Taylor

Board of Directors Start New Year



Left to right...

President: Mike Harbour

Vice President: Melanie Ransom

Treasurer: Harmon Eaton

Secretary: Ingrid Kail



Mary Walton Cameron

Jeff Goltz

Neil Marsh

Samantha Ritchee

Curtis Tanner

Social Justice Commentary

What a busy month! I hope to see many of you at two events, *Can Do, Make a Difference* projects the Social Justice Committee is supporting this year. And we hope to host Wayne Smith, an extraordinary Vietnam Conscientious Objector and humanitarian (UUSC leader), most likely in October. With help from Jean Phillips and Arthur Vaeni, we are looking at planning a Justice Sunday titled "The Cost of Iraq: Who pays the price?" Stay tuned.

A fundraiser was held May 23rd for ISSC, Iraqi Student Solidarity Committee. It honored the outstanding work of Andrea Robbins and Christopher Rotondo. With full support from TESC administration, their work brought the first Iraqi student to Evergreen! This project requires our support. The program will be submitting grant applications and could be a recipient of our 2009 Share the Plate. Our financial support reflects our values. Join us in support of this important effort.

The second event, for which we can organize bus transportation, is *NW Winter Soldier: Iraq Veterans Speak Out*. Panels of military families will give eyewitness accounts of GI resistance and student and labor activism. This hard working group is making connections between war dollars and the collapse of

the global economy, shrinking jobs, concerned youth. If some of you can attend, this event will inform us how we can present a Justice Sunday that could draw a wider participation from our community. Please see our Blog at the OUUC home page for more details. I will post the bus numbers leaving from Martin Way Park and Ride, and connecting bus in Lakewood. We will have our Social Justice banner at both these events. Call Molly if you have questions at 360-412-1519.

CORRECTION: I am concerned about a rumor that the Social Justice Committee is approaching the Board regarding sanctuary for undocumented immigrants. Again, see the Blog: this is not correct. I believe the confusion is with regard to a project that was taken to the City Council regarding Sanctuary which I know little about. If you attended the Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference, a follow-up discussion is scheduled Sunday to explore the information with Jeff Sells, a Shelton Episcopalian organizer and Portland UU. This is a complex issue, and I have concerns about how we approach this. Again, if you are interested, please call me. I have articles and a summary of the concerns and recommendations to date, and the names of others you might speak with.

—Molly Gibbs

Volunteer Voice

Welcome! This is the first month that we are kicking off the new "Volunteer Voice" of the Unitariana. This will be a place to highlight volunteer events, projects, and activities, and bring special focus to some of our exciting upcoming opportunities for participation.



This month we are focusing on the OUUC's participation in Washington State's largest 1-Day Festival, Super Saturday! This annual daylong event will be held at Evergreen on Saturday, June 14th 2008. As a community organization, we are signed up to

have a table where we will be representing our UU community and having some literature available for any who are interested. We are looking for pairs of volunteers to staff the table in two-hour shifts starting at 9am with set-up and break-down at 6pm. This will be a great community celebration filled with activities, delicious food, and great local music — you won't want to miss it!

If you love being outdoors and talking to folks who want to learn more about the OUUC, this job would be great for you! You can sign up either by contacting Diana Finch at dandefinch@mail.tss.net, 754-6042, or by the sign up sheet in the foyer.

—Sarah Rocker

Capital City Pride Festival

If you enjoy walking down the street being cheered by people simply because you care enough to be present, plan to march in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 22. OUUC has been a presence there since it began. Parade participants assemble around noon in front of the Legislative Office Building. More specific information will be available

later. In recent years our former DRE, Sierra-Marie, coordinated with All Souls UU Community to maintain a table at the Festival through Sunday afternoon. If we're to have a presence there this year, we need someone(s) to take the lead in coordinating. Contact the minister for more information.

—Arthur Vaeni

Adult Education

The Reverend Arthur Vaeni will lead **Questions About Unitarian Universalism**, one session, Tuesday, June 10, 7:00 pm, at OUUC. There is a saying that goes, "To question is to answer." There is much truth in that, but sometimes it helps to have answers to our questions even if they are not final or definitive. On this evening bring your questions about our religious tradition or this congregation, and our minister will do his best to provide answers. And those he cannot answer he will, at least, offer more questions. All interested persons are invited; registration is not required.

The **Book Group** will meet Thursday, June 12, 7:00 pm at OUUC. Instead of the usual focus on one book, we'll share conversation about books read aside from the Book Group, and/or we would like to read in the future, as a way of expanding our literary horizons, and for lining up possibilities for this Fall. All interested are welcome; registration is not required.

Meditation, a continuing group, will meet Friday, June 13, 7:00 pm at OUUC. Open to all interested persons; registration is not required.

—Pete Taylor

Proposed Vision & 5-Year Goals

On June 1st, the congregation will vote on a vision statement and 5-year goals developed by the Committee on Ministry from member input. Watch for the version of both in the next issue of the Unitariana, including details of how we plan to reach those goals. Meantime, copies are available in the church foyer.

—Bonnie Shorin

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT: OUUC is a welcoming community, committed to progressive leadership through our shared values of ministry — worship, music, religious education, and social action.

DRAFT GOALS: 1) Live our UU principles; 2) Advocate our UU principles; and 3) Sustain our UU community.

Mother's Day Plant Sale — A success!

Thank you all for participating in the fifth Mother's Day Plant Sale. We made a total of \$459.60, which will be used for maintaining the green areas surrounding our church. Thanks also for donating exciting and interesting plants for the occasion. To our great joy and relief, Zibby Zickuhr offered to take over the future plant sales. If there are others who

might like to work with her, please let her know. We enjoyed working for the sale and appreciated the support we received for many years.

—Marcia Killum-Nunn, Janet Swanson,
Fumiko Coyne

JUNE CALENDAR

1 Sunday

- 9:15 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 11:30 am Green Sanctuary Committee
- 5:00 pm Camp Quixote Steering Committee

3 Tuesday

- 6:15 pm Partner Church Committee
- 7:30 pm Covenant of UU Pagans Monthly Circle

4 Wednesday

- 10:30 am PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)
- 5:30 pm Worship Arts
- 7:00 pm Pastoral Care Team
- 7:00 pm Choir

5 Thursday

- 10:00 am MUG (Mighty Unitarian Guys)
 - 7:00 pm Committee on Ministry
-

8 Sunday

- 10:00 am Worship Service
- 5:00 pm Camp Quixote Steering Committee

9 Monday

- 7:00 pm Communications Committee
- 7:00 pm Out of the Woods Executive Committee

10 Tuesday

- 7:00 pm Questions About Unitarian Universalism
- 7:00 pm Panza

11 Wednesday

- 10:30 am PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)
- 5:30 pm Small Group Ministry Facilitators
- 7:00 pm Conflict Management Team
- 7:00 pm Choir

12 Thursday

- 10:00 am MUG (Mighty Unitarian Guys)
- 7:00 pm Board Meeting
- 7:00 pm Book Group

13 Friday

- 7:00 pm Meditation

14 Saturday

- Flag Day
-

15 Sunday

- Father's Day
- 10:00 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am Newsletter deadline
- 5:00 pm Camp Quixote Steering Committee
- 7:00 pm Choir Concert

17 Tuesday

- 6:30 pm Americans United for the Separation of Church and State

18 Wednesday

- 10:30 am PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)

19 Thursday

- 10:00 am MUG (Mighty Unitarian Guys)
 - 7:00 pm Out of the Woods Board
 - 7:00 pm Living by Heart Class
-

22 Sunday

- 10:00 am Worship Service
- 12:30 pm Ivy Pulling
- 5:00 pm Camp Quixote Steering Committee

25 Wednesday

- 10:30 am PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)

26 Thursday

- 10:00 am MUG (Mighty Unitarian Guys)
 - 1:00 pm Adult Education Committee
-

29 Sunday

- 10:00 am Worship Service

Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday,
11am - 4pm

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Email: liberalfaith@olyuu.org

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Interim Director of Religious Education:
Kathleen Arledge

Director of Music: Troy Fisher

Volunteer Coordinator: Sarah Rocker

Bookkeeper: Wim Verhoef

Associated Minister: Rev. Bill Arensmeyer

Affiliated Ministers: Rev. Eric Ness, Hos-
pice Chaplain; Rev. Carol McKinley, En-
dorsed Community Minister

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Curtis Tanner

Unitariana Editor: Linda Crabtree

Newsletter submissions are due by the third
Sunday of the preceding month to
liberalfaith@olyuu.org.

Congregational Meeting

June 1st — 10:30 am

Join us at 10:30 am between services on June 1st, our last day of two services, for a brief congregational meeting. Earlier this year, you helped the Committee on Ministry create a new Vision Statement for OUUC, and with that in place, members of the congregation gathered in late March to create new five-year goals. We all have a responsibility to review them, offer changes if desired, and vote on whether to adopt them. These goals help guide all of the important work that we do here at OUUC. Copies of the draft five-year goals are in the foyer and on the website. If you would like to suggest changes, get them to Polly Taylor or Jody Suhrbier.

Be present to vote!



**OLYMPIA
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CONGREGATION**

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