



April 2010

# UNITARIANA

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## HIGHLIGHTS

- New OTW digs?*
- Camp Quixote here*
- Nominating slate*
- Thrift Store Challenge*
- Annual Meeting*

## Our Mission

We are a liberal religious community that opens minds, fills hearts, and transforms lives. We work for peace, equality, a healthy earth, and an end to poverty.

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## Sunday Worship Services 9:15 & 11 A.M.

APRIL 4

### Time(s) for Resurrection

Followers of the Christian tradition have sometimes asserted that Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter was a singular historical event, one that proves the uniqueness, or even the divinity, of Jesus. Is there a way, as Unitarian Universalists, we can reclaim the idea of resurrection? Drawing on both Christian and Earth-based approaches to time and renewal, we will explore ways to helpfully recognize and cultivate resurrection in our own lives. We welcome our intern minister, Raz Mason, to our pulpit.

—Raz Mason

APRIL 11

### What's Good about Growing Older?

I have heard from more than one elder that "growing old isn't for sissies." Whatever real difficulties aging manifests, living in a society that idolizes eternal youthfulness certainly contributes to the negative characterization of aging. As I move past one of life's perceived milestones this month, I will share my own thoughts about growing older, and some members of the congregation may also wish to briefly share insights gained through their additional years of being alive.

—The Reverend Arthur Vaeni

APRIL 18

### Association Sunday: In Support of Greater Diversity

In the cover article of the most recent *UU Word* the Reverend Dr. Paul Razor wrote about the changing racial composition of the United States in the coming decades. He asserted, "...if [Unitarian Universalists] fail to respond to this new multicultural reality...we will not only fail to honor this core principle of liberal theology, we will simply become irrelevant." A special offering is received in this service that will go to support Unitarian Universalist Association programs that enrich our diversity, our partner church, North Shore UU Society of Lacombe, Louisiana, and Camp Quixote.

—The Reverend Arthur Vaeni

APRIL 25

### A Love Letter for Our Planet

At this intergenerational service for Earth Day, the children's Religious Education classes and the Green Sanctuary Committee will be bringing us an appreciation of nature and our planet.

—R.E Classes & Green Sanctuary Committee

We are podcasting! You can hear the most recent and most popular sermons at [www.ouuc.org](http://www.ouuc.org). Click on *Listen* on the menu bar. CDs of every sermon are also available between services in the audiovisual booth in the sanctuary. Donations are welcome.

# Along the Ministerial Midway

## The Rev. Arthur Vaeni, Minister

I wish to express my appreciation for our congregation's board of trustees' leadership. As I have conveyed to them on more than one occasion, I am impressed by their commitment to our congregation's mission and by the thoughtfulness of their deliberations. They are willing to take on difficult issues and to disagree with one another about how to address such issues, yet their disagreements most often arise from a reservoir of good will and good humor.



If you read the board president's newsletter column or received other communications from her regarding our Out of the Woods facility, you are aware the board recently decided to pursue a grant from a Thurston County homeless fund in order buy a new facility for the Out of the Woods homeless shelter. The facility is the home next to us on East End Street.

In the midst of all the turmoil that can accompany a building project it could have been enough this year for the board to simply decide to oversee the administration and financing of our expansion. For example, our board President, Melanie Ransom, and Treasurer, Jeff Goltz, with significant (donated) legal assistance by our former board President, Melissa Denton, recently provided considerable time and effort to secure our building loan from the UUA.

Nonetheless, the Board felt called by our congregation's recently adopted mission to do more. One of the goals the board set out for itself in support of our mission—to "work for...an end to poverty"—was to clarify OUUC's relationship with our affiliated organization, Out of the Woods (OTW), in order to help OTW serve homeless families as effectively as possible.

In the initial conversation between representatives from the OUUC and OTW boards, it became apparent the condition of the B & G Annex—our facility that houses the OTW shelter—was in worse shape than OUUC leadership realized. Our building and grounds committee brought in a building inspector, and he determined that significant repairs were

needed. Some of the most immediate needs were addressed by the building and grounds committee, but additional extensive and not inexpensive work is needed.

Some time earlier our East End Street neighbor had invited our leadership to tour his home as he was selling and hoped we would buy it. Some OUUC and OTW

board members toured the home and agreed it would make an excellent facility for the OTW shelter. They found the residence to be in good condition and would provide considerably more space that could allow for serving more families. Its proximity to the church would also make it more visible and potentially more accessible for OUUC volunteers. The board, as a whole, however, did not feel there was any way to fund such a purchase at this time.

In the midst of all this, it came to the board's attention that Thurston County was making funds available to organizations seeking to address homelessness. Upon discovering grant money could be available to buy our neighbor's East End Street home, the board returned to that discussion. They discussed, they investigated, they discussed further, then they acted quickly to obtain a purchase and sales agreement and to submit a grant proposal on a very short timeline.

Now you may have concerns about their course of action, and at the annual meeting the congregation may decide to vote against accepting the grant and buying the house. I hope you don't, but if you do, that's your prerogative. Nonetheless, whatever the congregation decides to do, I am so appreciative of our board's willingness and courage to step up and act when in its best judgment opportunity fortuitously intersected with our congregation's mission.

In the spirit of love and peace,  
—Arthur

# WHAT??? We've Applied for a Grant to Buy the House Next Door?

**Melanie Ransom, Board President**

Yep. You read that right. We offered \$379,000.00 for the house next to us at 2214 East End Street.

THIS IS CRAZY! HAVE WE LOST OUR MINDS? WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM? WHY WASN'T THERE CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL? CAN WE FIRE OUR BOARD PRESIDENT?



Okay, okay. Those are all valid questions. Please allow me to explain before you decide to fire me. It all started when the stars aligned. And the planets. On February 12<sup>th</sup> our Board Vice President, Harmon Eaton, forwarded an email that started this way:

*Thurston County has made available approximately \$2,554,300 from the HOME & Affordable and Homeless Housing Programs to eligible organizations that produce, preserve, or maintain low-income or affordable housing within Thurston County. Funds may also be used for financial assistance and services to homeless households and for operational support to organizations that provide housing services that meet the goals of Thurston County's Ten Year Homeless Plan and the HOME Consolidated Plan.*

Then, one of our Buildings and Grounds members, Steve Tilley, attended a workshop about how to apply for one of the grants where proposals were due, by the way, on March 16<sup>th</sup>. About this same time Adam Harris and Kurt Rader were inviting experts in to take a look at the B&G Annex where the Out of the Woods program is housing three families. Two of those experts turned out to be professional grant writers and one of those was a realtor specializing in acquiring properties for low-income housing. Remember that stars-aligning-thing from earlier?

So the Board decided to use \$2,000 from last year's surplus funds to hire those experts, James and Ruth Gutierrez, to write our grant proposal

and secure a purchase and sales agreement on the property. Pursuant to Board authorization, we did so, but we did so contingent on receipt of the grant and upon Congregational approval. In his counter offer, the home owner requested that we do the appraisal and home inspection in the next thirty days so that if our proposal is awarded in early June, and we receive funding in September, we could close this deal quickly.

So far, we have not obligated any OUUC funds except the \$2000 for the grant preparation and the costs for the appraisal and inspection, which we estimate at \$450 for each. We may also need to pay fees for a special use permit, but that would be later in the process and may be covered by grant funding.

**At the April 30<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting, we will vote "yes" or "no" to accept the grant funding if it is awarded to us and proceed to purchase the house.** Our grant proposal asks for 100% of the cost of buying the house and remodeling five rooms into six. The Out of the Woods program is writing a grant proposal for operations and maintenance funds including the cost of furniture for the East End house. If we are awarded the grant money, we must retain the house as a shelter for twenty years. At the end of twenty years the house becomes our property free and clear. If it is not retained as a shelter for twenty years, we must repay the original funding to Thurston County at 0% interest.

We would be responsible for maintenance of the house, including utilities, which is what we do now at the B&G Annex. Out of the Woods would run the program as they do currently, but instead of serving three families, they would serve six. If Out of the Woods were unable to run the program for any reason, it would be our responsibility to find another solution to run or modify the program to

**Please see GRANT FUNDING FOR HOUSE, page 5**

# Summer Chalice Camp

**Sara Lewis, Director of Religious Education**

For many years, the idea of a summer camp has been floating around at OUUC. Darlene Sarkela reminds me that there have been summer camps here in the past, and she remembers her son being in Earth Camp led by Bill Arensmeyer. As long as I've been involved in Religious Education here, we've talked about it and never felt we could do it with the logistics we had.

This year we're going to do it! Our Chalice Camp will be "Matter, Energy, Spirit" and will take children through five themes: The Big Bang and the



Universe, The Evolution of Life, Comparative Creation Stories, The Interdependent Web of Life, and Peace Begins With You. Each day the theme will be explored through stories, art, music, meditation, and yoga.

We'll have our new, beautiful building, and I can't wait to host a day camp in it. For children 5-10 years old, save the dates: August 2nd-6th. Registration forms coming soon, limit 20 children.

—Sara

## Religious Education Programs are Back!

After six weeks of closure due to construction, I am so happy to have the Religious Education program starting again. It has been different, with some families coming to service with their kids, some families doing RE at home with copies of the lesson materials we would have used, and many families taking a break.

We got together for some parties when the 2nd-6th graders went climbing at the Rock Gym and

the younger kids met at the Hands On Childrens Museum, and several families came out to help paint the new wing.

Thank you to everyone for your flexibility and patience, and also a big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped paint and get the classrooms available again!

—Sara



*The photos are of children at the Museum party: Katie, Sylvia, and Gabriel*

## GRANT FUNDING FOR HOUSE. Continued from page 3.

serve homeless households. Out of the Woods has been in existence for fifteen years in a couple of different configurations.

We received several letters of support from the community to include with our grant proposal. In her capacity as an Intervention Specialist at Pleasant Glade Elementary, Alice Curtis wrote:

*Last year a second grade boy and his little sister enrolled at our school when they and their mother moved into our attendance area. The children immediately caught our attention with their extremely disruptive school behavior, and it didn't take long for us to figure out that their home life was very unstable and volatile.*

*We attempted to work with this family to provide the best educational experience possible, but as we all know, when a mother is distracted by unmet basic needs, it's hard for her to focus on the educational and emotional needs of her children. When a child is basically living out of his backpack, and sometimes the backpack is left at the last place the family slept overnight, it's hard for him to arrive at school rested and ready to learn.*

*When this little family finally arrived at the doorstep of the Out of the Woods shelter, we were able to arrange transportation across town to our school and we began to see a significant improvement in the behavior of both the boy and his sister. Having a safe home to return to each night where the children could relax in an environment of peace and stability allowed them to calm down and be more present in their relationships with peers and staff at school.*

You might be wondering what we would do with the existing B&G Annex property if we acquired the East End Street house. There are a few options for the congregation to consider and vote on this summer. We could mothball the property, sell the property, rent the house for low-income housing, or use the value of the property to leverage a grant from the Washington State Housing Trust Fund to build a duplex on the property. Perhaps there are other options as well.

In the meantime, we asked Sandi Constructors (our current contractor) for a bid to minimally repair the B&G Annex. The bid was \$64,595.00 plus sales tax and did not include stabilizing the foundation walls, repairing the east and west bathroom, or addressing the periodic flooding/vent for the sump pump. The Buildings and Grounds committee is waiting to see what happens with our grant proposal before they move forward with any repairs.

During the month of April we will be providing you with more information. In order to carefully consider this venture, please plan to attend the Listening Session on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the church. We will start with a dessert potluck at 6:30PM, and the meeting will convene at 7:00PM. The April 30<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting begins at 6:30PM with a dessert potluck, and the meeting will start at 7:00PM. At this meeting you will cast your vote whether or not to accept grant funding if it is awarded. Remember, our Bylaws require that members be present to cast their votes.

In the meantime, please talk to Board members about this potential purchase. Board members will be available at the end of Sunday services to listen to your questions and concerns. As always, feel free to contact me at any time.

We need to hear from you.

—Melanie

## Save the dates!

**Listening Session About  
the East End St. House**

April 9th, 6:30 PM

**Congregational Meeting**

April 30th, 6:30 PM

**Building Dedication**

June 6th, 4:00 PM

## Camp Quixote at OUUC

It was a great day helping move Camp Quixote to our church property from First Christian Church downtown. Plenty of help was on hand and many people contributed trucks, vans, cars and tons of good will. Despite some rain and a slight delay in the transfer of the commodes to the new site, it all worked out, and by the end of the day things were mostly in place, and camp residents were sheltered from the rain. It was impressive to see the organization and leadership provided by camp residents.

For a few pictures from the day of the move, click on this link: <http://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B3UYqKTkEBynYmZiZWYwOWItYzJmMS00ZmIzLWI1MWEtY2UyNzZmNmE4NzA0&hl=en>

Opportunities abound to support Camp Quixote. Ingrid Kail is organizing sponsors for Sunday dinners that are provided for camp residents at our church. Dinner time is 6 PM and afterward residents gather for their weekly meeting. If you and/or your group want to sponsor a dinner or part of a meal, contact Ingrid at [queen\\_trs@hotmail.com](mailto:queen_trs@hotmail.com). You better hurry soon as dates are filling up fast!

Camp residents are very appreciative of meals. If you or your group would like to sponsor a dinner on any other day of the week, contact Leah Wilson at 360-491-8508. Leah will coordinate the scheduling

of dinners with the camp calendar that is located at the host tent on-site.

Other donations that camp residents need include blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, tents, coffee, cups, batteries (AA, AAA and D) and DVD movies. They also have propane bottles that need to be filled. If you bring other donations to the site, be sure to ask to speak with one of the camp officers to make sure your item is needed.

If you have any other questions or ideas, do not hesitate to contact me at [rleebk@gmail.com](mailto:rleebk@gmail.com). I have volunteered to coordinate camp operations with our church and very much appreciate all the great energy around this outreach.

Finally, it would be helpful to have a "co-coordinator" to work with me and fill in when I am out of town or when additional help as needed. If you are interested and available, just send me a note or give me a call.

It is great to a part of making things better for the homeless people in our town. Together with Panza <http://sites.google.com/site/campquixoteoly/panzacommittee>, we UU's are making a difference.

—Rick Brandt-Kreutz



Left: Otavio Lima of The United Churches of Olympia as volunteer host. Right: Camp Quixote on our site.

### Volunteer Hosts Needed at Camp Quixote 24/7

Members of OUUC, volunteers from faith communities, others in the community, and camp residents staff a security table at the camp entrance on a 24/7 basis. Hosts must be trained: for information about training go to <http://closethegap.wikispaces.com/Camp+Quixote+Volunteers>. Please help in this outreach!

# OTW Homeless Shelter Transitioning

The Board of the Out of the Woods Shelter (OTW) recently held its election of officers. Jean Phillips was elected as the new Board President and Jo Ann Young, our newest member, was elected as Board Secretary. Much has been going on at Out of the Woods, and the following is a report from Jean.



match the dollars from individual donors who have recently given or pledged an amount of at least twice as much as they had given in the past year.

“I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the steady and dedicated leadership of Mary Walton Cameron, our out-going President of the OTW Board for the past three and a half years. Her professionalism and hard work have been instrumental in maintaining the stability of OTW through a difficult time of transition and changing economic circumstances. We are truly grateful for her service.

“One of OTW’s most important recent efforts has been working with the OUUC Board to discuss plans for the continued support and well-being of OTW’s Shelter Program and to set a direction for the future. Toward that end, OUUC recently submitted a grant application to the Thurston County HOME Consortium for funds to purchase the house adjacent to the church property to be used as the site for an expanded 90-day shelter program for homeless women and their children.

“Simultaneously, the OTW Board submitted an application for \$50,000 to fund staff expansion of the current program. This expansion would enable us to provide emergency shelter, case management, and wrap-around services to an additional three families. This would mean services could be provided to six families at a time, greatly expanding our impact in the community.

“I would like to formally recognize the expertise and tireless energy of our OTW Board grant writer, Beth Opplinger, who has been responsible for turning out many successful grant proposals for us in the past.

“In the meantime, OTW has been notified that we are the recipients of a \$5,000 matching grant from the Lucky Seven Foundation. The Foundation will match every dollar of money pledged or raised by OTW from new individual donors, or

“This seemed like serendipity to me as I just learned that the OUUC auction raised \$5,000 for OTW. The money is to be used as a ‘transitional fund’ to help people who are ready to leave the shelter and move to more permanent housing, but do not have the funds to cover moving expenses, rental deposits, first and last months’ rent, etc. I believe that many of the individual donors to that cause may also qualify as part of our match pool.

“On behalf of the OTW Board, our staff, and the clients we serve, I want to extend a profound thank you to all who so generously contributed to this effort, and also to thank you for all your support as we move forward with our mission to make our shelter program the best and most successful of its kind anywhere.”

—Jean Phillips

## Links to OUUC

- ✦ OUUC website—[www.ouuc.org](http://www.ouuc.org)
- ✦ OUUC Blog—information about the work of committees, both for members of the congregation and for the wider community: [www.ouuc.org/blog](http://www.ouuc.org/blog)
- ✦ Religious Education Blog—news and information about RE at [www.ouuc.org/blog-RE/](http://www.ouuc.org/blog-RE/)
- ✦ Facebook.com—Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation action

Email lists: sign up at [www.ouuc.org/maillists](http://www.ouuc.org/maillists).

- ✦ OUUC Announce—weekly communications about major church-related events.
- ✦ OUUC Unitariana—electronic version of the monthly newsletter.
- ✦ OUUC Cybercafe—electronic forum to discuss anything of interest.
- ✦ Caring Friends—to learn about the needs and concerns of OUUC members and friends, request to be added to the email list through Mary Walton Cameron at

## How do CSAs Contribute to Ethical Eating

There has been a seasonal farmers' market in Olympia as long as I have lived here—since the mid 1970's— and probably longer. Today the Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater Farmers Markets offer fresh fruits and vegetables from throughout Washington as well as produce from local organic farms. Consumers support their farmers' market for a variety of reasons. The availability of fresh local fruits, vegetables, and other farm products are the most obvious reasons. Providing financial support for local farmers—local workers—is another reason. When I moved here in the 1970's, I was very concerned about land use and preserving open space. Doing what I can to help support local farming has always seemed to be a good idea.

CSA, or Community Supported Agriculture, is an outgrowth of the modern farmers' market movement. Consumers develop a taste for fresh local organic produce, and want to take another step in supporting local farms. A number of the farms with booths at Farmers' Markets also offer subscriptions for the growing season. Paying for a season's supply of one farm's produce in the spring provides that farm with funds to pay for their planting and growing season supplies. It also supports developing a relationship with a particular farm and its farm family.

CSA produce is fresh-picked and locally grown. It is selected, packed and presented to you ready to take home. If the Olympia Farmers Market is your contact point, your weekly share will generally be waiting for you when the market opens. Being a CSA member eliminates comparison-shopping among the market stalls for most of your weekly produce needs. If the freshest organic produce and convenient pickup are what you want, you will want to learn more about the CSAs available in the South Sound.

The Thurston County Direct Sales Farm Map, available in April at the Olympia Farmers Market, Olympia Food Coop and the South of the Sound Farm Land Trust website, [www.communityfarmlandtrust.org](http://www.communityfarmlandtrust.org), provides a directory of farms that sell directly to consumers through farmers' markets, their own farm stands,

CSA subscriptions, and U-Pick. The 2009 Map included 19 farms that offer CSA's.

The directory will let you know what each farm offers as produce. There are at least two farms that have special employment programs that you may also want to support. Just a few blocks from OUUC, GRuB employs and trains at risk youth. Left Foot Organics grows produce and "promotes self-sufficiency and independence for people with developmental disabilities through meaningful paid employment and training."

Delivery generally starts in June and runs through October. Some farms are now able to offer longer seasons for produce delivery. CSA shares are usually enough to supply a hungry family of four. If your family is smaller, or has smaller appetites, some CSAs offer half-shares, or you may want to share your membership with a friend or neighbor.

In addition to looking at the printed list, you may want to ask farms how frequently some items are provided. Some farms offer a "typical season" list, which shows the contents of typical weekly bags for each month of the season. I have subscribed to several different farms over the last 15 years. Each farm has its own specialties, but I have never been disappointed by the variety or selection offered by a CSA. There have always been familiar vegetables, and occasionally new ones to try, that have become regulars on our table.

Good for us, good for the earth, good for farmers  
—I couldn't ask for more.

—Leslie Romer  
for the Ethical Eating Work Group

### Beware Food

A French film in the Ethical Eating Film Series.  
Monday, April 19, 7:00 PM, at OUUC.

The film tells the story of a French farm town that decided that agricultural chemicals were causing too many serious illnesses in their community. The town council adopted a policy of organic food. Join to view the film and be part of the discussion.  
—Leslie Romer

## Climate Change Grant to Help Conserve Energy

Last spring this congregation, OUUC, became a partner in the Cool Thurston Campaign, a program to encourage and assist local residents reduce their energy usage. With help from the Campaign, we held a successful Global Warming Café and organized two Ecoteams that participated in Low Carbon Diets to reduce their household carbon footprints.

The Thurston Climate Action Team, organizers of the Campaign, applied for and received a federal grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help homeowners and other small building owners find ways to save energy and save money through energy efficiency improvements.

The non-profit program funded by the grant is called Thurston Energy. Barb Scavesse from the Cool Thurston Action Team is the Program's Outreach Manager. The staff of Thurston Energy will assist homeowners and business owners obtain

Puget Sound Energy evaluations of their energy usage in their homes or business buildings at reduced cost.

The evaluations will be used to develop plans for energy efficiency improvements. They will provide lists of approved installers of energy efficient products and assist in identifying grants, rebates and tax incentives to reduce the costs of improvements.

Organizations like OUUC may gain an additional benefit from the Thurston Energy program. For each household that schedules a Puget Sound Energy home performance evaluation through the Thurston Energy program and mentions that they learned about the program from OUUC, the Thurston Energy Program will make a donation to OUUC.

—Leslie Romer

## OUUC Book Group

The OUUC Book Group will meet two more times, in April and May before we take a break for the summer. Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the church. We will be reading Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* for April.

This is a fast-moving novel set in Jackson, Mississippi, during the 1960's. It is the story of a mostly wealthy group of young women involved in every day life's activities, set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights movement. The catch is that it is written from the perspective of their "help," or maids. The individual maids are good observers, yet have a keen understanding of their place. The book weaves a tale of how, with the help of one of the upper-class women, the maids find their voice and begin the potentially dangerous and powerful journey to be heard.

In May, we will read two books (you can read both or take your pick) with a view toward summer. The first is the journal of a naturalist, *A Sand County Almanac*, written by Aldo Leopold. This has become a classic in the field of land management and, from a man's voice, shares his observations of the environment in which he

lives. The second is a book of poetry called *The Grace of Necessity* by Samuel Green who is the poet laureate of Washington state. The poetry reflects his observations of and musings about the animals and land he sees and loves. Both these men use exact, accessible language to share their keen insights about the natural world. For example, from Samuel Green:

### **Feb. 15, La Conner**

*There: One man walking  
across a field; geese rising  
before him as he goes. They never  
stand their ground. He never slows.*

One business matter: The co-leaders of the group, Pete Taylor and Mary Anne Trause, have put out a call to see if anyone else would be interested in co-leading the group for next year. It is a lot of fun and not too much work. The format of the meetings could change if members or leaders wish. If you have any ideas about this or would like to volunteer or think about volunteering, please contact Pete or Mary Anne.

—Mary Ann Trause

## Reorganization of Committees Delayed

As most of you are probably aware, OUUC is in the process of changing how we are organized. Until recently, the Board has been making most of the decisions that do not go to the Congregation as a whole. However, our membership growth and the growing complexity of our programs has begun to outpace the Board's decision-making capacity, and has compelled us to plan for a reorganization that will allow us to deal more effectively with all that must be done.

The Board is currently in the process of relinquishing much of the operational decision making at OUUC, and in late 2009, formed a transitional Program Council for that purpose. Meanwhile, Board members are adjusting to the idea of concentrating on the narrower mission of providing OUUC's visionary leadership. The plan has been for our standing committees and programs to be reorganized into Program Groups, out of which will come the leaders who assume the full operational leadership role from the current transitional Program Council. The new system was initially intended to go into effect in April.

The press of events related to our expansion was already threatening to make a smooth transition difficult to achieve, and the recent activity surrounding the possibility of purchasing the house on East End Street has caused us to decide that slowing down the process of change is definitely a good idea. Though we do intend to go ahead with our earlier plans, our goal now is to prepare for the reorganization during the summer months and have the Program Council and new committee structure in place by the time things get going in the fall.

As busy as so many of you are right now, I expect this news will be met with a sense of relief from almost everyone. Many thanks to the members of our transitional Program Council who have agreed to continue operating as before until the full Council is formed. Watch for more information about forthcoming changes in later editions of the Unitariana.

—Harmon Eaton

## Are These My People?

The Reverend Peter Morales, our new UUA President, recently told attendees at the Pacific Northwest District Assembly that, approximately 5,000 new people attend UU churches each Sunday nationwide. The trouble is, he said, that too few of them eventually join the congregations they visit. Why is that?

Morales said that data collected by the UUA shows that most of the new visitors have done their homework well. They have visited our web sites, read or listened to our sermons, and know about Unitarian Universalism. Most have already decided that they have some affinity to our liberal faith tradition. They are *not* just dropping by; they are really *looking* for a church home. Typically they have only one more question to be answered by their initial visit: Are these my people?

At OUUC there is evidence every Sunday morning that Reverend Morales is correct. We do have many visitors at each service, and recently more and more

are showing up. Many have already visited our web site. They know important things about us before they ever set foot in our door. Regrettably, too few of them join us, and a large part of the problem is probably ours. Once these seekers have made the effort to find us, it is up to us to offer them safe harbor and warm hospitality, and to make sure they get the "right answer" to the question "Are these my people?"

First impressions are everything! When new visitors show up on Sunday mornings things have to click into place for them or they will not be back. We need to get better at making new people feel welcome and wanted. Please consider joining those on the front line—become a welcoming agent. Offer your love for our congregation to these folks by serving as an usher or a greeter. These are fun jobs and the rewards are many. Contact Lorrie at 456-5192 or [lorrie.eaton@comcast.net](mailto:lorrie.eaton@comcast.net) to get started. You will be glad you did! —Lorrie Eaton

## Ministerial Candidate, Raz Mason

By now, most of you have seen, perhaps talked to, Raz Mason, the UU ministerial candidate who is engaged in a nine-month internship with our congregation, January through September.

She worships here with us twice a month. She participates in congregational activities when she's here such as the recent conflict-resolution training. She co-leads or leads some Friday evening meditation sessions; she provides some pastoral care for members of OUUC; and she will co-lead or lead some Sunday services—all under our minister's tutelage.

She also meets monthly with the Internship Committee: the Rev. Arthur Vaeni, the Rev. Carol

McKinley, Harmon Eaton, Jo Ann Smith, and Ann Yeo. The committee's task is to advise, support, listen, give feedback, and evaluate the intern in her development as a minister.

Because OUUC committed several years ago to being a "teaching congregation," we all have a vested interest in our interns. They will be the UU ministers of the future!

We expect that you will be involved in her learning experiences here, and we invite you to give her kind, respectful feedback as appropriate.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with any member of the Internship Committee.

—Ann Yeo

## Association Sunday Returns on April 18

For the second year we will participate in the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) "Association Sunday" in which we will take a special offering that will go to support specific programs that enrich our religious tradition's diversity. As occurred last year, our offering will be divided in three ways:

1. It will go to UUA programs that support diversity.
2. It will support our partner church, the North Shore UU Society of Lacombe, Louisiana, as it continues its recovery from Hurricane Katrina.
3. Finally, it will go to a local social justice endeavor. As we are currently hosting the Thurston County homeless tent city, Camp Quixote, a third of the offering will go toward its support.

The offering in support of UUA programs will be used to help our religious tradition enrich its diver-

sity. In the cover article, "Can Unitarian Universalism Change?" of the most recent *UU World*, the Reverend Dr. Paul Razor wrote that the racial composition of the United States is projected to change dramatically in the coming decades such that by 2042, "whites will no longer constitute a majority of the U.S. population." About this he asserted, "if [Unitarian Universalists] fail to respond to this new multicultural reality...we will not only fail to honor this core principle of liberal theology, we will simply become irrelevant."

Last year, we received \$5,549 in support of our Association Sunday recipients. The third of that donation that went to the UUA placed Olympia among the Association's leadership congregations in the top 10%. Hopefully, we will surpass that amount this year.

—Arthur Vaeni

**Ivy Pulling Party.** Saturday, April 17. 9:00 AM until ? A lot of soil has been disturbed in the construction process. It is a great opportunity to eliminate plantations of English ivy, holly and other invasive plants from our woodland landscape. Bernie Steckler, who monitors a Japanese knotweed infestation on the edge of our property, will be available to discuss the noxious weed and options for controlling it. Please come and help remove the unwelcome plants from our OUUC woodlands.

**Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting** Sunday, April 11 we will meet at Traditions Café at 11:30 a.m. Traditions is located at 5th and Water Streets in downtown Olympia. —Leslie Romer

# Nominations for Board & Nominating Panel

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation on April 30th, we will elect three members of the Board of Trustees and two members of the Nominating Panel, according to the plan of rotation described in our bylaws (available on our website). Here are the candidates, who have agreed to serve if elected.

## **For a second three-year term on the Board of Trustees:**

**Neil Marsh.** Neil joined the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Olympia in 1989. He and his wife, Mary Jean, were married at University Unitarian Church in Seattle (where she was a member at the time) in 1991. In 2000 he served as the registrar for the District Annual General Meeting. Neil is an active member of the South Sound chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and recently retired after 15 years from the Board of Directors for Cascade Mental Health Care in Lewis County.

Working nights and weekends as a police officer precluded Neil's participation in OUUC activities for many years, making him an "invisible member." He has very much enjoyed being able to participate regularly since retiring from Law Enforcement late in 2006. Neil, Mary Jean, and their daughter, Rebecca, live in Chehalis. He is willing to continue his leadership as a member of the Board for the next three years.

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## **For a first three-year term on the Board of Trustees:**

**Bonnie Shorin.** Bonnie first came to OUUC in the fall of 1996, and knew from the first visit that she'd be "signing the book." Since that time she has helped out in the Nursery, taught RE in all grades from Preschool to grade 6, was a member of and served as chair of the Committee on Ministry, and has been a member of and the Chair of the RE committee. She is currently in the second year of her term on the Family Ministry Team, and is teaching the combined 4-5-6 RE class. Bonnie clearly has a passion for sharing a sense of faith and learning about UU values with the young peo-

ple of this congregation. She likes the grown ups pretty well, too!

Bonnie's life outside OUUC includes 19 years working for state and federal government in resource stewardship. She is licensed as an attorney but has shifted her bar status to inactive. Her oldest child is awaiting college acceptance letters, her second child participates in Youth Group, and her youngest child attends the 4-5-6 RE class. She and Joe Shorin regularly participate in Dinners for Eight, and have hosted several UU auction dinners at their home ("where all the cooking is done by Joe, thank goodness!").

**Steve Tilley.** Steve joined OUUC in the early 1990s. He found himself teaching middle school RE that year and learned a lot about UU history and practice. In the late 1990s, he served on the Board and helped update the Board policy manual. While on the Board, he went to leadership school which was a transformative experience.

Steve and his wife, Chris, moved to Saipan in 2003 and returned last year to be closer to family and friends, especially the OUUC community. Steve has been active on the Buildings and Grounds Committee for the past few months and says he would like to help the Board and congregation transition to the new organizational structure. He would also like to continue getting to know more members of the congregation because UUs are such interesting and committed people!

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## **For a two-year term on the Nominating Panel:**

**Erich Brown.** Erich originally came to Unitarian Universalism via the Midland UU in Midland, Michigan where he found out he has always been a UU and never knew it. He came to OUUC in 2007 with his family of wonderful kids and life partner. He describes his motivations as "social/political and spiritual." He has helped with Books, Brownies and Beans, organized the OUUC All-Church Retreat, edited the *Unitariana*, and worked with Camp Quixote. He is currently a

**Please see NOMINATIONS on page 13.**

## NOMINATIONS. Continued from page 12.

Youth Group Advisor, has organized a major youth-group fundraiser, and will be attending a Youth Group Conference in March.

Erich is a self-appointed informal nursery-entrance advisor to new families as he spends almost all Sundays in the nursery. He also welcomes people to the church and gets them connected to a world of possibilities for their participation. He owns a youth theatre group that is dedicated to assisting young people in putting their own stories on stage, and he is on the Board at Olympia Little Theatre. He loves directing theatre, reading fiction, running, and training for a marathon. He is willing to help find new leadership while serving on the Nominating Panel for the next two years.

**Ginny Taylor.** The first time Ginny attended a service at OUUC in September, 2001, she knew she had found her church home. She soon became a member and discovered how much more meaningful her connection was as she began to get involved in its programs and activities including usher/greeter, Small Group Ministry, Dinners for Eight, Adult Education classes, Worship Arts Committee, Books, Brownies & Beans, and other projects. Currently she serves on the Ministerial Support Team and the Communications Committee focusing on outreach. She keeps the church archives, attends PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals), and sings in the choir and in the Saturday Voice Class.

Through all these connections she has discovered the bounty of interesting, creative, and caring people who make up this congregation. She looks forward to helping find candidates for our congregational leadership that is so important to our ministry to each other and to the larger community.

We, the current members of the Nominating Panel, believe that we have chosen well-qualified, willing candidates for the available positions on the Board of Trustees and next year's Nominating Panel. The Board candidates have demonstrated definite commitment to OUUC and strong leadership abilities. The candidates for the Nominating Panel have varied backgrounds of involvement here that give them broad acquaintance with the membership and diverse perspectives for choosing

future candidates for the Board and Panel. We aim to support the succession of the strong leadership this congregation has enjoyed during this and past years!

—*Pete Taylor, Warren Dawes, Jean Phillips, Kurt Rader, and Connie Ruhl*

## More About OUUC

An Introduction to OUUC session is held the third Sunday of each month between services. It's an hour session on who we are and what we're about.

Anyone considering joining OUUC—or who wants to more about Unitarian Universalism as well as about OUUC—is welcome at the next Membership Class. The three session course is May 4, 11 and 18, 7–9 PM.

In the class, you will:

- ◆ Hear a brief history and background of our theology
- ◆ Understand the OUUC mission
- ◆ Meet others who are interested in finding out more about UU-ism
- ◆ Discover ways to get more involved in the life of our congregation.
- ◆ Share stories about what brings us together as UUs.
- ◆ Have fun!

Register in the office, by phone at 786-6383, or by email at [liberalfaith@ouuc.org](mailto:liberalfaith@ouuc.org). Childcare is available by arrangement.

—*Linda Crabtree*

### Introduction to OUUC

Sunday, April 18, 10:45

### Membership Class

May 4, 11, 18, 7–9 PM

**Welcome newcomers, friends...and members!**

The OUUC Middle School Group Presents the:

# THRIFT STORE CHALLENGE

Saturday, May 1, 2010



*Silly or serious, the Thrift Store Challenge is for everyone. Join our models on the runway or watch from the*



## Spring is Back and so is the THRIFT STORE CHALLENGE

Daaahlinks, let-me-tell-you-something. I'm just back from Paris Fashion Week and here's my review: C'est blah! C'est yawn! New York? Get-oudda-here! The OUUC is where fashion thrives and here's why: The THRIFT STORE CHALLENGE is back, the middle school's annual fundraiser. Here's what The New York Times said about last years' TSC: "The show was filled with extraordinary spectacles with a sophistication and imagination that dazzled the viewer." Or maybe it said that about something else. I can't remember. But here's what YOU must remember:

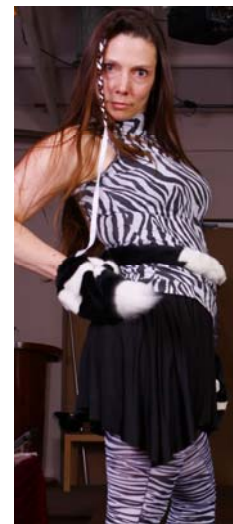
**The Thrift Store Challenge • Saturday, May 1, 7PM at OUUC**

**\$10/person or \$25/family models and audience alike**

Our models will again "Reuse-Reduce-Recycle" as they sashay down our runway in their latest thrift store treasures. Not the modeling type? Take a seat in the audience. "Oooh" and "Ahhh," laugh and cry as your OUUC friends model serious and not-so-serious thrift store treasures. There will be child care, an elegant dessert buffet and a wine bar. Funds raised will go to our middle school youth group.

Here's how it works:

- 1. Choose:** Go to the thrift store of your choice (Goodwill, Value Village, Salvation Army, Dumpster Values, etc.) and choose a smashing ensemble for mere pennies. Prizes go to the contestants who get the "Best Value," meaning, a fantastic outfit for the lowest total cost.
- 2. Decide:** Your outfit can be "legitimate," or something completely out there. It's up to you. Extra points for accessorizing with thrift-store items.
- 3. Categories:**
  - Work** — business attire, uniforms etc.
  - Play** — casual or athletic clothes. cabana wear, etc
  - Formal** — fancy party togs, tuxes and cocktail dresses, etc.
  - Back-of-the-Closet** — clothing from your own closet that is at least 10-years-old or more. Have you been holding on to those plaid golf knickers and argyle socks? Now is your time to shine!
- 4. Show up on May 1st to walk the runway or watch from the audience.**
- 5. Entry procedure:** Submit one entry for each outfit you plan to show. (The entry form will show you how to format your entries.) Want us to write-up your description?



*Awards for Best Dressed • Best Value • Audience Favorite • Back of the Closet  
Enjoy the Dior Dessert Bar • "Must Have" Wine Bar • Tres Chic Child Care • Raffle Prizes*

# Adam Harris



Adam Harris believes in building community. He knows from first-hand experience that means hard work, heart work, hands-on work *and* committee work. “I lived on a kibbutz in Israel for six years. So I understand and have always taken part in committees. You have to be able to work with everybody but together you can make the community self-sustaining.” He and his wife, Donna Podger, and seven-year-old daughter, Anna, recently became official OUUC members after three years of attendance.

Adam now focuses on rocks in his job as a geologist but returned to his roots as a construction worker to help create new flooring at the Out of the Woods house, OUUC’s transitional home for once homeless people. He then was asked to “re-invigorate and re-constitute the Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee which was on life-support,” he says. With all the pending projects the timing was crucial.

As B & G Committee Chair, Adam is working together with dozens of other OUUC members on the completion of the building expansion, integrating the new space with the existing building and its problems (found during the expansion like skylights and furnaces), and the parking lots and grounds. The project he is most emotional about is the Out of the Woods house. “It has terrible problems with their roof and leaks. We’re trying to make it livable for the people there instead of leaving it a decrepit old place.” His group is also researching the purchase of the house on East End Street to double the accommodations.

A search for spiritual satisfaction, an appreciation of the quality sermons, and a chance to contribute by using his construction skills were some of the reasons Adam decided to join OUUC, he said, although he added, “The question stopped me in my tracks.”

—*Sonja Johnston*

## W H O ' S W H O A T O U U C ?

### Travel, UU Style

#### Wine Country Excursions.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay in Napa, California (an hour Northeast of San Francisco) is pleased to share with other UUs and friends a unique opportunity to visit the beautiful Napa and Sonoma Valleys on either two-day escorted tours of one of the world's premier wine producing regions with comfortable lodging in member's homes or lodging with full breakfast with touring on your own. You will stay in the homes of Fellowship members—all with private bath and bedroom. Experienced UU tour guides, some in the wine industry, will use their local knowledge to customize each individual tour to fit your interests. Maps and insider advice are available for those touring on their own. Both tours and lodging are

available from April through October. Details at [www.uunorthbay.org/wine\\_tours/index.html](http://www.uunorthbay.org/wine_tours/index.html)

#### Follow the Footsteps of Margaret Fuller in Rome, Rieti and Florence.

If you follow her footsteps, you will marvel in the Vatican and Sistine Chapel where she met Angelo Giovanni Ossoli, a Roman nobleman, and fell in love. This is just the beginning of the jam-packed one-of-a-kind eleven-day guided tour that will celebrate and honor Margaret Fuller’s 2010 Bicentennial. It is scheduled for October 17 through 27, 2010, offered by The Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee, and sponsored by UU Women’s Association and UU Women & Religion-Metro District. Get more information at [ljgart@aol.com](mailto:ljgart@aol.com).

## At Your Service

	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
<b>9:15 Ushers</b>	Bernie Steckler Ann Nielson	Linda Crabtree ??	Harmon Eaton Linda Crabtree	Mikel Young ??
<b>Greeters</b>	Diana Finch Joyce Steckler	?? ??	Lorrie Eaton Terry Zander	Jo Ann Young ??
<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Mary Ann Thompson Fritz Wrede	Jan Pearson Jean Phillips	Brian Coyne Fumiko Coyne	Sonja Johnston Billie Williams
<b>11:00 Ushers</b>	?? ??	Susan Bakke ??	?? ??	?? ??
<b>Greeters</b>	?? ??	?? ??	?? ??	?? ??
<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Jerry Guerero Christine Guerero	Cheryl Hanks ??	Mary Ellen Dawson Rod Campbell	Karl Johnson Alice Curtis

Sign up online at [www.ouuc.org](http://www.ouuc.org) under Worship Service Volunteer Schedule. Ushers & Greeter information: Lorrie Eaton at [Lorrie.Eaton@comcast.net](mailto:Lorrie.Eaton@comcast.net). Coffee server information: Penny Chatfield at [ispennyhome@yahoo.com](mailto:ispennyhome@yahoo.com).

## UUA General Assembly, June 23-27, Minneapolis

Join thousands of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) from across the United States for the 2010 General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis. You'll experience wonderful and uplifting worship services by some of our best worship leaders with glorious music and inspiring messages. General Assembly is the way that our faith does business. Actions of social witness are passed at GA, elements that make up future policies are discussed...and YOU have a voice in the discussion.

There will be hundreds of entertaining programs and informative workshops, offering excellent support and learning for leaders in our congregations. You'll be able to join the witness for our faith and values, in moving and exciting ways. Learn more from [generalassembly@uua.org](mailto:generalassembly@uua.org), subscribe to the GA Blog, listen to the Audio Podcast, follow GA on Twitter, or become a GA fan on Facebook.

—[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

## UU Courses Online

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) was founded over 50 years ago to serve the needs of isolated UUs. It is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, provides a ministry to isolated religious liberals, promotes the understanding and growth of Unitarian Universalism, and institutes programs to that end.

CLF offers online UU courses, some of which are free. The courses are available to anyone! Unitarian Universalism is available 24/7. Check out the CLF's Learning Center: <http://clf.uua.org/learn/>.

—<http://clf.uua.org/>

## UU Jewelry Sale

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is having a spring UU jewelry sale. A 20% discount will be offered on pewter pendants, pewter lapel pins, and enamel lapel pins. From the CLF site ([www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org)), click on "CLF Shop." Your 20%

discount will be processed within a week, and offered as a credit card refund, when you write the words "CLF Rocks!" in the Add Comments field!

—<http://clf.uua.org/>

# April 2010

**NEWS DEADLINE**

April 18, 11 AM  
for May issue. Send to  
administrator@ouuc.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EVERY SUNDAY</b>                      9:15 AM &amp; 11:00 AM Nursery Infant–3 yo                      9:15–11:00AM Preschool–6th Graders                      11:00 AM Our Whole Lives Class grades 7–9                      12:30 PM YRUU—Youth Group</p>				<p><b>1</b>                      10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)                      7:00PM Committee on Ministry                      7:00PM Out of the Woods Board</p>	<p><b>2</b>                      9:30AM Program Council                      6:00PM Meditation — Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>	<p><b>3</b>                      9:00AM Worship Arts Committee                      10:30AM Internship Committee                      12:00PM Yoga                      1:45PM Voice Class</p>
<p><b>4</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>                      9:15AM Service                      11:00AM Service                      11:30AM Green Sanctuary                      12:30PM Young Adults Group                      5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>	<p><b>5</b>                      6:00PM Partner Church Com.                      7:00PM Be the Change                      7:00PM Family Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>6</b>                      7:00PM The Many Facets of Humor                      7:00PM Covenant of UU Pagans</p>	<p><b>7</b>                      10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)                      6:00PM Worship Arts Committee                      6:00PM Myths &amp; Joseph Campbell</p>	<p><b>8</b>                      10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)                      7:00PM Board Meeting                      7:00PM Journey to Hiroshima</p>	<p><b>9</b>                      6:00PM Meditation — Ending Your Week in Stillness                      6:30PM Congregational Listening Session re: East End Street house</p>	<p><b>10</b>                      1:45PM Voice Class</p>
<p><b>11</b>                      9:15AM Worship Service                      11:00AM Worship Service                      5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>	<p><b>12</b>                      7:00PM Be the Change</p>	<p><b>13</b>                      7:00PM Pastoral Care Team                      7:00PM The Many Facets of Humor</p>	<p><b>14</b>                      10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)                      4:30PM Panza                      7:00PM Choir Rehearsal                      7:00PM Conflict Mngmt Team                      7:00PM Myths &amp; Joseph Campbell</p>	<p><b>15</b>                      10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)                      7:00PM Book Group                      7:00PM Communications Committee</p>	<p><b>16</b>                      6:00PM Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>	<p><b>17</b>                      1:45PM Voice Class</p>
<p><b>18</b>                      9:15AM Service                      10:45AM Intro to OUUC                      11:00AM Service                      12:30PM Young Adults Group                      2:00PM Social Justice Movie                      5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>	<p><b>19</b>                      7:00PM Food Film: Food and Environmental Justice</p>	<p><b>20</b>                      7:00PM Circles of the Spirit Facilitators                      7:00PM The Many Facets of Humor</p>	<p><b>21</b>                      10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)                      4:30PM Panza                      7:00PM Choir Rehearsal                      7:00PM Myths &amp; Joseph Campbell</p>	<p><b>22</b>                      10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)                      1:00PM Adult Education Committee                      7:00PM Building Dedication Planning</p>	<p><b>23</b>                      6:00PM Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness                      6:00PM Middle School Overnight</p>	<p><b>24</b>                      1:45PM Voice Class</p>
<p><b>25</b>                      9:15AM Worship Service                      11:00AM Worship Service                      5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b>                      1:00PM Newsletter folding                      7:00PM The Many Facets of Humor                      7:00PM Knitting at the UU</p>	<p><b>28</b>                      10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)                      7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>29</b>                      10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)</p>	<p><b>30</b>                      6:00PM Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness                      6:30PM Dessert Potluck                      7:00PM Congregational Meeting  <b>Congregational Meeting</b></p>	



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## Contact Us

**Office Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 11 AM–4 PM

**Phone:** 360-786-6383

**Internet:** [www.ouuc.org](http://www.ouuc.org)

**Email:** [administrator@ouuc.org](mailto:administrator@ouuc.org)

**Minister:** Rev. Arthur Vaeni

**Administrator:** Darlene Sarkela

**Director of Religious Education:** Sara Lewis

**Director of Music:** Troy Fisher

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Coordinator, Washington State UU Voices  
for Justice

**Minister of Social Services:** Rev. Bill  
Arensmeyer

**Unitariana Editor:** Linda Crabtree

### Board of Directors

President: Melanie Ransom • Vice President: Harmon Eaton • Treasurer: Jeff Goltz • Secretary: Ann Yeo • Members: Mary Walton Cameron, Ingrid Kail, Neil Marsh, Curtis Tanner, Kelly Thompson

## Important dates!

### Listening Session about the East End Street House

**April 9th, 6:30 PM**

### Annual Congregational Meeting

**April 30th, 6:30 PM Dessert, 7:00 PM Meeting**

Vote to elect members of the Board of Trustees and Nominating Panel

Vote on acceptance of grant funding to purchase the End Street house if it is awarded

### Building Dedication

**June 6th, 4:00 PM**