



May 2010

# UNITARIANA

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## HIGHLIGHTS

*Camp Quixote Grant*  
*Church Retreat Evolves*  
*OTW's New Energy*  
*Benefit Songfest*

## 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.

## INSIDE...

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| <i>Leaders' Messages</i>   | 2  |
| <i>Religious Education</i> | 4  |
| <i>Camp Quixote</i>        | 5  |
| <i>Disaster Planning</i>   | 6  |
| <i>Waste Management</i>    | 7  |
| <i>Ministry Evaluation</i> | 7  |
| <i>Urban Farming</i>       | 8  |
| <i>Out of the Woods</i>    | 9  |
| <i>Who's Who</i>           | 9  |
| <i>Special Events</i>      | 10 |
| <i>Songfest</i>            | 12 |
| <i>Calendar</i>            | 13 |

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

MAY 2 . . . **The Three R's: Unitarian Universalism in the 21st Century.** In the mid-20th century, Unitarian historian Earl Morse Wilbur created the "Unitarian Trinity:" freedom, reason and tolerance. In the 21st Century, are these still apt? Are they adequate? Will they empower us to become "The Faith for Our Times," or do we need to go deeper? Join Rev. Elizabeth Stevens as she proposes a new set of values to ground our spiritual communities and help us grow. **See GUEST SPEAKER REV. STEVENS, page 6.** —*Rev. Elizabeth Stevens*

MAY 9 . . . **A Mother's Day for Peace.** This is the 140th anniversary of Julia Ward Howe's original Mother's Day proclamation in which she asserted: "Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means. Whereby the great human family can live in peace...Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God..." In this music service in which we honor mothers, we also remember Julia Ward Howe's call to action for peace.

—*Troy Fisher and The Reverend Arthur Vaeni*

MAY 16 . . **Honoring a Ministry to the Poor.** The Reverend Bill Arensmeyer is retiring as OUUC's Ministry for Community Advocacy. His ministry to people in need has a long and deep history that includes the establishment of the Out of the Woods Shelter fifteen years ago. In this service we will honor Bill's ministry and hear of the remarkable service he has provided on our congregation's behalf. A reception will be held between services, so those who attend the 11:00 AM service, come early for cake. —*The Reverend Arthur Vaeni*

MAY 23 . . **The Sisters of Congo.** A war has been raging in Congo for many years and it is estimated that as many as 5–6 million people have died as a result—the most in a war since World War II—and yet, we hear very little about this extraordinary tragedy. At least one woman from Portland, Oregon, however, has chosen not to ignore the plight of so many victims.

— *The Reverend Arthur Vaeni*

MAY 30 . . . **A Communion of Flowers.** The Reverend Norbert Capek and the Reverend Maja Capek created the flower communion in the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia in 1923 and introduced it in the United States in 1940. In this service we will hear their stories, recalling how in 1940 when the Nazis found Dr. Capek's gospel of the inherent worth and beauty of every human person, they determined he was "too dangerous to the Reich to be allowed to live." Please bring a flower (or 2 or 3 for those who forget) from your garden or neighborhood to share in the service. — *The Reverend Arthur Vaeni*

# Along the Ministerial Midway

## The Rev. Arthur Vaeni, Minister

Since I arrived at OUUC nearly nine years ago, I have attended all but one church retreat at Camp Seymour. While there are a few activities I have particularly enjoyed there, such as the morning dip in the Sound, the talent shows, and the unofficial horseshoe tournaments in which the scoring of any points by either team is cause for celebration, I have primarily appreciated the opportunity our retreats provide me to become better acquainted with our members and friends as well as our children and youth.



Most folks are a tad more ambitious than I am when it comes to taking advantage of the camp's activities. My routine usually involves hanging out in the dining room or strolling around the grounds to chat with whomever is available. A short nap in the afternoon helps me maintain this pace. Actually, it is my experience of the retreat's shared living at a relaxed pace that creates an environment I find conducive to socializing and developing relationships. So, I have been saddened in recent years to see our attendance diminish.

It is not unusual for church activities to run in cycles with greater participation in some periods than others, and, of course, there are times when activities lose their appeal and should be allowed to expire. The difficulty is in determining whether or not an activity or event can be reinvigorated in some way, or whether it's time to let it die. With our annual retreat, although attendance has diminished, there is still a core group that values it sufficiently to seek its renewal. I am gratified they are willing to make such an effort, for I feel the church retreat has and can again play a central role in helping to broaden and deepen relationships within the congregation.

As part of the effort to renovate the retreat the group developed a congregational survey. You may recall seeing it. We had a really good response rate with about one hundred of our members and friends completing it. The survey revealed that two-thirds of the respondents had not attended a retreat in the past three years. The most commonly cited reasons were the perception that the retreat seemed geared towards those with young children, the time of the year it has been held, often making it rainy and cold (Isn't that a given in the Northwest?), and the expense.

On the other side of that coin, the respondents who had recently attended the retreat indicated they enjoyed Camp Seymour and appreciated the services and activities it provided despite the retreat being held in the rainy season. None-the-less, both those who had recently attended as well as those who had not, indicated a preference for the retreat to be held during "the nice part of the year." Without getting into a theological reflection about why we might perceive one part of the year as "nicer" than another, we will just denote "nice" as warmer with a chance of sunshine, somewhere between May and September.

At the moment that rules out Camp Seymour as presently, no May–September weekends are available. Taking into account a desire for a retreat site that is less expensive and wanting a location that is close enough so more of us would feel we could attend for one day or even part of a day, the retreat's planning team settled on Millersylvania State Park for this year's retreat. At this point, the only weekend available during "the nice part of the year" is September 18-19.

A group campsite has been reserved for that weekend. Although a retreat held in midsummer would have some advantages in that kids are out of school and days are longer and likely warmer, a retreat held on September 18–19 has the advantage of still being in the summer (barely), more of us are likely to be around, and it could prove to be a great way to begin the church year.

Having the retreat at Millersylvania State Park will make it a different experience from past ones at Camp Seymour in that those who spend the night will be doing so in their own tents or motor homes rather than cabins, and we will be doing our own meal preparation and activity development. I will wager that creating our own activities won't be a problem for the survey indicated a desire for a number of activities we can easily do ourselves, such as group singing, hiking, doing crafts, playing games, storytelling and having unscheduled time to socialize. The last one was not my suggestion although I will be glad to lead it.

**See CHURCH RETREAT, page 4.**

# Things I've Learned

## Melanie Ransom, Board President

This will be my last President's Column because my term has drawn to a close. Harmon Eaton will be taking over as Board President as of the May 13th Board meeting. I was on the Board for three years and during that time I learned a few things about our congregation that I think are worth sharing. Here I go:



UUs are more likely to read things that are in a bulleted list.

- ◆ If you really want to change your world view, hang out with the high school group that meets from 12:30-2:30 on Sunday afternoons.
  - ◆ The Reverend Arthur Vaeni attends about twenty meetings per week (he's everywhere) and smiles if you refer to him as "The Reverend."
  - ◆ Regardless of the sermon topic, everyone is there for the cookies in The Commons. I wonder what would happen if we served breakfast.
  - ◆ Actually we do love Sunday Worship. Other UU churches in the U.S. would steal our minister in a heartbeat. We are a #1 choice for ministerial interns.
  - ◆ The choir likes it if you smile at them when they are singing. Wiping tears away is okay, too.
  - ◆ It's amazing how many people actually pay attention to the Board Announcements.
  - ◆ Traditions and Mud Bay Coffee are major UU meeting spots. We're there for the cookies.
  - ◆ UUs don't attend committee meetings to do work. We attend to be together. And the hugs.
  - ◆ The power center is moving away from the Board and to the Program Council. That's the new fun place to be. Talk to Harmon Eaton about that.
- ◆ UUs have a presence all over Thurston County. I see UUs EVERYWHERE!
  - ◆ It has been a full-time job for at least three years for Warren Dawes to lead the building expansion project. Saint hood. Pure and simple.
  - ◆ We sure do have a lot of artists and craft persons in our congregation. I'm convinced that there isn't anything we can't fashion. Give us a mirror and a spoon and we'll make something happen.
  - ◆ We are more influential than we know when it comes to poverty issues in Thurston County. Others are watching us to see what we're going to do next.
  - ◆ When I stop to think about the wonderful moments in my life, and I picture the people that are in those moments, it is all of you from OUUC. You make life rich.

Thank you for your love and support during my time as your Board President. I appreciated the times you told me you liked how things were going and the times you were sure we were doing the wrong thing. I look forward to being a part of our next chapter together.

*Love and Hugs,  
—Melanie*

## Grant Proposal Not Funded

You may have heard by now that our grant proposal to purchase the house at 2214 East End Street was not funded by the Home Consortium. Our intention was to move the Out of the Woods shelter from the B&G Annex to this newer facility. We will continue to look for other opportunities and will keep you posted. We are not giving up!

*—Melanie*

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.

# The Importance of a Good Story

**Sara Lewis, Director of Religious Education**

I have recently had the opportunity and time to focus on storytelling, and I have found it to be a rich and rewarding practice. Your kind feedback and reception of my stories, and my discovery of the many sources I can tap for stories, has enriched the process even more.



Besides discovering that I actually enjoy delivering stories, I've also come to a new appreciation of the value of stories. Stories can reach us at levels that direct teaching cannot. Stories, much like dreams, can connect to our symbol-using minds and point us toward meaning we both understand deeply and not at all. Or, as the political theorist and philosopher Hannah Arendt is quoted as saying, "Storytelling reveals meaning without committing the error of defining it."

As I have been focused on finding a good story, my ears, mind, and heart have been more open to noticing the stories I encounter naturally as I move through my life. We all encounter stories all the time, as our oral and written culture is swimming with stories, but we may not take the time to notice them.

Everyone should take the time and attention to find their own stories and hear the stories around them. Everyone has a story just waiting to come out, whether that be in a private journal, with a trusted friend, or in a group. And maybe not everyone, but almost everyone enjoys a good story. Where can you find a good story? You mean, besides coming to church or volunteering in an RE classroom?

There is a magical place in town where you can walk around and find thousands of good stories. The guardians of this place will make you sign a form and get a card, but after that you can take these stories home with you for free!

I'm talking about the library of course, and all the treasures it contains. If you think back, can you remember the power of a certain story in your life? Anita Silvey, the editor of the book *Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Chil-*

*dren's Book*, points out "the amazing power of the right book for the right child—at the right time". I think that power extends beyond childhood, and that there is an amazing power in finding the right story for the right person at the right time.

And if you do have children in your life, giving them good stories is essential. The psychologist Lawrence Cohen, author of the book *Playful Parenting*, points out that children's play and consequently their thoughts and beliefs follow certain scripts, and the sources for those scripts are the stories they are given. If they are given all television and movie stories, their scripts may be more violent and less full of wonder. But if their scripts come from a good book, or from the rich multicultural oral traditions compiled as "folk and fairy tales", chances are their scripts for play and for life will be richer and more likely to lead to wonder and appreciation.

Bill Harley, storyteller and songwriter, says "if you are older than two and you can't sing a song and tell a story, you're in trouble". We all have our stories to tell, and I feel so incredibly privileged to be able to share my favorites with all of you.

—Sara

*Stories, much like dreams, can connect to our symbol-using minds and point us toward meaning we both understand deeply and not at all.*

## CHURCH RETREAT

Continued from page 2.

Jen Sabel is heading the retreat planning team. If you wish to participate in the planning or have ideas for things you want to help include as part of our retreat experience, please be in touch with Jen. Her contact information is in the church directory or you can get it from our church administrator. I hope this retreat proves to be a great way to begin our church year—a gathering in which we play, eat, relax and socialize abundantly.

In the spirit of love and peace,  
—Arthur

# Volunteers Hard at Work at Camp Quixote

We are one month into hosting Camp Quixote and many from our congregation have come forward to help. Host desk volunteers are both giving of their time as well as getting the chance to meet and talk with the CQ residents. The Sunday dinners have been a great success and provided a time when residents and church volunteers can eat together and provide a context of generosity to the resident meeting. Without exception the food has been fantastic.

Special thanks goes to Ingrid Kail who, within the first few weeks, had recruited groups to sponsor all of the Sunday evening dinners. Christina Guerro has been helping with the weekly propane run. Camp residents have mentioned to me how much they appreciate this. Terry Zander has been helping out as a co-coordinator and filling in when I have been out of town.

**Meals.** We have volunteers for the Sunday evening dinners, but camp residents are very appreciative of meals during the week. If you or your group would like to sponsor a dinner on any evening other than Sunday, contact Leah Wilson at 360-491-8508, [lwilson372@aol.com](mailto:lwilson372@aol.com). Leah will coordinate the scheduling of dinners with the camp calendar that is located at the host tent on-site.

**Host desk volunteers.** We can still use more host desk volunteers. If you completed the host

desk volunteer training, several time slots are open for you to sign up. Shifts are every 3 hours beginning at 9 AM, 12 PM, 3 PM and 6 PM.

If you are available for host desk service, check out the calendar at:

[www.google.com/calendar/embed?](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=tucocamp@gmail.com)

[src=tucocamp@gmail.com](mailto:tucocamp@gmail.com). Then e-mail or call Jennifer Shaw with the time you would like to volunteer: [tucocamp@gmail.com](mailto:tucocamp@gmail.com), 360-485-8569.

Other donations that camp residents need include blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, tents, coffee, cups, batteries (AA, AAA and D) and DVD movies. 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 can be used. The camp has no room to store things.

If you have any other questions, ideas or even comments about how things have been going, do not hesitate to contact me (Rick Brandt-Kreutz at: 360-464-7334; [rleebk@gmail.com](mailto:rleebk@gmail.com)).

To the many other volunteers I have not mentioned here I want to give a big "thank-you" for all you contribute and for the privilege of serving with you. It is great to be a part of an outreach that is making a tangible difference in the lives of those who are too often forgotten.

—Rock Brandt-Kreutz



*Sunday dinners are part of our ministry with Camp Quixote. Groups signed up early to take a meal; here All Souls UU Community sponsors the meal. How fitting that the first function in the new Commons was a shared meal with the Camp residents.*

## Camp Quixote Awarded \$50K Grant

Panza, the interfaith group that supports Camp Quixote, has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 by Thurston County to improve conditions in the camp, to reimburse churches for some of the expenses of hosting the camp, and to contract with a local social services organization for a half-time staff person who can help residents access the services they need to meet their personal goals and find stable housing.

This is very welcome news for two reasons. First, it will make a big difference in the lives of camp residents who will finally have consistent, expert advocacy and encouragement from someone who knows how to "work the system" to get the services and supports they need to overcome homelessness. Second, this funding is a major step in broadening the base of support for the Camp beyond the dozen or so faith communities that have struggled mightily to sustain it.

We are now discussing—both within Panza and with county leaders—the possibility of eventually moving the Camp to a permanent, county-

provided site where we might hope to build a more permanent central building with luxuries such as indoor plumbing and a kitchen.

There are many questions to be asked and answered before we commit to this course, however. If the camp has a permanent site, will it be "out of sight and out of mind" to faith communities? Will Panza be able to raise sufficient funds to make a permanent site workable and to make real improvements that benefit campers? Would having a permanent site change Panza's or the Camp's mission or target population?

There is always so much to consider. We are learning, day by day, just how complex and difficult the issue of growing homelessness is in our community, and how rocky and uncertain our footing is at every step on this journey. But we are encouraged by the County's recognition of the Camp's value, and by the opportunity to improve the lives of the people we serve.

—*Jill Severn*

## Disasters, Emergencies, Terrorism

Disasters, Emergencies, Terrorism...Oh no! ... Oh yes! Ideas and volunteers needed!! We're collecting a new team of folks to develop an emergency preparation and response plan for our OUUC community.

What's the scope of our project? How can we individually prepare at home? How can we prepare and use our OUUC facilities and organization to respond to natural disasters? How can we help each other in times of need? How should we respond to a fire, earthquake or terrorist attack when we are in the building?

If you would like to be part of a planning team to figure these things out, or if you have skills or information or suggestions you want to pass on to the team, please call or e-mail Steve Tilley at [w.tilley@yahoo.com](mailto:w.tilley@yahoo.com).

Our first team job will be to think up a cool name with an acronym. This will be fun and very important work. Operators are standing by to hear from you.

—*Steve Tilley*

### **GUEST SPEAKER REVEREND STEVENS. Continued from Page 1.**

The Rev. Elizabeth Stevens has served the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bremerton for the past six years. She is a graduate of Yale University and Starr King School for the ministry.

Her parents were charter members of the Starr King UU Fellowship in Plymouth, NH, and Rev. Arthur Vaeni was her first minister.

—*Jean Phillips*

## Don't Waste Our Waste!

OUUC is starting a new waste management program, and you can help. We will separate all possible recyclables so we can minimize what goes to the landfill.

The major change is that we'll have a Food Plus collection service for compostables. These include food, paper towels, napkins, pizza boxes, and ice cream boxes. Bins for compostables will be lined with special compostable bags and marked as Food Plus or Compostable or Paper Towels Only. You may still take food waste home but we'll have a place to send all the leftovers.

Here are the types of bins you'll see around the church:

### Kitchen

- \* Food Plus bins for compostables
- \* A green bin for co-mingled cans and plastic

containers

- \* A blue bin for paper/cardboard.
- \* A gray bin for nonrecyclable garbage

### Classrooms

- \* A blue bin for paper/cardboard
- \* A bin for nonrecyclable garbage

### Men's and women's restrooms

- \* Bins for paper towels only so we can compost them.

Please help the recycling effort by looking for the signs and putting waste in the right bins. If you have any questions about the system, talk to Janet Pearson for the kitchen, Bill Arensmeyer or Steve Tilley for the other areas.

—Steve Tilley

## Our Ministry—How's It Going?

WE ARE LISTENING! And letting you know!

The Committee on Ministry acts for the Congregation to assess the strengths and weaknesses of what we do—our Ministry. To do this we frequently are listening to the Congregation. We try to do this “spying” pro-actively. Four times a year we substitute for Board members to do Announcements and mostly to be there for you to talk to.

This year for the first time we've called about twenty people at random and spent some time with the young adult group to ask them four questions: What brought you to OUUC? What keeps you coming back? And, what do you want to see us doing in the future? We found the comments helpful and enlightening and thought you should hear the highlights.

One wise comment was: Families in our congregation keep the church and the denomination alive. We need to do more to encourage young families and make them feel at home. Someone else praised the community feeling at the Auction and praised the good work we do in the community,

particularly for the homeless. However, some voiced cautions about events and programs being costly for those with less means and that we must remember and try to remedy problems of Class among us.

Someone mentioned giving more opportunities to pick a sermon topic and work with Arthur and see how he thinks and prepares a talk. Another urged us to develop and share more opportunities for enhancing deeper ways to know one another as we grow larger. We should try to surmount the “distance” between people.

Many praised Arthur, Troy and Sara's leadership. Arthur's showing appreciation for people's efforts on behalf of OUUC and being such a good listener was often cited.

Please feel free to communicate your answers to these questions to us also. Committee members are Evelyn Greenberg, Tyra Lindquist, Jim Lengenfelder, Riley McLaughlin, Chris Parke and Barry Zickuhr, Chair.

—Evelyn Greenberg

# Building Dedication

Sunday, June 6  
4:00 PM

# Urban Farming

A new movement is sweeping the nation—the re-emergence of the home vegetable garden, once called a “victory garden” and a fixture of almost every backyard during World War II. Sometimes called “urban farming,” this trend seems to be catching on with the mainstream. Beyond the devoted and experienced gardeners who have always had a home vegetable garden, many city dwellers and suburbanites, awakened to the dangers of pesticide residue in many of our fruits and vegetables and the contributions of “agri-business” to global warming, have opted to improve their health and reduce their carbon footprint by growing their own vegetables at home.

City rooftops, abandoned lots, and all kinds of once paved-over spaces have been converted into garden plots. Many apartment complexes and neighborhoods have pooled their resources to grow vegetables in community plots, either collectively, sharing the work and the harvest, or gardening in small plots rented out to individuals to grow what they wish.

Gardening magazine and most mass media publications have been devoting more and more space to articles about home vegetable gardening, offering “how-to” advice and products to make your projects easier. Every store seems to be full of “veggie starts”, seeds, gardening tools and books, potting soil, fertilizers and treatments of every kind this time of year. Many local and regional garden shows feature displays on how to incorporate vegetables into your landscaping, scattering them among flowers and other established plantings.

Locally, one leader in this urban farming movement is Sustainable South Sound’s Urban Agriculture Program. Their Wendell Berry Community Garden, managed by a collective of people who are jointly responsible for planning and tending the garden, raised nearly 5,000 pounds of organic vegetables last year for their collective members, neighbors, and the Thurston County Food Bank. A second project, the Lacey Crossroads Community Garden consists of individual plots and raised beds. Aside from growing good and healthy food, the primary goal of the projects is to build community, to get people out of their cars and houses, and into a pleasant

public space where they can interact and learn together.

Sustainable South Sound has also partnered with other community organizations to offer a free series of community education classes on sustainable food production, nutrition, and cooking. Even though some of the workshops are completed or already full, there are still plenty of opportunities left to sign up and learn.

On the smaller scale, many individual homeowners have begun to rethink their suburban “acreage” and devote more space to garden plots of all sizes and shapes. One of the newest trends is towards raised beds, good news for those with bad soil and equally bad backs. Many are rethinking the amount of space devoted to lawn, one of the biggest users of water and a major source pollutants from harmful chemicals.

Actually, you don’t need a yard at all to grow veggies. Any sunny spot on a deck, balcony or patio plus some fertile garden soil and a few large pots will do. Last summer I conducted an experiment to see how much produce I could grow in my small space that has only small areas of sun and is surrounded by large evergreen trees. Using four whiskey half-barrels, one hanging basket, a 5x7 foot plot, and several large flower pots, I was able to grow zucchini, staked green beans, peas, tomatoes and several smaller pots of lettuce, scallions and two kinds of basil, thyme, tarragon and chives. Not only did I have plenty of food for myself, but by late summer I had plenty to share and trade.

So, for a minimum investment in space, time and effort, I had a wonderful array of fresh produce that filled me with pride as well as good nutrition and a renewed connection to the earth. Spring is here, the sun is shining, and there are so many opportunities to participate. Let’s get planting!

—Jean Phillips  
for the Ethical Eating Work Group

Websites for more information on urban gardening include:

[www.oly-wa.us/SustainSouthSound](http://www.oly-wa.us/SustainSouthSound)

[www.goodgrub.org](http://www.goodgrub.org)

[www.thurston.wsu.edu/MasterGardener](http://www.thurston.wsu.edu/MasterGardener)

[www.organicgardening.com](http://www.organicgardening.com)

# New Energy for Out of the Woods

The staff and board of Out of the Woods would like to thank the congregation for its generous enthusiasm and support during the OUUC board's recent pursuit of the grant to buy the East End house.



families with children. We are modeling an effective program that helps homeless families get on their feet and find the path to greater stability and success.

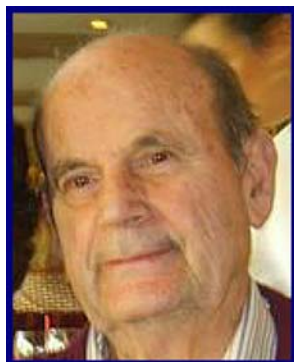
While we are disappointed that the proposal was not funded, our mission is still clear and we are continuing with new energy to keep Out of the Woods a viable and successful program.

We are working with OUUC to address the immediate needs at the shelter, and Adam Harris of the Buildings and Grounds says that committee is actively pursuing the critical project of replacing the roof. A group of students from TESC is planning to install a raised-bed "kitchen garden" for the use of our guests, and other adjustments and improvements are in the works. This is a time for renewed creativity as we work with what we have and demonstrate to the wider community that our shelter is much more than just "a small house in the woods" that "takes in" a few

With your support, we will work to maintain OTW as a multi-faceted program that includes outreach and education as well as wrap-around coordinated work with residents based on their individual and unique needs. We will continue to educate the public about the issues surrounding homelessness and for addressing homelessness one family at a time, using our shelter program as a model for our community. The OTW Board will continue to seek ways to be more effective with the limited funds, resources and support that we currently have, and, as the oversight body to the OTW shelter operations, we will continue our commitment to ensuring its continuance and growth.

—Riley McLaughlin

## Rob Williams



The topic: "What's good about getting old" brought out many observations—from the earnest to the poignant—from the congregation at the April 10<sup>th</sup> service. But none were so spot-on with droll humor and a perfect punch line as Rob Williams' pithy story about motion and means of locomotion which I've paraphrased here.

*When I was a little boy, having a bicycle the right color and the right model and make was extremely important to me. When I grew up, a car became the thing to have—a Ford or Chevrolet and again, the right make, model, color and accoutrements. Unfortunately now, at the young age of 84, it's a different means of locomotion I've become obsessed with—the right make, model and color of a walker.*

Rob generously shared "the rest of the story" with me. It began (and fueled his desired for motion and locomotion) with having polio as a very young child in Canada. His story covers the globe and many means of locomotion as he has worked throughout his life to gain the wings that propel him through a fascinating life with Billie, his wife of 60 years.

(Rob's fuller story is available from Billie. E-mail her at [billie@enfrancetours.com](mailto:billie@enfrancetours.com)).

—Sonja Johnston

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

## Phoenix Communion Universalists

The Phoenix Communion Universalists believe that God is too good to consign anyone to Hell after death. But there is a pattern of dysfunctional behavior that turns happy homes into hells to escape. Many of us have found ourselves trapped in such a hell on earth. We recognize its devastating impact on ourselves and the people we love.

Escaping that pattern requires mutual acceptance of responsibility, apology, forgiveness and trust that are difficult to extend to those who have hurt us. The Phoenix Communion is a ritual of reconciliation. It provides a formal context in which people can say the words of forgive-

ness, and points the way to a deeper reconciliation.

The Phoenix Communion is particularly recommended for families and work groups whose members interact frequently. Parental discretion and guidance is recommended for children and younger teens. The Phoenix Communion was developed by Jim Fulton, a member of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Community in Lacey, and has been presented several times at All Souls. It will be offered at OUUC on Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 PM. All are welcomed to attend.

—Arthur Vaeni

## Celebrate Margaret Fuller's 200th Birthday!

"Men, Women, and Margaret Fuller," a talk by the Reverend Carol McKinley, commemorates this month's bicentennial of Margaret Fuller, a brilliant, nontraditional woman (and Unitarian) who made significant contributions to American thought, literature, and 19th century reform movements. As a member of Concord's Transcendentalist group, Fuller challenged Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bronson Alcott, and Henry David Thoreau both intellectually and emotionally. Today, her life reminds each of us

**Discussion &  
Cake**

**Tuesday  
May 11, 7-9 PM  
OUUC**

how important it is to be true to one's values and vision.

Discussion—and birthday cake—will follow the talk on Tuesday, May 11, 7-9 pm, at OUUC.

Carol McKinley an affiliated community minister with the Olympia UU Congregation, serves as director of Washington State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice, a statewide legislative advocacy group.

—Carol McKinley

## Education for All Meets Development Challenges

As a RESULTS ([www.results.org](http://www.results.org)) advocate I have supported the Education for All campaign since 2002 out of the belief that education is critical to eliminating poverty, empowering active and healthy citizens, and building sustainable solutions to the greatest development challenges of our day: HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation, economic deprivation, inequity, violence.

The Education for All movement is a global commitment to provide quality basic education for all children, youth and adults. Participants identified six key education goals which aim to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015:

1. Expand early childhood care and education

2. Provide free and compulsory primary Education for All.

3. Promote learning and life skills for young people and adults.

4. Increase adult literacy by 50 percent.

5. Achieve gender parity by 2005, and gender equality (education for *all*) by 2015.

6. Improve the quality of education.

RESULTS actively advocates for donor governments to increase their aid for basic education, and improve the way it is being delivered so that it achieves measurable, effective and tangible impacts on education development objectives.

—Nancy Curtiss

## UUs and the Military

Please join intern minister Raz Mason for shared food and conversation on how UUs and military personnel might relate in constructive ways. Raz will be talking about her calling to UU military ministry and her current work with veterans in Portland, and looks forward to a rich, engaging conversation with our varied backgrounds and perspectives.

There will be two options:

- ✦ A small-group gathering (limit of 12 registrants) on Sunday, May 23, from 12:30-2 PM at OUUC.

**Discussion**  
**Sunday, May 23**  
**12:30-2 PM**  
**OUUC**

- ✦ A community-wide potluck on Sunday, July 25, from 12:30–2 PM at OUUC.

Sign-ups for both gatherings will begin May 9th.

Informed by these conversations, Raz will offer a sermon on UUs and the military followed by discussion from 11:30-12:30 on August 8.

—Raz Mason

## May Plant Sale

The May Plant Sale is coming up! We are looking for all kinds of plant donations: trees, shrubs, ground cover, veggie starts, and house plants. The sale is going to be on Sunday, May 16th, and plant donations will be accepted from the Sunday

before to the morning of the sale. We are also looking for customers! Bring your cash and clear out a spot in your car for all those plants!

—Zibby Zickuhr

## OUUC Calendar Tools

To stay informed about church activities please check the OUUC calendar. Click *Calendar* from the main menu of our home page [www.ouuc.org](http://www.ouuc.org).

Features:

- ✦ You can see an entire month at a glance, only the activities of a single day or week, or events in a list format. The choice is yours with a few simple clicks.
- ✦ You can print the monthly, weekly or daily calendar or list of events.
- ✦ You can view the schedule of only a certain interest group (like the choir or Adult Education).
- ✦ The calendar can be downloaded into any calendar program.
- ✦ Looking for a particular event? There is a search feature.
- ✦ For more information about any event, click on the event. A new window will open. From this window you can request an email reminder of the event or send an invitation to a friend.

## 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, including the *Transition Times*.
- ✦ 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, contact Mary Walton Cameron at [mwcameron@comcast.net](mailto:mwcameron@comcast.net) to be added to email list.

## At Your Service

|                       | May 2                              | May 9                           | May 16                            | May 23                            | May 30      |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>9:15 Ushers</b>    | Roger Nielson<br>Ann Nielson       | Jan Spiller<br>??               | Harmon Eaton<br>Lorrie Eaton      | Mikel Young<br>Linda Crabtree     | ??<br>??    |
| <b>Greeters</b>       | Bernie Steckler<br>Joyce Steckler  | ??<br>??                        | Diana Finch<br>Terry Zander       | Jo Ann Young<br>??                | ??<br>??    |
| <b>Coffee Servers</b> | Mary Ann Thompson<br>Fritz Wrede   | Jan Pearson<br>Jean Phillips    | Brian Coyne<br>Fumiko Coyne       | Sonja Johnston<br>Billie Williams | Jan Pearson |
| <b>11:00 Ushers</b>   | Ruth Abad<br>??                    | Ann Yeo<br>Ken Yeo              | ??<br>??                          | ??<br>??                          | ??<br>??    |
| <b>Greeters</b>       | Michele Hendrickson<br>??          | ??<br>??                        | ??<br>??                          | ??<br>??                          | ??<br>??    |
| <b>Coffee Servers</b> | Jerry Guerero<br>Christine Guerero | Penny Chatfield<br>Cheryl Hanks | Mary Ellen Dawson<br>Rod Campbell | Karl Johnson<br>Alice Curtis      | Barb Carey  |

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: Christina Guerero, [jerryandchristina2@gmail.com](mailto:jerryandchristina2@gmail.com).



## An Earth and Spirit Songfest and Benefit

Come lend your voice to an extemporaneous vocal celebration of earth and peace. Renew your spirit and celebrate our ideals in song. Drawing on his own music and other songs of ecology, diversity, community and peace from classical to jazz to world folk music, Jim Scott turns the audience into a choir. The joyful music of all sorts will inspire and educate. It's a great demonstration of music that can be used in our spiritual gatherings and in the greater movement for social change. Come listen or participate. No experience necessary!

This event is sponsored by the OUUC choir and will be held at OUUC to benefit the Out of the Woods homeless shelter: Sunday, May 23, 7:00 PM. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

Composer, guitarist and singer Jim Scott has visited over 500 UU churches. Several of his songs are in our UU Hymnbooks, including the much loved "Gather the Spirit." Formerly a member of the Paul Winter Consort and co-composer of their *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*, Jim has toured the world, recorded a number of CDs of original music and published a growing line of choral works. Jim helped create the "Green Sanctuary" program for churches to become more sustainable, and has gathered and written the "Earth and Spirit Songbook," a collection of 110 songs of Earth and peace by many contemporary composers. A former board member of the UU Musicians Network, Jim has long been at the forefront of the movement for new music in the denomination. Check out his website at [www.jimscottmusic.com](http://www.jimscottmusic.com). —Arthur Vaeni

### Market Place

**Garden cooperative opportunity!** We have a very large garden space and would love to share it with others—ideally sharing labor, seeds, etc. and then benefiting by the large harvests. We're located on the Northeast side of Olympia toward Boston Harbor. Our garden includes large beds, composting pile, etc. If you have any interest, please call: Suska Davis, 754 2201 [suskada@comcast.net](mailto:suskada@comcast.net).

**Need UU World magazines.** Visitors are invited to take a copy of this quarterly UUA publication. It's a great way to recycle your recent copies—please bring your 2009–10 issues to pass on! Thanks.

—Membership Team

# May 2010

**NEWS DEADLINE**  
 May 16, 11 AM for the  
 June issue. Send to  
[unitariana@ouuc.org](mailto:unitariana@ouuc.org)

| SUN  | MON  | TUE   | WED  | THU  | FRI  | SAT   |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EVERY SUNDAY</b><br/>                     9:15 AM &amp; 11:00 AM Nursery Infant–3 yo<br/>                     9:15–11:00AM Preschool–6th Graders<br/>                     11:00 AM Our Whole Lives Class grades 7–9<br/>                     12:30 PM YRUU—Youth Group</p> |  |   |  |  |  | <p><b>1 Youth Fundraiser</b><br/>                     9:30AM Landscaping Party<br/>                     1:45PM Voice Class<br/>                     7:00PM Thrift Store Challenge</p> |
| <p><b>2</b><br/>                     9:15AM Service<br/>                     11:00AM Service<br/>                     11:30AM Green Sanctuary<br/>                     12:30PM Young Adults<br/>                     3:00PM UU Pagans<br/>                     5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>        | <p><b>3</b><br/>                     6:00PM Partner Church Committee<br/>                     7:00PM Family Ministry Team</p>      | <p><b>4</b><br/>                     7:00PM Membership Class<br/>                     7:00PM Covenant of UU Pagans</p>  | <p><b>5</b><br/>                     10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)<br/>                     6:00PM Worship Arts Committee<br/>                     6:00PM Early Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>6</b><br/>                     10:00AM MUGs<br/>                     7:00PM OTW Board Meeting<br/>                     7:00PM Com. on Ministry<br/>                     7:00PM Connections to Place Part I</p> | <p><b>7</b><br/>                     9:30AM Program Council<br/>                     6:00PM Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness</p> | <p><b>8</b><br/>                     9:00AM Connections to Place Part II<br/>                     11:00AM Pink Tea<br/>                     1:45PM Voice Class</p>                    |
| <p><b>9 Mother's Day</b><br/>                     9:15AM Worship Service<br/>                     11:00AM Worship Service<br/>                     5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>  | <p><b>10</b><br/>                     7:00PM Choir Rehearsal<br/>                     7:00PM Flower Arrangement 101</p>            | <p><b>11</b><br/>                     7:00PM Pastoral Care Team<br/>                     7:00PM Membership Class<br/>                     7:00PM Margaret Fuller Recognition</p>  | <p><b>12</b><br/>                     10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)<br/>                     4:30PM Panza<br/>                     7:00PM Conflict Mngmt Team</p>                   | <p><b>13</b><br/>                     10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)<br/>                     7:00PM Board Meeting</p>   | <p><b>14</b><br/>                     6:00PM Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>  | <p><b>15</b><br/>                     1:45PM Voice Class</p>  |
| <p><b>16 Plant Sale</b><br/>                     9:15AM Service<br/>                     10:45AM Intro to OUUC<br/>                     11:00AM Service<br/>                     12:30PM Young Adults Group<br/>                     5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>                                  | <p><b>17</b><br/>                     7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p>   | <p><b>18</b><br/>                     5:00PM Circles of the Spirit Facilitators<br/>                     7:00PM Membership Class</p>  | <p><b>19</b><br/>                     10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)<br/>                     4:30PM Panza</p>   | <p><b>20</b><br/>                     10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)<br/>                     7:00PM Book Group<br/>                     7:00PM Commons Group</p>  | <p><b>21</b><br/>                     6:00PM Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>  | <p><b>22</b><br/>                     1:45PM Voice Class</p>  |
| <p><b>23 Benefit Songfest</b><br/>                     9:15AM Worship Service<br/>                     11:00AM Worship Service<br/>                     12:30PM UUs in the Military<br/>                     5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>  | <p><b>24</b><br/>                     7:00PM Food Films: Food and Environmental Justice</p>  | <p><b>25</b><br/>                     1:00PM Newsletter folding<br/>                     7:00PM Communications Com..<br/>                     7:00PM Knitting at the UU<br/>                     7:00PM Phoenix Communion</p> | <p><b>26</b><br/>                     10:30AM PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals)<br/>                     4:30PM Panza<br/>                     7:00PM Choir Rehearsal</p>                       | <p><b>27</b><br/>                     10:00AM MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys)<br/>                     1:00PM Adult Education Committee</p>   | <p><b>28</b><br/>                     6:00PM Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>  | <p><b>29</b><br/>                     1:45PM Voice Class</p>  |
| <p><b>30</b><br/>                     9:15AM Worship Service<br/>                     11:00AM Worship Service<br/>                     12:30PM Young Adults Group<br/>                     5:30PM Camp Quixote Dinner</p>  | <p><b>31</b><br/> <br/> <b>Memorial Day</b></p> |   |  |  |  |   |



**OLYMPIA  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION**

2300 East End St NW  
Olympia, WA 98502

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 269

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

## 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

**Bookkeeper:** Wim Verhoef

**Affiliated Ministers:** Rev. Eric Ness, Hospice Chaplain • Rev. Carol McKinley, 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

## An Earth and Spirit Songfest with Jim Scott to Benefit Out of the Woods

O.U.U.C.  
Sunday, May 23 7:00 PM.  
Donations gratefully accepted.

