



January 2010

UNITARIANA

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

HIGHLIGHTS

- New Intern
- Leadership Summit
- Legislature Convenes
- Peace Statement
- Classes Kick Off

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.

In this issue...

Leaders' Messages	2
Changing Governance	3
Religious Education	4
Leadership Summit	5
Peacemaking	6
Share the Plate	6
Legislative Advocacy	7
Food Packaging	8
Books for OTW	9
New Adult Ed Classes	10
Conflict Team	11
Who's Who	12
Events	12
Calendar	15

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

JANUARY 3...The Questions of Our Lives

Last September I offered a reflection in which I shared this quote from an article entitled "The Art of Powerful Questions:" "Consider the possibility that everything we know today about our world emerged because people were curious. They formulated a question or series of questions about something that sparked their interest or deeply concerned them, which lead them to learn something new." What are questions that provide direction and shape your life in this moment? In this service there will be an opportunity to anonymously share the questions that arise from our aspirations for and curiosity about ourselves, our Universe and everything in between. The questions will serve as testimony to what matters in our lives at the beginning of this year that ends the first decade of the 21st century.

—*The Rev. Arthur Vaeni*

JANUARY 10...Where Are the Leaders We Need Today?

In his book, *Leadership without Easy Answers*, Ronald Heifetz writes: "[The] assumption that 'leaders are born and not made,' is quite dangerous. It fosters both self-delusion and irresponsibility." If he is correct that leaders are not born, then from where do leaders come? When Creation calls on any of us to assume leadership, how will we respond to the call?

—*The Rev. Carol McKinley and The Rev. Arthur Vaeni*

JANUARY 17 ...The Role of Race After President Obama's Election

I remember the extraordinary sense of jubilation on the night of our 2008 national elections when so many celebrated the election of our country's first African-American President—the fulfillment of a dream for so many. How have things changed and how have they not changed since then? What is the role of race in our nation now?

—*The Rev. Arthur Vaeni*

JANUARY 24...The Nature of Marriage, Part 1

In this two-part series on marriage—the second part being offered on February 7—we will consider the history of marriage as well as what is required to create an enriching and mature marriage.

—*The Rev. Arthur Vaeni*

JANUARY 31...Ten Things I Hate About Religion

Raised in Greeley, Colorado and ordained in 1991, Rev. Perchlik has served UU congregations in Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Indiana. Married for 25 years he is the proud parent of two daughters, aged 20 and 23. In his free time he enjoys hiking, gardening, and reading science fiction.

—*Rev. Thomas Perchlik*

We are podcasting! You can hear the most recent and most popular sermons at www.ouuc.org. Click on *Listen* on the menu bar. CDs and cassettes of every sermon are also available between services in the audiovisual room in the sanctuary. Donations are welcome.

Along the Ministerial Midway

The Rev. Arthur Vaeni, Minister

Another year begins, and I am imagining the possibilities it holds for our congregation. As always, of course, I have no idea what will actually occur, but it's fun, nonetheless, to imagine, so long as we are ready to be surprised. Among the most obvious possibilities is that our building expansion will be completed in the spring, and we will begin to experience our religious home differently.



More room means many things in terms of its impact on our community. I am wondering, for example, how our children and youth will experience the space being created for them. Will it help them feel more at home, particularly our youth who will have their own room? How will the expanded foyer, which is already referred to as The Commons, affect our socializing? Will it help us become better acquainted, creating a more cohesive community even as we grow? Will it help us more easily access information about what's going on in our congregation and larger community, so even as we become better acquainted, our ability and willingness to act in the world will increase?

Another change that will take shape this year is with our governance structure. In place of our Leadership Team we are developing a Program Council that will—as its name implies—have the authority and ability to establish and monitor programming. It will, in time, assume a number of our Board of Trustees' current roles allowing the Board to attend to the congregation's larger vision and continually examine our faithfulness to our mission.

There is another significant occurrence that begins this month. Several years ago, our congregation had the opportunity to act as a 'teaching congregation' when we trained a ministerial intern, Patti Pomerantz. It was an experience many in the congregation highly valued. For various reasons we have been unable to pursue that possibility again. During this year, however, from January through September, we will, again, have a ministerial intern training in our congregation.

Her name is Raz (pronounced Roz) Mason. Raz, however, will not be with us full-time. She is preparing for community ministry as a Navy chaplain, so her full-time internship site is with the Veterans Administration in Portland. She will usually be with us two weekends each month in order to deepen her understanding of congregational ministry and refine her competence in various aspects of congregational life. Raz will work and meet monthly with an in-

ternship committee. While the committee and I will have primary responsibility for overseeing Raz's training at OUUC, such an endeavor truly takes a whole congregation.

I am greatly appreciative of this opportunity to help with the development of a Unitarian Universalist military chaplain. An article in last August's *UU World* indicated that currently there are about a dozen UU military chaplains. While that is more than we have had at other times, it is far too few from my perspective. As long as we have a military, I believe it's crucial our liberal religious perspective maintains a significant presence in it. Therefore, I am pleased we can have a role in helping prepare Raz for her ministry in the Navy. She will be with us as an intern for the first time during the weekend of January 15-17. I hope you will join me in offering her a warm welcome. Following this column, you will find a couple paragraphs that will tell you a little more about Raz.

This New Year holds some exciting possibilities for us. I am guessing, as I suggested earlier, some of the most challenging ones we will only discover as we move through the year one moment at a time.

In the spirit of love and peace,
—Arthur

Meet Our New Intern, Raz Mason

Raz was born in Seattle and has lived much of her life in the Pacific Northwest (she calls Portland home). Last spring she graduated from Harvard Divinity School with a master's of divinity degree and is now in a year-long chaplaincy residency at the VA in Portland. Prior to attending Harvard, she completed a master's degree in pastoral studies from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. This was where she fell in love with chaplaincy after a practicum with Seattle U's ROTC and two units (800 hours) of chaplaincy training at the VA in Seattle. She is now a Unitarian Universalist Chaplain Candidate for the Navy and completed officer training this summer in Newport, RI.

For a number of years she worked in the domestic violence field as a direct service worker, coordinator of volunteers, and trainer. She also worked in K-12 education

See **New Intern**, page 4

Avoiding OUUC Myopia

Melanie Ransom, Board President

Happy New Year! Hope this finds you healthy and happy. I'm looking forward to a spectacular 2010!

Our congregation is outstanding in hundreds and hundreds of ways. In order to stay outstanding we must look to the horizon for the next opportunities. If we focus only on ourselves and our own little corner of Thurston County, we run the risk of the dreaded "OUUC Myopia," or extreme short-sightedness.

Luckily for us, we have two "motherships" at our disposal—the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD). These two organizations offer great networking and training opportunities for UUs, and I'd like to tell you about a couple of them.

Last summer, Harmon and Lorrie Eaton attended General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City, UT. General Assembly is a HUGE gathering of UUs, and is a fantastic opportunity to gather information. Harmon and Lorrie attended "UU University," and Harmon returned with a head full of ideas about governance—leadership and committee work. I am quite impressed and inspired by the DVD of the sessions that Harmon attended.



In the DVD, The Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs from Unity Church in St. Paul, MN, states, "People think governance is about management...if they can manage the church well they can get on to the real business, which is religion." This is a terrible trap that many of us fall into. We think that working on programs or church events has nothing to do with spirituality. Au contraire! Joe Sullivan, from Unity Consulting, states, "...as I come at

this as a lay leader, this is some of the most religious work I've ever done."

On January 9th, Harmon and I will be leading a training using this inspiring DVD. I hope you can join us. I think it will forever change the way you look at committee work and leadership.

Another learning opportunity to look forward to is the Pacific Northwest District 2010 Annual Meeting which will take place in Bellevue on February 19–21, 2010. There will be workshops on Congregational Leadership, Spiritual Growth, and Faith in Action. I'll be there, and I hope many of you will join me. I'll be wearing my anti-myopia glasses and hope you will, too!

—Melanie

Changing OUUC's Governance

The years 2009 and 2010 are definitely years of transition for OUUC. Projects which were set in motion two, three, or more years ago are finally coming to pass. Most notably our building expansion is well on the way to completion. What started with preliminary studies and an architectural master plan several years ago was finally made possible through our Capital Campaign, and has now almost magically been transformed into the growing skeleton of the building which was once only a dream. That's something we can all get excited about—the biggest thing to happen at OUUC in years. But maybe there is something bigger yet about to happen at about the same time building completion occurs.

Just two years ago the Board asked Tim Ransom to form a Governance Working Group (GWG) to examine how our Congregation was organized, assess its organizational strengths and weaknesses, and offer suggestions for future development. Members of the group held one-on-one

meetings with well over thirty leaders representing every committee, ministry and social group we could identify. We also hit the books, studying what others had learned about how effective churches operated and how church governance tended to change as successful congregations grew. And yes, we crawled the Internet, looking for clues about how other UU congregations had solved some of the same problems we were identifying.

What we learned from studying the lessons of other congregations was that we could continue to operate almost indefinitely in much the same way as we had in the past. What we could *not* do, if we chose not to change, was grow.

OUUC was at a classic "breakpoint" in church growth, one where a church operating on the "Pastoral Church" governance model needs to move to the "Program Church" model. Pastoral churches (such as OUUC) are

See **OUUC Governance**, page 5

Our Vibrant Young People

Sara Lewis, Director of Religious Education

There is something happening here at OUUC that many of you may not see. After the services are over each Sunday there are still several groups meeting, groups of young people. You may not notice these young people if you look around in the church service or the coffee hour, but they are here, and they are a part of our community.



Did you hear that we are doing *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) for 7–8th graders this year? You probably don't know what a big program that is. It is year-long, with two-hour sessions each Sunday. Our dedicated facilitators, Wendy and Curtis Tanner, are meeting with ten middle schoolers who have committed to regular attendance. These kids and their families have set a priority and they make the effort to be here each Sunday, from 11–1 P.M.

And then there is our Youth Group. There are three new youth advisors this year: Erich Brown, Kate Harrington, and Vanessa Lott. And we have 16 youth this year, with anywhere from 5–10 of them coming to youth group each Sunday from 12:30–2:30 P.M. The youth meetings always include a chalice lighting and check-in, and then they have a variety of activities, such as watching documentary films together, discussions to explore topics, guest presenters, or projects to make things.

Another very important part of UU youth culture is to attend youth conferences (Cons) which are weekends attended by youth from all over the district. Our youth group has developed relationships with youth from other UU Churches around the Puget Sound. Additionally, the youth group plans to travel to our Partner Church in Transylvania in 2011, and will be engaged in fundraising activities throughout this year to support that trip.

The final group of young people that meets here on Sundays is our Young Adults group. This is the newest of the groups, although there have been young adult groups here at OUUC before. In fact, young adults was the first place I became involved in OUUC when I first started attending here while I was an Evergreen student in 2002. Our current young adults group has reached out to 18 young people so far this fall, offering the hospitality of a meal and a discussion to thoughtfully examine values, ideas, and life transitions. It is a welcoming place for young people to “drop in”, kept going through the efforts of myself and Sarah Rucker.

Unfortunately, one feature of our community life can be that we all operate in our own little circles, not aware of what is happening in other circles within the church. Some of these circles have to be closed so that those in specific life-stages can explore certain things (like sexuality, or beliefs, or how and where to direct your own life path) in safety and comfort. And, also unfortunately, sometimes we don't have time to do both our small circle work and participate in other circles or the larger, whole circle of community.

But I want you to know that these young people are here. They are doing important, good spiritual work and contributing to our UU community in many ways. Look for them, welcome them, and share this church home with them. See them, say hello, and be glad that they are here. I was here for years, hanging about on the periphery, and then I grew into more involvement. I fervently wish for this church to be the welcoming space for other young people to grow into their adult selves, and we can all work to make this our reality.

—Sara

New Intern. Continued from page 2.

as a high-school math instructor and completed coursework for middle-school social studies certification at Harvard. Raz grew up Episcopalian but discovered several years ago that she was “a UU and didn't know it.” She became a Won-Buddhist a year ago. For fun she loves

reading, especially social science topics, hanging out with her two parrots, and doing various outdoor sports at a leisurely pace. She is excited about spending time in Olympia, getting to know the people of OUUC.

—Arthur Vaeni

newcomers

Newcomers are warmly welcomed and especially invited to OUUC events, activities and committees.

Leadership Summit on January 9, 2010

Change is on the way, and on Saturday, January 9, 2010 we'll be holding a summit meeting for all OUUC leaders. Not sure if that includes you? It probably does. It certainly does if you are a member of the Board or the chair of a committee. And of course it includes you if you are a staff member.

We also need those who are responsible for the many activities and programs at OUUC, like Books, Brownies and Beans, the Annual Auction, Dinners for Eight, Circles of the Spirit and a number of others. If you are not currently active in any of those activities but have been in the past, we would like to have you there. And if you currently serve on more than one committee, or if you are new to

“We are a community of leaders.” Whoever you are, we look upon you as a leader.

OUUC and have even thought about getting involved in anything we do, this summit meeting is for you.

Have I included everyone yet? Okay, if you don't find you are covered in any of the above categories but think you might be interested anyway, we want you there.

There are many ways to describe our community, and one of them is that “We are a community of leaders.” Whoever you are, we look upon you as a leader.

Please put from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 NOON, January 9, 2010 at OUUC on your calendar. See you there.

—Harmon Eaton

OUUC Governance. Continued from page 3

normally governed through the efforts of the Minister, a small staff, and a Board of Trustees or Elders. That kind of organization works well, but only until the church begins to draw more than 150 attendees on Sunday mornings, or has a membership that numbers about 250. At that point the number of programs being offered usually begins to exceed the management effectiveness of the typical Pastoral Church.

That is precisely where OUUC finds itself today. In fact, we have been that way for several years, stymied by a lack of adequate space, hampered by a committee structure that is essentially formless, and governed by a Board charged with a span of control that is beyond its reach. As for the Board, no executive body that meets only two hours a month could hope to deal adequately with the almost 40 entities for which our Board is directly responsible.

The good news is that we're headed for change! Continuing the *status quo* was an option the Board rejected, agreeing with the GWG that OUUC could not continue on the path it was on and expect the Congregation to grow. The GWG's recommendation was that we reorganize around our programs instead of around our Minister and the Board. The plan they laid out called for us to form our programs (committees, ministries, and activities) into major program clusters, grouping committees together for

mutual support. From each of the program areas would come the members of a new governance entity, the Program Council.

Though not very evident to many, much has been accomplished behind the scenes. Most importantly, the Board took an important step last October when it tapped the leaders of a few key committees and charged them with creating a transitional Program Council that would become responsible for many of the operational decisions which previously only the Board could make. It was an especially important decision during this time of building expansion, when so many things continue to bubble up for decision.

For the past two months almost all necessary operational decisions concerning our expansion have been handled by the transitional Program Council, giving the Board some breathing room to concentrate more on such areas as mission planning and development. So far the new structure has worked well. As a result we're about ready to implement more changes.

What comes next? That's what we'll be talking about on the morning of January 9th at the Leadership Summit. Everyone is invited. Please put the date on your calendars.

—Harmon Eaton

welcome

Membership Class: Saturdays January 23 & 30, 8:30 A.M. –12:30 P.M.
Introduction to OUUC: Sunday, January 17, 10:45 A.M. to Noon.

Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking

Our congregation has the opportunity to participate again in an important, upcoming social witness decision by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

The background: In 2006, the UUA General Assembly charged the Commission on Social Witness to address this question: “Should the UUA reject the use of any and all violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations, and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?” Congregations throughout the country—including ours—discussed this question and submitted feedback to the Commission on Social Witness in 2007–2008.

Late in 2008, we received a draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking, discussed it, and voted as a congregation to place it on the agenda of the 2009 General Assembly for their consideration. The General Assembly considered the draft and returned it to the Commission on Social Witness for revision and resubmission. We have now received the revised Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking, and we have been invited, again, to submit comments and to vote to approve (or disapprove) placing this almost-final draft on the agenda of the 2010 General Assembly for final approval or disapproval there.

If this Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking is approved by the General Assembly, it will speak publicly for Unitarian Universalists.

You can access the current draft in one of two ways: 1) pickup a hard copy in the church foyer available from 27 December onward; or 2) go to www.uua.org/csw. Please

take the opportunity to read and ponder this document.

Mindful of the importance of this issue, the OUUC Board of Trustees decided at their 17 December meeting to:

- ✦ Publicize the issue through the Unitariana (via this article).
- ✦ Invite comments directed to any of these four Board members: AnnYeo at theolyyeos@netzero.net; Kelly Thompson at KT2oly@aol.com; Curtis Tanner at curtisandwendy@msn.com; Harmon Eaton at h.eaton@comcast.net
- ✦ Invite interested members of the congregation to the 14 Jan. meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6 p.m. (an hour earlier than our usual starting time) to join our conversation about the proposed Statement of Conscience.
- ✦ Vote on the issue on behalf of the congregation considering feedback and input from members. (Remember, this vote is NOT to approve or disapprove adoption of the Statement of Conscience; it’s simply to decide if the draft is worded well enough to be considered by the 2010 General Assembly. There will also be an opportunity to submit final, significant comments and suggestions on the wording of the draft. The deadline for our completion of this process is February 1, 2010.)

This is an interesting time in the history of Unitarian Universalism. We are part of the history!

—Ann Yeo, Board of Trustees

Share the Plate, 2010 Recipients

Ten members of the Social Justice cluster reviewed the nine nominations received for the 2010 Share the Plate. Their recommendations were approved by the OUUC trustees during their December meeting. Thanks to everyone who submitted a nomination and to all of you who contribute to Share the Plate each Sunday. Recipients include:

- ✦ **CIELO Project at Radio Ranch**—serves the self-sufficiency and empowerment of the Latino and other underprivileged communities.
- ✦ **South Sound Family Services**—provides secure, comfortable and mediated visitation services that strengthen the parent/child and grandparent/child relationships.
- ✦ **Entertainment Explosion**—presents a variety show in February with proceeds supporting local homeless and needy.
- ✦ **Garden Raised Urban Bounty (GRuB)**—nourishes a strong community by empowering people and growing food.
- ✦ **UU Voices for Justice**—gives voice to our values in the political arena.
- ✦ **Interfaith Alliance’s Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp**—offers campers’ a growing understanding of each other’s worldviews leading to greater respect, appreciation, empathy and compassion.

—Ruth Abad

WA UU VOICES FOR JUSTICE

Gearing up for 2010 Legislative Session

Washington's Legislature convenes January 11, facing the need to provide services for the most vulnerable in the state even as it deals with a \$2.6 billion revenue shortfall. Washington Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice will be working to minimize the impact of budget cuts on essential programs as it advocates for additional revenue sources.

WA UU Voices urges all UUs to join them in speaking out on the critical needs in this state by asking legislators to adopt a budget—a moral budget—that is just, compassionate, and equitable. WA UU Voices for Justice's three legislative priorities for the 2010 session, 1) restorative justice, 2) environmental protection, and 3) tax equity, reflect those values of justice and compassion. For more information on these priorities, go to

www.uuvoiceswa.org, where you can sign up to receive regular updates during the legislative session.

You can also learn more about 2010 lobby days at WA UU Voices' website. Join other UUs in Olympia for Poverty Action Day (January 18), Environmental Advocacy Day (January 26), and Faith Advocacy Day (February 16). Lobby days are informative and energizing, and are a perfect way to bring our values into the public square as we call for just funding of life-saving and Earth-saving services.

Want to be part of this vital advocacy work in Washington's Legislature? Contact coordinator@uuvoiceswa.org, and be a UU Voice for Justice!

—Carol McKinley

Pacific Northwest District Assembly

Gather with hundreds of other UU's from throughout the country. Be educated and inspired to walk out into the



world shining the message that our lives matter and our actions make a difference! This year there are 30 diverse and compelling workshops being offered by district ministers, UUA representatives and lay leaders in the areas of Congregational Leadership, Spiritual Growth, and Faith in Action. Workshops were chosen to have a multigenerational appeal. There are workshops to interest everyone.

Our featured speakers are Bill Harley, www.billharley.com, and Rev. Peter Morales, the new president of the Unitarian Universalist Association www.uua.org.

If you register before January 14th you will receive a substantial discount. We have added an economical "no meal" option for children & youth, and we have reduced the late registration fee for children & youth, too. These changes are reflected in the on-line registration form at www.pnwd.org.

We also invite you to come and serve the wide UU community through service. Our data base of volunteers continues

to grow, but we are still seeking volunteers to support this ambitious District Assembly agenda. Whether you are coming as a delegate or as a participant, your assistance as a volunteer will make this a memorable

event. We can use your help in the bookstore, as a greeter, as an usher at one of the main events, assisting during a workshop, meal oversight, room set-up or take down, or for the general breakdown on Sunday. If you are a hand-drummer, we encourage you to volunteer for the drum line at Friday night's opening ceremony.

To volunteer or to get more information, please send an email to: Jean Sillers, Volunteer Coordinator, jsillers@comcast.net. Or call 425-836-9474.

**February 19-21
Bellevue Hilton
Bellevue, WA
Washington**

Did You Know...

OUC is a part of the Pacific Northwest District, one of twenty districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our district covers Alaska, western Idaho, Oregon and Washington—four time zones, 59 congregations, and 9,496 adult members. The smallest congregation is in Alaska with nine; the largest in Portland with 1,080. OUC's last count of membership was at 228. Check out this resource at www.pnwd.org.

Ethical Eating: It's More Than The Food

One aspect of ethical eating, in addition to issues surrounding the food itself (i.e. using fresh, local, organic, fair-trade etc.), is the attention we pay to the packaging of the foods we purchase and consume.

Eating low on the food chain and making informed choices in our purchasing can reduce the packaging waste that we use and then must dispose of. Processed foods not only consume greater energy, water and other resources during production, but they are more likely to be individually wrapped, bagged and over-packaged in energy intensive and difficult to dispose of plastic materials. For example, compare a bunch of carrots to the highly pre-measured and pre-packaged produce that is routinely sold at many supermarkets.

Fast food and take-out items are other food purchases notorious for the amount of packaging that is used from Styrofoam and non-recyclable containers to bulky cardboard boxes that take up room in waste bins and recycling containers, if they even get that far.

One of the worst offenders in the packaging business is the bottled water industry. According to various environmental groups, billions of plastic water bottles end up in our landfills. We are lucky to live in a state, county and city that take recycling seriously and makes it easy to do so. However, we must remember that while recycling is desirable, energy, natural resources and sometimes harmful chemicals are still used in the manufacture, advertising and delivery of the original product packaging and in the disposal system. Our first point of contact with a product and the decisions we make about its purchase can have a big impact if our goal is to "live more lightly."

Some of the following suggestions may be helpful in our thinking regarding the food and grocery store purchases that we make:

- ✦ Eat real food, not food products; the closer the food is to its natural state the more likely it is to be nutritious, delicious and good for the environment.
- ✦ Whenever possible buy in bulk.
- ✦ Avoid excessive prepackaging.
- ✦ The answer to the question "paper or plastic" can be "neither". Bring your own reusable containers and cloth shopping bags with you.
- ✦ Plastic bags that must be used to contain bulk or messy items can be rinsed out and reused several times before recycling them.

- ✦ Keep your shopping containers etc. in your vehicle or in a convenient place where you will be most likely to have them available when you run a quick errand or dash off to the grocery store.

- ✦ Reuse or recycle whatever packaging you can (a real challenge to your creativity; kids often have great ideas).

- ✦ Invest in several durable and environmentally safe water bottles and use them in place of individual bottled water. Fill with tap or filtered water at home.

- ✦ Use your own thermos type mug or on-the-go container and fill at home with your own coffee or hot drink. Request that your "barista" fill it rather than the take-out cups at your local coffee shop.

- ✦ Compost food scraps and waste and/or set up a worm bin. These provide an added benefit of rich nutritious soil amendments for your gardens and potted plants.

- ✦ Set up a recycling station in a convenient place and encourage your family members to use it. Make recycling a game to see how little waste you can generate.

- ✦ For school lunches, provide reusable small unbreakable containers instead of plastic sandwich bags and cellophane. Avoid buying packaged lunch kits and pre-measured single serving items such as yogurt and apple-sauce, and use juice boxes rather than juice pouches (which are not recyclable).

On a larger scale, encourage your school to participate in a composting program such as "Food to Flowers" and to use durable, reusable trays and silverware rather than disposable ones. With just a bit of preplanning and raised awareness, we can all do a lot to reduce waste and lessen the stresses on our environment.

Some helpful websites for more information on recycling, composting and school programs are:

www.thurston.wsu.edu/MasterGardener,
www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm/recycling,
www.wagreenschools.org.

Just a reminder of the "Ethical Eating Films" series to be presented this coming January through May at OUUC. Our first film "The Global Banquet – The Politics of Food" will be presented at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, January 25th. Subsequent films will be shown on February 22, March 29, April 19, and May 24.

The Ethical Eating Films committee includes Dixie Havlak, Janet Pearson, Jean Phillips, and Leslie Romer.

—Jean Phillips

The Word from Out of the Woods

Can you imagine being a jobless single mom of three children, moving from the *Out of the Woods* Family Shelter into an apartment with NO furnishings or household essentials? What must that feel like?

Fortunately, for both the mom with three children and a second mom with two children, they live in Thurston County! Assistance, on very short notice, was received from the Thurston County Furniture Bank, Timothy Ministries, St. Vincent DePaul and People Helping People. These organizations are volunteer driven.

The two families moved on and two new families moved into the *Out of the Woods* Family Shelter. One of the families came from the *Family Support Overflow Shelter*. This is also primarily a volunteer functioning program.

Without this loving and dedicated interdependent web of compassion, our families would be confronted with frustration and discouragement. And the children

would suffer the additional stress and trauma of homelessness that they did not choose.

So let's offer deep bows of gratitude for all the many who commit themselves to these niches of caring in our community. Have you discovered yours?

Blessings and peace.

—*Selena Kilmoyer*

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you a shopper? Are you a Costco member? We're looking for one or more volunteers to make monthly trips to Costco for staples, cleaning supplies, etc. for the shelter. We'll provide a list of needed items and reimburse you for the purchases. In tough economic times, we need to cut our costs on these items. Please contact Mary Walton Cameron at mwcameron@comcast.net if you can help with this.

Book Drive to Benefit Out of the Woods

Collect and donate your good quality used books to the Book Drive 2010 and know that the online sales of those books will result in dollars which benefit *Out of the Woods* (OTW). OTW is an OUUC program which provides emergency shelter for families who are homeless in our community. Due to the current economy the need is urgent to raise funds that allow OTW to meet the needs of the homeless families it serves. Your contributions of used books and other efforts WILL make a positive difference for these families!

Here's how YOU can help:

✦ **Gather and bring your own good condition, used books** to the shipping container in the south parking lot on Sundays.

✦ **Ask your family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to donate** their used books to benefit OTW—and bring those books to the container.

✦ **Pick up an empty, labeled collection bin and take it to a visible collection site: your workplace, club meeting, school lobby, gym, retail business, to name a few possibilities.** Collection bins will be available at Sunday services in January. Once placed, check your collection bin regularly. Should you need help transporting collected books, contact Jan Spiller, spillway24@gmail.com

✦ **Purchase used books online** from Once Sold Tales, an online bookseller that does not charge shipping fees!

✦ **Donate money** directly to OTW either online at www.ouuc.org → Out of the Woods or take your cash/check to the church office.

The need is urgent. Book collecting is now in progress and ends February 27. Your help will make all the difference for the families served by OTW.

Questions? Email books@ouuc.org Planning team: Carol Allen, Linda Crabtree, Evelyn Greenberg, Michele Hendrickson, Jean Phillips, and Jan Spiller

—*Michele Hendrickson*

YES

Books in good condition
All genre books—e.g. texts, childrens
Audio books, CDs & DVDs

NO

Magazines*
Cassettes or vinyl records
Games & stuff—even good stuff!

*Magazines are no longer collected in the foyer for the Cedar Creek Correction Center. Please donate to a library, the Olympia Senior Center or other organization.

New Season For Adult Education Begins

All OUUC members are bound to find at least one subject to pique their interest among the 23 offered in the new Winter/Spring Program Guide. Members of the Adult Education Committee have been working all year brainstorming ideas, twisting arms of prospective presenters, cajoling confirmed presenters to finish the paperwork, and generally making a nuisance of themselves. Their efforts pay off in the increasing numbers who register each season, last Fall amounting to 110 participants.

For Winter/Spring 2010 the Book Group, Meditation, and Voice classes are ongoing. Continuing from last Fall are the Knitting, Myths, and Wake up to Life classes. Social justice and environmental action are represented in classes such as Be the Change, Food Films, and Connections to Place. Nalini Nadkarni, the professor at Evergreen who specializes in the study of

forest canopies, will explore what sacred texts reveal about our relationships with nature in the Trees and Stones lecture.

Many of the classes foster spiritual insight and personal development. Arts and crafts are represented in classes in tap dancing, flower arrangement, knitting, poetry, basket weaving, bread making and yoga. Leadership skills are being taught in six sessions by Reverends Vaeni and McKinley.

The Committee wants to make classes accessible to all by offering a fee waiver, child care, and trying to arrange a ride for you. We urge you to familiarize yourself with the Program Guide at www.ouuc.org → Adult Education. Since some classes are limited in size, they will fill up fast. The registration deadline is Sunday, January 17.

—Luci Phillips

Adult Education Goes Inter-generational

The 2010 Winter/Spring programs offered by the Adult Education Committee will include two nights for adults and children to laugh together. A five-evening program titled *The Many Aspects of Humor: An Intergenerational Experience* is planned. The March 30 evening will feature a certified laughter leader, Betsy Robinson, and the April 6 evening, Jusby The Clown. Adults are encouraged to bring teens and children eight years and older. Child care is provided for children under eight if requested. The program starts at 7:00 P.M. and ends early, at 8:30 P.M. on these school nights. There is no fee but we do need for adults to register and show number of children they are bringing.

The remaining three adult-only sessions will provide information about the benefits and hazards of humor, laughter exercises, jokes and how to tell them. Leaders are those well known OUUC humorists Larry Mills, Tom Smith, Arthur Vaeni, JoAnn Young, and Terry Zander.

—Luci Philips

Adult Education at All Souls UU Community

The last two pages of the OUUC Program Guide describe educational offerings from the All Souls UU Community

in Lacey. Jim Fulton will continue his program In Search of Soul. This is formatted so that the Monday evening classes complement the previous Sunday morning classes by viewing and discussing related DVD programs from the Teaching Company.

Patti Logan's Qi Gong classes will continue and she is adding a one-day workshop on celebrating milestones in life. All Souls is also offering a two hour pastoral skills lab once a month taught by the Reverend Barbara Boyd.

All classes are free. For further information and to register, contact Jim Fulton at phoenixcircle@comcast.net.

—Luci Philips

Phoenix Communion at All Souls UU Community

All are invited to come to a new dimension of healing and community through the Phoenix Communion. January 3, 2010, at 11:00 am, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Community, 6326 Martin Way E, Lacey. It is a ceremony based on the Prayers of the Phoenix: I Welcome You! Namaste! I Thank You! I Apologize to You! I Forgive You! I Love You! I Wish You a Great Day! Contact Jim Fulton at phoenixcircle@comcast.net.

Online at www.ouuc.org → Adult Education

Meet Your OUUC Conflict Management Team

The OUUC Conflict Management Team (CMT) this fall bid farewell to retiring member, Joe Shorin, and welcomed new members Samantha Ritchie and Fritz Wrede, two active, longtime members of OUUC. Fritz and Sam join Carol Horner and Carol McKinley on the CMT.

Because OUUC is a community of diverse individuals, often with differing priorities, varying degrees of conflict are inevitable. Conflict need not be negative, however; it can offer opportunities that lead to greater understanding and deeper relationships. The CMT's role is to help broaden understanding of conflict and to be available to work with those who find themselves in conflict.

The OUUC Covenant acknowledges the normalcy of conflict and offers basic principles for addressing differences: "Because we recognize that conflict is normal we promise to speak with each other directly and honestly from a position of respect, kindness and love, recognizing that to do so, there will be times we need to seek counsel from the community."

In 2005 the OUUC Policy on Conflict was adopted, providing a more detailed process for working with and resolving disagreements, and authorizing the appointment of a Conflict Management Team. The members of the team

have experience in or have participated in dispute management training, and continue with ongoing training during their service on the Team. The CMT provides opportunities for OUUC's leadership and members to learn more about conflict dynamics and healthy ways to work with conflict.

As the Covenant says, the first step for addressing a disagreement with another person is to communicate directly and respectfully. If this is not possible or successful, the individual may seek assistance from the CMT by contacting one of its members. In this conversation the CMT member will offer some possibilities for an appropriate course of action, including meeting with the persons in conflict to assess the situation and, if possible, facilitate a resolution.

The Team's work with congregants is always confidential, offered in the spirit of respect, cooperation, and right relationship. Pick up our brochure in the foyer to learn more about us. Feel free to contact us, whether to discuss a conflict you might be having, or to learn more about our work. We welcome your questions!

—Carol McKinley

Book Group January 21, 7 P.M., OUUC

The OUUC Book Group has taken a break in December and will meet again on January 21, 2010 at the church at 7:00PM to discuss *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson. According to the New York Times, this is "the story of Trond Sander, an Oslo professional, who has recently lost his wife and sister, and hopes to cure his loneliness by a plunge into solitude." He moves to a rural cabin in the country and spends much time reflecting on his life, past and present. A nagging question for him is why his father, a courier during the Second World War, whom he loved and who loved him dearly, disappeared from his life.

The title *Out Stealing Horses* apparently refers to both an adolescent prank and a password for the dangerous activity of the resistance. The reviewer describes it as "a fairly short novel with a timescape of half a century that seems to have left out nothing important...a gripping account of such originality as to expand the reader's own experience of life." Those in the book group who have already read it have commented on the beautiful style of Petterson's writ-

ing. Please join us to share your experience of this story.

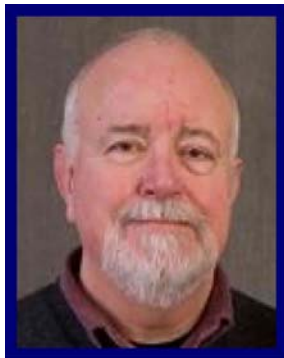
For those who would like to plan or read ahead, the choice for February is *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. This is a fictionalized account of Frank Lloyd Wright's life and work which allegedly is quite similar to his real story. We delve into his personality, loves, conflicts and single-minded passion for his work.

In March, we will read an actual biography, *Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell: Adventurer, Adviser to Kings, Ally of Lawrence of Arabia*, by Nan A. Talese.

Each should evoke lively discussions which typically derive from the books and expand to touch on our own philosophies, beliefs, and personal experiences. You are invited to come to any one or all of the sessions.

—Mary Anne Trause and Pete Taylor

Jack Jackson



If any phrase could sum up Jack Jackson it would be, “It’s all good.” He’s found fun, satisfaction and real pleasure in marriage, hard work, connecting with and serving others. Jack laughingly says his wife Karen was “the church lady and I was the devil’s disciple,” when they married 37 years. When Karen found OUUC the right “church” for her, Jack followed her lead and became a member three years ago. “I was born a Lutheran, raised a Catholic and am now a Unitarian.” That’s because he’s found common principles but room for his own views. “I believe like a Plains Indian—God can be found in everything—there are gods and goddesses. I think I’ve grown immensely in the past few years because I’ve found someplace I can express how I feel and not be judged because of it.” Plus he’s really enjoyed the people he’s gotten to know through Dinners for Eight and other activities. Jack has been working since age 13 and had to finish up 45 years in the grocery business before he could get more involved. He’s now active in choir, the Saturday Singing Group, the Pastoral Care Team and the Worship Arts Committee (with Karen). He also delivers precious cargo each school day—Olympia grade school kids to and from school. Jack volunteers for the Toy Run Coalition. “With 12,000 cyclists it delivered \$120,000 worth of toys and \$20,000 cash last year to the Salvation Army,” he says proudly. He rides a Harley Road King and Karen rides a Soft Tail Harley. Jack is looking forward to the completion of two projects in the New Year: his and Karen’s dream home just half-mile from church and OUUC’s renovation. In his book, it’s all good.

—Sonja Johnston

WHO'S WHO AT OUUC?

Reflect, Renew, Release



Annual UU Women's Retreat at Camp Seymour

What is a retreat but a chance to reflect on yourself and your place through meaningful conversation and action, to renew positive energies and self through rest and joyful companionship, and finally through connections and quiet time release the bad energy and weight of the world we tend to accumulate? South Sound UU women and their friends are invited to join us at the annual women’s retreat at Camp Seymour. Saturday activities will focus on the Three R’s of Retreat and will include a variety of “Funshops” hosted by UU women, as well as other opportunities for fun, connection, and quiet. We will be at Camp Seymour, located on beautiful Glen Cove in Southern Puget Sound just 30 miles NW of Tacoma!

- ✦ Two nights in heated cabins with bathrooms and showers
- ✦ FIVE delicious meals prepared and served by camp staff
- ✦ Outdoor activities: hiking, archery, boating, climbing wall, naturalist walk
- ✦ Saturday funshops (refer to registration form), yoga, crafts, games, singing, and plenty of opportunities for connecting with old friends and making new ones (or, if you choose, solitude and meditation).
- ✦ Chair and table massages are back by popular demand for an additional fee (first-come, first-served; sign-in sheets will be available at the retreat).

Register by January 25. Details and the registration form are available online at www.tuuc-wa.org → Annual Women’s Retreat at Camp Seymore. A few scholarships are available on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Jennifer Marsellis at diresu@gmail.com with questions.

YET ANOTHER WAY TO RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

Folks, this is a program developed through the Asset Building Coalition. It provides a tremendous and most needed service to folks in our community. If this is an area of interest or expertise, please respond. As the Amish expression reminds us: many hands make light the work.

—*Selena Kilmoyer*

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the largest federal antipoverty program: 24 million people claimed over \$48 billion for the tax year 2007. Five million people, half of them children, lifted out of poverty each year due to EITC. The IRS estimates that 20–25% of qualifying workers miss out on thousands of dollars every year, because they fail to claim the EITC. Thousands of people in our community need help to claim this benefit.

Please volunteer! No experience is needed, hours and days are flexible, and all training is provided. Onsite support staff at hand.

Be a Volunteer Tax Preparer!

Lift people out of poverty. Become a volunteer tax preparer. Because of your service, low-income families will keep the heat on during the cold months of tax season, put food on the table, buy school supplies, and send family members to visit the doctor for the first time.

Be a Greeter!

Greeters are needed to provide a welcoming atmosphere and guide clients to the volunteer tax preparers. Some copying of tax documents may be needed. An ability to chat with community members is a plus.

For more information, please contact:

Blake Marzloff at blake@volunteer.ws, Alison Riffer at alison@volunteer.ws, Alena Swanson at alena@volunteer.ws, or www.vita-volunteers.org.

Bead Clinic and Fundraiser



Raise money for **Out of the Woods**, OUUC's homeless shelter and get your *bling* ready to wear during the holidays. Bring your broken or boring beaded jewelry to a Bead Clinic. Julie Rodwell, jewelry designer, will provide the "findings" (wire, fasteners, spacer beads, earring headpins etc), the help and the tools to enable you to fix what ails your beaded *bling*. Mend, redesign, restring, convert from necklace to bracelet or earrings—whatever

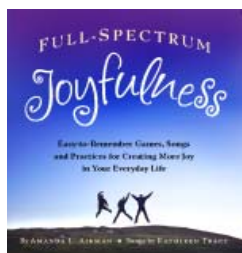
First Sunday Bead Clinic
January 3, 2:30-5 P.M.
1715 Capitol Way South

takes your fancy! Tea and light refreshments will be served. **Register by email** as space is limited: Julie.cfd@ccountry.net. Please put Bead Clinic in the subject line.

Make a donation of any amount to Out of the Woods for the value of the help and materials you receive.

Dinners for Eight, Round Two

February to May sign up will be available in the foyer through January 6. This is for changes, additions or deletions only. If folks are re-upping, DO NOTHING; we've got you covered. New schedules will be available in the foyer by the 25th of January.



New Book by Everett UU Minister

Full-Spectrum Joyfulness: Easy-to-Remember Games, Songs and Practices for Creating More Joy in Your Everyday Life is a book by UU minister Rev. Amanda Aikman that also contains a CD of seven songs by UU musician Kathleen Tracy. The book is based on current happiness studies and has a unique, UU-flavored approach. It is available for \$17.00 from Spirit of Life Publishing at www.spiritoflifepublishing.com.

Hospitality Schedule

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
9:15 Ushers	Bernie Steckler ??	Jan Spiller Mark Swanson	Harmon Eaton ??	Mikel Young ??	?? ??
Greeters	Diana Finch Joyce Steckler	Ilona Hruska ??	Lorrie Eaton Terry Zander	Jo Ann Young ??	?? ??
Coffee Servers	Mary Ann Thompson Kathy Jones	Jan Pearson Jean Phillips	Brian Coyne Fumiko Coyne	Carol Horner Billie Williams	Jan Pearson
11:00 Ushers	Eric Ness ??	Susan Bakke ??	?? ??	Cheryl Hanks Ann Yeo	?? ??
Greeters	Kathryn Ness ??	Michele Hendrickson ??	?? ??	?? ??	?? ??
Coffee Servers	Jerry Guerero Christine Guerero	Cheryl Hanks Penny Chatfield	Mary Ellen Dawson Rod Campbell	Karl Johnson Alice Curtis	Barb Carey

Sign up online at www.ouuc.org under Worship Service → Volunteer Schedule. Ushers & Greeter information: Lorrie Eaton at Lorrie.Eaton@comcast.net. Coffee server information and substitute list on file in kitchen.

UU Auction... March 13, 2010. Save the date. March 13, 2010. Save the date. March 13, 2010

Happy New Year

What: Holiday Party

Who: Ushers, greeters and wannabes

When: Sunday, January 3rd, 2010, 2:30–5:00 P.M.

Where: Lorrie Eaton's Home
6318 Shady Lane, SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Why: To meet new greeters and ushers.
To renew old acquaintances and friendships.
To review our system.
To give feedback and offer suggestions.
Mostly though—just for fun!!!

Please RSVP to Lorrie.Eaton@comcast.net asap.



Happy Holidays • Happy Holidays • Happy Holidays

January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EVERY SUNDAY 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM Nursery Infant–3yo 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM Preschool–6th Graders 11:00 AM Our Whole Lives Class grades 7–9 12:30 PM YRUU—Youth Group</p>					<p>1 6:00P Meditation — Ending Your Week in Stillness New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 1:45P Voice Class</p>
<p>3 9:15A Worship Service 11:00A Worship Service 11:30A Green Sanctuary 12:30P Young Adults Group</p>	<p>4 2:00P Space 4.0 Committee & Contractors 7:00P Family Ministry Team</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 10:30A PUGs 6:00P Worship Arts Committee 7:00P Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 10:00A MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys) 7:00P Committee on Ministry 7:00P Out of the Woods Board</p>	<p>8 6:00P Meditation — Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>	<p>9 8:30A Governance Group Training 1:45P Voice Class</p>
<p>10 9:15A Worship Service 11:00A Worship Service</p>	<p>11 2:00P Space 4.0 Committee & Contractors</p>	<p>12 7:00P Communications Com. 7:00P Pastoral Care Team</p>	<p>13 10:30A PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals) 7:00P Choir Rehearsal 7:00P Conflict Management Team</p>	<p>14 10:00A MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys) 7:00P Board Meeting</p>	<p>15 6:00P Meditation — Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>	<p>16 1:45P Voice Class</p>
<p>17 9:15A Worship Service 10:45A Intro to OUUC 11:00A Worship Service 12:30P Young Adults Group</p>	<p>18 2:00P Space 4.0 Committee & Contractors Martin Luther King Day</p>	<p>19 5:00P Spirit Circle Facilitators 7:00P Harvest the Power: Learn to Lead 7:00P UU Dutch Oven Bread</p>	<p>20 10:30A PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals) 7:00P Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 10:00A MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys) 7:00P Book Group</p>	<p>22 6:00P Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>	<p>23 9:00A Membership Class 1:45P Voice Class</p>
<p>24 9:15A Worship Service 11:00A Worship Service</p>	<p>25 2:00P Space 4.0 Committee & Contractors 7:00P Food Films: Food & Environmental Justice</p>	<p>26 1:00P Newsletter Folding 7:00P Harvest the Power: Learn to Lead 7:00P Knitting</p>	<p>27 10:30A PUGs (Powerful Unitarian Gals) 6:00P Early Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 10:00A MUGs (Mighty Unitarian Guys) 7:00P Jerusalem: The Center of the World</p>	<p>29 6:00P Meditation—Ending Your Week in Stillness</p>	<p>30 9:00A Membership Class 1:45P Voice Class</p>
<p>31 9:15A Worship Service 11:00A Worship Service</p>					<p>NEWS DEADLINE January 17, 11 AM February Unitariana. Administrator@OUUC.org</p>	



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ospice Chaplain ▪ Rev. Carol McKinley,
Director, UU Voices for Justice

Minister of Social Services: Rev. Bill
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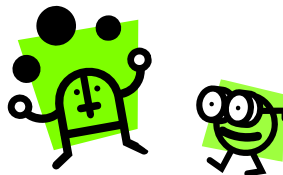
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Leadership Summit

Be There or Be Square!

Saturday, January 9, OUUC

8:30 a.m. to noon



If you currently serve on more than one committee, or if you are new to OUUC and have even thought about getting involved in anything we do, this summit meeting is for you.