

**MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
GORGE UU NEWS  
JUNE 2009**

May 17, 2009

## **Leadership's Letter**

### Who are we and where are we going?

Always do what you are afraid to do.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Two weeks from today the Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will have an opportunity to reaffirm/define itself in terms of its relevancy in today's times. Currently, our Mission Statement is, "*To nurture individual spiritual belief and growth within a welcoming congregation*". This is certainly a worthy objective! The question is, "Is it enough"?

I have had the privilege of serving as President of our merry little band this past year. In that role I have benefited from the counsel and commitment of those who, at their core, understand that we bring something to the table that others don't, and are willing to exert the effort to make change for the better actually happen. I really don't believe that we're "uniquely enlightened", quite the contrary, my observation is we exhibit a full spectrum of "human frailties". What we do provide and have provided, is a unique forum where folks can be heard. As noted above, this in itself is value added.....but is it enough? As a Fellowship we have done good work in supporting the FISH program, our local Oregon food bank and it's fair to say that the credit for that effort is attributable to the individual leadership of Tamera and David. There is a comparable program across the river, can we do more there? Kristen led the "Welcoming Congregation" initiative, which was a significant congregational commitment. In these cases, the bottom line is, we have made a difference! Other, most worthy initiatives have been driven by individual members, not the Fellowship. As examples, Linda, Theresa and Rod are at the forefront of local peace efforts. Bruce and Ann have driven the locally grown foods initiative. Should these be our agendas also? If so, how should we contribute?

A vivid example of the need/opportunity to clearly define our outreach mission is Theresa, Bruce and Tom's proposed "Green Sanctuary" initiative. This is/was a worthy initiative but one which we were unprepared for and as a result, fell on fallow ground.

Is our mission one focused on introspection or one that includes meaningful outreach? We have the great potential to benefit our broader communities, but only if we look beyond self fulfillment and proactively address the needs of others.

May 31<sup>st</sup> is your opportunity to be heard and to make a difference! What is your vision?

In Peace,

*Scott*

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met May 10th. Members present were Scott Clements, Nicole Schrankel, Debbie Olson, Bruce Bolme, and Judith Tenbrook. President-elect, Cindy Horton was also present as a guest.

### Ongoing Business:

1. Bruce happily reported pledges covering 104% of the 2009/10 basic budget have been received.
2. Holly Harrell, MCUUF delegate to UUA General Assembly, was voted an additional \$400 to help cover her expenses to that event.
3. Debbie reported Elaine Castles will be helping with the keyboarding for Sunday Services. In addition musical talents are being looked for who will appeal the musical tastes of our younger generation.
4. Current Liaison positions are:
  - a. Nicole—greeting
  - b. Judith—FISH
  - c. Bruce—Finance
  - d. Rod—R.E.
  - e. Debbie—Music
5. Celebrant Status for the summer: The Fellowship still needs 1 person in June, 3 in August. Bruce volunteered to be Celebrant on June 21<sup>st</sup> for summer Solstice.

### New Business:

1. There was discussion of the format for the All Fellowship Planning Session to be held on May 31st.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**May 24--DISCUSSION SUNDAY.** In part-two of "**Integrating a Spiritual Practice in Daily Life**" **Ann Kramer** will lead a discussion based on homework assignments from the May 3 sermon. Ann says..."Living our spirituality is a daily challenge of living love for SELF and others. And certainly when dealing with others whose actions and words make 'finding the love' for them particularly difficult. In part two, the follow up to the May 3rd talk, Ann will help attendees through a discussion regarding their homework activity of practicing the Spiritual tenet of "I am greater than no one, no one is greater than me--in everyone shines love...as I can see it in me, I can see it in thee--be prepared to discuss how you were able to bring this to action in your daily life. If you missed the May 3 service and would like to get the homework assignment, please call Myrna Clements at 509-365-5593 for information. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MAY 24 SERVICE.**

**May 31--**The Board of Trustees of MCUUF invites and encourages all members and friends to attend this vitally important **All Fellowship Planning Session.** In lieu of

services, we will provide the opportunity for members and friends to discuss their visions for our Fellowship.

**June 7--**Plan to join and support our "Tween" youth group as they express their faith statements and share their perspectives on the last two years of programs based on the **Unitarian Universalist Coming of Age Program**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend in support of our youth.

**June 14--**Please plan to join in celebration of our annual "**Flower Communion Service**". This year's service will be held **at the home of** long time UU member **Tom Pencheon**. Tom and Marie Louise, will host our Fellowship as we participate in the ritual service of receiving and exchanging flowers. Please bring a flower(s) to share and a contribution to a 'light' lunch potluck to follow the service.

Directions to the Penchoen's: Take 35 South from Hood River. About 4 miles from China Gorge Restaurant turn left at the blinking yellow light (Van Horn Drive). Go 0.6 miles and turn right just past the 20 mph school sign (Eastside Rd.). Go to first house on the right (1/4 mile).

**June 21--No service** scheduled

**June 28--**MCUUF Member **Dr. Rod Krehbiel** will share his perspectives on **The Zen of Life**.

## CALENDAR

**June 7th - Coming of Age Service where our Tweens make the public transition from childhood to the beginning of Adulthood** with our blessing and acceptance. They have been guided by teachers and mentors from our membership through this transition over the last 1.5 years with rituals, learning, testing, and celebration. This transition is as important as birth, partnering, or death because it is a time of tremendous growth and change. They have learned some tools to direct their own spiritual lives and have developed their own faith statements which will be presented. Please join us as we welcome them into the Circle of Women and Circle of Men as they "Come of Age".  
Cindy Horton

**Newsletter Deadline for July Issue—Sunday morning, June 21st**

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

**Soups On First Sunday of Every Month**—Plan to stay for a savory lunch after the service.

**Spiritual Practice Group**—Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Teachings of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky form the basis for study and discussion. Meeting place is at Tolya's home, 1206 14th Street.

**Refreshments** after service provide a welcome to visitors and give us all a reason to stay around and visit. Call Pam Morneault to arrange a week that would be convenient to host. She will e-mail instructions to you and make sure you have what you need. 509-493-4483 (day) [mmorneault@gorge.net](mailto:mmorneault@gorge.net) Pam

## OTHER FELLOWSHIP NEWS

**PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** MCUUF will be accepting inquiries, applications or resumes to fill the large shoes of our current church administrator beginning 7/1/09. Duties include printing the weekly Order of Service, sending out Newsletters, maintaining membership files, etc. Skills needed: typing, word-processing, spreadsheets, patience, people skills. Hours are variable and hourly rate negotiable. A commitment to UU beliefs is a plus. Please email [cidmd2@gorge.net](mailto:cidmd2@gorge.net) or call 509-493-3167 for further information.

**New Member Opportunity**—If you have been considering becoming a new member of our congregation we can schedule a "New UU" introduction session if you will communicate your interest to Scott Clements at 509 365 5593 or talk to a Board Member.

## OTHER

**Directory Update** for Jodie Holmberg  
Her winter address is 310 S. Ocean Blvd., Unit 403, Boca Raton FL 33432  
Her summer address remains 1835 B Street, Hood River  
Her email is [JodieH101@aol.com](mailto:JodieH101@aol.com)

**FORGOT WHAT IS HAPPENING, WHEN, AND WHERE? Goto <http://mceuuf.org/> .**

### Who Do I Contact...?

#### Fellowship Officers

President	Vice-President	Board Secretary	Treasurer
Scott Clements 509 365 5593 <a href="mailto:sclem@gorge.net">sclem@gorge.net</a>	Nicole Schrankel 541 354 1955 <a href="mailto:schrankel@embarq.com">schrankel@embarq.com</a>	Debbie Olson 509 493 3493 <a href="mailto:kesslerolson@gorge.net">kesslerolson@gorge.net</a>	Bruce Bolme 509 493 8202 <a href="mailto:bbolme@gorge.net">bbolme@gorge.net</a>

#### Board Members At Large

Judith Tenbrook 541 386 1868 <a href="mailto:Tenbrook@charter.net">Tenbrook@charter.net</a>	Ray Klebba 509 493 4749 <a href="mailto:dreamboats@gorge.net">dreamboats@gorge.net</a>	Rod Krehbiel 541 386 4074 <a href="mailto:roryjasper@gorge.net">roryjasper@gorge.net</a>
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#### Fellowship Administrator

Don Hardin  
509 493 4819  
[dthardin@gorge.net](mailto:dthardin@gorge.net)

#### Coordinators

**Children's Religious Education**

**Food Bank**

Niki Brandon  
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**Greeters**  
Holly Harrel  
509 493 2412  
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**Sunday Hospitality**  
Pam Zachary-Morneault  
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**Worship**  
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**Tweens**  
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**Setup**  
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**Retreat**  
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