

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **From Nikki Brandon, Coordinator of Religious Education:**

~ We are currently enrolling for the MCUUF Children's Religious Education Program. Please contact Nikki Brandon, RE Coordinator, for your enrollment and questionnaire packet. (I have these prepared to start passing out). Deadline will be before the retreat, with the goal being the first week in September.

~ The Children's Fall Program will focus on different religions, customs and cultures around the world. Some of the activities the children will participate in while exploring this curriculum are cultural crafts, folklore and storytelling, cooking activities, drama and dance, holiday traditions and musical instruments.

~ Calling all volunteers! We need to start rebuilding a pool of MCUUF teaching volunteers and teaching assistants (tweens included) for helping with our young ones. Please contact Nikki Brandon or a Board member if you are interested and let us know which Sundays work best for you and how often you are available to volunteer. Lesson plans are prepared and given out in advance. Background screening will be conducted for new volunteers.

Nikki Brandon

#### **From Peggy Neuman, Coordinator for Youth Programs:**

Last Spring I told Cindy I would help organize some kind of program for our teens. I would like your ideas about what you are interested in for your teen.

Meanwhile, I've done a bit of thinking and researching on this. Some of you (like me) had the pleasure of hearing MCCUUF's own Ann Kramer talk last May about her life puzzle work. She has developed an 8 session course for young people that I think we should explore further at some point.

HOWEVER, just today I talked with Vicki Stiffer at Riverside Church in Hood River. They are planning to do the 7th - 9th grade curriculum OWL program this fall, and we're working on cooperating with that effort

I understand that the programs build on each other. You don't need to have done primary OWL to do the next level OWL. However, the 7th - 9th is new, age appropriate info for those who have completed the primary program (and those who haven't). For those of you who don't know about the OWL program - it stands for Our Whole Lives and is a comprehensive sexual education program. Here is a link for information:

<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/>

For the coming program (for 7th - 9th graders), Karen and Keith Harding are willing to be the facilitators. They would offer the course on a weekday evening (6:30- 8). Day of the week is not yet determined. My question for the parents is: are you interested in this coming program with Riverside Church? (I'm planning on signing up Martha.)

Also, whether you are or aren't interested in OWL for your teen, I'm also like to start a discussion about where we would like to go with the teen program.

Thanks, everyone!

Peggy Neuman

### **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

"The one thing of value is the active soul" - Ralph Waldo Emerson, noted UU minister and speaker

That is one of the reasons why I am a Unitarian Universalist....to help me in my active search and finding and searching some more. This church exposes me to both new ideas as well as old ideas which I look at differently at different stages of my life, and for that I am grateful. For instance, I heard a new rendition on the radio today of the old song "Let It Be". To me now, it seems so obviously mindful and Buddhist-based and what I am learning to do now, partly through what I have learned from church speakers which stimulate me to do more study....when earlier in my life it was just nice lyrics set to a catchy tune. It is wonderful to keep our eyes open to new ideas and do our best with what we are given, and I think this church helps me to do that.

So....it is summertime and the "living is easy" seems like to me. With summer finally full force upon us, it is wonderful to both lean back and enjoy it, and also get out there and do whatever it is that we love doing. For myself, I have been traveling a fair amount, as many of you have, and yet we have had very good attendance this summer with some wonderful services! Thank you to all of our great volunteers and staff who keep us rolling! I am hoping, however, that those of us with children or teens can make note of our upcoming start of the Religious Education teaching in early September and bring your children and teens as often as you possibly can. Please see the article about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

On another positive note, the board has been working with the ideas from the Visioning service and voted to proceed with the district on starting the informational process on what it would involve to have a likely 1/4 time "consulting" minister. We have asked the district minister placement liaison to come meet with all of us to let us know what all this involves, though we do know most of the basics, and will schedule a meeting for this in the near future so that we can ask all the questions we want about this process and possibly vote on it before proceeding. As soon as we have a date, we will let you know so that all can attend. This needs to be a joint endeavor and the board wants everyone to be informed and give their opinion about this. We also are starting up the requested Discussion Sunday series again and are scheduling the first one as soon as the schedule allows, though that is a few months away. Also a big Thank You to Tom Hons for joining us as a new board member and we are glad to have him.

Well, I hope you enjoy August as I will and make it through the heat,  
Peace, Cindy Horton

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE**

Events from the July board meeting:

Cindy proposed Tom Hons as replacement for Judith Tenbrook's spot as an at-large member of board. Bruce seconded. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report- Regarding our 2009-2010 budget, we voted to carry over \$4,500 of the prior-year surplus to this budget. Our pledge drive resulted in \$28,000 in pledges. Cindy asked for two new budget line items: \$300 for the Peace Village and \$500 to update our sound system. Both were approved by unanimous vote.

Received reports from the Worship and Retreat Teams.

Discussed board member liaison with team leaders of various fellowship sub-groups:  
Discussed possibilities for a minister and possible ways to take the next step in discerning the congregation's intent and finding good candidates for the position.

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

**August 2 – A Layperson Looks at Buddhist Practice.** Dave Adams has maintained a Buddhist practice for about 10 years, mainly in the Theravadan tradition of Vipassana as taught by Joseph Goldstein, Sharon Salzberg, Jack Kornfield, Wes Nisker, Rebecca Bradshaw and many others through the Insight Meditation Center at Barre MA, and Spirit Rock Retreat Center near Olema CA. Dave founded the Hood River Insight Meditation Group as a peer-led sitting group shortly after he and his wife Randee moved to Hood River in 2005.

**August 9 – Risking Joy: Finding Wholeness,** Lynn Gardner and Wendy Bartel. How might we live more authentically? What might it look like to acknowledge our woundedness? How would it feel to risk joy? We hope you join us for a morning of shared music, words, and meditation. Lynn and Wendy are recent graduates of Starr King School for Ministry.

**Aug 16 – What I did on my summer vacation.** Holly Harrel and Kristen Dillon reflect on the year's UUA General Assembly.

**August 23 – Hospitality and Justice** – Rev. Rob Hardies joins us by audiofile. Rev. Hardies serves as Senior Minister of the All Souls Church, Unitarian Universalist, of Washington, D.C. and was converted to Unitarian Universalism 15 years ago by our own First Unitarian of Portland.

**August 30—Beauty and Landscape: a Spiritual Relationship.** Getting beyond the skin-deep beauty of green lawns, what does beauty mean? Explore the connections between people, plants, nature, water and fish. How does landscape design relate to the sacredness of the earth? Landscape Architect Jurgen Hess presents his philosophy of creating a landscape that is both sustainable and spiritual—from the big picture to your front yard.

## FUN TIMES

Last Sunday, nineteen of us swam, ate and chatted at the pool. Good times were had by all. Keep your eyes peeled for next month's intergenerational fest!

## CALENDAR and EVENTS

**Peace Village** – MCUUF is again a sponsor for this summer day camp for children age 6-13! August 10-14. This is a great opportunity for both participants and volunteers. Contact Laurie VanCott,.

**New Member Ceremony** and our own, "NEW UU" class coming in September. Interested in joining or finding out more? Contact President Cindy Horton.

**Resurrected!** The **annual retreat** has transformed into a one afternoon/evening event, to be held September 12. We'll be at the Toll Bridge County Park in Parkdale and I guarantee there will be something for everybody. Please pencil in the date now and save that water you collected for Water Communion! Check for updates on the bulletin board at the Grange, as well as on the MCUUF website. Questions? Call Holly Harrel

**Call for Workshops – 2010 District Assembly. Proposals deadline September 4.**

Pacific Northwest District  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Feb 19, 20, 21, at the Hilton Hotel in Bellevue, Washington

### **Let Us Shine!**

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is a beacon of love and hope for ourselves and for the world. Involvement in our religious communities is an important part of living our values and doing something to make the world a better place. Workshops at this annual gathering of UUA congregations in the Pacific Northwest will focus on ways in which we can better work together as individual congregations and as a denomination. Our goal is to educate and inspire, to walk out into the world sharing the message that our lives matter and that what we do makes a difference! Let us shine!

Workshop proposals for sessions lasting 60-75 minutes should support this goal in the areas of Congregational Leadership, Spiritual Development, and Faith in Action. We are seeking "Best Practices"

sessions to improve technical skills for new leaders, as well as "frame-bending" sessions to push generative/ transformational approaches for experienced leaders. (Our workshop model will soon be posted on the PNWD website <<http://pnwd.org/agm.php>>) [Paul Blackburn and Kristen Dillon have presented in the past, and it's a friendly crowd. Share your ideas! - ed]

### **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.

**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.