



MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

GORGE UU NEWS – May, 2010

WRITTEN OFFERINGS from Rev. Craig Moro

I look forward visiting with you late this month, when the days are long and the Columbia blossoms with a rainbow of windsurfers' sails. Salem (where I live) gets its seasonal influx of legislators bent on work and argument while the Gorge gets people bent on play—quite a contrast! I've driven through many times over the years but this will be my first chance to stop and enjoy this sight up close.

My talk this month will be quite a contrast from April's, with its playful song and spirit. We'll be visiting the cities of Sodom and Gomorra, which still appear so much in the news despite the thousands of years since they fell into ruins. These are the twin "wicked cities" beloved by the religious right, who are always ready to compare them to some modern city or nation that has experienced a disaster—when what the inhabitants of those cities really need is relief and compassion.

I have been quite impressed to learn that MCUUF is the only Welcoming Congregation in Hood River. You made it official at your annual meeting in 2006, declaring that MCUUF "Membership is open to all persons regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or ability." You have pledged that your doors and windows are open to the whole human rainbow. Like any important covenant, this is one that needs to be remembered and celebrated on a regular basis.

Couples often take time to reaffirm the covenanted nature of their relationship in a Renewal of Vows ceremony. I propose that we do the same this year in a Renewal of Vows as a Welcoming Congregation on June 13. My talk that day will flow directly from those of April and May. I hope that you will invite anyone whom you know who might get a lift by joining us on that day. More to follow on this in the June newsletter!

In fellowship,
Craig

LEADERSHIP LETTER

"Recognize the world is sacred" - Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen

Hello, friends.

I hope you all are enjoying this wonderful spring weather as much as I am, along with the flowers in bloom, more greenery all the time and more and more sun. It makes one feel grateful for one's blessings and to dream big. So, I wanted to express how much I enjoyed the amazing Earth Day service our youth provided for us lately. We are grateful to have our teen group and Peggy to help them. I am also grateful for the orderly Annual Meeting and I give thanks to our wonderful Board who will all be continuing for another year, the Bylaw Committee, our new minister Craig, and all our committees - thank you all!

So now is the time when we can dream of how we can improve our children's RE and music programs with the passage of the increased budget in these two categories for the coming year at the annual meeting, so that is exciting. So if you have ideas, please let Nicole Schrankel (for Children's RE), and myself, Jane Fetisoff, or Paul Blackburn (for music) know of your ideas.

Also, I wanted to share with you a wonderful experience that my daughter, her friend and I had at spring break involving the All Souls UU Church and their B&B program in Washington DC where we met and stayed with a delightful member of the church in her spare bedroom, got to make a new friend this way, and paid

\$700 to the church's building program instead of to a hotel where I would have spent more. It occurred to me that we also have a vacation destination location as they do and why couldn't we do the same thing and add to our building fund so that eventually we could have our own building also?? I do want us to have a permanent presence in the Gorge one of these days. It would involve people willing to have guests for just a few weeks or weekends out of the year (as many or as few as you were willing) and someone to organize it and a website, so I am putting this out there to see if any of us would consider doing such a thing. I for one would be game, but we would need housing volunteers and some website and organizational help. We live in what National Geographic voted as the 7th most beautiful place in the US a few years ago, and have people coming here for skiing, wind-surfing, kayaking, white-water rafting, mountain biking, hiking and the list goes on and on, so why not make use of it in a really positive manner? It is likely that many Unitarians come here also and would prefer to make tax-deductible donations rather than pay a hotel. So I am dreaming and working one step at a time to make those dreams a reality, which is the only way to get there. As my dad used to say, "Aim for the stars, and even if you don't get one, you won't end up in the mud". I would love it if you would join with me.

In peace, Cindy H.

PROGRAMS

I have volunteered to serve as the MCUUF volunteer coordinator. The primary purpose of role will be to match volunteers to positions or jobs in the Fellowship that need to be done. It is hoped that we can better match the needs of the Fellowship with the positions that the members would prefer to fill.

As part of the duties of the volunteer coordinator we will periodically publish a list of volunteer positions that need to be filled. If you feel that one of these positions is a match for you, please contact me.

At the moment we are hunting for two volunteers as follows:

1. We need a pianist one Sunday a month.
2. We need a volunteer to attend a monthly meeting of the Hood River County Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) meeting. Hood River County is trying to encourage organizations to support prevention among children. Organizations such as MCUUF are encouraged to attend (and paid \$100 for doing so) to inform other organization about what they are doing to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among children. Pat Pauly has been attending for MCUUF but cannot continue. Pat contacts Nikki Brandon to get information to present at the meeting. At the present time MCUUF is co-sponsoring "Our Whole Lives" which would be appropriate to present. The meetings are the third Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at the China Gorge Restaurant. Pat says it is actually informative to find out what other organizations in Hood River are doing.

Steve Castles, Volunteer Coordinator:

SUNDAY MORNINGS

May 2 – Understanding Mindfulness, Rev. Kozen Sampson. We'll explore what mindfulness training is and a few simple techniques to bring about a state of mindfulness. It isn't difficult, nor is it not difficult. It simply is.

May 9 - Mother's Peace Day-Women Who Made A Difference, MCUUF's Spirit Sisters. Mother's Day was originally started as a "Mother's Peace Day" by our own Unitarian foremother, Julia Ward Howe as a protest against War around the Civil War time. We return to these roots with this peace service where we learn about Women Who Made A Difference around this issue and honor the role of our own mothers in our lives.

May 16 – Where oh Where Is The Holy, Don Hardin. Finding spiritual depth can be a challenging quest for UU's; come hear Don's thoughts.

May 23—Bring Them Out That We May Know Them, Rev. Craig Moro. Much religious ink has been spilled over the sins of Sodom and Gomorra, but what was the real problem with those two cities? It's not what you might have heard from conservative broadcasters! Come join us this morning as we consider what it means to know (and feel) the grain of things.

May 30 – Flower Communion, Cindy Horton. An annual tradition at MCUUF, this ceremony was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942) who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. This will be at Tom P's home. NO SERVICE AT THE GRANGE.

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline for June edition – Saturday May 29, 2010

Next Adult Religious Education Study Group Series--The next series will start June 2nd using as its focus the book "The Battle for God" by Karen Armstrong. Sessions are 10 AM to 12 Noon every other Wednesday. The group is open at no charge to both members and non members. Those interested in participating should contact Don Hardin

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

From Tamara Thiel - Thank you to all volunteers who helped with FISH Food Bank during our last duty shift from April 19-23. Your service is very much appreciated! Because no one should be hungry.....

We held another Meetup Saturday night. We went to the Crazy Pepper for supper and then walked down to the Columbia Center of the Arts for a benefit held for Next Door, Inc. We had nine people for dinner and the show: Debbie and Lloyd Olson, Pam and Michael Morneault, Leanne Hogie and Mike Hendricks, Shelley Baxter and Ray Klebba, and Steve Castles. The food was excellent, the comedy was funny and the company was thoroughly enjoyable. Finally, Next Door, Inc. is a worthy cause with 22 programs for children in the gorge. You can look them up on the web at: <http://www.nextdoorinc.org>. Hope you can join us next time! - Steve Castles

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Our Whole Lives – . Want to be trained as an adult facilitator of this award-winning sexuality education program? Our congregation has been cooperating with Riverside Community Church to bring this curriculum to our community. It's been such a success we're looking to offering programs again next year! Training offered in Oregon City in June and regionally in the fall. Contact Kristen Dillon

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

Spiritual Practice Group—Tuesdays 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.

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF

A Religion for Our Time, a series from the UUA, offers short videos that highlight inspiring work in UU congregations. Check out the second episode featuring three Washington congregations!

http://www.uua.org/videos/index.php?movie=peter_morales/20100329_RFOTPuget264.mp4

Come to UU Celebration of Interdependence Camp!

MISSION: This camp is an opportunity to share multi-generational fellowship, while rekindling our spirits and celebrating interdependence. Rich offerings of music, play, spiritual practices and learning abound in an alcohol-free and electronics-free setting.

WHAT: 3rd Annual UU Celebration of Interdependence Family Camp□

WHEN: Fourth of July Weekend, Thursday, July 1 to Sunday, July 4□

WHERE: Camp Cedar Ridge in Vernonia, 40 miles west of Portland in Tillamook Forest

WHO: Sponsored by UCCWC/Hillsboro. Come Join Us!

Registration: For information and registration form: www.uccwc.org/familycamp or contact Sara Cloe, DRE, at UCCWC, 503-648-1720.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay – Wine Country Holiday

"Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important and somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses." Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce a new season of our **Wine Country Excursions**.

Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas. There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for similar services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHEN, AND WHERE? Go to www.mcuuf.org

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