



MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

GORGE UU NEWS – June, 2010

WRITTEN OFFERINGS from Rev. Craig Moro

Here's a scene from Unitarian (and American) history: Henry David Thoreau rejected all justifications for the 1846-48 war against Mexico, going to jail when he refused to pay a tax which he saw as nothing more than tacit support for such wrongful acts against our neighbors. When his dear friend Ralph Waldo Emerson visited him in jail and asked "What are you doing in here?" Thoreau famously replied, "What are *you* doing out there?" given what was being done in both of their names out in the western lands of the North American continent.

When we include Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, and large parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas, Mexico lost *two-thirds* of its original land to its neighbor, while countless men, women, and children died as U.S. forces laid siege to its cities and towns (and in the public health disasters that attend every war.) Maybe now--as our current government turns its attention to "immigration reform" and some begin a war of hateful words--maybe now would be a good time for a little bit of imaginary, alternative history. What if this war had never taken place?

Imagine a Mexico that controlled--for the past century and a half--the oil, mineral and agricultural wealth of all those states that I mentioned, plus the strategic rivers and the Gulf and Pacific coasts. Then ask yourself: if the war had not happened or had turned out differently, who would be crossing whose borders in search of economic opportunity, and how would they be received? What would be wrong with having such a strong and prosperous neighbor--if Mexico was as big as it was before, meaning three times its present size? Might it mean a safer and better situation for both nations and the rest of the world as well?

It's a good exercise to imagine how familiar stories might have ended differently. No one got mad at the kid who said the Emperor wasn't wearing any clothes, but what if she'd said he was wearing clothes that he had *stolen*? How do Mexicans feel about their loss? Do they talk about it with each other? Have you ever talked about it with one of "them"? I haven't. Maybe we should. Arizona may have outlawed such questions when it banned controversial "ethnic studies" classes from schools inside its "own" borders, but if we don't ask them here, I can imagine Thoreau asking us: "What are *you* doing out there, in Oregon?"

In fellowship,
Craig

LEADERSHIP LETTER

"In the woods, is perpetual growth and sanctity reigns. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life, which nature cannot repair" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Hello, fellow MCUUFers

Today I am celebrating after finishing a lovely Flower Communion service yesterday, which felt the best ever for me, and to which I think a lot of people really enjoyed. It felt good to finally get this service to a good place for me, having done it now for about 8-9 yrs (here and in Wenatchee). And we really enjoyed the gorgeous beauty of MarieLouise and Tom's amazing garden setting which was a perfect backdrop for this service of accepting our diversity and dedicating ourselves to one another.

And I am looking forward to 6/13 when the board has voted to have Rev. Moro lead us in a re-dedication of our Welcoming Congregation status as it has been 4 yrs ago since we went through this process. Many of us recently saw The Laramie Project at CAST lately (based on interviews with residents of the town where Matthew Shepard lived and was murdered), and this adds new meaning to this status. Many thanks to all of us who organized the work we went through to have this, and to those of us who went through it.

As the summer dawns on us soon, may we enjoy our time in the sun and return to see our friends at MCUUF as often as possible.

Peace, Cindy H.

SUNDAY SERVICES

June 6 – Music, Rod Krehbiel and friends. Acceptance. This word can send us in many directions, and there are songs about a lot of them. Ponderings and singing about many aspects of acceptance. **This is a Youth Sunday.** Bring your appetite for soUUp after worship as well!

June 13 – Faith, Hope, and Silly Little Songs, Rev. Craig Moro. Most liberal and progressive thinkers are deeply troubled with the "Christianism" of the religious right today, understanding how little it has to do with the core affirmations of the Christian message. What so-called "Christian" values and virtues do most of us affirm, whether we are Christian or not? Are there any other values we would add to this list? And what do silly songs have to do with any of this? Find out this morning, and share in our "renewal of vows" as a Welcoming Congregation!

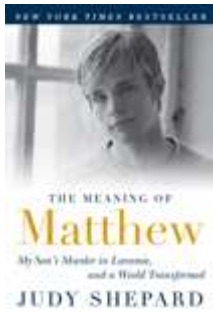
June 20 – Solstice Celebration, Theresa North and Linda Short. Come celebrate summer solstice with Theresa and Linda. There will be some drumming and meditation as we celebrate the turning of the wheel and the beginning of summer. We ask that you bring a piece of nature (a pine cone, a rock, a flower, etc.) to share with everyone. Megan Ball will sing a song to celebrate Fathers' Day.

June 27 – Unitarian Universalist Futurists, Mick Mortlock. Does our unique blend of science and spirituality produce thinkers who can profoundly help shape the future? This sermon discusses the outlook and contributions of prominent Unitarian Universalist futurists Buckminster Fuller, Tim Berners-Lee and Ray Bradbury. Mick is a Worship Associate at Atkinson Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist in Oregon City. He is a speaker and author and has been lauded as one of America's leading futurists by The Public Manager Magazine.

CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline for July edition – Sunday, June 27, 2010

Author Reading & Book Discussion, Judy Shepard, author of "The Meaning of Matthew" - Thursday, June 3rd, 12:00pm at Columbia Gorge Community College, Hood River Campus



Waucoma Bookstore and Columbia Gorge Community College are hosting author Judy Shepard for an author reading and discussion on Thursday, June 3rd at 12:00pm. Shepard will be discussing her book "The Meaning of Matthew".

"A courageous, eloquent, and devoted mother...gives us all a greater understanding of Matthew and the larger meaning of his life." - Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Today, Matthew Shepard is synonymous with gay rights, but until 1998, he was just Judy Shepard's son. "In The Meaning of Matthew", Judy Shepard confides how she handled her crippling loss in the public eye, the vigils and protests held by strangers in her son's name, and ultimately how she and her husband gained the courage to help prosecutors convict her son's murderers.

Heart-wrenchingly honest, The Meaning of Matthew is an unforgettable and inspiring story, chronicling one ordinary woman's struggle to cope with the unthinkable.

New UU Class for folks who are considering joining as members of the Fellowship, after worship at noon on **Sunday, June 6.** This is in preparation for the ceremony to welcome new members planned for June 13. RSVP Kristen Dillon

The Soup Group book for June 6, first Sunday at 12 noon is SHE WHO CHANGES by Carol P. Christ - Re-imagining the Divine in the World

SOFTball time!! This church league, with about 7 teams this year, starts with our first game June 8 and runs thru July. Games are at Westside school, 6:30pm: about once a week, lowkey, adult, no strikeouts, only 1 homerun/person/game. Give your COMPETITIVE streak a place to streak (or not) in true UU form. Email Tom H. to be put on email list for softball.

Attention parents: Does your child enjoy singing? There will be a children's choir performance on June 20th during the service. There will be 2 rehearsals – June 13 right after church and June 20 at 9:40. RSVP to Paul B. if you would like to join in.

FISH Food Pantry: Our next times to serve are the afternoons of June 28, 30 and July 2. If you can help in this effort please contact Tamara Thiel to be put on the schedule. Due to summer travel schedules, Tamara would love to hear from you early in June if you're available!

Peace Village summer day camp, August 9-13 at Mosier Community School. Camp runs Monday to Friday from 9am to 3:30pm for ages 6-13. Teens and adults are welcome to join in the fun as volunteers; we have jobs of all sizes and levels of expertise! This camp is sponsored by MCUUF along with other area congregations and organizations. For more information contact Laurie VanCott.

DISTRICT AND NATIONAL UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWS

A Sampling of Upcoming Online Courses Available at the Church of the Larger Fellowship -
www.clfuu.org/learn, 617-948-6150 re@clfuu.org

Welcome In: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and the Church of the Larger Fellowship

On-going

Welcome to this program for new Unitarian Universalists. You can move through the sessions at your own pace. This online class is intended for people who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, the CLF, and how their own spiritual journey might connect with our organization and faith tradition. For each session there are readings, as well as a variety of other resources such as links to relevant web sites. Once you have explored the readings and resources you will be able to answer the questions which will guide our discussion. Free!

In Our Mothers' Footsteps

Ongoing

This course shares information about important women from our Unitarian and/or Universalist heritage, but more than that, it offers the opportunity for modern women and men to reflect on how our own lives connect with those of our foremothers, and what we might have to learn from their struggles and successes. The course is divided into five sessions: Suffragists, Abolitionists, Writers, Educators and Ministers. This free course is made possible by the CLF through a generous grant from the UU Women's Federation. Free!

The Life and Theology of James Luther Adams

Taught by Jared Farley: June 28, 2010 – September 20, 2010

This class will provide an overview of the life, theology and world view of one of Unitarian Universalism's most influential theologians. Participants will explore Adams' critiques of both religious liberalism and religious orthodoxy, as well as his conceptions of god, sin, religious covenants and voluntary associations. \$40

Ethical Eating: Eating as if the Earth Matters

Taught by Peg Shaffer: September 6, 2010 – October 18, 2010

Wendell Berry said that "how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used." In an age seemingly dominated by the fast food industry and microwavable entrees, how can we eat in such a way as to use our world ethically? How do we put our 7th Principle into action at the dinner table? In our 6 weeks together we'll explore one of this year's UUA action topics: Ethical Eating. What is it, how do we do it, can we get the food industry to do it? Readings will be supplied and we'll get the conversation going! \$40

IN THE NEWS

From our allies at the Human Rights Campaign, www.hrc.org. The next vote will be in the full Senate; go to their website if you want to show your support for ending "DADT."

U.S. House Vote Spells Demise of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

By [Michael Cole](#)

May 27th, 2010 at 10:04 pm

Moments ago the House of Representatives voted to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," paving the road to the end of the 17 year old law. This historic action follows a vote for repeal in the Senate Armed Services Committee and is a tremendous step toward finally ending the ban on openly lesbian and gay service members. It was the first vote ever in the U.S. House of Representatives to repeal the ban on open service.

Said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese: "Lawmakers today stood on the right side of

history. This is a historic step to strengthen our armed forces and to restore honor and integrity to those who serve our country so selflessly.”

With successful House passage of the amendment, the final NDAA bill must be passed in both the House and Senate and the two versions reconciled before being sent to the President for his signature. Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Penn. was the lead sponsor of the measure in the House and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., championed the amendment in the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A Vet’s Reflection: So This is What History Feels Like

By [Jarrod Chlapowski](#)

May 28th, 2010 at 1:40 pm



Yesterday morning a friend still on active duty called me to ask what I thought about today’s votes. “We got it, man,” I responded. He didn’t believe me. Frankly, I don’t quite believe it myself. But here we are, and for some reason cynicism can’t overcome this moment.

I spoke with this friend for a few more minutes, convincing him how good a position we are in right now; overcoming his own cynicism. The phone becomes silent. After a few minutes, I

asked if he was ok, only to realize he simply couldn’t get the words out to respond. He was crying. We both were. Finally, a whispered “thank you.”

You work five years on an issue thinking you’ll never see the end, that your work is only a contribution to the greater piece. Suddenly a decision is made, and you’re facing what you’ve been longing to see since taking the oath to serve and defend the country against all enemies foreign and domestic. I, and many like me, long to take that oath again. And because of events this week, I believe we will.

While we still have a ways to go and however imperfect and contentious it’s been, today is a historic day. A day we could not have reached without every body, voice, and hand working their hardest to see this through.

We’re here. We made it.
Thank you.

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

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