



## ***MCUUF NEWSLETTER—July 2016***

*The next meeting of the MCUUF Board will be 6 p.m. Thursday July 14 at the Rockford Grange. All are welcome to attend.*

### ***THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE***

A good friend has her wedding anniversary on July 4. In honor of this blessed occasion and her first anniversary, I sent her and her spouse a card. She texted me back with a chuckle and grin, referring to my wish for their “Happy Anniversary and *Interdependence Day*.” I like that she and her spouse chose the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for their wedding, for it reflects their desire to build a marriage that holds independence and interdependence in healthy balance. There’s a never-ending dance involving myriad adjustments and accommodations that makes for a relationship that nourishes spiritual growth and supports a family.

Unitarian Universalists have historically tilted the balance towards independence. Our Puritan forebears were people who struck out on their own, leaving England in search of religious freedom. Our history is full of rebels and iconoclasts. Universalist physician Benjamin Rush and Thomas Jefferson, a Unitarian, were signers of the Declaration of Independence. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century forbears were instrumental in building atheism and religious humanism, establishing Unitarian Universalism as a post-Christian denomination that defies easy categorization. Ours is a history of acting like sheep that have moved towards the edge of the flock.

The pendulum is swinging towards interdependence once again. Congregations are building collaborative relationships with neighboring UU congregations instead of going it alone, as has been our past practice. Some congregations are sharing ministers, directors of religious education, or administrative staff and structures. Others are guiding the birth of new UU congregations, remaining connected like involved parents. MCUUF is part of this interdependence. We’ve been an active part of the Mount Hood Cluster of UU Congregations since its inception. This group of congregations coordinates around social justice matters and denominational affairs. We’ll continue our tradition of hosting the annual cluster summer picnic, this year on July 10 in the home of Kristen Dillon and Paul Blackburn. All are welcome. This is a great time to mingle with our UU neighbors and strengthen connections.

The web of relationships that connects us to the wider world of Unitarian Universalism is undergoing change. Our long-time district executive and Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Pacific Western Region Congregational Life Staff Janine Larsen left her position on June 30. She’ll take on new duties as a staff member at University Unitarian Church in Seattle. The Rev. Sarah Schurr will be our new UUA Pacific Western Region liaison. Sarah recently completed service as the minister of West Hills UU Fellowship in Portland, a Mount Hood Cluster congregation. Sarah also has a son who lives in Hood River. We welcome her to this new role.

May this 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the month ahead be one where we strive to notice and sustain the interdependence that makes our lives as individuals, congregations, and our wider UU movement possible. May we grow in love and deepen in our practice. Happy *Interdependence Day*!

In love and fellowship,

Rev. Judy

*I will be taking study leave and two weeks of vacation during July. During study time July 1-9 I am away on retreat and July 10-24 on vacation. In the event of an emergency during these times please contact our administrator, Brad, at 541-241-6771*

## ***BOARD PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE***

Looking in my desk for a paperclip, I found two LRY pins. For you young’uns, that was the name of the teenage UU youth group when I was young: “Liberal Religious Youth.” I remember having discussions that the term “religious” didn’t really feel right—questioning our religion—a certain sign that we were UU’s. I loved LRY. This was my entry to the UU’s—a wonderful opportunity to be part of these really cool teenagers, who had similar beliefs and dis-beliefs.

This morning, I awoke with another childhood memory: Dad’s magic show, a tradition at family gatherings. It was beloved by all ages—by young children, in wide-eyed amazement; by older children, giggling at the naivete of the little ones; and at all ages smiling and laughing, enjoying the warm happiness of a shared family moment. Even at the point where the youngest of the family were teenagers, there was still a clamor for “Uncle Roy’s magic show!” Dad would laugh, then call for the supplies “. . . two paper bags, two identical items of different colors.” We’d all gather around in happy anticipation.

I woke up this morning with both these stories in my head and thought I perceived a connection—perhaps that it’s OK, and right, to have beliefs that are wonderful and magical at one time, and later, when the concept no longer fits your belief system, that you can drop or modify that belief yet still retain the positive emotion of that experience.

I’m better able to assimilate the term “religious” into my life by modifying its definition in my mind (not as a given set of questionable rules to follow but an open quest in spirituality). Certainly just seeing the LRY pins brought back wonderful memories, “religious” or not. And of course the thought of Dad’s magic show brings back the warmest memories of shared connectedness, “magic” or not.

Lori Golze

Acting President, Board of Trustees



**2016 Pride Parade in Portland**  
**The UU contingency with its “Standing on the Side of Love” banner**  
**marching behind the car.**  
(Photo courtesy of Tina C.)



The UU group with 49 signs, each bearing a photo and bio of one of the people killed in Orlando. This was a very moving tribute that obviously truly "reached" the parade watchers, some who cried and many who called out their thanks (including the parade announcers).

**"We are Orlando"**

was frequently chanted by our group, which was about 100 strong.

(photo and comments courtesy of Tina C.)

### ***SUNDAY SERVICES***

**July 10: "Together and Alone"** Paul Blackburn. "Introverts and Extroverts tolerate and sometimes need each other. Like me and my wife, for example."

**July 17: 18-year-old Charley Boonstra**, local activist, tells us: "How I became a climate-change warrior."

**July 24: Big Ron and Medium Ben** perform and discuss "Music and the Creative Process."

**July 31: The Theravada Monks** from Pacific Hermitage come to talk and eat with us.

### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Want to spend a lovely Sunday afternoon with UUs from around the Portland area?** Join other members of the Mt. Hood Cluster of UU Congregations Sunday, July 10, at 3:00 p.m. for a picnic at the home of Kristen D. and Paul B. Please bring a simple dish to share. For more information, contact Elaine C.

**MCUUF "Our Whole Lives" Starting Fall 2016 for 7th-9th grade youth.**

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives and nurture spiritual growth. For these reasons and more, we at MCUUF will offer Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula, for our 7th-9th grade youth this Fall. The class will be held nearly every other Sunday during worship in the youth room. This course offers one overnight for the youth to work on team-building and have some fun. Also, a parents' night will be offered so parents can meet the teachers and get a better look at what the students will be learning. The course will be \$60, due by our first session. Scholarships are available. Please pre-register your student with Alicia B. Openings are filling quickly.

## ***Women's Awareness Circle***

The Women's Awareness Circle will meet Friday, July 8, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the home of Jodie H. The word "control" will be discussed. All UU women are welcome. Please RSVP to Debbie O.

## ***New MCUUF Volunteer Opportunity***

Heads up about the new **Cooling Shelter and Laundry Love** starting in August. Laundry Love and Cooling Shelter is a good opportunity for MCUUF volunteers. Faith groups will serve several Sundays in August at the Cooling Shelter before the Warming Shelter begins. This a great way for new folks to get involved. We can take shifts 1-3:30 p.m. and 3:30-6:00 p.m., or some of us could cover the full five hours. Please contact Fran F. to volunteer.

***Pledges:*** As we start the new fiscal year, please remember to write "Pledge" on the checks that are put in the offering basket. Checks without this designation will be included in the "plate" and will be passed on to help meet needs we identify in our communities.

***The MCUUF Action Committee*** organized the volunteer effort to facilitate the monthly OSU Extension dinner at the FISH Food Bank June 13. The new curriculum, "Share Our Strength—Cooking Matters," focuses on the participants preparing and cooking meals, adapting recipes and working together in the kitchen. The bilingual presentation provides a comprehensive on-going discussion of nutrition as well as opportunities to learn important health and safety issues in the kitchen. The program is offered in partnership with the Oregon Food Bank, and MCUUF's participation was made possible through the generosity of Annie Maguire.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who prepped foods, set up the tables, distributed kitchenware, washed food and prepared the meals with the program participants, then dined with the community and did a yeoman's job with the clean-up: Claire C, Cindy A, Susie S, Debbie O, Cindy R, Cecelia G, Debby C, Fran F. and Maureen L. Thanks, too, to Susan R. who entertained the younger guests in the FISH garden with a talk about what was being grown there and introducing them to the worm farm (ewww, gross, yuck!)

## ***Care Team***

MCUUF strives to be a community that supports each other. If you or someone you know in the fellowship has a need because of a loss, illness, or other difficulty, please notify Rev. Judy or any other member of our Care Team: Shelley B, Aera A, or Tom P. The team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for our members and friends who need it.



**Todd, Stacey, Riley and Lucy D. traveling in South America. They are currently in Bolivia.**

