

MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

LEADERSHIP LETTER

September 2012

*“Lady of the seasons' laughter,
in the summer's warmth be near;
when the winter follows after,
teach our spirits not to fear.
Hold us in your steady mercy,
Lady of the turning year.”*

Kendyl L. R. Gibbons

Perhaps that is an odd quote to begin with. I have been searching for something that held the essence of my feelings about the coming season—something that might echo within each of you. For me the quote is about having a “Something” to hold onto, something undeniable and rock-solid. And who can deny the turning of the year? The power of each season? The constancy of the changing seasons? And for me, the Spirit that accompanies the progression is a comforting necessity.

And there have been a couple of seasons of changes for us as a fellowship lately! After almost five years of calling the Rockford Grange home to our fellowship, we have just experienced the confusion of not always knowing where and when we will see each other on Sundays while the doors to the Grange were closed to us. The good news is that the Grange is once again open to us, and we will be reconvening there on Sunday September 16, at our usual 10 a.m. My thanks to all the Grange members who quickly moved the necessary repairs along!

When the Retreat Picnic begins next Sunday, we mark a real coming together after time apart. The Water Communion ceremony will indeed be a sharing of summer experiences quite possibly not shared with other members. Before the last four weeks, only extreme circumstances have caused Sunday service to be canceled. I apologize to all our members and friends who were upset over the decision to suspend services. Hopefully it has been an opportunity to spend more time in the summer sun, or in the garden, with family and friends. And for some of us, it has been a time to rest.

Autumn's arrival brings more than the joy of moving back “home”; it marks a time to make decisions about what we want for the fellowship and the need for us to move forward toward those goals with optimism, grounded in the knowledge that change is always with us. We will be having a Town Hall meeting after the service on September 16. Your Board of Trustees would like to have you talk with us about our “orphaned” state with no minister. Janine Larson, our Pacific Northwest District Executive, will attend the Town Hall meeting to answer questions, etc. I'm guessing the last thing everyone wants to do after just returning from summer and to the Grange is attend a congregational meeting! I hear you, believe me. But deciding how to look for another minister, and what kind of a minister we want, is crucial. It's a long process we need to begin as soon as we know what we are searching for. Please come to the Town Hall meeting if at all possible. Help me embrace the beginning of another season of change. In faith,

Holly Harrel, Board President

SUNDAY MORNINGS

September 9 – Annual Retreat and Water Communion (see below)

September 16 – Janine Larsen, UU District Executive (back at the Rockford Grange!)

We will be having a Town Hall meeting after the service.

September 23 – “It Just Isn’t Fair!” by Elaine Castles. Most of us were brought up to believe that if we just did everything right, life was likely to treat us well. But experience shows that “bad things do happen to good people.” How might our UU faith help us understand and cope with this inescapable fact of life?

CALENDAR

Retreat

The annual MCUUF Retreat will be held at the Hood River Marina picnic area on Sunday, Sept. 9. **Service at 11 a.m.**, followed by potluck lunch. Please bring a dish based on the first letter of your last name, as follows:

A-E = dessert

F-K = salad

L-Q = main dish

R-V = side dish

W-Z = hors d’oeuvre

Music and entertainment will be provided by Rod and Paul, and Alicia has some fun activities planned for the kids. For more information and registration, go to:

<http://www.mcuuf.org>

PLEASE REGISTER SOON SO LINDA KNOWS HOW MANY TO PREPARE FOR.

Board Meeting

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, September 17, at Riverside Church. All members are welcome to attend.

Gorge Health Care for All

Gorge Health Care for All (www.gorgehcfa.org) is a local nonprofit advocating for universal health care, a concept long championed by the UUA. They will host a showing-and-discussion of the documentary film, “The Healthcare Movie”, comparing the Canadian and U.S. medical systems, in several area locations this fall:

Sept. 19 (Wed.) Stevenson, WA Stevenson Community Library, 7pm

Sept. 25 (Tues.) The Dalles,OR The Dalles-Wasco County Library,7pm

Sept. 26 (Wed.) Hood River,OR Hood RiverLibrary, 7pm

Oct. 3 (Wed.) White Salmon, WA White SalmonCommunity Library, 7pm

Oct. 29 (Mon.) Mt. Hood,OR Mt. Hood Town Hall, 7pm

Free(donation suggested) and open to the public.

HAPPENINGS

Please join us in celebrating the recent wedding of MCUUF members Lauren Fein and Nick Kraemer. Our own Paul Blackburn officiated.

HELP NEEDED

Search Committee forming

Your Board of Trustees is forming a Ministerial Search Committee to seek a new minister. If you would like to be included on this committee, please let any board member know or send an email to mcuuf1@gmail.com. Board members can also answer any questions about exactly how the committee finds a minister.

Mentors Needed for Coming of Age Program

Would you be willing to serve as a mentor for one of the youth in MCUUF's Coming of Age program? Mentors will need to attend an orientation in early November and participate in approximately 6-7 meetings with their mentee. These sessions are mostly on Sundays from mid-November until early June. Mentors will be downstairs with their mentees on these Sundays and will miss regular Sunday services. This is a great opportunity to be a positive influence on the youth in our fellowship. If you would like to find out more about being a mentor, or volunteer for this important job, please contact Peggy Neuman at 509-493-8322 / durkee@gorge.net.

Greeters Needed

Debbie Olson needs greeters for October and future months. She is happy to train new greeters. Please contact her if interested.

Our Hospitality Team Needs More Volunteers

Our hospitality team needs additional volunteers to assist with our refreshments after service. All levels of support would be appreciated, ranging from being in charge once a month to providing food or helping with set up or clean up once a month. If you could help out, please contact Aera. The Fellowship thanks you in advance.

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 our Minister or any member of our Care Team: Jane Fetisoff, Mike Hendricks, Anita Johnston, Ray Klebba, Jay Larsen, or Tom Penchoen. The Care Team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for this situation.

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF

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