



MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

GORGE UU NEWSLETTER – October, 2012

LEADERSHIP LETTER

If you attended the service on September 30, you heard the Rev. Ken Jones talk about those who come to MCUUF to have a spiritual connection with other liberal folk, and those who invest in the fellowship to “own” it. After June 2013 is ended, I look forward to coming to services and events to maintain my spiritual connection with you all, putting my pledge check in the basket at the offertory and going home. Period. Margaret has asked me to take a year off commitments to the fellowship after my presidency is done. And since I apparently forgot to consult her before committing to being president of your Board of Trustees, I agreed to her request. She's got that coming.

But it's not really my nature to do that. I was taught early in my sobriety—and I celebrated 31 years last month—that being of service is a key ingredient to spiritual connection and a balanced life. Many others in our fellowship know that fact too. We have a great group of people who work tirelessly for our fellowship. It's an honor to be among all those on the board and/or on one or more of our many committees or teams. And I thank everyone who helps MCUUF do so much.

Over the summer, I was faced with the question of what we do as a fellowship to engage visitors and new members. It wasn't easy this summer, but we managed to have a potluck and swim in White Salmon that really gave those who attended the opportunity to just talk and get to know each other or to reconnect. And out of the question of how we engage visitors and new members came a new committee, actually made up of those serving on several existing committees with overlapping concerns. The Member Engagement Team (MET) is up and rolling, I understand. It is dedicated to making sure that all of us at MCUUF have a way to get to know others and give to the fellowship in a way that is personally gratifying. Here are a few of those ways:

If you are a MCUUF member who hasn't yet found some way to volunteer your time and talents that fits you well, we have someone who might be able to help. Steve Castles is our volunteer coordinator and a member of the MET. He has a list of everything that needs to be done within the fellowship, large and very small. I'm betting there is something on that list that would appeal to you.

If you have been coming to services for a while, and would like to get better acquainted with some of us, you have the perfect opportunity coming up. Jonathan Estey is putting together a Circle Supper evening on October 20. Circle Suppers are informal potluck dinners hosted by members in their homes. It's a great way to talk to someone you haven't before and let us get to know you better as well.

And if you have been here long enough that you are thinking about becoming a member, we hold Considering Membership classes 3-4 times a year where you can find out more

about Unitarian Universalism, more about MCUUF, and about what being a member might add to your life. Our Membership Coordinator is Pam Morneault.

For those of you who would like to serve the fellowship as a leader, kudos! Debbie Olson is part of the Nominating Committee and would love to hear this news from you! Please call Debbie.

That's a lot of if's. Lots of choices. Lots of ways to make the fellowship your own! Join us.

In love,

Holly

As part of the Board's efforts to streamline communication in MCUUF, the president of the board now has a new email address just for MCUUF concerns. If you have questions or concern, you can reach Holly at mcuufpres@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

October 7 – Richard Dawkins (video), “The New Atheism”.

October 14 – “7 Habits of Highly Ordinary People” by Rev. Susan Maginn.

Most of us assume that our successes are what make our lives effective. What if that is not so? Today we will consider that while successes are certainly worthy of celebration, perhaps it is when we are at our most ordinary that we are truly in line with the power of the universe. The Rev. Susan Maginn comes to us from Portland. Most of her days she is homeschooling her children as well as practicing Zen meditation, Ashtanga yoga, knitting, and the ukulele.

October 21 - “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?

October 28 – “Remembering Our Ancestors,” by Bruce Bolme

CALENDAR

It’s Circle Supper time again!!!

Mark your calendars now for the next round of Circle Suppers, starting **Saturday, October 20**. Circle suppers are small potluck dinners, held in members’ homes, that give MCUUF’ers a chance to socialize and converse in a relaxed setting. New people and visitors are especially welcome. If you would like to attend this round of dinners (either as a guest or a host), please e-mail Jonathan Estey. He will also have sign-up sheets available in church.

“Seminary for a Day” Coming to First Unitarian Church in Portland on October 27

Are you yearning for greater depth in your spiritual life? Are you looking for resources of heart and mind in these trying times? Are you yearning for “more”? Seminary for a Day may be the best way you can spend October 27. Unitarian Universalists from the greater Portland area and beyond will have the opportunity to be led in going deeper by the faculty of Meadville Lombard Theological School, our UU seminary in Chicago. Portland area leaders will also offer workshops on religious practice (the arts, singing, the Labyrinth, prayer) to help ground our reflections and bring theology to life. Several of us from MCUUF attended this gathering last year and found it to be very inspiring. To register, go to the First Church website at firstunitarianportland.org.

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. The remaining ones:

- Oct. 4 (Thurs.) White Salmon Community Library, 7pm
- Oct. 15 (Mon.) Goldendale Community Library, 7pm
- Oct. 23 (Tues) Dufur School Community Library, 7pm
- Oct. 29 (Mon.) Mt. Hood Town Hall, 7pm

Free (donation suggested) and open to the public.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

October Children’s Program

Oct 7: Why do we light a chalice? –Alicia Bhatta

Oct 14: Free to Believe"/How to live our UU principles in their young lives. -Tom Penchoen

Oct 21: Do UUs pray? What is meditation?

Oct 28: Halloween - pumpkin carving – Tom Hons

ATTENTION PARENTS:

We are inviting our elementary-aged children to watch Hotel Transylvania (PG) on October 14th at Hood River Cinemas. The time will be determined once listings are available. Tickets will be provided for all that confirm they will be going. Please email or call Alicia. This is a staffed event. Find out more about the movie at <http://welcometohotel.com/>

Coming of Age Program Schedule and Youth Sundays

Sept. 30, 10 a.m., Session 3, Exploring Values part 2 (Grange).

Oct. 14, 10 a.m., Session 4, Severance from Childhood (Grange).

Oct. 19-21, Session 5, Chalice Circle Retreat (Trout Lake Abbey).

For more information, please contact Peggy Neuman

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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 sessions 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 would 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.

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

Curious about what's happening, when, and where? Go to www.mcuuf.org

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