

**MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

MCUUF Newsletter - December 2012

LEADERSHIP LETTER

**“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth,
for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire:
it is the time for home.”**

– Edith Sitwell

I grew up in San Diego, so I had no experience of seasonal changes until I moved to Oregon. And it wasn't until I started my work on farms that I began feeling the seasonal changes deeply, connected what was happening in the outside world to what was happening on my inside world. Lately I've noticed fewer deer on the roads, the oaks bare of leaves, fewer eggs from the chickens, no fruit from the trees or vegetables from the garden. It's a dying time in the natural world, when the plants and animals retreat downward or inward, sending energy into their roots or conserving energy to stay warm through the cold, hungry months.

My farmer and orchardist friends have put their land to bed, letting it rest and prepare for new growth in the spring. On my inside world, I have noticed a mirror image of what I see externally: a desire, a need to draw my energy, my light back towards myself. I've made fewer plans for social engagements or adventures, preferring the coziness of my home space and the heat from the wood stove.

And I've noticed a desire to let those things in myself die back—things I've been holding onto, things that no longer serve me. I am working on letting go of ideas I have about who I am and what I should have accomplished by now; I am letting go of the idea that I need to do everything perfectly. In this way, I am preparing the soil of my soul for new growth come spring. Out with the old and in with the new, as they say.

And I can see how we as a fellowship reflect these seasonal changes as well. We gather together for Sunday services, visioning workshops, and Circle Suppers—occasions where we keep the light of our collective fire burning, even if the glow doesn't spread as far as it might at other times of year, when our energy has a more outward flow.

We are letting go of ideas we maybe had about what our path was going to look like with one minister as we transition to working with another, preparing our soil for further growth in the coming seasons.

We may not know exactly how well our gardens will grow, what the unpredictable weather plans may throw our way, but we can take this time to go inward and keep our loved ones close, asking ourselves what can we do, what can we let go of, to make room for what is to come?

In faith,
Maya Trook
MCUUF Board Vice-President

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Dec. 9: Rev. Ken Jones, “Don't Let the Light Go Out.” In the season of darkness that surrounds the Winter Solstice, we turn to many rituals to brighten our spirits and illuminate our way. None are more powerful than the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, which begins today, and is a commemoration of one community's stubborn refusal to let their light go out in the face of insurmountable odds and oppression. We'll celebrate this spirit and light a candle for our spirits this winter.

Religious Education: Technology's place in our lives.

Dec. 16: Rick Hulett, A musical journey with a prominent local musician.

Religious Education: Hanukkah—traditional cooking.

Dec. 23: Theresa N. will lead a Taize service celebrating the interconnectedness of all beings and religious traditions. One song that we will sing together is "Holy Now" by Peter Mayer. You can get a jump start on learning this song by checking it out on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiypaURysz4

Religious Education: Christmas ornaments.

Dec. 30: Rev. Ken Jones will again be our speaker.

Religious Education: 2013 Calendars.

CALENDAR

Coming of Age Program Schedule

Dec 16, 10 a.m., Session 10, Bad Things (Part 2) (Grange).

Jan. 13, 10 a.m., Session 13, After Death Beliefs (Part 1) (Grange).

Jan. 27, 10 a.m., Session 14, After Death Beliefs (Part 2) (Grange).

Feb. 3, 10 a.m., Session 15, The Elevator Speech (Grange).

Feb. 10, 10 a.m., Session 16, God Beliefs (Part 1) (Grange).

Feb. 24, 10 a.m., Session 17, God Beliefs (Part 2) (Grange).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

UU Warming Shelter Team

Our UU warming shelter team needs 2-3 more teammates. Our very generous MCUUF team for the homeless warming shelter has just doubled its commitment and will now be staffing the shelter two (2) nights per month—the second and fourth Thursday. We have 14 wonderful volunteers, but with this extra responsibility we could use 2-3 more teammates. You would need to volunteer only one night per month, so if you want to give good people a safe, warm place to sleep, plus have fun as a UU group, contact Mike H.

Greeters Needed

Pamela Zachery Morneault needs greeters for the remainder of December and future months. She is happy to train new greeters. Please contact her.

Keyboard Upgrade

In an effort to upgrade our keyboard to being “closer to worthy” of our wonderful musicians, MCUUF has asked Santa for a new keyboard. Santa is hoping you might help by sponsoring one or more of the 88 keys for \$10, or giving your sweetie a major scale for \$80, a chromatic octave for \$130, or even a glissando for \$150. (Or feel free to create your own chord with whatever combination of keys strikes your fancy.) Santa’s elves can put a check in the offering basket (marked “keyboard”) or drop it in the mail to Treasurer Bruce Bolme. Santa, our musicians, and the Worship and Music committees thank you for your help!

Couch Needed:

We are looking to revamp our “baby room” upstairs in the grange and would like to furnish it with a donated couch still in good shape. If you have a couch, please contact Alicia B.

Religious Education Holiday Cheer:

Are you looking for a way to bring holiday cheer to the MCUUF's RE program? Try donating a Barefoot Book off of our programs wish list, which can be found on the cork board near the RE tables. Barefoot books are an amazing compilation of stories that “fuel imagination with whimsical tales and classic anthologies.” If you would like to donate to this book giving, choose a story off the list and contact either Alicia B. or Tamara.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Big thanks to Bonnie, Debbie, Bruce, Robbie, the Castleses, the Carlson-Smiths and the Blackburn-Dillons for donating to Gorge Grown. **MCUUF** will be proudly displayed on the side of the new Gorge Grown van. Look for it!

MCUUF NEWS

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

MCUUF HAPPENINGS

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

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