

Services are held at **10:30 am** at 61980 Skyline Ranch Road, Bend 97703

UUFCO: 541-385-3908 • [www.uufco.org](http://www.uufco.org)

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# UUNews May 2016

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**May 2016 Services**



Theme: *TRADITION*

## **May 1 at 10:30am: Lessons from our Children**

**Guest Speaker: Martha Lussenhop & Ayla Halberstadt, Director of RE**

UUFCO's Director of Religious Exploration, Ayla Halberstadt, will present Sophia Lyon Fahs as one of the most influential people in Unitarian Universalist Religious Education. We'll explore the impact Sophia Fahs had on children and the impact the UUFCO children have on us. This is will be an intergenerational service, no RE classes will meet, but childcare is available.

## **May 8 at 10:30am: Mother's Day - The Test of Love**

Mother's Day is a fairly modern tradition as traditions go. Its creation struck a cord and it has stuck as a testament to ups and downs of maternal love. At the same time, parenting has changed in the century since its creation. What do such changes mean for celebrations like Mother's Day?

## **May 15 at 10:30am: Traditions That Hold and Ties That Bind**

Traditions can give depth and continuity from generation to generation. They also can be stifling of creativity, renewal or innovation - and very hard to break out of to find something new. What's a pattern and what's a tradition and how do we know "when to hold'em and when to fold'em"?

## **May 22 at 10:30am: The Soul of Living in Deep Time**

**Guest Speaker: Caryl Ann Casbon**

Time, like air or light, is difficult to write about, or even imagine, yet in so many ways, it dictates our lives. An invisible force, we measure it, organize it, clock it, fill it, waste it, lose it, fear it, and interrupt it. I have heard people say that if you look at your checkbook, you can determine what you value. I would argue that if you look at your calendar, you will gain great insight into your priorities, your days, and how you are spending your life. On this Sunday, we will explore our relationship time, and its many spiritual implications.

## **May 29 at 10:30am: Faithful Traditions of Forgiveness**

Religion's role in a society is to make meaning of our spiritual and emotional experiences. We'll explore forgiveness as an important part of Christian faith and meaningfulness, and take a look at some other faith traditions, too.

# The Reverend's Reflections



It has been a tumultuous couple of years for the congregation and for me, as well. And it has been exciting to help UUFCO begin functioning as a larger congregation, surpassing normal expectations of growth. We have accomplished a huge amount this past year. There is a great deal to feel proud of as more foundations are put into place, like the mission statement we're taking on. Few people get to experience this kind of change and growth, and some of you will be experts able to help others in years to come.

On the other hand, the fast pace of change has caused stress, miscommunications, misunderstandings and missed opportunities for collaboration. I take responsibility for my part in these. I do believe that everyone has had the best interests of the congregation at heart, and also, that we haven't had the capacity to deal with the new kinds of problems that arise when you are suddenly a new size of congregation.

In recent months, I found myself at the center of controversy. My contract with the Board offered us 3 choices at this midpoint. Even at the best of times, this is perhaps the most difficult kind of choice to make and congregations usually take many months to explore and understand the nuances of their shared ministry with their minister. We didn't have this time and thus not this process of working mutually towards a decision. Without that kind of background, the contract decision became problematic. As the Minister, it is my responsibility to make it right insofar as I can. And so, I am removing this problem by deciding my path: I will leave at the end of my contract in summer of 2017.

It is a hard decision but one I'm at peace with, and I continue to have great joy in serving you. This ministry has challenged me and changed me. This past year has been very much about learning practical things like where the light switches are, and how to serve coffee, and what kind of staffing works. The work we have ahead will help develop a deeper understanding of how to relate to one another in this larger group. We'll have at least two consultants, including Rev. Carol McKinley, to help hone our skills around working and communicating together. The Board, Shared Ministries, Leadership Development committees and I, have agreed to support one another through this work. I am pleased to be activating the Program Council, partnering with the Leadership Development Committee, and deepening my work with the Shared Ministries Committee. Additional support will come from one-on-one work with a personal consultant.

So yes, I'm sad that this ministry will end sooner than later, but I am excited about the time and work ahead. I look forward to this time next year with the dream that we all feel gratified for how we have grown together and that you will be anticipating your new minister with open eyes and joyful hearts. And I will ride off into the ministerial sunset, with abiding love and respect for you all. That is my wish, my hope. May it be so.

# The President's Perspective



After the congregational letter you received announcing Rev. Antonia's decision to complete her three year Developmental Ministry, and the Congregational Forum on April 24<sup>th</sup>, I thank you for all expressing your individual thoughts. There was a mix of surprise, sadness, anger, and excitement around the search for a Settled Minister. There were also concerns for the unity of the congregation. Although I am sitting with a tender heart, I realize that there is such integrity among us.

We all care so much about our beloved community and I see a strong congregation in our future. For so many of us, UUFCHO is our spiritual home. When there are doubts about decisions, uncertainties, or strong differences of opinion, we begin to feel separate and divided, instead of feeling together and united. As the voices were lifted up during our Forum, I felt everyone's strong desire for what was best for our faith community -- even though we had differing viewpoints about how that should happen.

The metaphor for the Forum that appeared to me was a large, old, sheltering weeping willow tree heavy with branches gracefully bowing toward the ground. Whether or not we were accepting of Rev. Antonia's decision to conclude her developmental ministry in August of 2017, or whether we wanted her to stay, I felt that we were all united under this "shelter of sorrow" on Sunday. There was a mixed energy due to our strong and varied opinions. When individuals in our Fellowship are suffering, we all suffer. We do not want to see our friends, our fellow worshippers, and our community struggle. Through it all, I also believe that the difficulties and differences, when honored and worked on, will lead to healing and a deeper connection with one another.

During the Forum, I spoke of the importance of a faith community being a shelter, a place where we feel safe and cared for, a place where when we come together we can be understood and express our thoughts even if they challenge other ideas. We accomplished this on Sunday, and it is a first step to acknowledging our differences and emotions.

I also heard that there are some concrete steps the Board could take to be more open and transparent. We will continue to post our minutes on the website and begin having a printed copy available on the bulletin board. Our meetings are open, and if someone wants some time to speak at a meeting, please let me know so I can put you on the agenda. Our next **Board meeting is May 5 from 6:00 – 8:30**. The main topic for the May Board meeting is preparations for our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 22. The Annual Meeting will include next year's budget, our nominations for Board members, a briefing on our search process by Amy Rowland, our Ministerial Transitions Team leader, and steps we are taking to create a Healthy Congregations Team. In May we will also be talking about next steps to supporting a healing process for our congregation.

My weeping willow metaphor helps me understand that we are together in our sorrow at this time. It is still fresh and raw. Yet there is a strong trunk of commitment that is holding up our tree. Our congregation is growing and having many new experiences that are both positive and challenging. Stay connected with each other, keep communicating, and let us work at healing together for our future.

# Congregational Life Facilitator

Chela Sloper

## How Do We Cultivate *Community*?



Over the past several years I think it's funny how the word "community" has come to mean any collection of people, scattered or near, who share a common interest or activity. The "knitting community", for example, can be comprised of anyone who knits – including knitters in Alaska, New Zealand, Chile or Poland or anywhere in the world, whether they ever meet each other or not. But our own UU Knitters who meet twice a month share time with each other, knitting knowledge, and personal stories. That's building a little knitting community!

What kind of community are we cultivating here at UUFCO? Are we a scattered group of UUFCO wild birds who flock together on Sunday mornings and then return to our own nests? Or, to mix my metaphors, are we a tapestry spread across a large loom, each of us a thread of a different color, thickness, texture and strength, woven together through our various connections?

At one of the Season of Nonviolence presentations at COCC this past fall, John A. Powell said that the crisis of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is **connection**. How are we doing at UUFCO in providing meaningful, nourishing, and invigorating ways to *connect* with one another? How are we doing at including and welcoming everyone who comes through our doors, affirming what they bring to this congregation's tapestry?

As a sometime introvert, I can say that being in a large gathering of people can be overwhelming. And as someone who has experienced some painful seasons in my life, there have been times when all I could muster was to show up, sit in silence, maybe cry a little, maybe take a quick hug or the touch of a hand, and then go. So I imagine that there are those among us who, for now, are doing their best in showing up, and receiving what they can. They're also part of the weaving.

Talking with Pam Wilson lately (coordinator of our monthly Circle Suppers), we've reflected how the Circle Suppers are a friendly gateway into our community. When I began working for UUFCO in 2010 I attended two very friendly, large-scale Circle Suppers in the first few months. It was a great way to meet so many members and friends of the congregation. Lately I've both hosted and attended smaller Circle Suppers, where we've been able to enjoy conversations that go deeper than "what meets the eye". They're fun and interesting, and since we all need to eat, why not try it? "But who else will be there? What will we talk about?" Why not just come and find out?

How can we keep the shuttle going back and forth across the loom – sometimes giving, sometimes receiving – so that the tapestry of our community is made strong? Spending time with one another over a meal, asking a question or telling of a personal experience all help to bring the threads closer together. As Circle Suppers become a little more popular, we'll need more hosts to volunteer their home – and then the guests bring the food! Hosting and guesting, giving and receiving. Sounds like a good plan!

# Director of RE

**Ayla Halberstadt**



Spring is officially here! This is the time of year I reflect on how this church year has gone. For me, the church year is like the school year because the Religious Exploration program runs a similar structured curriculum September through May. In the summer months, we go outside to deep our relationship with nature and our community through art, song, and games.

It has been a fun and busy year! We took leaps of faith together in the RE program: we moved to three classrooms, offered Our Whole Lives for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and held our first annual RE sleepover. Most importantly, we made memories together as a faith community.

Over the past few weeks, it has been heartwarming to see more connection between the adults and children during coffee hour. At times, I know the children or youth may seem preoccupied while talking to you – perhaps even bouncy or jittery. Please know that they express to me how cool it was that someone knew who they were, or took the time to talk to them. Thank you for helping our youngest community members feel welcomed and appreciated. The best way to grow lifelong church-goers, is for them to feel wanted and accepted by a community.

I look forward to helping nurture our children and youth together with UUFCO!

## Events & Announcements

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### **Project GRACE *ACTION* Workshop**

**Sunday, May 15, Noon to 2:30  
Linus Pauling Hall**



It is time for ACTION! Please join Project GRACE (Giving Respect And Choosing Equality) for our ACTION Workshop which is the culmination of our fall NUUrishment Night programs and winter/spring Lea(r)ning to Action series examining the problem of escalating inequality of income, wealth and opportunity in the U.S.

Read more about this important UUFCA initiative [here](#).

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### **NUUrishment Nights Potluck**

**Wednesday, May 4 at 5:30pm**

All are invited to a monthly potluck dinner every first Wednesday until June 1st. Newcomers are especially welcomed as an opportunity to meet new people and share interests and questions. Please come and join us - no RSVP required.

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### **UUFCA Social Justice Co-Sponsors**

**Monarchs, Milkweed -- AND YOU!**

**Thursday, May 12 at 6:30pm  
Pete Seeger Gathering Hall**

Monarchs are the most well known butterflies in the world, however their populations are at risk of extinction. The Monarch Advocates of Central Oregon would like to see more iconic Monarch butterflies in Central Oregon and invite you to come learn about the Monarch's incredible migrations and find out how you can support them through habitat restoration, citizen science projects, and more!



Please RSVP [here](#) or call UUFCA at 541-385-3908

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## Annual Meeting

**Sunday, May 22 at 11:45 - 12:45  
Sanctuary**

Business to be covered:

- Slate of Board nominees vote
- Search process briefing
- FY2016-17 budget vote

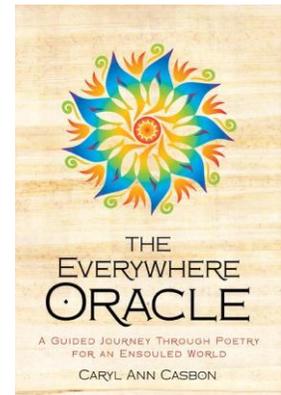
A light lunch will be served and childcare will be available.

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### **Worship Committee Welcomes Guest Speaker, Caryl Ann Casbon**

**Sunday, May 22 at 10:30am**

Caryl Ann Casbon is an ordained interfaith minister, writer, and speaker who works through the Center for Courage & Renewal, creating circles of trust programs nationally and internationally. Caryl also serves as the Leadership / Curriculum Director with the Sacred Art of Living Center for the Anamcara Project and the Sacred Art of Dying programs, international and interfaith educational programs that address spiritual suffering and transformation at the end of life. She lives in the high desert of the Cascades range in Bend, Oregon.



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### **Annual Pledge Drive**

As we complete the pledge campaign we are still below our goal of \$300,000. There are significant numbers of members who have not yet pledged. Please take the time to fill out your pledge card and drop it in the Kiosk. Our goal is to reach \$300,000 -- it can be done if everyone contributes. It is not the amount you give that is the primary objective but your participation at whatever level you are able to afford.



Thank you for your continued support.

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## Women's Spirit Circle

**Tuesday, May 24 at 12:00pm  
Fanny Farmer Kitchen**

All women are invited to our monthly Women's Spirit Circle meeting. May's theme is: ***Understanding with your Heart.***

When we understand with our heart, we see that others may have "reasons" behind their behaviors. We can care for them as people like ourselves -- people who are struggling to learn from life.

Bring something to share in our potluck lunch and then enjoy some thoughtful and lively conversation around this topic. We begin at noon in the Fannie Farmer kitchen.

Please RSVP to [Noreen Halberstadt](#)



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## All Congregation Picnic ***Save the date!***

**Sunday, June 26 at 12:00pm to 3:00pm**

It's not too early to start planning for our annual all-congregation picnic at Shevlin Park. Will late June be too hot, too cold, or just right? We'll have to wait and see.

I'll need some help with set up and take down, planning for fun and challenging games, music, and root beer floats. Oh, and the Second Annual UUFCO Potato Salad Contest! One thing about Unitarian Universalists: we love to have a great time. We can come to service that day dressed for the picnic and make a mass exodus to the Park right after. We can even practice car-pooling that day.

If you'd like to help with planning and making this a great event, contact me, [Ross Hart](#).

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**Bethlehem Inn Dinners  
Serving Your Community**

**Thursday, May 26**

***Make a difference and volunteer!***

You can prepare turkey meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, cupcakes or 1% milk ... or be a server! No experience necessary.

Sign up using [this link](#), at the Sunday sign-up table, or by emailing [Leslie Koc](#).



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**Annual UUFCO Auction**

This year's Annual Service Auction FUNdRaiser is **HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED** to **Saturday, September 17**. This is one of our most important fundraisers, and is always a BIG AFFAIR AND A TON OF **FUN** so save the date!

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**Defibrillator Training**

Have you been trained and/or have experience in how to use a defibrillator? There is a defibrillator ready to be used and we need to know who might be available to use it in case of an emergency. Please contact [Don Hartsough](#) if you can help with training.



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***Coming Soon!***  
**New Name Tag Cabinet**

The Design Committee has been working on a new, permanent home for our name tags.

It will be made by our wood furniture specialist, Will Nash, and will be installed on the wall between the furniture storage room and the hallway. We hope to have it in place before the end of the month.

Instead of hanging from the clips, there will be grooves into which the name tags will be placed. In order to be able to see everyone's name, we'll be making new name tags with the first name prominent, and both names placed higher on the badge for greater visibility.

The cabinet is designed to be flexible and accommodate changing preferences and expanding numbers in years to come. It will have pegs for those who prefer to wear their

name tag on a lanyard. Feel free to bring a lanyard that you like - e.g., made of ribbon or beads, if you would rather not have the tag clipped to your clothing.

It's likely that there are name tags for visitors who haven't returned for some time. So in the first few weeks, we hope you will take your name tag from the green screen, and then place it in its "new home". Then we'll be able to see which tags have been left over. Many thanks to Rachel Baker who made the arrangements several years ago to get the green screens made! They have served us well for many years.

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## Requested Donations

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Juniper Elementary is looking for your old clocks, watches, small kitchen appliances and similar items for their "Take Apart Club". Kids can explore how things work by taking apart your donated mechanical items. There is a drop box in the coat closet.

*Also...*

If you have meditation cushions or benches that you are not using, consider donating them to UUFCCO. Your generosity can support meditation practice for others. You can bring the supplies to the office., If you have any questions please email [Wendy Howard](#) or call 541-598-4794.

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## Q&A from our UUFCCO Community

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**Question:** Can I attend the Board meetings?

**Answer:** Yes! The next Board meeting is **May 5 from 6:00pm - 8:30pm**. There is a check-in at 6:00 and the official meeting begins around 6:30. Agendas are sent out by the Monday or Tuesday before the meeting. The main topic for the May meeting is preparations for our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 22. If you would like to speak, please email [Wendy Howard](#) so she can add you to the agenda.



We welcome your ideas! Send them to [communications@uufco.org](mailto:communications@uufco.org) or jot a note and place it in the dropbox at the kiosk.

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## Adult RE Offerings in May

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### **NUUishment Nights**

POTLUCK: The first Wednesday of every month begins with a potluck - everyone's invited (even if you don't stay for the class)! Just bring something that's healthy and easy that you'd like to share with others.

### **History of UUism DVD and Discussion**

Wednesday May 25 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Evolution: Part V follows both Unitarianism and Universalism through the late 19th and early 20th centuries as they evolve from Christian Bible-oriented religions to our present day, non-creedal movement. It discusses influences as diverse as the Civil War, Feminism and Suffrage, Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, and the Social Gospel.

### **Yoga and Relaxation**

Wednesdays from 9:30am to 10:30am

Daisy Layman is a teacher with our Yoga team. She has been practicing hatha yoga and meditation for over 15 years. She received her teaching certification from the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, Massachusetts. Daisy believes in yoga as a practice that encompasses the body, mind, and spirit. Asanas are a starting point from which one learns body awareness and how to be present in the moment, eventually enabling the practitioner to enter meditative states and achieve greater spiritual awakening. While physical alignment is important, it is more important to apply yoga, "off the mat," to one's daily life. Her yoga classes focus on alignment using a variety of props, combined with an experiential and exploratory approach. Come join Daisy in yoga on Wednesdays for May and June

### **Dances of Universal Peace**

Sunday, May 8 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm in Linus Pauling Hall. The Dances celebrate the spectrum of religious and spiritual traditions through music, sacred phrase, unison movements, and presence. Chela Sloper, leading. All are welcome!

### **ONGOING IN MARCH**

#### **Chinese Essence Qigong**

Tuesday mornings: from 9:30 - 11:00 am

Join Steven Foster-Wexler in this series of gentle exercises that increase one's vital energy while simultaneously harmonizing this energy within the body and between the organs. Please contact Steven Foster-Wexler to register.

## **Sunday Morning Meditation**

Chandra Smith invites you to a weekly Sunday morning meditation before worship in the Founders Fireside at 9:00am. A brief reading begins the time together, followed by a short discussion after our 30 minute silent meditation. Questions? Email [Chandra](mailto:Chandra).

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## **Good Times Activities in May**

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### **Song Circle**

Meets the second Sunday of the month at 2:00pm in the Pete Seeger gathering space. Bring your instruments and a copy of Rise Up Singing if you have it. We sing from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. Contact Nancy Stevens 541-388-0500.

### **Writing Group**

Meets upstairs at Dudley's Book Store from 12:00pm to 2:00pm on May 11 and May 25. Contact: Shera Felde at [lovelydayshera@gmail.com](mailto:lovelydayshera@gmail.com).

### **Card Night**

Jim and Becky Dobrowski's on May 21 at 6:30.  
Contact: [Jim.dobrowski@gmail.com](mailto:Jim.dobrowski@gmail.com)

### **Movie Night**

Michael Moore's film, "Where to Invade Next" is scheduled for May 20 at 6:30pm in Linus Pauling Hall. Read more [here](#) or contact Pam & John Horwich for information, [jphorwich@gmail.com](mailto:jphorwich@gmail.com).

### **UU Knitters**

UU knitters are taking a summer break. See you in the fall!

### ***New!* Paddling Group**

Come cruise the local waters led by experienced UUFCO kayakers and canoeists. All abilities welcome - boats can be provided if needed. Trips start in early May. Contact Duncan Brown [duncan.brown.97702@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.brown.97702@gmail.com).

### **Hiking Group**

May 12: Tam-a-lau with Becky Boyer leading.  
May 19: Suttle Lake with Mayme and Bill Trumble leading  
May 26: Shevlin Park with Sy Migdal leading

Contact Karen Maier [photos.timestop@gmail.com](mailto:photos.timestop@gmail.com) to be added to the email list or if you have questions.

## Circle Supper

Scheduled for May 20. Sign up at the kiosk in the Gathering Hall. Contact Pam Wilson for more information, [psw369@yahoo.com](mailto:psw369@yahoo.com).

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## Happy Birthday to....YOU!

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Ellen Atkin	Rachel Baker	Christine Boyer
Wilma Campbell	Becky Dobrowski	Jennifer Egan
Jim Henson	Cynthia Homan	Judy Paulsmeyer
Dick Pond	Debbie Schmerber	Maxine Van Slyke
Tom Wykes	Jim Willson	Denise Maimone
Owen Mitz	Hollis Evey	Joel Greenfield
Steven Foster-Wexler	Mary Meloy	

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## Joys and Sorrows

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These bits of news from our members and friends were first shared at a Sunday morning service, and, with permission, shared more broadly here.

"My prayers have been answered! Thanks to Aldine and Bob Thornton, I have an indefinite place to live."

*Chandra*

"A friend of ours died recently. Charlotte Wharton, who we have known for over 60 years, from Don's graduate school days."

*Don & Dalyte Hartsough*

"I'm pregnant!"

*Sonia Carlson*

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## Committee Updates

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### Chalice Lighters



Jim and I are back, and it's exciting to continue seeing so many new faces as well as our UUFCO friends. New faces, new names, new volunteers REMIND me that MANY of you haven't heard of a very special Pacific NW Unitarian/Universalist Program: Chalice Lighters.

Chalice Lighters is a nearly automatic way to help out UU congregations in this region who need a helping hand, just as UUFCO requested when our new Children's Playground was planned. Did you know that contributions from Chalice Lighters helped fund this special area for our children?

So, I'm thinking, why not add your name to this unique program and pass on our generosity to other congregations? Chalice Lighters throughout the NW commit to contributing at least \$15 three times a year to the program that directly benefit congregations who are awarded funds through a grant process.

This Spring's "Call" will assist two congregations:

1. The UU Congregation of **Salem, OR**. A major upgrade to their sanctuary sound system is needed to solve acoustical problems that detract from their worship time. An \$18,059 request.
2. The **West Hills UU Fellowship in Portland** desires to upgrade their kitchen to a commercial-level. A \$7,000 grant request.

We certainly experience a wonderful sound system in our new building, and what about our Fanny Farmer kitchen?!! Please consider this invitation to become a Chalice Lighter.

NOTE: Because this past year only 2 calls were made rather than three, this call is for TWO grant requests. If you are able, please send \$30 so both congregations can have their needs funded.

For those 64 current UUFCO Chalice Lighters, please use this link to submit your Spring donation: <http://pnwd.org/connetions/calicelighters.aspx> Thank you if you've been an early bird and already contributed. Your timely attention is much appreciated. You'll see a "Donate" button for easy contributing. Or, mail it in right soon to: UUA Pacific Northwest District, 12700 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St, Suite E-101, Bellevue, WA 98005-4317. David Cauffman, 360-579-4053, is the PNWD Chalice Lighter program coordinator.

You may also use this information to join the rest of your UUFCO friends who are current Chalice Lighters and become a Chalice Lighter by submitting your first contribution. You'll feel great having done so.

FYI: The Winter Call for the Olympic UU Fellowship for visibility and access improvements successfully raised \$15,855. Results from individual donors DO work when gathered together in faithful giving.

***Annis Henson, Chalice Lighter Ambassador***

Questions? 541-389-3314 or, [arhenson.henson@gmail.com](mailto:arhenson.henson@gmail.com)

# Membership

Nancy Stevens



Happy spring to all! A quick reminder that the dates of the new member orientations are **May 4th and 11th**. They will be held from 7 to 9 PM. These classes were originally scheduled for Sunday April 24 and May 1, but other congregational gatherings have taken precedence for those dates.

You are welcome to attend even if you are not certain you'd like to become a member at this time. Perhaps the classes will provide answers to your questions, or assist you in your own discernment process.

**May 4 - New 2 UU:** The focus will be on getting acquainted with each other, the Membership Committee, our minister, Rev. Antonia Won, and the history of Unitarian Universalism.

**May 11 - UUFCO 101:** We will focus on our congregation: our leaders, our governance, the range of Religious Exploration for lifelong learning, ways to get involved in the life of the congregation, and a word about financial support for the congregation. We also will have time for Q&A, so please jot down your questions!

**News from Nancy:** I will be resigning as Chair of the membership team in June 2016. I have served on this committee since September 2012. When I began co-chairing with Jerri Jones, there were about 75 members. Through the efforts of the team in the past four years, we are now at 197 members. Mayme Trumble, who is a terrific organizer, and Marty Rudolf, who is one of our newer enthusiastic members, will continue to serve on this team. Chela Sloper, our Congregational Life Facilitator will also serve on the team. Two new members will be joining Jennifer Seitz and Janet Newcombe. Welcome Jennifer and Janet!

One last date to add to your calendar. We will be holding our final new member ceremony for this fiscal year June 5th. If you have signed the membership book during this year, or taken the orientation classes but haven't signed the book, we invite you to celebrate with us June 5th.

# The Shared Ministries Committee



As the Shared Ministries Committee reflects on the congregational work and dialogue that we have been part of in the past few months, this seems to be a good time to restate the role of our committee.

The Shared Ministries Committee supports the health, mission, and ministries of the congregation through feedback, assessment and appreciations; we are also committed to developing resources for effective congregational communication and conflict/resolution.

Below is a status report on three areas of work we have been involved in recent months: the ministerial assessment that was completed in April 2016; the mission renewal process that will culminate in a vote on our new mission statement at the annual meeting on May 22; and preparation for creating a Healthy Congregations Team that will support effective communication in our congregation.

## **Ministerial Assessment**

In November of 2015, the Board requested that the Shared Ministries Committee facilitate a mid-point ministerial assessment, as specified in Rev. Antonia Won's contract for FY2016. The assessment was designed as a resource for providing feedback about the impact of Rev. Antonia's ministry on the life and ministries of our congregation and as a positive resource for fine-tuning ministerial and congregational goals and direction for the next year and one-half. The board invited committee chairs, board members and staff to complete the assessment because they were most likely to have a depth of knowledge and experience with the multiple dimensions of Rev. Antonia's work. Thirty people completed the assessment.

The assessment report was prepared by the Shared Ministries Committee and shared with the Board and Rev. Antonia in early April. It was intended to be used as a positive resource for feedback and planning and for strengthening the work of all the ministries of the congregation in the next year and one-half. The assessment was not designed as a summative evaluation. It was not yet completed when the board made their initial decision about Rev. Antonia's contract term and the results were not a factor in the board's decision-making process. Although responses to individual assessment items were confidential and were shared only with Rev. Antonia and the board, a number of helpful suggestions for shared congregational work came out of the assessment. These were summarized in Appendix B of the report and have been shared with committee chairs. They are available to anyone who is interested. If you would like a copy, contact Marean at [marean.jordan@gmail.com](mailto:marean.jordan@gmail.com) or check at the kiosk.

## Mission Statement

The first draft of our new mission statement was developed by the Shared Ministries Committee by searching for the themes and spirit that emerged from the three mission renewal sessions-- Building Our Future Together. These were expressed in brief, overarching statement.

*The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon:*

*seeking, celebrating, and serving*

*the spirit of love*

*in our world.*

In March and April we shared the draft with eleven different groups—seven committees, the board, and three congregational groups including our children. Many people were enthusiastic, finding the statement memorable and inspiring. Based on rich and thoughtful conversations in those groups, we changed the phrase “the spirit of love” to the “spirit of love and justice” in the first draft. We also developed an alternative draft to reflect recurring suggestions from various groups. It is longer, is somewhat more explicit, and addresses some of the questions that were raised:

*The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon:*

*seeking meaning, celebrating life,*

*and serving the spirit of love and justice*

*in our world.*

Rev. Antonia gave an eloquent sermon on the structure, intent, and spirit of our new mission statement on April 24. Both versions are now displayed on the whiteboard in the Gathering Hall. You are invited to indicate your preference by putting a blue dot under the statement you prefer. The mission statement will be presented for a formal congregational vote at our annual meeting on May 22.

# Social Justice Committee

*"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result."*

— **Mahatma Gandhi**

## **Project GRACE ACTION Workshop**

**Sunday, May 15, 12:00pm to 2:30pm**

It is time for ACTION! Please join Project GRACE (Giving Respect And Choosing Equality) for our ACTION Workshop which is the culmination of our fall NUUrishment Night programs and winter/spring Lea(r)ning to Action series examining the problem of escalating inequality of income, wealth and opportunity in the U.S. Whether you have been attending our monthly sessions or not (but especially if you have!), we hope you will join with other UUFCO members and friends as we brainstorm ideas for individual, political and congregational actions to address the epidemic of inequality.

As many of you know, escalating inequality was selected as the 2014 – 2018 "study/action" issue by the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association—our denomination's national organization. We view this workshop as the critical transition point from study to action. Our objectives for this workshop are:

- a. to identify a manageable number of "action areas" which we will explore in depth over the next 4-5 months,
- b. to identify teams willing to assume responsibility for exploring each of the action areas we decide to consider, and
- c. to set expectations for the outcome of our work over the next 4-5 months.

The causes and the effects of inequality can seem overwhelming, and we can feel powerless. But, we *can* make a difference: through our attitudes, our empathy, the individual choices we make in our daily lives, the political decisions we make in exercising democracy, and in collective actions we choose to counter escalating inequality. On Sunday, May 15, we will gather for inspiration and to explore what we *can do*. Please add your voice to the conversation on Sunday May 15 from noon to 2:30 as we set much of UUFCOs action agenda for the future.

A light lunch will be provided; so please RSVP to [jphorwich@gmail.com](mailto:jphorwich@gmail.com) to help us with the planning.

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## **UUFCO MEMBER APPOINTED TO STATEWIDE UU SOCIAL JUSTICE BOARD**

UUFCO member and Project GRACE Chair John Horwich has been appointed to the Board of Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice, a statewide organization that educates and advocates for policies that promote respect, equity, compassion and global stewardship. OUUVfJ works to empower the 21 UU congregations and 3200 Unitarian Universalists in Oregon to exercise their prophetic voice for justice in partnership with other organizations with similar goals. Among his jobs on the Board, John will serve as the OUUVfJ liaison to the UU

congregations in Bend, Hood River and Corvallis. John looks forward in his new role to connecting UUFCO to other UU congregations across the state engaging in similar social justice work, so that we can leverage our efforts to become even more effective.

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## Movie Night!

**Friday, May 20, 6:00pm**  
**Linus Pauling Hall**

We'll gather at 6, movie begins at 6:30. Snacks to share are nice and a drink of your choice.

Come see the latest film from the infamous and "sadly funny" documentary film-maker, Michael Moore. Newly released to DVD format, ***Where to Invade Next.***

With a fascination about the military/industrial complex to begin the story, and in order to learn what the USA can learn from other nations, Michael Moore playfully "invades" them to see what they have to offer. In the style of a travelogue, he spends time in countries such as Finland, Italy, France, and Portugal where he experiences those countries' alternative methods of dealing with social and economic ills experienced in the U.S.

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## Greater Community Collections (GCC)



**CASA of Central Oregon**  
Providing a Voice for Local Children in Foster Care

In May, our GCC recipient is *CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates*. Court Appointed Special Advocates, or *CASA's*, provide a powerful voice for abused and neglected children. Today, more than 300 children live in foster care in Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties. In an overburdened system, these children risk slipping through the cracks and suffering from further abuse. *CASA* volunteers have the power to prevent this tragic reality. These dedicated, highly-trained community members serve as fact finders for the judge by researching the background of each assigned case. They speak for the child in the courtroom, representing the child's best interests, and work to move the child as quickly and effectively as possible through the system and into a safe, permanent home.

**April's GCC** was received on April 24th for Read It! Read It! The congregation's amazing generosity was expressed in the sum of **\$848.87**.

*"Generosity unlocks the fullness of life."*

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## Social Justice in Children's RE

The 3-8th grade RE class is holding a can and bottle drive for the Bright Side Animal Shelter and the Humane Society of Bend. Donations of empty cans and bottles can be placed in the bin located in the Sophia Fahs RE Commons. This is the classrooms first social justice project using the Harry Potter curriculum!

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