



UUUCP News

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse

December 2006

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December 3, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Singing the Journey

Speaker: Cheryl Weiss

Celebrant: Fred Toerne

Unitarian Universalist traditions are constantly evolving - as does the music we sing during services. The new hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey*, draws its selections from many different musical styles and customs found throughout the world. During this service, we will explore several of the new hymns and rounds that can be found in *STJ*. Come ready to lift your voices and make a truly "joyful noise"!

December 10, 9:30 & 11:00 am

The Humanist/Theist Debate

Speaker: Rev. Kayle Rice

Celebrants: JD Stevens

Some of us are humanists, some of us are theists and some of us are other "ists". A look at historical and current threads of humanism and theism in our UU congregations and how our own congregation can "welcome all to the table."

December 10, 10:30 am

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 10th between the 1st and 2nd service to approve the selection of 3 new board members: Karen Faunce, Tom Salsbury, and Tina Hilding.

December 17, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Winter Celebration of Lights

Speakers: Children & Youth Pageant Participants

Celebrant: Ginger George

Come celebrate the wonders of light with us this season of fading light and blustery days with our new annual pageant, *Winter Celebration of Lights*. Drawing from the traditions of Winter Solstice, Hanukkah and Christmas, we will present a uniquely UU vision of winter lights. From primordial fire, a candlelight miracle, and guiding starlight, each act of this play will warm your heart and feed your soul.

December 24, 11:00 am only

Santa Lucia, Queen of Lights

Speaker: Rev. Kayle Rice

Celebrant: Donald Stanziano

"Santa Lucia: Queen of Lights" On this "light" Christmas Eve morning we will connect the December festival of Santa Lucia with our own inner light. The children of the Religious Education program will be making and passing out buns after the sermon.

Christmas Eve Services

Rev. Kayle Rice

7:30 Family Service

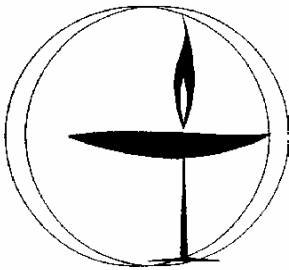
9:00 Carols and Reflective Service

December 31, 11:00 am only

Do Your Own Thing Sunday

Speakers: Members of the Congregation Celebrant: Jeanne Jacobson

Members of the congregation can engage in reading or reciting or singing, in talking or in meditation, indeed in just about any activity that most reflects who you are and what you enjoy. Come join us for this annual tradition of renewal for the new year.



From the Pastor on the Palouse

What's your favorite or most memorable holiday memory? Mine isn't necessarily heart-warming but it's funny as I look back on it. I

have two female cousins that were part of our yearly family gatherings when I was a child. Judy was a year older than I, and Jill a year younger. Our grandmother would invariably get Jill and me the exact same thing, and Judy received something different. I was always disappointed because I wanted to have the same thing the *older* cousin got, not the younger! Funny thing is Jill and I were best friends in college and graduated together.

Ah, gifts. They are a conundrum indeed. First the perfect gift...what does that mean? I read somewhere that the gifts we give to others are gifts that we'd really like to receive ourselves. My Mom and I have an understanding that if we don't like the gifts we give to one another, we can speak up so we can get an exchange. One year I gave her things that I just loved...and she really didn't. I got them back...and just thoroughly enjoyed them! Brian and I have never really surprised each other with gifts...what we do is go shopping together with a dollar limit and pick out things. Then we wrap them and pretend to be sur-

prised! And what do you do with the gifts you really, really don't like? Well, unless you have an understanding like my mother and I do, enthusiastically say "thank you!" and use it as a re-gift for a friend or relative (or donate to a thrift store) in a different state!

I suspect you are waiting for the punch-line of this column: "the real gifts are gifts of the spirit," or something like that. But no, I share with you a different sort of "gift"...the gift of a normal day. I love this prosaic prayer by Mary Jean Irons:

Normal Day, let me be aware of the treasure you are. Let me learn from you, love you, bless you before you depart. Let me not pass you by in quest of some rare and perfect tomorrow. Let me hold you while I may, for it may not always be so. One day I shall dig my nails into the earth, or bury my face in the pillow, or stretch myself taut, or raise my hands to the sky and want, more than all the world, your return.

During this holiday season, which tends to stretch us thin and render us frazzled, my wish for you is the gift of a normal day. These are the days we can truly treasure.

With great love and respect,

Kayle

Our Departing Officers

When you see them, please give a heartfelt "thanks" for the work of our departing members of the Board of Trustees who have faithfully served their term: Cathy Green (also outgoing president), Nancy Nelson and Roger Wallins. They have served during challenging times and we are grateful for their devotion to UUCP. We also thank Jack Keller for serving as treasurer; he is being replaced by Beth Miller.

New Member Sunday on January 28

Yes, that's a long ways off but if you've been considering membership, please mark your calendar to officially join us during the church service on Sunday, January 28, 2007. If you haven't done so already we highly encourage you to sit in on a UU Lite course on Sunday, December 3 or Sunday, January 7. You may also visit with Rev. Kayle about membership.

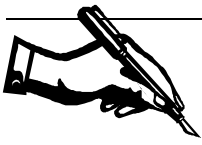
UU Lite is a two hour gathering to share about our UU journeys, learn about UU and UUCP history and the responsibilities and benefits of membership. All are welcome.

Vespers Will Begin Again—Friday, January 5, 2007

Once upon a time there was held at the UUCP a weekly Friday night 30 minute vesper service. It was a time of meditation, chanting and song. Then it died for a "lack of a second." Now we will try these weekly gatherings again. Come to the UUCP sanctuary on Friday, January 5 from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Begin a new year...and observe the end of your week...in meditative community. More information will be forthcoming in the January newsletter; feel free to direct questions to Revs. Kayle Rice or Fred Toerne.

Celebrating the Pagan Soul, Sunday Dec. 3, 6:30 pm, Yellow House

We had our wonderful first meeting at the end of October; participants were very enthusiastic about continuing and exploring. Possible upcoming events for the congregation will be a Winter Solstice service and a New Year's Eve drumming circle. More information on this will be conveyed after the December meeting. Please join us!!



From the President's Pen

December is a time of important religious, cultural, ethnic and spiritual holidays and celebrations, so I invite you to join me in reflecting on the holidays, their meaning, and what they might tell us about where we are in the life of the church.

First, a little web-based orientation to the “holy days” of this month:

December 16-23: Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. At everythingjewish.com, they explain the holiday this way: “By lighting the eight Hanukkah lights of the *menorah*, Jews everywhere recount the triumph of our ancestors against immorality, the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle that a one day supply of oil lasted eight days.”

December 22: Yule, or the Winter Solstice. “For pagans and other practitioners of earth-based spirituality,” according to solstice-and-equinox.com, “[t]he Winter Solstice marks a crucial part of the natural cycle. In a real sense, the sun begins anew its journey toward longer days, times of new growth and renewal of the world once again. In a spiritual sense, it is a reminder that in order for a new path to begin, the old one must end and that spring will come again.”

December 25: Christmas. At allthingschristmas.com, they say “the story of Christmas begins with the birth of a babe in Bethlehem.”

December 26 – January 1: Kwanzaa: “a holiday celebrated by millions of African-Americans around the world encouraging them to remember their African heritage and consider their current place in America today. The holiday involves seven principles called *Nguzo Saba*: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsi-

bility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).”

As I look across these holiday traditions, I see some common themes that are particularly meaningful to me as I end my service as president of the UUCP Board of Trustees: tradition; celebration; birth, renewal and rededication; and the importance of community.

This year, the coming holidays and associated traditions – the menorah, hanging the greens, Kwanzaa candles, Christmas carols – crystallizes my sense that I am in that middle place when “in order for a new path to begin, the old one must end.”

This is a time ripe for renewal and rededication in our congregation and for me personally. I am anxious to move on to new paths, integrating my love of music and my computer skills with new personal and professional goals. At the same time, our congregation will move forward, rededicating ourselves to the principles of our faith and the core values of this community. I send my best wishes on this journey to the new officers, who you will meet this month at the congregational meeting.

Thank you for the personal growth opportunities you have presented me during my time on the board and as your president. This has been an important part of the journey on my spiritual path, and I wish the same to you: a December and the coming year filled with your own celebrations; traditions; birth, renewal and rededication; and—always—community.

Happy holiday season!

Cathy Green

Online Sermon Publication

Our Sunday sermons have been excellent for years. We would like to make these sermons available whenever we wish to enjoy them again, and enable other people who are considering joining our church to read our previous Sundays' sermons.

If you serve as celebrant for a Sunday service, please include the following procedure as you work with the speaker preparing the service: Please ask the speaker a week or so before the service if she/he would be willing to have the sermon published on the UUCP website. If she/he is willing, please ask her/him to email you a copy of the sermon (as an Attachment) after the service, as she/he would like it to appear. This procedure will enable the speaker to make any revisions she/he wishes. You may wish to remind the speaker after the service to email you the copy as an attachment. You can then forward that email and attachment to Judy LaLonde (judyb@uidaho.edu), the Sunday Services Committee liaison to the church's website, so that Judy can post it on the UUCP Sermons Blog.

If you have already served as celebrant this church year, please try to contact the speaker from your service for the same procedure. You may also give your speaker our Blog address: <http://palouseuu.org/blog/sermon/>, so that she/he can look over the ones that are already posted. Thank you.

Hear the roar! Feel the mist!
See the mighty Falls! July 15-17, 2007

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls.

For information visit our web site:

<http://www.uunex.net/>

Email: info@uunex.net

Telephone: (716) 791-4453

UUs Sing!

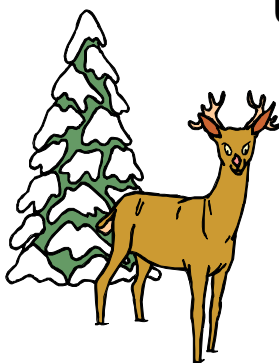
Ever been somewhere and wished that you knew a few UU hymns to sing? This past year I have heard members of our congregation say this several times. Now you have a chance to practice hymns that you can sing whenever the time is right - in the shower, at peace vigils, at memorial vigils, etc. I will be hosting a practice time the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (That is the 10th this month.) Everyone welcome.

Location: 514 S. Polk # 3 (3 blocks from the UUCP!).

Directions from the church: left (east) on 3rd Street, in one block turn right (south) on Polk. I am in the red apartment building on the left at the end of the block. Parking is on the street. Number 3 is the corner apartment with the yellow 'penguin crossing' sign. Call Melodie Rai at 883-2668 for more information.

UUCP SNOW RETREAT—A TRADITION SINCE 1977

January 12-14



Where? Fields Spring State Park: The park is 1 1/2 hour drive from Pullman or Moscow, south of Clarkston, about 4 miles beyond Anatone, WA on Highway 129. Watch carefully for the State Park sign on the right, and then turn left off the highway at the winter entrance to the park. We will be at the Puffer Butte Lodge. A map is available if needed.

Accommodations: Huge rustic lodge with fireplace, central heat, bathrooms, showers, well-equipped kitchen and mattress pads for sleeping on the floor. Also available: 4 separate cabins that sleep 10 people each.

Bring: Equipment for snow play (sleds, tubes, saucers, cross-country skis), things for indoor recreation (musical instruments, music, games, tapes, books, puzzles, handicrafts etc.), personal comfort items (sleeping bags, flashlight, pillow, toiletry items, towels, warm clothes, extra gloves and socks etc.). **Please, no dogs per park rules!**

Music: Bring your instruments and lyrics for group singing.

Games: Bring your favorite games and puzzles.

Arrival: Anytime after 3:00 PM on Friday January 12

Departure: We will all need to clean up the lodge and have it ready for the next group by 2:00 PM Sunday. However, we can stay and recreate in the park.

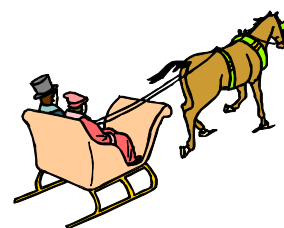
Registration: A sign-up sheet will be posted on the church bulletin board in the basement. Space is limited (80 maximum), so sign up early.

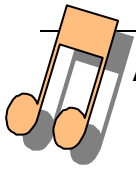
Cost: \$38.00 per adult, \$25 per child under 10, or a maximum of \$118.00 per family for two (2) days, meals and lodging.

Note: It is possible for a few people to come down to spend the day with us Saturday. Please let us know well in advance, so we can count on you for lunch, which will be \$7.00 per person.

Policies: A responsible adult must accompany all children and youth. Quiet hours (after 11:00 PM) must be observed by all (we try to strike a compromise), so we can all get our needed rest. Again, no dogs.

Questions: Contact Ken or Karen Faunce (883-7604).





A Note From Our Music Director

Greetings for the impending holiday season!

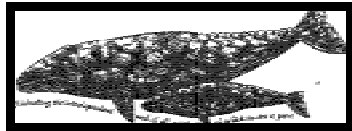
I hope you all had a wonderful, bountiful, and restful Thanksgiving holiday with friends and/or family. The semester is close to being over at the universities and, no doubt, many of you are looking forward to the Winter Break.

The first Sunday of December starts the month off with our *Singing the Journey* hymn sing. Many of you have become familiar with some of the hymnal supplement's musical gems, but during this special service, we will all delve deeper into its contents. I hope you will join us for this unique service, for which Fred Toerne will be the celebrant.

Christmas and New Years Eves both fall on Sundays this year. There will be one morning service on each of those Sundays at 11:00am, and two evening services on Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm. The choir will sing at both evening Christmas Eve services. Anyone who would like to join us in song for this special holiday only needs to come to choir practices for the December rehearsals. We meet from 7:00-8:00pm every Thursday.

May the peace and joy of this Holiday Season be with all of you.

Cheryl Weiss, Music Director



WUUrld's 2007 Whale Coast Alaska

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to eco-cultural programs in June right after the Portland General Assembly or in July, 2007. See the *REAL* Alaska!

With UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau and Sitka, UUs host parties and lead tours. We visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans, see wildlife from bears, moose and caribou to whales, sea otters and sea lions.

We visit Denali and three other National Parks. Led by Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, 12th year. See www.wuurld.org, e-mail alaska@wuurld.org, or phone 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure.

Reservation deadline: February 28.

Food First

A new UUCP tradition began in October. When the minister or celebrant invites the young children to come forward for the "story for all ages", the children are also invited to bring forward a nutritious, non-perishable food item to place in the basket at the front of the sanctuary. The food gathered is then divided among local food banks.

So far the UUCP has collected a total of 71 lbs of food— 31 lbs in October and 40 lbs in November. This is a significant amount of food for those in need, and a simple, concrete acknowledgment of our congregation's generosity and commitment to our "Faith in Action" across the life span.

Many thanks to all who have brought food to help those less fortunate, and please remember to continue to bring food items as you are able.



New Spot for UUs in South Florida!

Due to major renovations, the Southeast UU Winter Institute in Miami (SWIM) will actually be held in the historic West Palm Beach area.

SWIM's annual intergenerational retreat for UUs and like-minded people of all ages happens every year from December 26 through January 1. SWIM offers South Florida sunshine, outdoor adventures (including tours, hikes, paddling), workshops (including spirituality and personal growth), programs for families, singles, youth, teens, and young adults, fantastic food, and a new community of friends from across the continent.

Play, laugh, sing, and celebrate New Year's Eve at SWIM! Join UUs from all over North America for a week of fun in the sun! It's a beautiful time of year to be in South Florida. This year's theme: Sacred Space.

See more online at <http://www.swimuu.org>

SWIM is a member in good standing of CU2C2, the Council of Unitarian Universalist Camps & Conferences, an Independent Affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Calling All Committees

All committees of UUCP are invited, yea...highly encouraged...to participate in the upcoming UUCP Committee Fair on Sunday, Jan. 7 between services.

The purpose of this is to help members and friends become acquainted with our various committees. Newcomers to our congregation may be interested in finding ways to get involved.

Would your committee be a good fit? Then set up a card table in the church basement, get creative in showing off your committee and the ministry you do, and help those who seek to become involved. Questions? Contact Rev. Kayle.



Social Action Committee News

The Social Action Committee met for a wonderful meeting and-potluck on November 14, 2006. We discussed a lot of wonderful ideas in the works. One new idea is working with the University student groups on raising awareness and addressing needs relating to hunger in our community. Ellen Thiem reported that there are a number of campus groups focusing attention on the hunger issue, and they would love to involve our church and other community groups in their work. Speak to Ellen Thiem if you would like to get more involved.

Speaking of hunger, we are continuing to collect food for those in need in our area. Thanks to all those who have given and those

who will continue to give, through the holidays and beyond. The Social Action committee is also working with the Climate Change group to host a series of Adult RE sessions on climate change and sustainability issues. Our congregation is incredibly fortunate to have scientists and others who are knowledgeable and passionate about these issues, and we hope to have our resident experts lead several sessions in February and March, 2007 for those of us who would like to know more and do more. If you would like to get involved in planning, please contact Mary Jo Hamilton.

Another cause we'd like to promote in 2007 is the missionary

work of Dr. Jill Seamon. Jill grew up in our church, as was recently heralded as a leading missionary in Time Magazine. Reverend Kayle will lead efforts to raise our community's awareness of Jill and her selfless work in Sudan, and also to raise money to support her medical mission. Finally, late next Spring we'll be participating in a CommU-nity walk – check out Jill Maxwell's article for more details.

Our next meeting will be a potluck on December 7, 2006 at 6:00 in the Church Basement (meeting to start at 7:00). Please come get involved!



Pledge Drive Update

At the time of this writing (the newsletter deadline, November 20), I am sorry to report that we are only at 77% of our goal - \$109,380 pledged, with a goal of \$140,000. This is very depressing to us. We think by now everyone is aware of the plethora of programs our church offers for people of all ages, and we all know that having a warm, clean, safe building and efficient, friendly, capable staff costs money, and we appreciate the fine work the RE program does for our youth. Yet only 58% of the pledge units have actually pledged. Do you think it is true that 42% of the congregation no longer cares? Is it a plot to send Ann and me to early graves, fretting about the pledge drive? We surely hope not! Anyway, the end of the pledge drive, November 30, is fast approaching, and the budget meeting to set next year's budget is looming on the horizon. Will we have enough money to fund all our wonderful programs? Where will the cuts come? Will they be in something near and dear to my heart?

If you are reading this and have not yet pledged, we think you know what you need to do, but we'll tell you anyway. Find that pledge card we sent you and get it filled in and mailed back immediately. If you lost it, more are available at the church. Better yet, call Laurie Gardes and make your pledge on the phone. She'll fill out the card for you. It may still not be too late. Bless all of you who pledged early and often. You are the mainstays of our church.

Your long-suffering pledge drive chairs, Ann Norton and Mary Jo Hamilton

PPC on KRFP

The Palouse Peace Coalition is in the planning stage of developing a two-hour weekly radio show on KRFP 92.5, Radio Free Moscow.

A number of UUCP members are volunteering to help with this effort. More help is welcome. The show will be a multifaceted look at all matters of peace and justice. See <http://www.palousepeace.org/> for contact information.

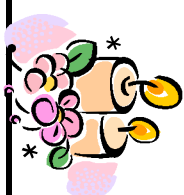
PPQ Annual Holiday Bazaar

PPQ presents its annual Holiday Bazaar, December 3 and 17, after each service in the church basement. A perfect place to pick up hostess gifts, things for those hard-to-buy-for people, and maybe even something for yourself.

A wide variety of handmade items, salsas and jams, pet toys, baby items and even some handcrafted liquors. Other vendors include Orchard Farms, Myradis Tearsong's bracelets, East Ocean jewelry, and pottery by Rebecca Rod.

Come and support your local quilters. All profits given to charities.

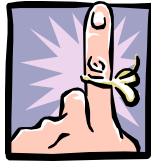
December 2006



YHM Yellow House, Main Floor
 YHB — Yellow House, Basement
 YH2 — Yellow House, Second Floor
 CS — Church Sanctuary
 CB — Church Basement

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2 9:30 am meet at UUCP for Christmas Tree cutting party 1:00-5:00 Parents Day Off drop in child care at UUCP
3 9:30 & 11:00 am Service 12:15 pm RE Committee Mtg, YHM 12:30 pm UU Lite, CS 6:30 pm Youth Group, YHB 6:30 pm Earth Based Spirituality, YHM PPO Holiday Bazaar, after both services	4 7:30 pm PPO, CB	5	6	7 12:00 Retirees Luncheon, University Inn Best Western 6:00 SAC Potluck & Mtg, CB 7:00 pm Choir, CS 7:00 Men's Group, YH2	8	9 Christmas for Kids—deadline to return wrapped packages to the church	
10 9:30 & 11:00 am Service 10:30 am Congregational Meeting 12:30 Newcomers' Luncheon, CB 1:00 pm UU's Sing, Melodie Rai's house 6:30 pm Youth Group, YHB 7:00 pm Bridge Group, CB	11 7:30 pm PPO, CB	12	13 UUCP wraps gifts for Christmas for Kids, Fairgrounds 7:30 pm Sunday Svcs Meeting, CB	14 7:00 pm Choir, CS 7:00 Men's Group, YH2	15	16 10:00 & 11:00 Holiday Pageant rehearsals	
17 9:30 & 11:00 am Service—Winter Celebration of Lights holiday pageant 6:30 pm Youth Group, YHB PPO Holiday Bazaar, after both services	18 7:30 pm PPO, CB	19 7:15 pm Board Meeting, YHM	20	21 7:00 pm Choir, CS 7:00 Men's Group, YH2	22 Winter Solstice Service, time TBA	23	
24 11:00 am Service 7:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm Carols & Contemplative Service 6:30 pm Youth Group, YHB Christmas Eve	25	26	27	28 7:00 pm Choir, CS 7:00 Men's Group, YH2	29	30	
31 11:00 am Service New Year's Eve Drum Gathering, CS, time TBA New Year's Eve							

Dates to Remember



Mondays:

PPQ, 7:30 pm, CB

Thursdays:

Choir, 7 pm, CS

Men's Group, 7:00 pm, YH2.

Contact John Pool at 883-8409 for info.

Sundays:

Youth Group, 6:30 pm, CB

Saturday December 2 *UUCP Christmas Tree Cutting* party, meet at the church at 9:30 am (p. 9)

Saturday December 2 *Parents' Day Off* drop in child-care at the church, 1:00-5:00 (p. 9)

Sunday December 3 & 17 *PPQ Holiday Bazaar*, during coffee hour & after the second service (p. 5)

Sunday December 3 *UU Lite*, 12:30, Sanctuary (p. 8)

Sunday December 3 *Earth Based Spirituality* group meeting, 6:30 pm, Yellow House (p. 2)

Thursday December 7 *SAC Potluck & Meeting*, 6:00, church basement (p. 6)

Thursday December 7 *Retirees Luncheon*, University Inn Best Western Appaloosa Room

Saturday December 9 *Christmas for Kids* deadline to have wrapped gifts returned to the church (p. 10)

Sunday December 10 *Congregational Meeting* between services to approve new Board Members (p. 1)

Sunday December 10 *Newcomers' Luncheon*, 12:30, CB

Sunday December 10 *UUs Sing*, 1:00 pm (p. 4)

Wednesday December 13 *Sunday Services Committee Meeting*, 7:30 pm, CB

Wednesday December 13 *Christmas for Kids* UUCP gift wrapping at the Fairgrounds (p. 10)

Saturday December 16 *Holiday Pageant rehearsals*, 10:00 & 11:00 at the church (p. 11)

Sunday December 17 *Winter Celebration of Lights* holiday pageant, 9:30 and 11:00 services (p. 11)

Tuesday December 19 *Board Meeting*, 7:15 pm, YHM

Friday December 22 *Winter Solstice Service*, time TBA, CS

Sunday December 31 *New Year's Eve Drumming Gathering*, time TBA, CS

UU Lite!

Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be a member at UUCP?

Then come to our First-Sunday UU Lite. We'll meet on Sunday, December 3 at 12:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Even if you think you don't want to join...just come and learn more about UUCP and Unitarian Universalism. We will host UU Lite on the first Sunday of each month.

New members will be received into our congregation at a special ceremony on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007. Questions? Contact Rev. Kayle.



December

Atticus Tracy
Shelby Gresch
Eleanore Faunce
Abby McMurtry



Birthdays

Zoe Johnson
Ryan Locke
Paul Cantrell

Holiday Office Hours

Rev. Kayle will be available on an as-needed basis during the week of December 25; there will no formal office hours during this time. Please feel free to contact Kayle at home at 883-3205 or minister@palouseuu.org.

Minister's office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

UUCP Staff Information

Rev. Kayle Rice, Minister

Home Study: 208-883-3205

Email: minister@palouseuu.org

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-3:00

Wednesday 1:00-6:00

Thursday 5:00-6:30 pm, Daily

Grind coffee shop on Main Street in Pullman

Ginger George,

Director of Religious Education

Phone: 208-882-4328

Email: uucp-dre@moscow.com

Office Hours:

Wednesday & Friday, 10:00-3:00

Summer Stevens

Administrative Secretary

Phone: 208-882-4328

Email: uuchurch@moscow.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:30-2:30

UU Retirees Luncheon

The retirees will meet for lunch in the Appaloosa Room at the Best Western at 12:00 noon on Thursday, **December 7.**

All are welcome!





Book Discussion Group

The Book Group is taking December off, due to the busy holiday season. We will resume in January. Here's hoping that you all get and give many interesting books for holiday gifts!

Upcoming books:

The Solitude of the Open Sea by Greg Smith
An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America by Henry Wiencek.
The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
Teacher Man by Frank McCourt
The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion
Empire Falls by Richard Russo
Our Endangered Values by Jimmy Carter
Our Mutual Friend by Charles Dickens
The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan

The UUCP book group is open to everyone who enjoys reading books and discussing them. To receive notices of meetings and reviews of books, email mhamilto@vetmed.wsu.edu or call 882-0443. If you would like a ride to the discussion, call or email Mary Jo Hamilton (882-0443; mhamilto@vetmed.wsu.edu).

UUCP Christmas Tree Cutting Party

This year Carol Casavant is donating the Christmas tree for the church. Carol is offering not only a lovely tree, but also hot cider and cookies, and a nice fire in the wood stove (if the weather is cold)!

The date is Saturday Dec. 2. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m., we will carpool to Carol's place the other side of Troy, near Spring Valley. Archie George will bring his van and utility trailer to bring the tree back to the church. We will be back at the church shortly after noon to set up the tree. Decoration of the tree will take place after the second service on Sunday.

Those wishing to cut a tree for their personal use are welcome to join in the festivities at Carol's place. If they want a tree for their homes, it isn't far to Big Bear campground, south of Helmer. There are trees available nearby on US Forest Service land. Those going for their personal trees need to obtain and bring a permit. Permits have been available at South Side Mini-Mart in Moscow in past years.

Walking on Common Ground

An all city community walk is currently being planned for Saturday April 28th. The central idea behind the walk is to acknowledge and emphasize the common humanity of all people. Organizers are hoping to get participation from a wide spectrum of groups, clubs, churches, and other organizations.

Participants will congregate in Friendship Square at noon, and walk shoulder to shoulder to East City Park. Anyone interested in helping with this project can send an e-mail to walkingoncommonground@hotmail.com.

Small Group Ministry

Questions to ponder...What was the road you didn't take and where might it have led you? What road did you take that made all the difference in your life? What is money to you? Is it freedom? The root of all evil? Energy? Something you need but wish you didn't? Something you don't need? How have you learned from failure? What is sin? What have you learned from fear?

These and other questions are the kinds of topics explored in our Small Group Ministry program. We currently have nine different groups meeting at various times and locations. If you'd like to find out more about Small Group Ministry at UUCP contact Laurie Gardes or Rev. Kayle Rice.

Parents' Day Off: Holiday Youth Group Childcare!

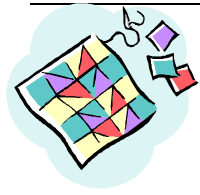
Need some time this holiday season to do some shopping, clean the house, or just relax?

The UUCP Youth Group is offering a Parent's Day Off on Saturday, December 2nd. From 1-5 pm, the teens will be offering their watchful eyes and exorbitant energy to watch your children in the church basement.

Drop in and out anytime and you can then do as you wish for a few hours. Pay is by donation, and all proceeds will go to funding our outstanding youth programming. Contact Ginger George for more information.

UU Photo Board

Have you noticed our UU photo board in the church basement? We want to display all our members and active friends on the red board! If your photo is not yet there, please contact Donna at 882-2830 to arrange a time for your photo to be taken. Or, if you already have a photo you'd like us to use, please give Ellen a call at 883-4594 so she can get it up on the board for you.



PPQ News

The PPQ is still basking in the nice comments and responses to our Quilt Sunday service. Our speakers, Nancy Nelson, Michael O'Neil and Marguerite Thoreson, spoke movingly on the meaning of quilting to them. Michelle Feeley did a fine job on her maiden voyage as celebrant. Heather and the members of Sympatica provided the perfect sort of music for our service. They did us proud. I think the display of quilts, over 30 this year, was the finest we have ever had. Thanks to everyone for allowing us to show your treasures.

Thanks especially to Quilter Extraordinaire Marta Robertson, who not only persuaded her children to send her some quilts to display, but also provided photographs of some of the many quilts she has made. She's a role model for us all.

We are still hand quilting on the raffle quilt and the T shirt quilt. The T shirt quilt is taking longer than anticipated because it is slow quilting on the T shirt fabric, but we are making progress. The raffle quilt is well over half quilted now. We'll have it ready for next year's farmer's market quilt ticket sales. However, we have been somewhat distracted by Christmas for Kids.

Christmas for Kids

It is that time of year when our church participates in the "Christmas for Kids". The trees are up and decorated with Christmas wishes from those less fortunate. If you haven't the time or inclination for shopping, donations are happily accepted and will be used to purchase those things that were not chosen. Please make checks out to UUCP with the memo line "Christmas for Kids". Please have the wrapped gift to the church by Dec. 9th.

Thank you for your participation.

Would you like to help Christmas for Kids? They will be wrapping gifts at the Fairgrounds each evening from December 11 through 14th and could really use assistance. If you would like to join a UUCP group of volunteer wrappers on the evening of December 13, 2006, please contact Peggy Jenkins at 882-5857.

Christmas for Kids is also looking for people to deliver gifts on December 9th and 16th. They especially need people willing to travel to Potlatch, Bovill, etc with 4-wheel drive vehicles. What a great way to spread holiday joy! Contact Jeanne Gayler (883-3401, gayler@moscow.com) for more information.

The PPQ is doing 5 children this year, and they want a lot of stuff. A couple of the girls are interested in sewing and crocheting, so we are having fun assembling a sewing basket and a handiwork bag for them.

Of course, the other thing occupying our time is preparation for our Holiday Bazaars, coming up the first and third Sundays in December. This is our big chance to make some money for all of our charitable causes. Our coffers will be very depleted after Christmas for Kids this year. We also need to pay our annual pledge to the church, \$365. We hope you will all come and shop for unique gift items, made right here on the Palouse by genuine Unitarians.

Of course, we want to be sure you all know you are invited to join us any Monday evening in the church basement at 7:30 PM. No skills necessary; we will teach you. Bring your personal project along and enjoy the camaraderie.

If you don't quilt, bring your knitting - we do a lot of that as well. We have been having a few new quilters this month, no doubt inspired by Quilt Sunday.

In the Family

Farewell to Ulrike Axen, Kelly Fitz and their daughters, who recently moved to Berkeley, California. We will miss them but wish them well in their new lives. If you wish to stay in touch, feel free to email them at: axen@turbonet.com or contact the church office for their new address.

Congratulations to Sandra Haarsager on her newborn granddaughter; to Bill Webb on his newborn grandson; to DeLyle Eastwood on her 74th birthday; and to Karen Jennings on her new great-niece.

Please hold in your thoughts Ami Scott's grandmother, who is having health problems, and Gail Adele's niece, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Please notify the Office, uuchurch@moscow.com or 882-4328, of any family news to be included in this section.

Movement Exploration

Be watching for a fun chance to use movement to explore concepts, share ideas, communicate, think in new ways. ***EVERYONE*** is welcome. You will be able to participate only as much as you want.

Holiday Greetings!

In this season of shorter days, longer nights and cold all around, I am reminded of the warmth our community gives. We give friendship and connection to each other, with thriving small group ministry, full Sunday services and bustling religious education. Our newly settled minister Rev. Kayle brings us soul warming sermons and supporting love. Through their holiday pageants and celebration our children give us joy, as we watch them grow and learn. Our youth provide a hug, a listening ear, and laughter to each other as they find their way in the world.

Through programs such as our giving tree we extend warmth to our larger community. I am always amazed at the thoughtful gifts we give each year to those we have never met. We reach even further

RE News



through programs like Guest at Your Table, giving to others around the world. Working for justice in places we most likely will never go.

This is why our community is so important. Although we are a small community, our warmth reaches those closest to us, and around the world. I see our children learning the importance of giving, not just material goods, but giving a helping hand, a thoughtful moment to

listen, a few coins at each meal. I find each Sunday that our children really get what this season is all about. So as the holidays become more busy and time more scarce, I will remember the warmth that I find with all of you.

In our Living Tradition,

Ginger George



Winter Celebration of Lights: Holiday Pageant Information

This year on **December 17th**, the religious education program will be offering a totally new Holiday Pageant, *Winter Celebration of Lights*. Drawing from the traditions of Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, and Christmas stories and celebrations, we will present a uniquely UU vision of winter lights. Children will have speaking and non-speaking parts available in a variety of roles. Contact Ginger George to sign up now!

I would like to have each service (9:30 and 11:00) have different children participating. This way families do not have to commit to both services and it allows for more children to have the role they would like. Yet, due to the uneven average attendance between the 9:30 and 11:00 services, there will be a limited number of roles at the 9:30 service. The roles will be first come first serve, and please be willing to have your child participate at the 11:00 service if the 9:30 is full.

Mark your calendars: Rehearsal is *Saturday December 16* at 10:00 am for the 9:30 service play, and 11:00 for the 11:00 service play, at the church.

Guest at Your Table has begun!

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is an independent human rights organization whose work is grounded in UU principles. Their work all over the world is made possible through programs like Guest at Your Table.

You will be provided with a box to be placed in a prominent place, such as your dining table. Every time you eat a meal, or look around and realize the abundance in your life, share the wealth, and put a little money in your box. This is also a great way to teach children about giving to others! If you don't already have one, pick up your box in the basement of the church. For more information, contact Ginger George at uucp-dre@moscow.com.

Who's Who, Religious Education Info:

Ginger George, Director of Religious Education:

Phone: 882-4238

Email: uucp-dre@moscow.com

Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday, 10am – 3 pm

Michael LeBeau, RE Assistant:

Email: lebe6398@yahoo.com

Al Poplawsky, RECommittee Chair

Email: dial@moscow.com

Some UUCP members are among those in the Moscow - Pullman area in-

terested in getting a Socrates Cafe group started, possibly as soon as January. We are considering the Jack-In-The-Box meeting room as a possible location for possibly twice a month meetings but have not made a final decision.

Here are some excerpts from www.philosopher.org explaining what a Socrates Cafe is:

"The Society for Philosophical Inquiry (SPI) is a grassroots nonprofit organization devoted to supporting philosophical inquirers of all ages and walks of life as they become more empathetic and autonomous thinkers who take active part in creating a more deliberative democracy. Its members strive to form and facilitate "democratic communities of philosophical inquiry". Their gatherings...

bring together people from a wide array of walks of life and experiences. ... We now have over 300 ongoing gatherings around the globe coordinated by hundreds of dedicated volunteers who are deeply committed to making ours a more participatory and inclusive world.

"We at SPI are devoted to spreading forms of inquiry that enable and inspire each participant, within a group setting, to become more autonomous and conscientious thinker and doer, a more expert questioner and listener. A paramount aim of ours is to inspire people who are curious, perplexed and filled with an insatiable sense of wonder, so they can dialogue for discovery. We also strive to enable those who share our deep concern about the state and straits of civility and civic-mindedness to dialogue for democracy. And we are here for those who subscribe to the Socratic ethos that the philosophically examined life can make for a richer existence.

"SPI co-founders ... are devoted to enabling, empowering and inspiring people -- particularly those at society's margins -- to articulate, explore, and further discover their singular philosophies of life, and to develop and contribute their unique talents and potentials. They believe that every person on this planet matters and counts.

"Now that you've found a ... suitable venue ...— and most importantly, now that you've made a long-term commitment to doing this, whether one person attends or a hundred — one burning question you likely have is: How do I facilitate a Socrates Cafe?

"What kind of question is appropriate? In a Socrates Cafe, just about any question can be grist for a meaningful dialogue. Or at least, virtually any question can be fine-tuned so it can be looked at in a philosophical way.

"How do we decide on a question for discussion? Ask the participants for questions. Encourage them to propose for Socratic discourse any question that is on their minds. Their questions don't at all have to be traditional ones. Read all the questions aloud to the participants, and then have two votes: The first time around, ask them to vote on any of the questions listed -- meaning they can vote more than once.

But ask them to vote only for those questions that leave them feeling the least

expert and the most curious and perplexed -- because we've found again and again that those questions that leave you feeling that the ground is shaking a little bit under your feet are those that are most worth interrogating Socratically (whereas, if you vote for a question in which you already think you know "the answer," it will be a very empty exercise). Then, vote a second time, on those two or three questions that were the top vote-getters during the first round.

This time, the participants can only vote once (the facilitator does not vote -- if there's a tie, flip a coin to decide the winning question). Chose that question which gets the most votes.

"How do I launch into a discussion on the chosen question? Remember, once this question is chosen, each participant has license to view this question however she wants. She should in no way feel obligated to see it in the same way as the person who proposed it in the first place. So, at the outset, let a few of the participants respond to the question in any way they please. This will enable participants (especially the one who proposed the question originally) to begin looking at this question through much broader imaginative and intellectual lenses than they otherwise might have.

"However, just when they think it's safe to assume that this is going to be a free-for-all confab without any underlying method, start probing the question in a Socratic way.... Then try to seek out compelling objections and alternative viewpoints.

"How do I deal with people who monopolize the conversation or who do not show respect for other participants? ... If one of the participants seems to dominate the discussion and often interrupts others, the facilitator needs to be assertive and make sure that others have their say as well. Also, make sure that all the people who want to participate have a chance to do so; look for body language or hand signals from people who want to speak.

"Is it okay to have only one facilitator? In the beginning, you may be the only facilitator. However, over time, you should look for other participants, especially those who are particularly careful and thoughtful listeners and questioners ... who would like to try their hand at facilitating and who clearly grasp the nature of this type of inquiry. Socrates Cafe is meant to be a refreshing alternative, where an egalitarian spirit allows many voices."

For more information, google "Socrates Cafe". I sometimes attended the Socrates Cafe gatherings in a coffee house when Kayle and I lived in Marquette, Michigan. It was where persons very different in their viewpoints, culture, religion, education, age, social or economic class, and other factors could dialogue together. Such dialogue is the foundation of democracy.

Brian Leekley

New Member Biographies

Phyllis Solomon Life is often a circle it seems. Phyllis graduated from high school in Spokane, moved to Moscow last August and has seen a great deal of the world in between. She and her sister, Shirley Ringo, who has lived in Moscow many years, came from a family that valued education. Her mother urged her to attend college and even took a job at Crescent Department Store in Spokane in order to help pay her way. She is extremely thankful for her strong foundation in education and has been a life-long learner ever since.

She earned a BA degree at WSU, a Masters in Education at Whitworth College and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Seattle University. She's lived in Santa Fe, Port Townsend, Edmunds and Longview. She spent twenty years in teaching and administration at Lower Columbia College in Vancouver Washington and for several years was Dean of Academic Programs there. During the years she's also taught high school business and worked as a grant writer and researcher for nonprofit organizations as a partner in Rogge and Solomon Grant Writers.

Now retired, travel is one of her passions. She's traveled in Europe, Greece, Russia, Africa, Chili and the Caribbean among other places. In the future she'd love to visit Cuba and New Zealand. She also loves to hike, play bridge and mahjong, and read. The best book she's read in the last year was *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

Her family includes two grandchildren who live in Castle Rock, Washington, her sister Shirley, brother-in-law John and a nephew and two nieces. She says she has no pets, unless you count pet rocks!

She has been a Unitarian since the late '60's when she "escaped" her more traditional family church and discovered a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in the Longview community. They met in various homes and discussed social issues and concerns. At one time she attended a UU church led by a man who was Buddhist which she enjoyed very much. She likes the open minded discussion, exploration and ongoing spiritual growth that is possible within the UU community.

Kayle Rice and Brian Leekley Kayle likes a broad view, from houses and philosophies. She and Brian moved to the Palouse in August, 2006 in order for her to accept the position of minister for the UUCP. They are now settled into a home with a beautiful view of the Palouse hills and downtown Moscow. They came by way of Michigan which is Kayle's home state, and she still has a younger brother and parents in

Kalamazoo. She has also lived in Florida, S. Dakota and spent several years in and out of Chicago.

Brian has two brothers, a sister and a half brother who live in California, Illinois and Washington State. He is now retired from his former business as a dealer in used and collectable books for over thirty years. He is now happy to have time to read and to write. His current project is writing an account of a volatile time in the civil rights movement, the freedom summer of 1964 in Mississippi, based on his own experiences there.

He is also working with Petr Kuzmic to update the UUCP website, is very active with the social action committee and is a member of the Palouse Peace Coalition.

Kayle and Brian are owned by three cats of unknown heritage: Soames (named for a character in *The Forsythe Saga*), Sox, and Annie (who also answers to Monkey Face).

Kayle enjoys arts and crafts when she can fit it into her ambitious and enthusiastic labor of love for the church. She likes water color and silk painting and collects books on these and other arts so she can read about them to prepare for the day when she has time to actually do them! She has an enthusiastic view of what constitutes a good book and loves to read. She is currently reading *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. She also likes to relax with a good mystery, especially one that has a conspiracy!

Kayle and Brian are both very happy to be here. They love downtown Moscow with its friendly atmosphere. In her position with the church Kayle is thrilled to actually have paid staff, something new for her! She says she is also constantly amazed at the wide variety of philosophy and viewpoints within the congregation. The views, like a kaleidoscope, are constantly changing. She says, "It keeps me on my toes and will help me to continue growing and learning".

Religious Education Volunteers Needed

Everyone has a gift to share with our most precious resource: our children. No matter how much or how little time you have there is a place for you! From teaching this fall session to volunteering to make snack, provide snack, be a guest speaker, or just be present, there are countless ways to give to our children. **I give you the support, you bring your heart and spirit!** Contact Ginger George for more information: uucp-dre@moscow.com, (208) 882-4328.

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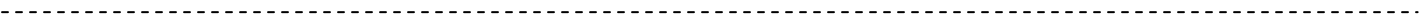
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Moscow, ID 83843

General Church Information
UUCP Phone: 208-882-4328
Office email: uuchurch@moscow.com
Rev. Kayle L. Rice, Minister: 208-882-4328
Jack Keller, Treasurer: 509-432-3712
Ginger George, RE Director: 208-883-0150

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