



The Communitarian

January 2011

The *Communitarian* is the monthly newsletter of the
Community Unitarian Universalist
Church

2819 W. Sylvester Street
Pasco, Washington 99301
Services begin at 10:30 am

Joy and Service – Right Here! Right
Now!

Web Page: www.communityuuu.org

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed & Thurs.
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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The deadline for the February issue
of *The Communitarian* is January
20th. Submit your input to
office@communityuuu.org

January 2~
“Ring in the New Year”

Speaker: CUUC Members & Friends

At the turning of the year, let us consider the hope and possibility in each new day.

Worship Associate: Mike & Shannon Truex

Musician: Mike & Shannon Truex

January 9~
“Living in the Face of Death”

Speaker: Jim Dyson

Death is a part of life. Its reality has to be faced if we are to live fully, creatively and freely right here and now. We will explore some of the understandings and attitudes necessary for living in the face of our own mortality and the mortality of friends and loved ones.

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: Ellen Fillion

January 16~
“Now is Enough”

Speaker: Marcia Schekel

A new year brings possibilities—and hopefulness. And still we carry the unfinished business of our lives, our times. How do we live in the tension of what is and what could be? Can we ever say ‘this life is enough?’

Rev. Marcia Schekel is a board certified chaplain, with experience in hospice. She is an ordained community minister, affiliated with First Unitarian Church in Portland.

Worship Associate: Meryl Birn

Musician: CUUC Choir

January 23~
“Speaking for Justice”

Speaker: Mike Truex

Our words and actions are important reflections of our values. Today we’ll explore Martin Luther King’s words and actions in his leadership of a non-violent campaign for civil rights.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Ellen Fillion

January 30~
“The Crying Tree”

Speaker: Naseem Rakha

What is the road to forgiveness, and why have people taken it? This is the question award winning author and former NPR journalist, Naseem Rakha asked after meeting a woman who had forgiven the man who brutally murdered her daughter. How, Rakha wondered, do people forgive the unforgivable, and what happens to them once they do? Her novel, *The Crying Tree*, winner of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, and listed by Indie Next as one of the ten best book group reads of 2010, examines this issues through the eyes of a family torn apart by the murder of their son. Rakha explores death, loss, the death penalty and forgiveness, and how ordinary humans can do extraordinary things to find healing and justice in their life.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Fran Handy

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



One afternoon, 2 weeks into my recovery from my injuries, my family and I watched a movie that I remembered from childhood. It's a 1957 sci-fi adventure called *The Monolith Monsters*. It was probably made at a cost of less than one minute's worth of last year's *Avatar*, the highest-grossing film to date. However, the 1957 film introduces more actual science in its first two minutes than you'll find in the entire 2010 blockbuster. One of the writers must have been an amateur geologist, eager to share throughout the film his knowledge of the chemical composition of both terrestrial rocks and meteors.

Yes, it starts with a meteor falling to Earth near a small desert community. That's a fairly typical beginning for sci-fi films even today, a way of introducing the monsters or a plague that changes people into zombies, or whatever. The "monolith monsters" are mineral, not animal or vegetable, and not intelligent. Crystalline fragments from the meteor grow and multiply on contact with water, crushing houses and turning people who touch them (when wet) into stony corpses if they don't get help in time. (The film explains that this is due to loss of silicone—more science!) What's unusual about this film is that there is no malice in its "monsters". They grow and fall, and that's all. It's hard to stay out of their way, but they aren't *hunting* for anyone.

Nor is there malice in any of the human characters. There is no secret government or corporate spy planted among them hoping to use the crystals as a weapon, like there was in *Alien* and its sequels. No one is working at cross-purposes with anyone else. There is goodwill all around, cooperation, trust—and an utter lack of

cynicism. Any disagreements are temporary, due to the heat of the moment. Everyone is listened to, even quickly praised for a good idea as it's incorporated into the evolving plan of action

I'm sure that this is not meant to be a realistic picture of the U.S. in 1957. But there's nothing corny or campy in the presentation of this goodwill and cooperative spirit. It seems to come naturally to adults who had so recently come through a major world war and a worldwide Depression before that. They adapt almost immediately to yet another situation that requires teamwork. Just like my family has been doing after my accident. I wonder: why has such a response to crisis become so difficult for people in this country today? What change of heart or change of how we communicate will make a difference?

We are capable of such astounding technical feats. If a 1950's audience could see a movie like *Avatar*, it might cause a mental crisis for some viewers. Surely this must be the work of aliens from a distant galaxy! But when they learned that it was from our own planet, a mere 50 or so years in the future, they might well ask themselves, where is the moral and social growth to go along with this marvelous development in technique? I hope that we'll be seeing a bit more of this growth in 2011. That would certainly make for a Happy New Year!

In fellowship,
Craig



Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Happy New Year everyone,

It is time to dust off the New Year's resolutions and contemplate what we want to work on during the new year. Some things on my list include:

- **Gratitude:** *I am so happy and thankful for* (fill in your list) my family, my health, job, church, kids schools, ... Make a list and count your blessings. Sometimes I get so caught up in life's stresses that I lose track of how much I have. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude throughout the year. Recognize and build on the abundance in your life.
- **Forgiveness:** Set yourself free from the baggage of resentment and animosity that can grow inside when we don't forgive. I tend to stew on things people say and saturate myself in toxic emotions. One of my goals is to Race to Forgive and keep my heart free of this debris. A meditation from Michael Beckwith says "*I forgive you and set you free. I acknowledge that you are doing the best that you can, and I honor you in your process of unfoldment. All is well between us. Peace is the order of the day.*"
- **Daily Meditation:** Seek inner peace, visualize and give thanks for the changes you wish to see. In meditation ask to be filled with joy and let happiness guide your path.

Board News: Big thanks to everyone who supported the new CUUC sign. We will work diligently to install it as soon as Mother Nature allows. We are starting a new board initiative to assess and improve our communications with the congregation. We are also encouraging your

participation in the UUA Chalice Lighter Program. Thank you.

The board supports Henry Kidwell's recommendation that we commission a plaque in honor of James Stoll, former CUUC minister (1962 to 1969) and the first openly gay minister in any established religious denomination. This is an important part of our church history.

Thank you to everyone that gave their time and talent to make the AGF successful. Awesome job!

Please continue to send your love and prayers to Rev. Craig Moro as his body heals. Please also send your love and prayers to Eleanor Barnes. David Comstock
Peace and Blessings to each of you

Religious Education Children & Youth



RE Children's Program

Christmas pageant:

Thanks to Vickie Fausz, who coordinated the Christmas pageant presented on December 19, "The Spirit of the Christmas Tree." The kids and youth who played all the parts did a great job! It could be the first Christmas pageant ever to include a tiger. The Rob Hogan made a great narrator. Tana Hogan, our prompter, also helped all the kids and youth fit on the stage - it was a tight fit! Special thanks to:

- the CUUC Choir who contributed beautiful music;
- the Youth Group who, with guidance from Jenny Rieke, produced the stable and sheep;

- Vickie Fausz and Jenny Rieke, who spent hours on stage design and set-up;
- All the others who contributed costumes, helped with rehearsals, found our long-lost manger, donated a pile of straw, cleaned up afterwards, and pitched in with all the other tasks needed to make it all come together.

Guest At Your Table:

Our annual Guest At Your Table fundraiser for human rights continues in January. Please turn in your collection box (or a check to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). The date of the wrap-up service will be announced. If you know you won't make it to that service, you can turn in your contribution at any service -- just put a check or your donation box in the offering basket.

If you haven't picked up a collection box yet, there are more on the table next to the entrance to the Sanctuary. The booklet "Stories of Hope" (inside each box) will inspire you to give generously. Your donations help people in the U.S. and around the world work effectively for the human rights they deserve. From human-rights education for Afghan teachers to support for Ugandans returning home to rebuild after years in camps, their programs are made possible by our generous donations. Put your principles into action and in the words of our hymn, "bring hope where hope is hard to find"!

Kindergarten-Fifth Grade:

In preparation for the Christmas pageant, the class started to learn about Christianity and Judaism. Classes were short due to the rehearsals for the pageant. Many of the students in this class chose to participate in the pageant. We'll get back to Christianity and Judaism later in the year. January will be devoted to an exploration of Buddhism.

Middle School:

The Middle Schoolers continue to explore various paths to assist them developing their own faith or belief system. In December, we explored the Bible and Jesus and the idea of "celebrity."

Middle school students supported the Christmas pageant, making classes quite short. That said, we always make time for the highlight of class: snacks (both healthy and not-so-healthy). The exploration will continue in January, using the concept of a compass as the foundation of study.

Youth Group:

December was a busy month! Our Youth participated in two Interfaith Youth Group gatherings, one at the Islamic Center and one here at CUUC. They assisted with a Sunday worship service at the beginning of the month. They also gathered at the home of John Dorian and Sandra Rosenau on Dec. 21 for a solstice celebration which included rituals of a walk to the river, offerings of food for the wildlife, and candle lighting. The evening included the sharing of their talents and things of worth. (Middle school students were also invited to the solstice celebration.)

The main topic of class discussions was a world religions timeline mural that they will be helping to create. Each of them have begun to research and share about two or more world religions. For hands on activities all of our youth either practiced their roles in the Christmas pageant or worked on creating the stage setting props for the pageant. They had fun doing this, while providing a service to the congregation to enhance the worship experience for our December 19 Christmas Pageant. Great work, High School Youth!

Interfaith Youth Group:

Youth from CUUC, the Islamic Center, Shalom UCC, and Congregation Beth Shalom gathered together in December to learn more about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to share information about potential service projects, and to find out how they will take part in the creation of a world religions timeline mural. The seed for this community art project came from Jenny Rieke, one of the HS Youth Advisors.

The mural is a vehicle to deepen our interfaith connections through a collaborative process of researching, designing, and creating an inclusive representational history. It is meant to generate valuable dialogue to open minds and hearts to our differences in facing timeless questions about where the world came from, who we are, and what our purpose is in life. Through symbols, sacred texts, objects, important people, and by various calendars our youth will cooperatively work to respectfully and accurately capture the scope of human religious endeavor to the present. The mural will be painted on panels that will first be displayed at CUUC but will then potentially travel to our other interfaith communities who have shared in its creation.

Upcoming IFYG Middle and High School Youth events are:

January 9

Interfaith Youth Group Gathering at Shalom UCC

January 14-16

Interfaith Youth Group Family Retreat at Camp N-Sid- Sen

Interfaith Youth Group Family Retreat

January 14-16

Camp N-Sid-Sen
Harrison, Idaho

This family retreat is for all families of middle and high schoolers who participate in the Interfaith Youth Group gatherings. We hope you can make arrangements to join the us at N-Sid-Sen for this retreat. There are programs being planned to help us explore service and faith. Contact Dana Sprenkle with any questions at 627-6599(H) or 308-2856 (C).
Email at vdhdnsprengle@yahoo.com.

Hospitality

Souper Sunday! *January 9th, 2011*

Attention all our generous Soup Chefs and Soup Consumers: January Souper Sunday will be on the second Sunday, January 9 instead of the customary first Sunday which, for 2011, falls on New Year's weekend. And speaking of generous...I want to thank our chefs who so generously donate their time and soup ingredients every month. I would encourage everyone to keep in mind what a similar meal might cost when dining outside of home and donate accordingly to the Souper Fund bowl placed at the head of the soup table. In addition to being a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to socialize and become better acquainted in a convivial environment, this is a prime time for the Hospitality Committee to raise the funds needed for the expenses involved in upgrading and maintaining our hospitality facilities and functions. Bon appétit!

Fran



AGF Bake Sale Thank You!

Thanks to all of our volunteers who baked, packaged and sold all the wonderful items for the AGF Bake Sale. There was a wonderful variety and we raised over \$400 that is shared with AGF and the Hospitality Committee.

Jo Lindenmeier



Thank-you to everyone who helped out with our Alternative Gift Fair this year! Many elves were everywhere--bake sale, craft table, babysitting little kids, greeters, & those all important people who helped at the back checking out our visitors. We raised \$14,525 for local, national & international charities. A great effort by everyone--this is truly an all-church event. Looking forward to next year's fair--and thank-you again--The AGF Team



Green Sanctuary

CUUC Green Sanctuary Paper Project!

We have started with the electronic distribution of our monthly newsletter. Now it time to continue reducing our paper use and use more recycled paper product. We plan to dive into the bathroom next.

We are working on re-usable towels for hand drying. Whites at our house are always the smallest loads so we will not have any extra loads to clean the hand towels each week. So we will not be increasing our water or electricity consumption to clean the hand towels. In addition, the detergents we use are environmentally friendly and super concentrated to reduce packaging.

We are also working on Seventh Generation 100% recycled tissue paper. If every household in the US used 12 rolls that would save 3.8 million trees, 1.3 billion gallons of water and 9.8 million cubic feet of landfill space.

Thanks
David Comstock

Hands & Heart



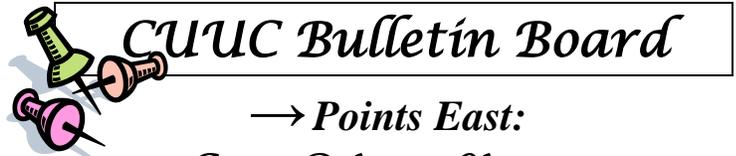
The Hands and Hearts Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help, not just for big events where we all cry or laugh, but also for the little things as well. We are here to help you out in any way we can. You can seek us out at church (our name tags have the heart stickers) or call us up at home. (If one of us doesn't answer,

keep on trying other numbers). If you know of somebody who needs looked in on, or if you want to discuss your own situation, please give us a ring. Bev is our card person, if you know someone who needs to receive a Get-Well Card, Sympathy card, etc. please contact her.

Alice Strumski (509) 488-2527
Jennifer Comstock 628-8638
Vickie Fausz 783-7797
531-8469
Jo Lindenmeier 586-3451
366-3953
Marla Marvin 545-1919
Jenny Rieke 545-0659
Bev Schroeder 371-1572
Gail Taff 375-3293

*If there is a last minute change, look for a **notice via email**, or call me Sharon at 375-0467 or Bev Schroeder at 371-1572.

Mark your calendars now!



CUUC Bulletin Board

→ *Points East:*

*Asian Religion Class on
Saturdays, 3:30-5:30p.m.*

No Classes this Month☺

Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, January 4th,
@12:00p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's Luncheon meets in the CUUC Meeting Room at 12 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. Please plan to meet with us on **January 4th** for our Potluck luncheon.

If you haven't come for awhile, please try to join us. For those who are regulars, consider inviting women who are either new to our congregation or someone familiar who hasn't come for awhile. As our regulars know, we have some pretty remarkable food selections and we always have interesting conversations. It would be fun to hear your stories of summertime fun.

Helping Congregations Grow

What do landscaping, an elevator, chairs and a playground all have in common? They are all made possible to UU congregations just like ours through the PNWD Chalice Lighter Program. The Chalice Lighter Program enables congregations to take a significant step into the future by providing financial grants to assist in implementing a growth plan. A congregation applying for a grant must meet four criteria to apply and obtain funding. The requirements are:

1. Have at least 30% of its members enrolled as Chalice Lighters
2. Be a UUA Annual Program Fund Honor Society
3. Be a PNWD Full Fair Share dues congregation, and
4. Have a formal growth plan.

Chalice Lighters receive a call letter three times per year via email or postal mail for a pledge of at least \$15.00. The letter will explain the purpose of the call – the congregation applying for a grant and how they will use the funds. Your minimum investment per year is \$45.00 and every dollar donated is fully tax deductible.

According to Gretchen Harder, CUUC member and long time Chalice Lighter supporter, “I think the program is great. I’ve always given more than the minimum, because it’s so easy. The money collected helps churches in our district, and we have the opportunity to tap in to it too.” As CUUC membership and attendance grow, the Chalice Lighter Program is something the Board is looking at as a possible venue for financial assistance. Please consider becoming a supporter of this extremely beneficial program.

If interested in becoming a supporter, please fill out a registration form. They are printed on hot pink paper and can be found at the information table in the sanctuary. Once completed, give to Chrissie Noonan, Board Secretary or leave in the Board Secretary’s mailbox.

CUUC Spiritual Cinema

We are going to have our first movie Saturday January 22 at church from 6-8:30pm. We will have some movie snacks, watch the movie and then enjoy some discussion after the film. To continue on our Eastern religion theme we will watch *Peace in Every Step*, Meditation in Action a documentary about Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh. Hope to see you at the movies
David Comstock

Interested in learning about membership in CUUC?

*Membership is hosting a coffee on
Saturday, January 15th.*

If you have been thinking about joining our congregation we would love to talk to you about it. Membership will be hosting a coffee for interested people on Saturday the 15th of February. We will be meeting at the church at 9:30 for discussion and pastries. It will last an hour or a little longer if the conversations call for it. If you are planning to come, please let Scott Wilson know with a call (509-947-7308) or email (scottwilsonuu@charter.net). If you need more information please call anytime or talk to a membership volunteer after any service. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Interfaith Weekend with author Naseem Rakha, January 29-30

“What is the road to forgiveness, and why have people taken it?” This is the question award winning author and former NPR journalist, Naseem Rakha asked after meeting a woman who had forgiven the man who brutally murdered her daughter. How, Rakha wondered, do people forgive the unforgivable, and what happens to them once they do? Her novel, The Crying Tree, winner of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, and listed by Indie Next as one of the ten best book group reads of 2010, examines these issues through the eyes of a family torn apart by the murder of their son. Rakha explores death, loss, the death penalty and forgiveness, and how

ordinary humans can do extraordinary things to find healing and justice in their life.

Ms. Rakha will be visiting the Tri Cities as a guest of CUUC and the Interfaith Coalition of which we are members. She will make four appearances this weekend:

Saturday, Jan. 29

*1:15 p.m. at Temple Beth Sholom synagogue, 312 Thayer Drive, Richland

*4:00 p.m. at Adventures Underground for a book signing, 1391 George Washington Way, Richland.

*6:30 p.m., at the Islamic Center of the Tri Cities, 2900 Bombing Range Road, West Richland.

Ms. Rakha's talk (with time for questions) will follow an interfaith potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share—no pork, alcohol, or shellfish, please!

Sunday, Jan. 30

*10:30 a.m.—Ms. Rakha will be our guest speaker

We hope that you will be able to attend all four events!



Join us on Facebook!

CUUC now has a page on Facebook. The page is meant to connect with existing members, and reach out to potential new members. If you are a Facebook user, 'Like' the page, post on the Wall, comment on other postings, or upload photos. Come join our on-line community at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pasco-WA/Community-Unitarian-Universalist-Church-CUUC/>. If you're interested in helping administer the page, please contact Chrissie Noonan or Meryl Birn.

Other News

E Scrip benefits CUUC – Sign up or renew today!

If you shop at Safeway you can help CUUC by signing up for e Scrip. Last year, members who signed up earned \$155.22 for CUUC. If we get more people signed up we could earn even more. And by signing up for e Scrip you can also buy online from hundreds of merchants and earn money for CUUC. So before you order something online, go through e Scrip and help our congregation. And it doesn't cost you anything but a few extra clicks!

Simply go to www.escrip.com and sign up. CUUC's number is 500021492 or look up Community Unitarian Universalist Church. It's simple and all you need is your Safeway club card number so CUUC gets credit for your purchases.

1% on monthly qualifying purchases between \$0-\$300

Plus 2% on monthly qualifying purchases between \$300-\$500

Plus 3% on monthly qualifying purchases between \$500-\$600

Plus 4% on monthly qualifying purchases above \$600

If you're already signed up for e Scrip, don't forget that Safeway requires you to renew yearly. Just go to the e Scrip Web site and renew.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Reed via e-mail or by phone.

Embracing Joy!

The Pacific North West District Assembly is coming up in February, 2011. The focus is on spirit, art and activism. Please let me know if you would like to go so we can register you for the one day meeting Saturday 2-5-10 in Portland OR. I think we should coordinate a lunch visit with Craig Moro in Salem OR for the group that goes to the district assemble this winter.

Thanks

David Comstock

Laddie Ray has produced three independently recorded cds in the last decade. The first album is Rocky Ground, a personal journey, the second is in The Aftermath, a collection of tunes that considers what it means to be human in times of trouble. Laddie Ray's third cd is A City Glows in The Distance. This is a collection of songs that are intentionally spare, each a live take, and the stories these songs tell are about the way characters in them see the world they inhabit.

Three Rivers Folklife Society

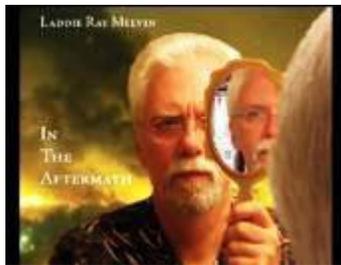
Concert Featuring Keeler~ Melvin & Morse

When: January 29, 2011

Where: CUUC Church

Time: 7:30p.m.

Tickets: Sold at door or Bookworm☺



Laddie Ray Melvin is a folksinger who has played music in the Pacific Northwest for many years. He is a songwriter who carefully crafts his lyrics and surrounds them with music from the American folk tradition. Country blues, folk and folk rock are all colors this mature artist works with as he sings of life, death, work, family, love, hope and our shared humanity.