



The Communitarian

March 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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cmoro@willamette.edu

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The deadline for the April issue of
The Communitarian is March 20th.

Submit your input to
office@communityuuu.org

March 6~
“A People of Faith”

Speaker: Chrissie Noonan, Alice Strumski & Pete Rieke

You hear it every week at the start of our service. “We are a people of faith with open minds, loving hearts, and helping hands. ... We do not ask you to believe or accept a specific creed ...” So what do we believe? What principles help motivate our actions? Several members of our congregation will answer that question and help to highlight the diversity that is Unitarian Universalism.

Worship Associate: Meryl Birn

Musician: Fran Handy

March 13~
“A Year in Chile”

Speaker: Donald Dowie

Donald Dowie, a Washington State native, after more than 15 years working as an attorney in Washington, D.C., decided to do something different with his life. After much searching, he found a job as a volunteer teacher in rural Chile, where he spent a year teaching English to children in grades 1-8. Come and listen to his stories about life in another culture, the challenge of teaching children in a poor community in another country, and the devastating earthquake of February 2010.

Worship Associate: Mike Truex

Musician: Ellen Fillion

March 20~
“Breadcrumbs and Sawdust”

Speaker: Rev. Craig Moro

Yesterday (March 19) Catholics worldwide celebrated St. Joseph's Day, in honor of the foster father of Jesus, but nowhere is he celebrated more vigorously than in southern Italy. Joseph is also the patron saint of both church and the family homes; of working people; and of social justice. He is the patron of foundlings, orphans, and of all members of the human family who are called "illegitimate". Naturally, he's also the patron saint of carpenters! What can we learn from him today, and from traditional celebrations in his honor? I look forward to sharing this with you today, on my first Sunday back at CUUC since my fall while working on my own house in November!

Worship Associate: Alex Emig

Musician: CUUC Choir

March 27~
“Inch By Inch, Row By Row”

Speaker: Green Sanctuary Team

We can affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence by embracing the call to action for a more sustainable and resilient community. Help make the garden grow at church and at home, sharing the harvest with each other and with those in need.

Worship Associate: Shannon Hays~Truex

Musician: Shannon Hays~Truex

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



How could anyone reflect on the month just past without mention of the tremendous changes we have been witnessing in North Africa and the Middle East? First came the popular uprising in Tunisia, followed by the even more unexpected ouster of Hosni Mubarak, more than 30 years since he took power in Egypt. This wave of change has also reached Algeria, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain, and even Iran. Many reporters have commented with baited breath about how none of these movements have been initiated nor taken control of by representatives of radical “religious” organizations. (How touching it was to see Christians and Muslims taking turns protecting each other during prayer services in Cairo!) They have instead been movements calling for democracy, opportunity, and the end to entrenched authoritarian rule. While many protestors are young, people of all ages from all walks of life have risen up together. New communications technologies have played a large part, but not as large as that played by timeless forces of courage, faith, and anger harnessed to a positive purpose. Protestors were able to continue their presence in Tahrir Square because it continued to have *meaning*, which can knit body and soul, thought and action into one of the greatest powers of all.

I watched all of this from my small “command center” in our family room where I have been keeping some medications, books, folders, and my computer; plus some weights and elastic bands that help with my physical therapy. The centerpiece is a creaking, worn-out fake leather recliner, to which I was virtually confined for the first weeks after my fall. During that time, I had to find new ways of doing almost everything, moving about on crutches or kneepads and

planning all activities as a series of “stages” such as I hadn’t had to consider since I first learned to walk. Boredom was never a problem—doing things was too full of challenges that stimulated mind and body. Although I have grown a half-inch shorter due to a compressed vertebra, I really haven’t felt diminished. But now, as I begin to shuffle and hobble a bit without crutches, I can already see how—step by step—new skills must make way for newer ones. What’s next? I’m not quite sure.

I heard a report from Egypt just a day or two after Mubarak’s fall that one small business owner had gone to a local police station to renew his vending license. He was careful to bring an envelope stuffed with the usual bribe money he had always needed to expedite things with the police. It was part of a well-established “staging” process necessary for moving things along through such a corrupt and damaged system. However, he was told that the envelope was now not necessary. He, the police, and the whole of Egyptian society will need to learn new skills, new procedures, while old ones that were difficult (and costly!) to learn will no longer serve. They won’t all be easy to let go of. So what’s next? No one knows yet how much shuffling and hobbling there might be on the way to taking smooth, sure steps. But may their courage and cooperation and commitment to nonviolent methods continue to strengthen the people and help them to heal their long decades of hurt, day by day and step by step.

In fellowship,

Craig



Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Happy March everyone,

During Rev. Bill Graves's service he talked about the spirit of universal love all around us and he said the more we look within the more we are blessed. Rev. Bill Graves also talked about the importance of our third principle (Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation) and recognizing the contributions we each make to this congregation. Thank you for your service and thank you for bring joy to this place.

From the opening paragraph on our CUUC website we have these words "We believe that personal experience, conscience, and reason should be the final authorities in religion. In the end, religious authority lies not in a book, person, or institution, but in ourselves." I think these words are right on the mark. I believe that cultivating love, compassion, joy starts within ourselves. That within everything and within each of us there is a universal love. I have visited the Greek ruins of Delphi and one of the sayings written there was Know Yourself. Begin where you are. Know your own mind. The answer is within. Your work begins and ends within you. I believe that meditation is a powerful tool for our spiritual growth. I try to take time each day to look within.

Please continue to send your love and prayers to Rev. Craig Moro as he prepares to return to us in March. Please continue to send your love, prayers and calls of support to Diane Reed as she heals from her back surgery.

David Comstock

Peace and Blessings to each of you

Religious Education Children & Youth



RE Children's Program

Interfaith Youth Group

Our middle and high school youth groups met twice this month with the youth from Shalom UCC, Beth Shalom, and the Tri-Cities Islamic Center. On February 6 they had their own "Souper Bowl" Sunday, sharing soup, snacks, and game watching. They gathered again on February 20 to share a meal, discuss and plan their service projects, and work on the World Religions Timeline Mural. The Interfaith Youth Group designed their own logo for a T-shirt with the creative assistance of Jenny Rieke. Their T-shirts have been ordered, so you will soon see some of them sporting their new attire. When you do, ask them questions about Interfaith Youth Group. Perhaps you might share something with them about your own religious or spiritual experiences.

Interfaith Youth Group Calendar

March 6~

Interfaith Youth Group Potluck/Meeting at Shalom United Church of Christ

March 11-13~

Interfaith Youth Retreat at Camp N-Sid-Sen
Cost is \$75 Register at www.n-sid-sen.org

Contact: Dana Sprengle at

vdhdnsprengle@yahoo.com or talk to any of the High School Youth Advisors.

March 18 ~

Drop off yard sale items at CUUC from 5-8 P.M.

March 19~

Interfaith Youth Group Yard Sale at Community UU Church from 8a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 20~

Interfaith Youth Group Potluck/Meeting at Shalom United Church of Christ

High School Youth Group

February was a busy month for our Uuth! They participated in a worship service, had an overnighter at the church, attended classes, organized a bake sale for

a charity fundraiser, and were involved in Interfaith Youth activities. They had their most fun, of course, at the overnighter. It was a time for deep sharing as well when they planned and participated in their own midnight worship service. Classes have revolved around the themes of personal attributes/credos and the world religions timeline mural. You might have also heard our drumming circle outdoors when we took advantage of the February sunshine. On the last Sunday of the month the high schoolers sold baked goods that they made themselves. They will pool the money they raised with other Interfaith Youth for a project to build a clean water well for a village in another country.

Middle School

The Middle School class is learning about the foundations of Unitarian Universalism and in February spent one class studying the Protestant Reformation.

The focus was how people of European descent did not have religious freedom until very recently. We learned about Martin Luther and the various branches of the Christian church. We also added to our list of class covenants, banning electronic devices during class time. We had a conversation about respect and participation and the importance of using the 30-45 minutes/week we have together on religious education and community.

Kindergarten-Fifth Grade:

We finished up our unit on Buddhism and are now learning about Christianity. We will also be participating in a Green Sanctuary project called Project GrowNow, starting with the planting of our new church garden on March 16. The Youth Group is expected to help out that day.

Many thanks to Marla Marvin and Vickie Fausz for their contributions to this article.

-Gail Taff

Hospitality

Souper Sunday!
March 6th, 2011



Souper Contributions most welcome for Souper Sunday, March 6th!

Thanks,
Fran

Mexican Fiesta

We are planning a "Fiesta" for March 26th for the whole family. Grab your sombreros and there'll be good food and fun for all. More details to follow.

Green Sanctuary

CUUC Green Sanctuary

Paper Project!



We have started with the electronic distribution of our monthly newsletter. Now it is 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

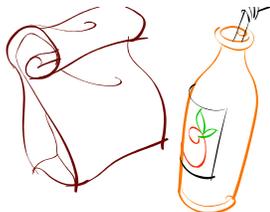


The Hands and Hearts Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help, not just for big events where we all cry or laugh, but also for the little things as well. We are here to help you out in any way we can. You can seek us out at church (our name tags have the heart stickers) or call us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

Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, March 1st,
@12:00p.m.
Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's Luncheon meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

For good food and conversation, please join us at noon on February 1 in the meeting room.

Bring a dish to share.

For info, please call Sharon Faletti at 375-0467
*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☺

CUUC Spiritual Cinema

We are going to have our second movie Friday March 25 at church from 6-8 pm. 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 Deepak Chopra's *The Happiness Prescription*, about the secret to experiencing a joyful life. Hope to see you at the movies
David Comstock



Second Harvest "Taking a Bite out of Hunger" Fund Raiser Event Wednesday March 16, 2011

Please join us at the CUUC Green Sanctuary table for *Taking a Bite out of Hunger* food and

beverage tasting and auction that will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Three Rivers Convention Center. Support a good cause and sample appetizers, entrees, desserts and spirits from some of the area's finest restaurants, wineries and microbreweries. Silent auction tables will feature items like artwork, fine wines, collectibles, jewelry and sports equipment, as well gift certificates for dining, travel and entertainment. Please RSVP to David Comstock for a seat at the CUUC Green Sanctuary table (we have 6 seats left at our table).



Daily Words of Wisdom

Interested in getting a daily dose of compassion from the Dalai Lama? Now you can by using His Holiness' Twitter feed. Twitter is a form of micro-blogging, a real-time information network that connects you to the latest information about things you find interesting. At the heart of Twitter are small bursts of information called Tweets which are messages 140 characters or less in length. Already have a Twitter account? Simply follow the Dalai Lama using this link, <http://twitter.com/dalailama#>. Don't want to set up a Twitter account but have a smart phone? Get updates via SMS by texting **follow DalaiLama** to 40404. Or, add this RSS feed to your favorite RSS reader, http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/20609518.rss. There are also free Twitter apps for iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, Windows7 and Android. To get the latest apps, go to m.twitter.com on your mobile device. Get connected today for a short, sweet burst of daily compassion. Need help getting this set up or want to learn more? Contact Meryl Birn or Chrissie Noonan for assistance

Interfaith Potluck at Shalom UCC Church, 505 McMurray Street, Richland — Saturday March 19, at 6 p.m.

We'll join our sister congregations—including Beth Sholom synagogue, Guru Nanak Sikh Organization, Shalom UCC, Guru Nanak Sikh Organization, and the Islamic Center of the TriCities--for an evening of food and fellowship at Shalom Church. Tonight's panel discussion will center around a topic suggested by former ICTC president, George Clare: How do you get to Heaven, and what about the "other guy" (that is, people who have different religious beliefs or practices)? Rev. Moro will share classic and contemporary UU—especially Universalist—perspectives on this question.

- Childcare provided
- Please bring a favorite dish to share. (No pork, shellfish, peanuts or alcohol, please!)
- For more information, please contact Rev. Craig Moro, cmoro@willamette.edu or 509-205-1871

Pick An Era Dance and Potluck Saturday, April 2 6 to 9:30 P.M.

Let's celebrate spring with a potluck and swinging dance. Pick your favorite era of music (40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's to the present) and wear that era's type of clothing if you are willing (including hats if you so desire). Bring your own CD's if you have any favorite songs. We will be playing music

from all eras. Of course, bring your favorite dish to share for the potluck. Childcare will be provided.

We will also have live music performances if some of you would like to share your talents that evening. Please call Vickie Fausz to let her know (783-7797) or email mgoblue76@frontier.com.

maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for comparable services and ***all proceeds go to our small fellowship***. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!

Other News

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

"Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important and somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses."

Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the sixth season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas. There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance,

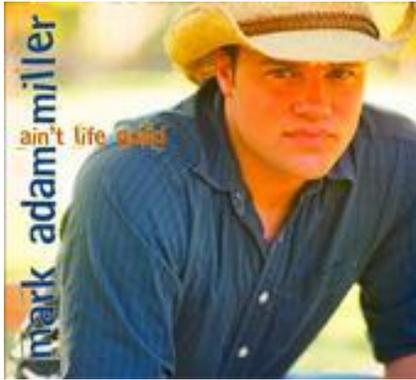
Volunteer Today.... Speak up for a Child Who Needs a Voice!

Make a lifelong difference for a vulnerable child! Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for abused and neglected children. You will investigate a child's history, advocate for services and appropriate placement, and ultimately make recommendations – to the judge – in that child's best interest.

The next three-day CASA training will be held on Friday March 18, Friday March 25th and Saturday March 26th, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day. Attendance all three days is required.

For more information, contact Tikva Glantz, Benton-Franklin Counties CASA/GAL Program, at (509) 783-2151 ext. 2456 or email her at tikva.glantz@co.benton.wa.us.

Adam Miller Concert



Americana/Country/Southern Rock

Where: Community UU Church

Time: 7:30p.m.

Tickets: At the door or The Book Worm!

Avoid Unwanted Phone Calls

To discontinue unsolicited credit card and insurance offers call 1-888-567-8688.

Submitted by Erin Henderson