

A Message From Reverend Bill Graves

The Joy of Welcoming New Members

Let us rejoice! At our December 11 service we will welcome fifteen (and I'm hoping for more!) new members into our community, and nearly 200-year-old religious denomination. **Welcome indeed!** It is an understatement to say that we are delighted they have elected to join our expression of liberal religious values. I've been asked to address briefly what membership entails. As for the welcoming ceremony it is a simple but elegant ritual involving affirmations shared with the congregation, and an offering of symbolic gifts of appreciation. I promise to keep the immersion-into-holy-ice-water part under 30 seconds.

Historically, we UU'S grew out of the New England congregational movement holding, in contrast to monarchical forms of organization, that all you need for a "church" is a group of people with a covenant together. Our covenanted vision and mission are usually found on the second page of issues of *The Dialog*. Part of our covenant is to "Live and promote Unitarian Universalist Principles." The Seven UU Principles can be found framed just inside the front doors of our meeting house on 56th Street. TUUC bylaws and traditions only require that members affirm a dedication to our purpose by signing our membership book and making a financial contribution (or receive a hardship waiver). Our Unitarian founder, William Ellery Channing once was asked if we excommunicated anyone. His response was: "One is excluded only by the death of goodness in his [her] own heart."

I am fond of telling pathways classes that these bare essentials of membership may mislead. The practical reality is that for the membership to prosper and thrive for the long term, one needs to act on most of the following: (1) Attend services regularly (i.e., it doesn't work like selecting a movie); (2) take seriously your own and each other's spiritual growth; (3) serve on a task force (i.e., build relationships); (4) pledge within your means an amount representing a commitment from the heart; (5) be involved in service to others; (6) connect with the wider UU movement (a world of delight awaits); (7) keep intact a sense of humor.

My schedule in December and January: I will be available for conference by appointment Wednesdays through Friday each week, and I will return phone messages (360-661-7289), except between January 9-18 when I will be in Oaxaca, Mexico with Frances.

--Reverend Bill

Board President's Message

Well, here it is just before Thanksgiving (and right up to the Dialog deadline!), and it feels like the end of the TUUC year is already upon us, to me at least. This is probably because the Board, at its November 15th meeting, had to OK a budget to present to the congregation for 2012 that it didn't really like – board members actually had their fingers pinching their noses – but had no other choice in the matter. That is because the pledge drive was woefully short of the desired level, despite a truly exemplary canvass.

Therefore, when we have our annual congregational meeting on December 11th, right after the church service, we all will have to pinch our noses for a bit and then hope – and strive – for better times in 2012 and beyond. This will be a very full meeting, as we have a number of important decisions to make, including, in addition to passing the budget, the election of new members to the Board and the Nominating Committee, voting to okay shortfalls for both 2010 and 2011 that will involve reducing

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Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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Church Secretary:	Susan Kunkel
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Lay Pastoral Care Team

Chair: Barb Lutzewitz Members: Connie Andersen,
Joan Benderson, Rob Ramsey, Bruce Rowan, and Loretta
Skochenko-Dhaese



The Dialog is published ten times per year and is sent to all TUUC contributors. Visitors who sign our TUUC guest book will receive six complimentary issues. The next due date for articles is **12:00 noon on Friday, January 20** for the **FEBRUARY issue**.

To receive the following two *weekly email messages*, please sign up at

http://tuuc-wa.org/mailman/listinfo/announce_tuuc-wa.org
(underscore symbol before 2nd tuuc)

* **Caring Community** is an un-archived, subscribed Tuesday email notice for members and friends to share joys, sorrows, concerns, and personal announcements. Submissions are due by **noon on Mondays**.

* **Weekly E-News** is an online & emailed Thursday message of church business and news. Submissions are due by **noon on Wednesdays**, the same as for the **Sunday Order of Service**.

Send articles and announcements to James Venturini at editor@tuuc-wa.org; please ALSO send your event DATES & TIMES to Mike Field at admin@tuuc-wa.org

OUR VISION

The Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an enduring community in which we promote the values of liberal religion through our actions both individually and as a community.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation is to sustain a community in which we:

- Welcome all with love and compassion,
- Celebrate the diversity in our common humanity,
- Inspire the spirit, heart, and mind,
- Engage with the wider community in working for justice,
- Live and promote Unitarian Universalist principles.

TUUC COVENANT

We the members of the Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation, do hereby commit ourselves to strive to live by the following words:

- 1) I will connect with people in a respectful and loving way by listening carefully, by welcoming newcomers and members alike with kindness and encouragement, and by promoting diversity.
- 2) I will offer my stewardship to enable the church and its programs to flourish; and to provide fair compensation, a proper working environment and continuing professional development of the minister and church staff.
- 3) I will make commitments thoughtfully, keep them faithfully, and support the work done by others.
- 4) I will pay faithful attention to my relationship to the church, and balance my commitment to the nurturing of myself and others.
- 5) I will support the Board of Trustees, its committees, and the staff in the governance of the congregation, and will express my opinions through these channels, especially if I disagree with a decision.
- 6) Recognizing that conflict can be an opportunity, I will engage with others in responsible problem solving by speaking respectfully and directly to the person involved first; and by listening carefully, respecting confidences, and being willing to participate in mediation.
- 7) I will participate in a process that examines the church's relationship to the wider community and strives to be a responsible, vital, and inspirational part of that community in a way that is consistent with our Unitarian Universalist principles and values.

Dec. '11/ Jan. '12 Events & Activities at TUUC

EVERY WEEK (*denotes RENTERS)

MONDAY by Noon - Caring Community notes DUE--p.2
5:45 pm - Camp Fire Meetings
7:00 pm - Vipassana Meditation
7:00 pm - elsewhere: TUUC BAND -- RSVP for location, wolfwall2@gmail.com

TUESDAY 6:30 pm - AA Group *

WEDNESDAY by Noon - Weekly E-news notes DUE---p.2
by Noon - Order of Service notes DUE---p.2
6:30 pm - Adult Spiritual Development

THURSDAY 6:00 pm - Yoga
7:00 pm - Choir --see Program Guide

SUNDAY **Worship Services** ---see back cover & p. 7
11:15 am - Youth Group, Thomas Jefferson Rm

UNIQUE EVENTS

SUN.. DEC. 4, 12:30p Gallery Opening
SUN.. DEC. 4, 5:30p Peace & Simplicity Vespers
SAT. DEC. 10, 9:30a UU Voices for Justice
SUN. DEC. 11, 9:30a All-Family Pancake Breakfast
SUN. DEC. 11, 11:30a TUUC Annual Meeting
SAT. DEC. 24, 6:00p Candlelight X-Mas Eve Service
FRI. JAN. 20, 5:00p Feb. Dialog items **DUE**
SAT. JAN. 21, 6:00p Circle Dinner
SUN. JAN. 22, 12:30p A Year to Live Class

TUUC Online Calendar

<http://www.my.calendars.net/tuucadmin>

ONCE (or twice) each MONTH

FIRST SUNDAY:	Facilitators Covenant Group , 9:15 a.m. Supper for Tacoma Ave. Shelter	- Sun. Dec. .4 ---see Program Guide - Sun. Dec. 4/Jan. 1 ---see Program Guide
SECOND TUESDAY:	Men's Reading Group , 6:30 p.m.	- Tue. Dec. 6/Jan. 10
SECOND WEDNESDAY:	Lay Pastoral Care Team , 4:30 p.m.	- Wed. Dec. 14/Jan. 11---see page 2
SECOND SATURDAY:	Program Council , 9:00 a.m.	- Sat. Dec. 10/Jan. 14
SECOND SUNDAY:	Program Advisory Committee , 11:15 a.m. Religious Exploration Committee , 12:30 p.m. Rationality Covenant Group , 12:30 p.m. Social Action Committee , 12:30 p.m.	- Sun. Dec. 11/Jan. 8 - Sun. Dec. 11/Jan. 8 - Sun. Dec. 11/Jan. 8 ---see Program Guide - Sun. Dec. 11/Jan. 8 ---see page 6
THIRD TUESDAY:	Board of Trustees , 6:30 p.m. (open to members)	- Tue. Dec. 20/Jan. 16
THIRD THURSDAY:	Chalice Circle , 3:30 p.m. Worship Committee , 5:30 p.m.	- Thu. Dec. 15/Jan. 19---see Program Guide - Thu. Dec. 15/Jan. 19---see Program Guide
THIRD FRIDAY:	Third Friday Potluck , 12:00 p.m.	- Fri. Dec. 16/Jan. 20 ---see page 6
THIRD SUNDAY:	Yes, We CAN! Food Drive , during worship Bible Study , 11:15 a.m. Computer Club , 12:15 p.m. NW Detention Center Vigil , 1:00 p.m.	- Sun. Dec. 18/Jan. 15---see Program Guide - Sun. Dec. 18/Jan. 15---see page 9 - Sun. Dec. 18/Jan. 15---see Program Guide - Sun. Dec. 18/Jan. 15---see page 6
FOURTH TUESDAY:	Hospitality Kitchen Serving , 8:00 a.m.	- Tue. Dec. 27/Jan. 24 ---see Program Guide
LAST FRIDAY:	Sandwich Making for Hungry & Homeless , 5:30 p.m.	- Fri. Dec. 30/Jan. 27 ---see Program Guide
FOURTH SUNDAY:	Membership Committee , 12:30 p.m.	- Sun. Jan. 22

COMING UP

Progressive Dinners - **FEB. 4, MARCH 10**

Women's Retreat - **MARCH 2 - 4**



Read about TUUC Programs in the [2011 Fall Program Guide](#)

Look for the Adult Spiritual Development (ASD) Programs link at tuuc-wa.org

Board President's Message

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our reserve fund, and agreeing on the proposed revisions in our bylaws. The bylaws work has been going on, in several iterations, for more than a year, and I think that we will all be relieved to finally get the new version passed and put into place as our set of governance guidelines.

Because of the crucial importance of this congregational meeting, I want to urge as many of you as possible to plan to attend the meeting, which should start about 11:50 a.m. on the 11th. See you there!

Jack Bregger
President, TUUC Board of Trustees

Annual Meeting 12/11/11

The TUUC Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2011. Our congregation reverts to one service (10:30) for the meeting which will start immediately following at approximately 11:40 A.M. Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. In order to vote, one must be a member for at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

The tentative agenda includes:

1. Adoption of the minutes
2. Election of Board Trustees
3. Election of the Board President
4. Election of Endowment Trustees
5. Adoption of the 2012 Operating Budget
6. Authorization of Reserves funds to cover budget shortfalls in 2010 and 2011
7. Adoption of Bylaws amendments

Sunday Services are recorded and are available from the TUUC Library.



TUUC CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS

— November 2011 —
(Through November 22)

For TUUC Operations: \$ 977.00

Change For Change: \$ 265.62
(Gender Alliance of South Sound)

“Yes, We CAN!” Third Sunday Food Drive: \$10

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

November 6
73 at 9:30 a.m.
137 at 11:15 a.m.

November 13
86 at 9:30 a.m.
158 at 11:15 a.m.

November 20
83 at 9:30 a.m.
107 at 11:15 a.m.

ONE-SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER HOLIDAYS AND NEW YEAR'S

There will be
**one service at 10:30 a.m. on
December 11, 18, 25 & January 1,
followed by Coffee Hour.
On January 8,
we will return to our
9:30 & 11:15 a.m. schedule
with Coffee Hour
in-between.**

Vote on Bylaws Revisions

At the annual congregational meeting on December 11, there will be a vote on the proposed bylaws revisions. The committee assigned to draft the revisions has met thirty times this year. They have studied bylaws of other UU congregations and have used the UUA document Your Congregation's Bylaws: A Guide to Effective Writing and Revising and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. In addition, many members of the congregation and the minister have been consulted. The committee has been available to meet with individual members during the past few weeks on Sunday mornings. Two joint meetings have been held recently with the members of the Bylaws Revision Committee and members of the Board of Trustees. Committee members also presented the proposed changes at the November Program Council meeting.

Included in the proposed revision is a clarification of membership. In addition to making a monetary pledge, a member in good standing with voting privileges is expected to pay that pledge. (Exceptions for members with financial hardships may have this requirement waived by the minister or by the board president. A person may change his or her pledge during the year by notifying the treasurer.)

The term of office for the Board of Trustees has been changed to three years. A person who has served for three years must leave the board for at least a year before running for a board position again.

The Nominating Committee will select a candidate (or candidates) for the office of president from among current eligible board members or someone else in the congregation, to run for the office of president. That way congregants will know prior to the annual meeting who is running for that position. Additional nominations for any position also may be made by petition of at least fifteen per cent of the voting members to the Nominating Committee at least two weeks prior to the election. Any such nomination is to be circulated promptly by electronic newsletter and posted on a church bulletin board. There will be no nominations from the floor for any positions.

The duties of the Nominating Committee have been expanded so that throughout the church year they will assist the congregation to identify, develop, and mentor leaders. They will seek recommendations and self-nominations from the congregation. Also, committee members shall serve as clerks for congregational elections and all other votes.

A Finance Committee has been added to the bylaws. This committee is responsible for overseeing budget preparation, reviews of financial practices, and advising members responsible for major and minor church fund raising projects.

In the article on The Minister, updates have been made to reflect called, settled, interim, contract, and consulting ministers. The wording for the selection of a Search Committee has been simplified. ►

News from HCIT (Healthy Congregation Implementation Team)

We want to acknowledge the Dreamcasting Group for their work in November to gather our dreams for TUUC's future. As Karin Van Vlack, facilitator of the Dreamcasting Group, said, their work links directly to the PNWD Healthy Congregation Team Congregational Assessment report recommendations. The report specifically recommends "that TUUC's Board, in collaboration with the Implementation Team, names a committee to begin the process of examining TUUC's vision and mission, centered on the question, Who are we as a church?"

The appreciative inquiry process the Dreamcasting group used, and their guidance to us about deep listening, provided a wonderful space for our dreams to emerge. It was a joy to look around the sanctuary on November 13 and see thoughtful speaking and engaged listeners scattered everywhere. There was a makeup session in the downstairs youth room on Sunday, November 20, where those who were leading the process, or involved in other activities on the 13th, were able to cast their dreams also. We are looking forward to the report of our shared dreams in January 2012.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or questions as we continue to implement the recommendations from the Congregational Assessment in the spring of 2010. Together, we have accomplished so much that was recommended in the report. HCIT Team members are: Chris Martin, Chair; Scott Redman, Chris George, Porter Kelly and Rev Bill Graves.

In the current bylaws, the function of the Board of Trustees is limited to managing the business, property, and affairs of the congregation. The following sentence has been added to the list of these duties, "In addition, the Board shall provide leadership in implementing the vision and mission of the Congregation, identifying the short and long range goals of the Congregation, and then evaluating the Congregation's progress in achieving those goals."

The final revised bylaws proposal will be posted electronically prior to the annual meeting. Some paper copies will be available at the annual meeting. The plan is to have an "up or down" vote of the complete revised bylaws proposal at the December 11 meeting.

Members of the Bylaws Revision Committee are: Charles Foster, Porter Kelley, Rob Ramsey, Steve Fortson, Virginia Lane, Patty McPhee, and Susan Tusa, chair.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action meeting will be held after the annual meeting on December 11, down-stairs in the beautiful high school room. The monthly vigil at the Northwest Detention Center will be the following Sunday, December 18 at 1:00 p.m.

TUUC's Support for Women In Black Ending

Ten years ago, when the United States invaded Iraq, several women formed a Women in Black group in Tacoma, and they held twice-monthly vigils in front of the U.S. Courthouse on Pacific Avenue. Of that original group, only one woman still takes part in the vigils and she has been joined by three TUUC members. While violence and senseless killing still continue in the world, the support for Women in Black in Tacoma has clearly waned over the years and no additional regular standees have come forth. With the anticipated withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq this winter, the current roster of Women in Black is ending its vigils. Many thanks go to Felice Davis and Karen Forchione who have stood with me faithfully over the past two years.

Joan Bregger

Volunteering

VOLUNTEER POSITION FILLED

Margot Marsh and Susan Kunkel are the new Membership Committee co-chairs for 2012. Margot is enjoying her first year of retirement and it is wonderful to see her committing some of her time to TUUC. Susan has served TUUC in many ways and is taking on this responsibility as she ends her term as a Board of Trustees member.

Kathy Fowler is the new Mary Boze Gallery Director. Kathy is a new member and her service to TUUC is appreciated.

Thanks to all of you for stepping up and contributing your time to TUUC.

Third Friday Potluck

Traditional holiday party at Helen's is scheduled for Friday, December 16. Come at your convenience between 1 and 4. This is not a potluck and we all are the program for relaxation and conversation. Elizabeth Solomon is assisting. Address- 4656 North Frace. Go north on Pearl towards Pt. Defiance. Turn left on 46th(west) and continue up to Frace, about four blocks. Turn right on Frace. The house is on your left at the corner. Park around in the back driveway if you wish or in front.

TUUC Progressive Dinner Fundraisers

Two TUUC Progressive Dinner Fundraisers are in the planning stages for early 2012 - Saturday, Feb 4, and Saturday, March 10. The 2012 Progressive Dinner Fundraisers will be hosted by North Tacoma TUUC congregants. Each dinner will consist of four courses and will begin with appetizers at 5:30 pm. The dinners are prix fixe at \$35 per person and limited to 16 persons for each date. To reserve your seat at the table, send a check made out to TUUC for \$35 to Joan Benderson at 9201 65th St Ct W, University Place, 98467.

Feb 4th hosts - Debbie Cafazzo & John Froschauer, Jennifer Johnston & Tommy Harlow, Susan & Steven Garrett and Chris George & Rob Ramsey. The March 10th hosts include Nancy & Chris Meyer and Kay & Dick Coulter. One or two additional hosts from North Tacoma are needed for the March 10th progressive dinner. If you would like to contribute to the dinners but cannot host a course, please consider donating a few bottles of wine for the dinners. To host or donate wine, contact Joan at joan.benderson@nventure.com or [253-566-4334](tel:253-566-4334).

Save the Date! UU Women's Retreat At Camp Seymour!

March 2-4, 2012

A wonderful, fun weekend connecting with women from the larger UU community. Workshops are being developed and will include hiking, the history (and sampling) of chocolate, arts & crafts, yoga, and massage, in addition to the outdoor activities offered by the YMCA (canoeing, archery, rock wall climbing).

We are still looking for people willing to lead workshops. If you have an interest or know someone in your congregation who might have a workshop to offer, please contact Debbie Cafazzo at: debbie.cafazzo@gmail.com or Allison Cerny at alcerny@gmail.com.

BE SURE TO PUT THIS WEEKEND ON YOUR CALENDAR! Registration Forms will be available in early January.

Vipassana Meditation

A meditation group is meeting regularly every Monday evening from 7 to 8:45 p.m. in the TUUC Sanctuary for meditation in the vipassana tradition. We typically sit or walk in meditation for 30 minutes, listen to a recorded dharma talk, and then have a short discussion in the spirit of awareness. No previous experience or preparation is necessary. All are welcome. Questions: Rob Gramenz, rgramenz@harbornet.com.

More Services in January (for December services, see page 12)

Sunday January 8 – 9:30 and 11:15 am
"Religious Naturalism"

Rev. Jim Anderson
The TUUC choir will be singing

Sunday January 15 – 9:30 and 11:15 am
"Empowering Leadership"

Anne-Marie Davidson

Sunday January 22 – 9:30 and 11:15 am
"Dreamcasting Report"

Rev. Bill Graves, Karin Van Vlack and the Dreamcasting Task Force

We will be joined by Janine Larson our PNW District Executive to reflect back the results of our collective visioning that occurred in November, and offer interpretations of our future together. The TUUC choir and the Tacoma Youth Choir will be performing.

Sunday January 29 – 9:30 and 11:15 am

Rev. Amanda Aikman (pulpit exchange with Rev. Bill Graves)
Topic to be announced.

"After Word" Brief discussions of each Sunday's sermons will be sponsored by the Worship Committee beginning in January, following the service. Did anyone else think that in "The Moral Arc of the Universe" on November 20 Bill was recounting a galactic recycling microcosm? I needed that conclusion about the arc having singular beings working together, the chaos that leaves an opening for something new, and bending the moral arc a little bit toward justice. We can get together for a short "After Word" when the new year starts. -- Virginia Lane

"We want to hear from you!" Says the Dreamcasting Team

*Faith is a forest in which doubts play and hide;
insight can hear the still small voice deep inside.
Web of Life, may this thread I weave
strengthen commitment to all I believe.
Vision be my guide as I seek my way,
lead me into this tender day;
speak through me in all I do and say.*
words from #194, "Faith Is a Forest,"

On November 13th Bill Graves introduced "Dreamcasting". Congregants met in dyads and were invited to answer three questions about TUUC. If you have not participated in this process yet, please come find out how the very act of being asked these questions, and being listened to, can transform your lives. Our goal is to hear from everyone. We want everyone to be included in this process. If you missed this experience and would like an opportunity to answer these questions please contact Susie Maharry at smaharry@hotmail.com by the deadline of December 11th. This is the final opportunity to be included. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs to return the responses, whether it be by phone, or sending and receiving an electronic version.

Yoga

We meet for yoga every Thursday from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary. You do not need to have experience with yoga, only a willingness to learn. We stretch and twist for relaxation and good health. We recommend that you wear loose, comfortable clothes, and bring a yoga mat. We also ask that you show up a couple minutes early so we can start on time. Please join us! Contact Loretta Skochenko-Dhaese 863-0595 at loretta@worldstar.com

South Sound Classical Choir Winter Concerts

The South Sound Classical Choir has prepared its Winter Concert season featuring works by Haydn, Handel, Whitacre, Rutter, among others, and a selection of traditional English carols. Concert dates and venues are

Friday, Dec 2, at 8 pm—Puyallup United Methodist Church, 1919 W Pioneer Ave, Puyallup

Saturday, Dec 3, at 3 pm—Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 10510 – 136th St. E, Puyallup (South Hill)

Saturday, Dec 10, at 7 pm—Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 2306 Milton Way, Milton

Sunday, Dec 11, at 3 pm—First United Methodist Church of Tacoma, 621 Tacoma Av., Tacoma.

All concerts are free, although donations are gratefully accepted. Jack and Joan Bregger are members of the choir and will have (free) tickets. Please join them!

—Joan Bregger

MARY BOZE GALLERY

Mary Boze Gallery: Close Focus: An Intimate Viewpoint by Patty McPhee.

Please join artist Patty McPhee for an opening reception on December 4 of this new exhibit presenting sculptures in stone, clay, cast stone, and paper, and accented by water media paintings. Each piece is created to comfort and excite. "My goal," says Patty, "is to express the emotional impact of life, to capture a moment of light and shadow, emotion and movement in a solid form. As I work from my inner self to the outer realities trying to capture its essence, I want the viewer to be aware of their own feelings and to become personally involved." Opening from 12:30-1:30 on Sunday, December 4 (immediately following second service), the exhibit runs through January 15.



Adult Spiritual Development

Wednesday Evening ASD

Wednesday Night Adult Spiritual Development is a drop in class from 6:30 – 8 p.m. No registration is required. If you can't make all the sessions in a series it is okay to miss a few. Childcare and Accessibility will be provided upon request by contacting Susie Maharry at smaharry@hotmail.com.

A Holy Curiosity

Facilitator: Rev. Bill Graves

Dates: Wednesdays, Dec. 7, and Jan. 4 / Time & Location: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at TUUC

This is a four-part class based on the book "A Holy Curiosity: Stories of a Liberal Religious Faith" by Bruce T. Marshall. This is a discussion-oriented class that offers a chance to delve deeply into a few of the Big Questions of theology from a liberal religious perspective and will offer plenty of time for private reflection as well as informal discussion. The book on which the class is based is highly engaging, presenting the questions in the context of stories from the lives of real people. The remaining two classes are:

Dec. 7 How Can I Live with Death?

Jan. 4 What Brings Me Hope?

It is recommended, but not required, to have a copy of the book to read prior to the class. Copies of the book are available directly from Bill, or from Mike Field in the TUUC office for \$10.

Dialoging with Emerson

Facilitator: Rev. Bill Graves

Dates: Wednesdays, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb 22, Feb 29 / Time & Location: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at TUUC

This is a four-part class based on the book: "Emerson as Spiritual Guide" by Barry M. Andrews. Arguably, no single individual had a more profound impact on our evolving liberal religion than Emerson. Andrews is one of our most knowledgeable and persuasive advocates for Emerson's continuing spiritual value. It is recommended, but not required, to have a copy of the book to read prior to the class. Copies of the book are available directly from Bill, or from Mike Field in the TUUC office for \$16. Alternatively, the can be ordered at www.uua.org/skinner.

Bill Moyers: Faith and Reason

Facilitator: Lori Fernholz-Hartman

Dates: Wednesdays, Jan 11, 18, Feb. 1, 15 / Time & Location: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at TUUC

When religion and secularism meet, the result is often a maze of misunderstanding. Bill Moyers skillfully explores the jagged, mysterious region between rationality and belief, as only he can. Join Lori Fernholz-Hartman as she leads us through the Bill Moyers Faith and Reason Series. Each session will include time for journaling and discussion after the interviews.

Jan. 11 Bill Moyers Faith And Reason Series Part 1

Margaret Atwood will be the first subject interviewed. She addresses the question: Can true spirituality survive in the face of oppression and religious fundamentalism? Also discussed will be: agnosticism, the hunger for meaning, and the distinction between belief and knowledge.

Jan. 18 Bill Moyers Faith And Reason Series Part 2

In part 2 of this series, we watch an interview with author Mary Gordon about the concept of martyrdom and its connection to rage and despair. Also the challenging implications of fundamentalism and consumerism. Reflection and discussion to follow the viewing of the interview.

Feb. 1 Salmoan Rushdie. More info in February Dialog

Feb 15: Pema Chodron. More info in February Dialog

Visioning Our Lives

Facilitator: Joanna Cummings

Dates: Wednesday, Dec. 14 / Time & Location: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at TUUC

Create a vision of your life the way you'd like it to be! Bring your own scissors, a snack to share, and some images representing the people, places, circumstances and events you'd like to see in your life in the year ahead. Joanna will be there with poster board, magazines, glitter and glue, as well as some general guidelines for this creative, relaxing, engaging process. Much more fun than a to-do list, a **vision board** is a visual agreement between you and the Universe of what you're cooking up in the year ahead. December is a wonderful time for this, and there's also power in sharing it with others. Invite your friends. See you there!

Joanna Cummings is a U.U., an activist, and a licensed counselor who has been making vision boards since 2008. She is also the author of the book, **Kick Butts, Take Names**.

And Just Added! A Saturday morning "Visioning our Lives" Workshop from 9:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m
Attend one or both. The Wednesday ASD session is free (donations accepted). The Saturday workshop is \$20.

Bible Study

Seeking wisdom in scripture from a liberal religious perspective

Third Sunday of each month, September through May

Facilitator: Mary Rhine

Time Change for December 18th Bible Study! Because there is only one service on this date, Bible Study will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the TUUC Library

If you are looking for dynamic, interesting, thoughtful discussions with some of TUUCs greatest thinkers, this is the place to be! Bring a Bible, if you can (any translation). A few extras will be provided. Here's what we have planned for December 18th at 9:15 a.m.:

Luke 2:1-20 / Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) / John 1:1-14 / Psalm 98

"A Year to Live" Class

What would you do if you were told you had only one year to live? An Adult Religious Education group is forming that will meet through 2012 on the following Sundays of each month from 12:30 -2:30 pm to take up this question through exercises, meditations, and field trips.

January 22, February 26, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August--OFF (perhaps an email check-in), September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16

In addition to Stephen Levine's *A Year to Live*, we'll be requiring one additional book (title to come) and asking members to read and report back on a third book selected from a bibliography. Members of the group are asked to make a significant commitment to the group: to attend and participate in each gathering, and to spend time outside class on supporting exercises and reflections.

I am pleased to announce that both Karin Van Vlack and Kay Coulter have agreed to facilitate this class again! Participants who took this class in 2010 shared their amazing experiences with us in a sermon earlier this year and so we already have eight people registered. *Registration is limited to a maximum of 12 participants. This is a very popular class, so get your registrations in soon!*

Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles meet once per month with 7-10 other TUUC members to practice deep listening skills. These groups meet from October 2011 through June 2012. This year our Chalice Circles will be thematic to our "Dreamcasting" initiated by Rev. Bill Graves. We will be using the four components of Appreciative Inquiry which are Discover, Dream, Design and Deliver to help guide us. There are four Chalice Circles this year which meet at the following times:

First Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at TUUC

First Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in a North End Home

First Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in a North End Home

Third Thursday of the month from 3:30 – 3:30 p.m. at TUUC

If you would like to join one of these Chalice Circles, please contact Susie Maharry at smaharry@hotmail.com. This is the last opportunity to join for this year.

Adult Spiritual Development Class Ideas?

Program Advisory Committee is working on selecting Adult Spiritual Development Classes for the Winter/Spring 2012 term. If you would like to offer a class or have any ideas of what classes you would like to see offered, please contact Susie Maharry at smaharry@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

Sustainable Gift Giving

Everyone has a love language and there are at least five: 1) *Words of Affirmation*, 2) *Quality Time*, 3) *Receiving Gifts*, 4) *Acts of Service*, and 5) *Physical Touch*. There is a sustainable gift for everyone on this list. Here are some ideas: 1) *Affirmation*: A letter about how much you appreciate someone you like/love, or vow to call your Mom, Dad and tell them you care, 2) *Time*: spend time with a child or loved one doing what they enjoy, 3) *Gift*: buy a durable-good such as a new book (preferably with recycled content) or a new US made, BPA free, metal, water bottle (look up: Liberty Bottles in Battleground, Washington), 4) *Service*: help your loved one with a task they don't have time to do or don't like to do, such as take out the garbage for a month for a change or make dinner, or make some home-made cookies for them, 5) *Touch*: vow to give them more hugs or get them a massage gift certificate. You cannot quantify many of these gifts and that is the beauty in it. —7th Principle Group – Sheila Wynn

Laura Foltz Memorial Library News

A perennial favorite for reading at this time of the year is **Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Warmth Back into the Season** (c1982) by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Steheli. The authors remind us of ways to emphasize joy and facilitate simplicity during the holiday season. Some of the resources listed may be dated, but the meaning is still relevant.

For children, **A Picture Book of Hanukkah** (c1982) by David Adler and illustrated by Linda Heller will explain the history and meaning of this Jewish holiday that often coincides with Christmas.

A few titles new to the collection include:

Handbook for Creation Awareness and Care in Your Congregation (c2000), by the staff of the Earth Ministry Organization, is a Christian-focused program designed as a guide for congregations to model environmental sustainability for their members and for their larger communities, structured primarily as a tool for Puget Sound "green" activists.

The Blessing Seed: A Creation Myth for the New Millennium (c1998) by Caitlin Matthews and illustrated by Alison Dexter is an interesting interpretation of the traditional Judeo-Christian creation story designed to inspire both children and adults. The batik-like watercolor illustrations are beautiful.

As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom (c2008) by Richard Michelson and illustrated by Raul Colón tells a simple story of the friendship of these two men and how they turned their personal experiences of discrimination into a message of love and equality for all.

Swan: Poems and Prose Poems (c2010) by Mary Oliver is a lovely addition to our collection of books by this beloved, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet.

One of the reasons for maintaining a church library here at TUUC is UU's fourth principle – affirmation and promotion of the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Recognizing this means that we need to be able to explore other religious and spiritual traditions – because UUs do not have a creed, and we need to develop and refine our own truths and convictions. One way we do this is by reading – informing ourselves of the world of religions and spiritual practices, both past and present, through the written literature and holy books. One of the purposes of the library at TUUC is to collect information about and the writings of other religions and make them available to members and friends of the congregation. Please visit the library to see what we have and find something that may help you in your personal search for truth and meaning.

I would like to remind all of you to search for any books that you may have checked out from the TUUC library, and neglected to return. We would like to start the new year with all the overdue items returned, and ready to be checked out by new borrowers. Thank you so much!

Best Wishes for a wonderful holiday season and blessed new year!

Beverly Wilson bbwilson46@gmail.com

We welcome you! Our congregation celebrates the presence and participation of all, regardless of spiritual beliefs, age, gender, abilities, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Upcoming Events

~Dec. 4: All RE classes go caroling at Alterra Wynwood. Meet at TUUC at 9:30 AM to rehearse. We can carpool, leaving TUUC at 10:20 or meet us at Alterra at 10:30. See below for details.

~Dec. 4: Peace & Simplicity Vespers, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Help your family set a peaceful tone for the holiday season. Join us for a beautiful service, light snacks, and thrifty handmade gift-making

~Dec. 11: All RE Classes children’s congregational meeting with Lori;

10:30 Service only

-Youth Group will make pancake breakfast for our **Congregational Meeting.**

~Dec. 18: Multigenerational Holiday Service Please return Guest at Your Table boxes today.

10:30 service only

~Saturday, Dec. 24: Multigenerational Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6 PM

~Dec. 25: No RE Classes or activities.

10:30 Service only

~Jan. 01: No RE classes or activities.

10:30 Service only

~Jan. 08: Winter Term Starts

Return to two services: 9:30 & 11:15

RE Committee meeting, 12:30

Happy Birthday to UU

- Gabe Marsellis, 6
- Tristen LeMay Lund, 10
- Sabrina Murray, 13
- Alaric Doering, 15

Religious Education Goes Caroling

Dec. 4 - RE Classes will be going caroling at Alterra Wynwood of Allenmore, 3615 South 23rd Street, Tacoma. We’ll meet to rehearse at TUUC at 9:30 (song book provided) and leave church at 10:20. We will return around 11:45. Drivers need to get forms from the DRE and children going without their parents need permission slips. If it is more convenient to meet us at Alterra, please do so at 10:30. Join us for this joyous holiday tradition! **Open to everyone.**

Preview Winter Term

Jan. 8 - Mar.4

9:30 AM

Preschool & KG –Anne Tumbusch will teach using and Spirit Play

1st-5th Grade – Lori Fernholz-Hartman will teach using the Curriculum Spirit of Adventure

11:15 AM

KG-3rd Grade-Melanie Forster will teach using Spirit of Adventure.

4th-5th Grade-Heather Urshel will teach using the Tapestry of Faith curriculum, Toolbox of Faith.

6th-8th Grade- Debbie Cafazzo and Lori Fernholz-Hartman will the Lead Coming of Age Program.

Youth Group-Youth Advisor, Anne-Marie Davidson, and Andy Bartels with 11 youth attending regularly! They are using the Tapestry of Faith Curriculum: Chorus of Faiths

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project

Come help assemble care packages for women and children in domestic violence shelters, on Monday, January 17 from 10 AM to 11 AM in the social hall at TUUC. We will make cards to send as well.

Donations of small toiletries are needed. The YWCA especially needs toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos and lotions.

There will be a box in the coat room to collect donations.

This has been a TUUC tradition for many years, started by Janet Higbee Robinson, and it is always a joyful way to connect with other church members and friends.



Contact your Director of Religious Exploration, Lori Fernholz-Hartman
v-mail: (253) 306-7836, e-mail: dre@tuuc-wa.org Office hours: Sun, Mon, Wed. 9 AM-3 PM

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DEC - JAN **The Dialog** 2011 - 12
Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Services in December and January:

Sunday, December 4 – 9:30 and 11:15 am **“The Moral Arc of the Universe and Me”**

Rev. Bill Graves

Two weeks ago we looked at the moral arc from a cosmological perspective. Now we bring it down to the personal, real world each of us live in. Can we live in hope and cope with suffering even if we can't accept traditional beliefs about “God's will” and a better life in the hereafter? Music by The Northern Lights.

Sunday, December 4 – 5:30 pm **Peace & Simplicity Vespers**

A way to begin your holiday season with intention and joy. A short, family-friendly service of readings, story-telling, meditation, and music; snacks to share together; simple holiday crafts for the whole family. Doors open at 5:30. Service starts promptly at 6:00 (crafting and snacking will go until 7:30).

Sunday December 11 – 10:30 am **“The Twelve Gifts of Christmas”**

Rev. Bill Graves

We are about to start the “twelve days of Christmas”. When I was a child I sang the familiar song and was given an advent calendar. Behind each of those days was a surprise. Let's take a look at the twelve days anticipating Christmas in a little different way. We just might reclaim the spirit of the season in spite of all the commercialism and banality it has become infected with. Music by Helios Trio. Annual Congregational meeting follows service.

Dec. 18 – 10:30 am Holiday Intergenerational Service: **Out of the Dark and into the Light**

At this special time of year when it's cold and dark Unitarian Universalist draw on our history and our hope. We celebrate Hannukah, Solstice, Christmas in uniquely UU ways. Come together and share what holiday traditions you hold dear. Help us decorate our Solstice Tree. Let's work together to embrace the past and create future holiday traditions for ourselves. Choir will sing.

Saturday, Dec. 24, 6:00 pm **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

Join us for our traditional UU Christmas Eve Service; a mixture of poems, Bible stories, and Christmas carols. It's just the right balance of elements for us to live our faith authentically and joyfully.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 am **“Home for the Holidays”**

Janee Cox and Katie Williams

Sunday January 1, 2012 – 10:30 am **“Finding Strength in Our Mountains”**

Rev. Bill Graves and Frances Wood

Here in Tacoma the horizon is dominated by a stunning mountain whose presence is felt even when visibility is limited. What place do mountains hold in the human heart and what mountains or hills will you set out to climb in 2012? Music by Teri Wolf and Linda Lightfoot.

More service information on page 7