



**UMPQUEST**  
**UMPQUA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**  
**April, 2009**

Reverend's Riffs

"Further Reflections On A  
 Question from the Wish  
 Sermon"

At the Wish Sermon I lead the Sunday before the Holidays this past December, a very worthy question was asked. The question was: "How can we determine our soul's purpose?" Wow, what a great question and thank you to whoever asked it.



As with most topics having to do with faith, the soul and our perceptions, I was again reminded at how complicated this determining process can be, and how so much of the answer, if there is one, is a gift.

I look at my life and see gifts, hundreds and thousands of gifts. There were challenges too, but in time I have come to see those as gifts also. So, in the midst of so many gifts in my life, I have not determined so much my soul's purpose, but a purpose has been given to me; that I am to enjoy, blissfully play,

and take so much pleasure in all that life has to offer. Trite, you may say, oh no! Enjoying is often times hard work. Especially when we feel we should be sad, or mad or outraged, or just plain moody.

I have found, on my spiritual path, that I am not so much determining my soul's purpose, but that I am finally, after years of struggle and fighting, that I am seeing energy around me, energy for good, for health, for personal growth, that I feel like I am finally seeing what has been there since the day of my birth.

I am someone who likes music, I like to kayak, I like to go to concerts and quilt and crochet and knit and write sermons and play cards. I am someone who is thrilled to see Venus first each evening in the night sky. I am someone who misses my home in Wisconsin and my children. I wish to touch their cheeks

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**UU MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation is to create and maintain a diverse, caring community that encourages ethical, intellectual, and spiritual growth. To accomplish this mission, we covenant to welcome individuals and families; to share the joys and sorrows of life's passages; to educate children and adults in our UU Principles values and heritage, and to act personally and collectively on our UU principles and values in a larger world.

Web site: [umpquauuchurch.org](http://umpquauuchurch.org)  
 (541) 672-2250

e-mail: [umquauu@cmspan.net](mailto:umquauu@cmspan.net)  
 Minister: [aholmes78@cmspan.net](mailto:aholmes78@cmspan.net)  
 cell: (541) 733-4017

**Minister**.....**Rev. Annie Holmes**  
 Director of Religious Education.....Kandie Kato  
 Music Director.....Roberta Hall

**Church Officers**  
 President.....Gary Pischke  
 Vice President.....Anna Slemmer  
 Treasurer.....Doris Heyman  
 Secretary.....Lucy Harrington  
 Member At Large.....Jan Fritz  
 Member at Large.....Gail Spitze  
 Member at Large.....June Ervin

**Committee Chairs**  
 Adult Enrichment .....Paul Zegers & Lucy Harrington  
 Art.....Lucille Alfred  
 Cares & Concerns...Lorrie Agost-Caley & Pat Zemlin  
 Building.....Mel Watts  
 Green Sanctuary.....open.....  
 Membership.....Lori Farmer  
 Ministry.....Jim Pratt  
 Music.....Elizabeth Herbert  
 Office.....Gail Spitze  
 Community Action.....Jim Terry  
 Sunday Services.....Jim Pratt  
 Volunteer Coordinator.....Judy Robertson  
 Webmaster.....Bernie Fox



## April Sunday Services

### **Sunday, April 5, 2009**

“Give Me A Classic, Please!”

Rev. Holmes

Books that have changed our lives. Why are these the same books often the ones that are put on a banned list?

### **Sunday, April 12, 2009**

“Easter Sunday Celebration: Celebrating Our Generations” Rev. Holmes

With ribbons and good wishes we celebrate who we are today as a church and who we are becoming!

### **Sunday, April 19, 2009**

“Feeling Comfortable In My Skin”

Rev. Holmes

Coming out of the closet with new clothes, but not sure if others are ready for the me that is finally, truly dressed as who I am, but so different from society’s norms.

### **Sunday, April 26, 2009**

A Celebration of Earth Day

Kandi Kato and others.

## **“OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER”**

Communities United Project (CUP) was created in January of 2001 for the purpose of strengthening the networking of faith-based groups and community organizations. The churches represented, at this time, are mainly those that sponsor The FISH Program. The agencies and organizations represent a cross-section of the community including Umpqua Community Action Network (UCAN), The Salvation Army, Transitions (a re-entry program for inmates) and the program for homeless youth at Roseburg High School. At every meeting we have a representative of an organization/agency present an overview of the services they provide within the community. We learn of specific ways we can help and then communicate those needs to the church and/or organization(s) we represent. We believe by working together we can be of greater service to our community.

CUP meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church on Lane Ave.

The speaker in May will address the scope and programs of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP.) We welcome more participation from the area. Please join us.

By: Bev Paulson

Note: UUU has 3-4 members who participate each month, but "the more the merrier." Everyone is welcome. For more information speak with Anna Slemmer, Kasha Claire, Patti Zachery or Phyllis Zegers.



### Announcement

There is still time to sign up for Rev. Holmes’ “Finding Your Voice: Spiritual Memoir Writing for Women” classes, Tuesdays, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet is in the back of church. These classes are designed for people who do not want to write, but may be fascinated at the possibility that they do indeed have something to say. Finding your voice, is about finding that voice within. All you need is a journal that you will bring to the classes and an attitude that is maybe skeptical, but open.

## UUUC COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE AT WORK

APRIL 2009

Again this year, your Community Action Committee will have a booth at Earth Day Celebration, for children and families to do “hands on” activities which promote learning how to grow plants locally using eco-friendly sustainable methods.



Earth Day is SATURDAY, APRIL 25, at Douglas County Fairgrounds. We need volunteers to assist in setting up on Friday afternoon the 24th (1-2 hours). Saturday volunteers will have a great time helping children and families prepare their own custom pots for transplanting their personally planted seeds. The booth will operate from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Volunteers can sign-up to help for one to six hours by letting the UUU office or any committee member about your interest (Jim Terry; Anna Slemmer; Hope Lindsay; Phyllis Zegers).



The Social Concerns Committee decided to re-name itself to Community Action Committee. We felt that this better reflects our activities and differentiates us from the wonderful Cares and Concerns Committee. Our committee meets each THIRD SATURDAY of the month at UUUC at 10:00AM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The ‘First Sunday’ non-profit candle for March was Project Literacy. Information was presented by the local executive director. The collection for Project Literacy was \$266.00.

The ‘First Sunday’ candle for April (April 5th) will be for the Douglas County Museum programs presented by our own Gardener Chappell.

**Jim Terry, Community Action Committee Co-Chair**

*(Continued from page 1)*

more often than I am allowed to with the distance between us. I yearn to have lunch with them and see their eyes sparkling in mine. All of these things, pieces of me, have to do with my soul’s purpose which of course has to always do with becoming my authentic self.

I came to Oregon because I wanted to support my partner Bille’ in her desire and need to care for her elderly parents. I was looking for a fulfilling church experience, not having had but one in the four other churches I had served. This was a part time consulting ministry that I took on, having left a full time ministry in Wisconsin. Now, the strange piece of this story is that I thought I had it all when I was in Wisconsin. You see, I told myself I was home, where I had longed to be and had not been for 7 years. But everything was wrong. I was unhappy, unfulfilled, anxious and sad. But why? I was home I kept telling myself, I should be the happiest person on earth. But it was my perceptions of things that kept me from true happiness.

Now, even though I am 2,500 miles from the places I love and feel are “home” to me I have found some fulfillment and happiness. All of this is not all figured out, because I am on a journey. But for this girl, to find her soul’s purpose, she

has had to redefine home, redefine family, redefine her ministry. And all that has happened in a slow, methodical way. And most of time without any participation from me, except to watch this newness unfold with my mouth open in awe.

So, I have no clear, simple answer to this question as you can imagine. Because we are all in the midst of a mixture of complete and utter joy, and terror and fear and sadness at the same time. And the dichotomy makes the soul’s purpose a changing and ever developing thing.

I know for sure that my authentic self, who I have just been reintroduced to by the way, was asleep in the world that I thought was perfect. And amazingly, she is more awake and more present in my life as I live here in the midst of all of you. Not in my home, not with my family, but surely as I am alive, in a good, worthy and loving place. Go figure.

Spring is coming as surely as the lilac in my front yard pushed through the cloth I put down last Fall and the bark I laid unknowingly on top of it. My sadness, confusion and pain over what I felt I had given up or lost is slowly also being pushed away and a new, vibrant flower is about to bloom. Let’s work on letting life teach us, what do you say?

See you in church, Annie



April 2009

# Musings

Gary Pischke  
Church President

We've received quite a few ideas at the February 15 Congregational Meeting. With the economy and all, we are leaning towards continuing to rent the house as we have before. The church is doing ok, but needs to have the extra 8 percent provided by the house rental. We will continue to evaluate other options and make those choices in the future.

I attended the Annual Meeting of the PNWD in Salem in late February. The opening ceremony was quite fun with all the music and interactive messages. The songs were full of energy. The march of the banners with drums was grand. Too bad we had left the UUUC banner behind. There was a lot of good energy at that ceremony.

On Saturday evening, the presidents of a number of the congregations attended the get together put on by PNWD. The question of the evening was; what could the PNWD do for each congregation? There were a lot of comments including visits to each of the congregations; more training; more contacts with staff of PNWD and congregation boards; and more overall support.

One interesting point that was brought up by a Portland area congregation president was the concept of those who are "unchurched". The idea appears to be sort of like "unwashed" or "undead". Somehow being "unchurched" from 1972 to 2006 did not seem to be a problem. There are lots of other church-like institutions out there. Maybe this could be a good topic for a Wednesday AEO discussion.

## CELEBRATION CHILE COOK OFF

APRIL 18, 2009

5:30 TO 9:00 PM



You too can join the ranks of the infamous chili chefs (Redge, Connie, June, Joyce, Barbara and Billie). We would welcome more cooks to join in on the fun! We will be contacting you the UUU members and friends to help with the set up and clean up or to provide appetizers or desserts. We church will be providing the beverages for the Social Hour and the wonderful music of our local Jazz Club! Please save us a phone call and tell us what you would like to do. In the words of President Obama, "My faith is one that admits some doubt. But, not in you!" This is going to be a fun night of good food and good music. Join us in celebrating ourselves!



### Naramata 2009 – Joyful and Liberating!

Eliot Institute offers a seven day, one-of-a-kind experience of play, community, and worship for the whole family in beautiful Naramata, on the shores of Lake Okanagan in British Columbia. This year's session runs June 27 – July 4, and will feature Rev. Amanda Aikman and Julia McKay as the theme speakers. Come join us!



### Become a Chalice Lighter!



The Pacific Northwest District Chalice Lighter Program assists the growth of congregations in our district by providing grants. All of the grant money comes from UU's just like you who participate as Chalice Lighters.

Once you have enrolled, you will receive up to three letters a year telling you the purpose of the call and asking you to send in your pledge of at least \$10. Each call will go for the purposes described in the letter, so you will know exactly where your money will be going to work. Your only obligation is to fulfill your pledge 2 or 3 times a year. In 2007 our church received a CL grant to fund the position of our music director.

I will have a table after the church service on April 5 and will be happy to sign you up. You will join the other 35 chalice lighters already in our congregation. - Jan Fritz



## Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report for February 28, 2009 represents the '08-'09 fiscal year.

Our total pledges for 2008-2009 are **\$ 80,000.**

Fish Contributions in February was **\$297.00** plus food collected for the month.

Our Wine Taste grossed \$2647.10. Net income from Wine Taste was **\$2,238.75.**

Total pledge income in February **\$3,628.50.**

Plate Cash income in Plate Cash income in February **\$394.00.**

Our plate cash give away in February was **\$266,00** and went to Douglas County Library.

Total Income **\$5,094.61** – Total expense **\$ 7,983.55** (These expenses include the Pass through money). Actual Church Income - **\$ 4,531.61**  
Actual Church expense - **\$7,420.66.**

Minister salary and expense for February was **\$ 4,409.75.**

Our Membership is 72 members and 45 friends of the Church.

Doris Heyman, Treasurer



## New and Not-So-New Member Bio

### Meet Jeani Robertson

By: Sheila Lawrence

Calling herself a war baby, Jeani was born in her Grandmother's home in Madison Mills, Ohio, during the Second World War, and remained in the area throughout her childhood, welcoming a brother born in 1946. Jeani attended school in Bloomingberg, Ohio where she started with eleven other children and all twelve graduated together, but along the way, Jeani's life took on twists and turns that no one saw coming.

Eight years after her father's return from the war, he passed away leaving Jeani's mother, who suffered from mental illness, unprepared to raise two children. Foster home loomed ahead with good and bad times to follow. Jeani says, "My foster parents made sure I was well educated, however, I had a hard time rising to their expectations. If I came home with an A, they couldn't understand why not an A+".

At Ohio Northern University where Jeani studied Art and Education, and where she met her future husband, plans were formed to return to his hometown, Niagara Falls, NY after graduation, but everything was put on hold when husband Pat was drafted.

Jeani's travels took her to Eugene when Pat was discharged, and where he quickly became Director of Head Start while Jeani continued her teaching. Shortly after, husband Pat became Coordinator of childcare, the food pantry and battered women's programs for the Presbyterian Church here in Roseburg, Jeani continued her teaching in Glide.

In 1985, after her divorce, Jeani bought twenty acres – nineteen of which was forestland and one acre for her to farm. In the year 2001 she retired and soon after, fell ill. It was during this time she began to read and realized she'd fought off feeling terribly uncomfortable over the bigotry of her foster parents for so long, it was time to do something about it. She sought out our UU Church and felt so warmly welcomed, she says, "it is truly my home."

Jeani gardens her remaining acre, loves painting in watercolor, acrylics and experiments with mixed media. She's very adamant when she says, "I'm heavy on the environment and nature." She has also served on the committee for the Peace Dinner and "Soup for the Soul" that ended a short time ago. Jeani is another talented and nurturing soul that we have added to our beautiful puzzle of Unitarians.



## UUU Church Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the UUUC Board of Directors

March 3, 2009

Members present: Rev. Annie Holmes, Gary Pischke, Anna Slemmer, Lucy Harrington, June Ervin, Jan Fritz, Gail Spitze.

### **Item: Who should have check signing approval?**

Action: Gary will discuss this matter with Doris.

### **Item: Rev. Annie's Sabbatical update**

Action: Seven (possibly eight) ministers as well as James Gibbons Walker will be available to fill the pulpit during Rev. Annie's absence.

### **Item: Discussion of proposals for use of the Rental House; results from informational meeting.**

Action: The general consensus is to keep the house as a rental. Mel Watts has been asked to obtain additional estimates for painting, carpeting and general repair of the house. He will report to Gary Pischke who will bring the matter to the attention of the congregation.

### **Item: Listing of church's phone number in PFLAG**

Action: It was moved by June Ervin, seconded by Gail Spitze, and passed unanimously that the UUUC be listed with PFLAG.

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### **Item: Church Conflict of Events Policy**

Action: It was moved by Jan Fritz, seconded by June Ervin and passed unanimously that the wording of the new policy be accepted. Policy is as follows:

Events scheduled to be held at the church will be submitted to office staff for placement on the calendar.

If there are scheduling conflicts, the following procedure(s) will be followed:

- 1) Event coordinators will be encouraged to come to a resolution.
- 2) Church members have priority.
- 3) Church events have priority.

Non-members will be asked to coordinate with a respective committee in order to reserve use of the church.

Church events will be scheduled in a timely manner in order to avoid conflict with on-going events. New events will be added and coordinated with a committee.

Once the event is placed on calendar, that event will have first priority. If event coordinators cannot come to an agreement, the Church Board will help the participants arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution.

### **Item: Update from Canvass team progress**

Action: Board members will be available to members of the church community to answer any questions.

**Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m. at the UUUC.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Harrington



# April 2009

## Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church

2167 NW Watters Roseburg, Oregon 97471 (541) 672-2250

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service</p>			<p><b>1 Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation  <b>6:30pm-Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> BYOT- "Suffering and Meaning: Why do Bad Things Happen?" Rev. Holmes</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <b>11:00am -</b> Membership meeting at the church</p>	<b>4</b>
<p><b>5</b>  <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service</p>	<b>6</b>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>6:00pm -</b> Board meeting at the church</p>	<p><b>8 11:30 -</b> Cares and Concerns Committee meeting at Pat Zemlin's house  <b>Noon-</b>Mindfulness Meditation  <b>6:30pm - Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> Covenant Groups</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!</p>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<p><b>12</b>  <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service</p>	<b>13</b>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>6:00-8:00pm -</b> "Finding Your Inner Voice"            Women's Writing Class</p>	<p><b>15 Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation  <b>6:30pm - Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> Meditation and Healing Circle - Rev. Holmes and Lucy Harrington</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!</p>	<p><b>17</b>    <b>Newsletter articles due!</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>12:30-3:30pm -</b> Shamanic Journey Circle with Sharon Haag  <b>5:30pm -</b> Celebration Event/Chili Cook-off</p>
<p><b>19</b>  <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>6:00-9:00pm -</b> Gay/lesbian estate planning workshop seminar. Hosted by Dan Robertson</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>6:00-8:00pm -</b> "Finding Your Inner Voice"            Women's Writing Class</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation  <b>6:30pm - Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> Game Night!</p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>6:00pm -</b> Choir - all are welcome!</p>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<p><b>26</b>  <b>10:30am -</b> Sunday Service</p>	<b>27</b>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>6:00-8:00pm -</b> "Finding Your Inner Voice"            Women's Writing Class</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>Noon -</b> Mindfulness Meditation  <b>Adult Enrichment Opportunities -</b> Odyssey with Jim Pratt</p>	<b>30</b>		