



# Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT AUGUST 2006**

We hope you have been keeping up with the news from around the district via the PNWD website. From our Welcome page ([www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org)), the news is just a click away. You can also submit happenings from your congregation from the news link. We would love to help spread the word about your building renovations, exciting program offerings, installations of religious professionals, etc.

### ***FROM DISTRICT EXECUTIVE JANINE LARSEN***

We mourn for victims of religious violence, including those killed and wounded in the July 28 shooting at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. The UUA has endorsed a statement calling for religious leaders to "reject the grotesque misuse of religion in support of violence." See the UUA website for additional information and resources related to violence in the Middle East and UU responses.

Our thoughts are with all of the victims, including Cheryl Stumbo, a board member at University Unitarian Church in Seattle. Cheryl, the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, remains hospitalized from injuries received in the attack.

### ***IN OUR CONGREGATIONS***

**Woodinville UU Church (WA)** is giving away one plate collection each month to a community program selected by its Advocates for Social Justice Committee. In June, the collection went to Hopelink's "Backpacks for Kids," a back-to-school program for homeless and low-income children and youth in the local school district.

On June 12 over half of the members of **Wy'east UU Congregation (Portland, OR)** met with district Program Specialist Tandi Rogers Koerger to begin forming their vision for Lifespan Religious Education. Tandi said she does not remember ever working with such a significantly high percentage in a congregation.

Ben Kerns, **UU Fellowship of Klamath County (Klamath Falls, OR)** was named as Grand Marshal for the Klamath County 4th of July Parade. PNWDers know Ben as the 2001 recipient of the district's Unsung UU Award. Over forty years ago, Ben worked with others to preserve the old Pine Grove Schoolhouse by starting a house

of worship for people of all faiths. This congregation is now known as the UU Fellowship of Klamath County.

The **Rainier Valley UU Congregation (Seattle, WA)** will gather September 17 to celebrate the opening of their new meeting site, the Rainier UU Center, located at 835 Yesler Way in Seattle.

**First Unitarian Church of Portland (OR), Corvallis UU Fellowship (OR), and Boise UU Fellowship (ID)** are among 20 sites chosen to pilot *Our Whole Lives for Young Adults*. This new program combines activities from other OWL curricula with new material created specifically to address the concerns of college students and adults ages 18-35.

We anticipate that this new level of OWL will be published along with its supplement, *Sexuality and Our Faith*, in 2007 or early 2008. Teacher training programs will be offered during that time as well.

The Young Adult and Campus Ministry Office of the UUA is pleased to announce that the 2006 Anchor Congregation Awards for Young Adult and Campus Ministry will be given to **First Unitarian Church of Portland (OR)** and to First Church Pittsburgh (PA) for their grounded, creative, and growing congregational commitment to campus and young adult ministry.

The Anchor Congregations designation recognizes congregations that have made a substantive commitment to young adult and campus ministry, and which serve as a model to other Unitarian Universalist congregations seeking to carry out young adult and campus ministry.

PNWD Chalice Lighters continue their generous gifts for our growing congregations. The third and last call of the 2005-2006 church year resulted in a check for \$15,770 to the **Boise UU Fellowship (ID)** to help pay for a new floor. Thanks to all of you who made contributions. If you are not yet a PNWD Chalice Lighter, you can sign up on the district website at [www.pnwd.org/pages/chalicelight\\_regform.php](http://www.pnwd.org/pages/chalicelight_regform.php).

The **UU Fellowship of Corvallis (OR)** invites everyone to attend the upcoming events: "Winter Wheat: The Betrayal of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Her Woman's Bible." This October 14 event is a solo performance by UU author/actress, Laurie James. On November 3, 4 and 5 Dr. Jeremy Taylor will be presenting "Introduction to Dream Work," "Experiential Dream Workshop" and "Dreaming for Justice: Dream Work as Meditative Practice for Social Change." For registration information contact [janetgarden@comcast.net](mailto:janetgarden@comcast.net). Questions about these events and their admission prices can be directed to the UU Fellowship of Corvallis at (541) 752-5218.

### **RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONALS**

We are pleased to announce the following new ministries and to welcome newcomers to the Pacific Northwest District:

Moscow, ID – **Rev. Kayle Rice**; Ashland, OR – **Rev. Heather Lynn Hanson**, Interim Minister; Astoria – **Rev. Sue Ayer**, Consulting Minister; Bend, OR – **Heather Starr**, Consulting Minister; Eugene, OR – **Rev. Jeanne Melis Mills**, Interim Minister; Hillsboro, OR – **Rev. Patti Pomerantz**, Interim Minister; Roseburg, OR – **Rev. Annie Holmes**; and Bainbridge Island, WA – **Julie Forest**, Interim Minister.

September 30-October 1, University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA will celebrate a quarter-century of ministry of the **Rev. Jon Luopa**. The congregation will honor his 25 years by initiating a Social Justice Program Fund.

**Julie Forest** will be ordained on October 8 by East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, WA.

This fall brings in a wave of new Coordinators and Directors of Religious Education: **Lise Adams** with UU Congregation of Salem (OR), **Pamela Gerke** with Evergreen UU Fellowship (Marysville, WA), **Kelly Masjoan** with the North Idaho UU Group (Coeur d'Alene, ID), **Lita Malone** with Kittitas Valley UU Congregation (Ellensburg, WA), **Natalie Palmer** with Cascade UU Fellowship (Wenatchee, WA), **Trish Leighton** with Mid-Columbia UU Fellowship (Hood River, OR), **Julia Jackman** with UU Fellowship of Klamath County (OR), and **Tawnya Miller** with Umpqua UU Church (Roseburg, OR),

**Lynne Bacon** joins the fleet of district volunteers as our Interim Director of Religious Education coach. She is available to help congregations and Interim DREs navigate this special time and get the most out of its gifts. She was recently trained by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Currently Lynne is serving Michael Servetus UU Fellowship in Vancouver, WA as their Interim DRE for this coming year.

### ***DENOMINATIONAL NEWS***

The **PNWD Nominating Committee** is seeking candidates for two positions on the district board. The Metro Portland region and the East of Cascades and Alaska region will need to be filled at the February 2007 Annual General Meeting. There is currently an opening for the position representing Metro Seattle. In addition to board positions, the committee is looking for people who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee. If you are interested, or know someone you would like the committee to consider, please contact Brian Rogers at [brianrogers@gmail.com](mailto:brianrogers@gmail.com) or 907-457-2031.

The Pacific Northwest once again has a **District Envoy to the UU United Nations Office**. Susan Aigner, of Saltwater UU Church in Des Moines, WA, has been appointed to serve as PNWD's liaison between the UU-UNO and local envoys, and to share information with the district at large. In February, Susan was named as PNWD Unsung UU, and now adds the UU-UNO position to her lengthy list of volunteer duties. If you would like more information about the UU-UNO or would

like to learn about representing your congregation as a local envoy, please contact Susan at [susanaigner@comcast.net](mailto:susanaigner@comcast.net) or 253-630-2752.

Health insurance for many congregation employees is closer to becoming a reality. The UUA Board of Trustees recently approved going forward with an open enrollment for the **UUA Health Insurance Plan** through October 15. Enrollment is open to staff of UU organizations who work at least 1,000 hours per year; plus self-employed community ministers and recent retirees who have Medicare and need this plan as a Medicare Supplement. Enrollees should not cancel any current insurance coverage until all subscribers are notified in late October that the plan will take effect on January 1, 2007. Plan details are posted on the UUA website at [www.uua.org/leaders/insurance/](http://www.uua.org/leaders/insurance/). The UUA site also includes an enrollment application to be completed and submitted online. Questions and comments about the plan can be directed to Jim Sargent of the UUA at 617-948-6405; or [jsargent@uua.org](mailto:jsargent@uua.org).

Ralph Mero, Director of UUA Church Staff Finances, reminds congregations that 1,000 hours per year is slightly less than half time; and that congregations are urged to contribute at least 80% of the premium cost for eligible staff and at least 50% of the premium cost for their dependents. PNWD Compensation Consultant Peter Henrickson says, "Congregations that cannot meet the 80% guideline should carefully assess their funding capacity." Peter will be happy to talk with you about compensation and funding concerns. Contact Peter at 360-608-8571 or [peter.henrickson@alumni.reed.edu](mailto:peter.henrickson@alumni.reed.edu).

Mark June 20-24 on your calendars and plan to attend the **2007 UUA General Assembly** in Portland, OR. Meetings will be held in the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. It has been a dozen years since the last General Assembly was held in the Pacific Northwest District. Don't miss this opportunity to convene with thousands of UUs in your own backyard! Watch the UUA website ([www.uua.org/ga/](http://www.uua.org/ga/)) for full details.

### **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

The **2007 Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Northwest District** will be held February 16-18 in Boise, Idaho. The planning committee is accepting workshop proposals through September 15 related to the theme "Knowledge, Compassion, Commitment." Contact Elton Hall at [eah1828@aol.com](mailto:eah1828@aol.com) or 208-323-1618. Watch the PNWD website for updates. Go to [www.pnwd.org](http://www.pnwd.org), click Events and Annual General Meeting.

Congregation board members, lay leaders and professional staff should plan to gather at the Edmonds UU Church (WA) for the fall **PNWD Leadership Council**. Dr. Bill Grace, founder and past executive director of the Center for Ethical Leadership, will present "Leading with Courage." Watch your congregation's mail and email for full details of this November 18 event.

The online **Calendar of Events** contains a comprehensive listing of opportunities coming up in the Pacific Northwest District. If you are unable to access the Internet, contact the district office at 800-313-PNWD (7693) for printed copies. Printed information is also distributed in the congregational packets and yellow Lifespan Learning packets.

Here is a sampling of upcoming events:

Sept. 8-9	Leadership Development for Committee Chairs	Olympia, WA
Oct. 7	Partner Church Community Assessment Workshop	Bellevue, WA
Oct. 13-14	Small Group Ministry Jamboree	Edmonds, WA
Oct. 13-14	Youth Fall Con	Lincoln City, OR
Nov. 17-19	Spirituality Development Conference	Bellevue, WA
Nov. 18	PNWD Leadership Council	Edmonds, WA

Be sure to check the **online calendar** ([www.pnwd.org/pages/eventlist.php](http://www.pnwd.org/pages/eventlist.php)) for a complete listing of district events. And remember to use the "Submit an Event" link to let us know about building dedications, milestone events with your religious professionals, training events open to participants from the wider district, etc.

**Note:** While email and the Internet have helped make communications more accessible and timely for many people, there are still those who are not "on line." Please remember to include the "non-wired" in your congregation by providing access or print copies of electronic news and publications through your church office. If you are unable to provide such support locally, individuals may contact the district office toll-free at 800-313-PNWD (7693) to obtain a print copy of materials referenced in this bulletin.