



Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT AUGUST 2007 (updated 8/29/07)

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), 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.

IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Olympic UU Fellowship (Port Angeles, WA) got rave reviews on their Welcoming Congregation ad in their local newspaper. (See it at www.bowzerbird.com/ouuf/.) Creator Ellen Morrison is making the ad available for use by any UU Welcoming Congregation. Contact Ellen (bowzerbird@lanset.com) to request a copy of the file that can be personalized with your congregation's information.

The **UU Congregation of Whidbey Island (WA)** has received a \$25,000 First Home Grant from the UUA, plus a \$250,000 loan to assist in their new building effort. A groundbreaking ceremony is set for Sunday, September 9 after their ingathering service.

First Unitarian Church of Portland (OR) will hold the dedication of the Buchan Building on September 16. One of the services that will be offered in this newly built Community and Religious Education building is a UU-friendly Recovery Group. Group sessions begin September 18, with two meetings per week. This group is not limited to UU's, but also welcomes religiously tolerant friends and family. For more information, contact Kate Lore at klore@uuma.org or the Rev. Katherine Jesch at 503-236-3634.

Portland's First Unitarian Church is also in the news with the appointment of member Linda McKim Bell as the UU Service Committee Regional Coordinator for the PNWD.

West Seattle UU Fellowship (WA) has amended its bylaws to allow voting membership at age 14, provided that prospective members have completed either Coming of Age or Membership Orientation in the congregation.

After a year-long fundraising effort, the **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis (OR)** sent a group of youth and adults to Costa Rica for a cultural exchange and work party. Follow their journey online: <http://corvallisyruiica.blogspot.com/>

Saltwater UU Church (Des Moines, WA) is on the air! After filming their worship service and editing it, it is then shown on their local Channel 77 (2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:00 pm.) You can also watch it on the streaming on the Internet: www.pugetsoundaccess.org.

Also at Saltwater: Their English as a Second Language program at strives to creative comfort and familiarity with using English in everyday situations. They average 6-8 participants a night and are making a real difference!

Congratulations to the **Olympia UU Church (WA)** project Out of the Woods. This Emergency Shelter program was awarded a \$5000 grant from the UU Funding Panel with an additional \$2500 challenge grant.

The **Rogue Valley UU Fellowship (Ashland, OR)** made the front page of the local news for their "Environmental Sunday." People from 5-85 years old rode in the electric car and electric pickup after the service. Two families came to church for the first time because their elementary children saw the story in the paper and insisted that their parents bring them. Their Religious Education program was also represented at the Ashland Earth Day Fair.

Last year was a record-breaker for the District's Chalice Lighter program. The three calls were answered with a combined total of \$47,000.

The purpose of the first call, in fall 2006, was to raise at least \$12,000 so that \$200 would be available for every congregation who wanted to send a youth to General Assembly (GA) in Portland could apply for funds to do so. This call raised \$14,610 from 752 donations; 26 congregations applied for funds, resulting in grants for 89 youth from around the District to attend GA.

The second call, during winter 2007, asked for funds to help three different smaller congregations in the District. The \$16,294 raised from 790 donations was divided between them. **All Souls UU Community (Lacey, WA)**, will be funding a consulting minister. **Rainier Valley UU Congregation (Seattle, WA)**, received support for growth initiatives. **Umpqua UU Church (Roseburg, OR)**, received a grant for a part-time music director.

Finally, the spring 2007 call was to help **Michael Servetus UU Church (Vancouver, WA)**, to grow to a program-sized church through parking enhancements, increased DRE funding, and upgrades to their RE building. This call raised \$17,233 through 864 donations.

Thank you to the nearly one thousand Chalice Lighters from around the District who pledge to respond with a gift of \$10 or more for each of the three annual calls. You can become a Chalice Lighter at the District website (www.pnwd.org), and watch as your gift joins many others to make a lasting difference to our UU congregations.

The following congregations have signed up with the UUA to participate in Association Sunday. (See: www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday) **ALASKA: UU Fellowship of Fairbanks, Juneau UU Fellowship; IDAHO: Boise UU Fellowship; OREGON: UU Fellowship of Central Oregon (Bend), UU Fellowship of Corvallis, The UU Church in Eugene, South Coast UU Fellowship (North Bend), First Unitarian Church (Portland), Wy'east UU Congregation (Portland); WASHINGTON: Cedars UU Church (Bainbridge Island), East Shore Unitarian Church (Bellevue), Free Church Unitarian (Blaine), Edmonds UU Church, Kittitas Valley UU Congregation (Ellensburg), Northlake UU Church (Kirkland), All Souls UU Community (Lacey), Evergreen UU Fellowship (Marysville), Olympia UU Congregation, Community UU Church (Pasco), Quimper UU Fellowship (Port Townsend), Michael Servetus UU Fellowship (Vancouver).**

We are saddened by the recent death of Barbara Sand, longtime administrator of the **Edmonds UU Church (WA)**. Barbara served the Edmonds church for at least 18 years. She will be greatly missed by the Edmonds church, the Shoreline UU Church where she was a member, by her colleagues and the district staff.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONALS

Saltwater UU Church (Des Moines, WA) welcomes **Melinda Brooks** as their Acting Director of Family Ministries for the 2007/2008 church year. Melinda also welcomed a healthy baby boy into her family this spring.

The Wy'east UU Congregation (Portland, OR) has contracted with the **Rev. Susan Maginn** to serve as their Consulting Minister beginning in August. She most recently served Eliot Chapel in St. Louis, MO as Membership Development Coordinator.

We welcome the following Directors of Religious Education: **Karen Raese** and **Cathy Carmen** are Co-DREs at Boise UU Fellowship (ID); **Susan Pearson** is the Acting DRE Assistant while Edmonds UU Church (WA) is in search for a full time DRE; **Jan Jewett** is the settled DRE for Michael Servetus UU Fellowship in Vancouver, WA; **Sarah Ortner** is the Children's RE Coordinator for the Rainier Valley UU Fellowship in Seattle, WA; **Scott Richard** is the settled DRE for Shoreline UU Church (WA); and **Janet Guthrie Granja** is the settled DRE for the UU Church of the Palouse in Moscow, ID.

The **Rev. Cecilia Kingman Miller** will serve the Edmonds UU Church (WA) during the coming year as their Interim Minister.

Juneau UU Fellowship (AK) has contracted with the **Rev. Ken MacLean** to be their Consulting Minister for the next six months.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

The **46th Annual UUA General Assembly** brought nearly 6,000 Unitarian Universalists to Portland, Oregon from June 20-24 to worship, attend workshops and

share experiences. This year's General Assembly explored the theme "Choices That Matter" in a unique way. For the first time, GA attendees used a process called Open Space Technology to consider the mission of Unitarian Universalists as a faith community.

The UUA Washington Office has compiled **The Real Rules: Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections**. The document is not intended to be used in place of legal counsel; it merely clarifies the Internal Revenue Service guidelines as they relate to religious organizations. An executive summary of the guidelines is included in the August congregational packet for each of our PNWD church offices. Before your congregation undertakes any advocacy, lobbying or electoral activities, please consult the full version of The Real Rules at www.uua.org/uuawo.

Do you have a project or program that needs financial support? Take a look at the website of the **UU Funding Program** (www.uua.org/uufp) to see if it fits their guidelines. The next application deadline for most funds is September 15.

From Summer 2007 UUA *InterConnections*:

UU webmasters will want to take a look at "Faith and Web" (faithandweb.com) a new blog about achieving excellence in church website design and production. Goals of the website are to share web building tips, insights, and new technologies with church leaders who care about their websites and to have fun doing it.

Church webmasters can also share ideas and get answers on the UUA-sponsored email list "Websters," which has hundreds of UU congregational website administrators as members: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/websters>.

The UUA has created **email aliases** for each of the UUA districts. You can easily reach us by sending mail to pnwd@uua.org. Our districtoffice@pnwd.org address will still be accessible directly, but the UUA address is much shorter and also signifies the PNWD-UUA connection.

The **UU Church of the Blanchard Valley, in Findlay, OH**, was heavily damaged by the recent floods in that part of the state. They lost their piano, sound system, chairs, all of their RE curricula, books and supplies in the flood waters. The congregation was able to save their pulpit, chalice, most of their hymnals, and the coffee pots. (Their minister, the Rev. Beth Marshall, says she finds a bit of ironic humor in the fact that the coffee pots were salvageable.) If you can help with a donation of funds or in-kind materials, please contact: Rev. Beth Marshall, UUBeth@aol.com, cell: 419-889-9974.

The UUA has provided the district office with copies of the DVD **"Breakthrough Congregations – 2007"**. PNWD's own First Unitarian Church of Portland is one of the four featured congregations. If your congregation would like to receive a free copy of this DVD, please contact the district office and we will be happy to get a copy out to you.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

GoldMine Youth Leadership School, under the leadership of Samaya Oakley (Vancouver, BC) and Eli Johnston (Portland, OR), brought together 22 youth leaders from Bellevue, WA; Edmonds, WA; Eugene, OR; Vancouver, BC; Pt. Townsend, WA; Des Moines, WA; Tacoma, WA; Spokane, WA; Seattle, WA; Woodinville, WA; Hillsboro, OR; and Portland, OR.

The **Youth Advisor Jump Start** hosted by the Edmonds UU Church (WA) was attended by nine youth advisors and DRE from Washington congregations in Edmonds, Whidbey Island, University Unitarian Church in Seattle, Port Townsend and West Seattle. Trainer Samaya Oakley from Vancouver, BC outlined the nuts and bolts of healthy youth ministry as well as stocked up people's tool boxes with games and activities for the coming year. Another **Youth Advisor Jump Start** is being offered August 24 in Oregon City. Dana Regan from First Unitarian Church of Portland (OR) is the trainer.

Youth Chaplaincy Training, at the East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, WA the weekend of August 24 will train youth and adults how to tend to the spiritual and pastoral care of youth. Trainers from the UUA will lead a 15-hour intense workshop that is part of the UUA's Chrysalis Program for youth ministry. We have been lucky to have an outstanding Chaplain Team serving every Youth Con this year. They each have attended this training. So far 16 youth and adults from 11 congregations have signed up to attend.

The **2008 PNWD Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Sheraton Hotel (soon to become Hotel Murano) in Tacoma, WA. Mark your leap year calendar for February 29-March 2, not the traditional Presidents' Day weekend. Featured speaker will be the Reverend Rebecca Parker, president of Starr King School for the Ministry and author of several noted books. For more information check www.pnwd.org, click News/Events and Annual Meeting.

AGM workshop proposals are being accepted through September 10. Proposals should follow the Annual General Meeting's theme, Blessing the World. Contact Howard Janapol at hjanapol@yahoo.com or 253-549-2125.

We heard repeatedly from Boise AGM delegates how valuable the **Delegate Travel Equalization** was in sending a delegation to last year's Annual General Meeting. Keep an eye on the AGM website (www.pnwd.org) for a posting later this fall about Delegate Travel Equalization for the Tacoma AGM.

Upcoming events in the PNWD:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| October 20 | Transforming Conflict in Your Congregations |
| October 19-21 | Our Whole Lives: Facilitator Training: Elementary |
| October 26-28 | Fall Youth Con |
| November 9-11 | Renaissance Module: Administration |
| November 9-11 | Our Whole Lives: Facilitator Training: Jr./Sr. High |
| November 17 | PNWD Fall Leadership Council (Spokane, WA) |
| Feb. 29-Mar. 2 | PNWD Annual General Meeting (Tacoma, WA) |

For full details, registration information and a complete listing of district events check the **online calendar** at *www.pnwd.org*, click News/Events and Calendar. 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 the wider district, etc.

The **PNWD website** is in the process of a face lift. Our web manager hopes to transfer to the new host over the Labor Day weekend. Please be patient if you experience a glitch in our web service during that time. Also, if you send email to a *pnwd.org* address during that transition time and do not receive a prompt reply, please resend your message. We'll get back to you just as quickly as possible.

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.