

The print edition of *The Rogue Unitarian* is published monthly and mailed to all our pledging members.

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The Rogue Unitarian editor is Kate Cleland.

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

Selected Articles from our April 2000 Newsletter *The Rogue Unitarian*

[April Message from Reverend Patt](#)

[Mason's Musings - April](#)

[Board Notes 3/19/00](#)

[Auction Successful!!](#)

[Barefoot Ball Update](#)

[Book Notes](#)

[In the Gallery April 2000](#)

[From *Too Many People*](#)

[Ad Manager Needed for RU Newsletter](#)

[ALBERTSON'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS](#)

[CARDS](#)

[Ruminations on the Food Bank](#)

[EAC Hosts Soda Mountain Update](#)

[UUSC, Local Partners, Help African Children](#)

[A VIEW FROM THE DISTRICT](#)

[Minnesota Bound this October?](#)

[Homecomings Bed & Breakfast Travel](#)

[Directory](#)

[General Assembly 2000 in Nashville June 22-](#)

[26](#)

[United Nations Population Fund](#)

[Music Notes from Brian Kerns](#)

[Religious Education Program News Items](#)

April Message from Reverend Patt

Why do people come to RVUUF? We haven't revisited the Mission Statement, but we know some of the answers.

Acceptance. This member of the UU Association affirms the "inherent worth and dignity of every person." How many have told of the joy of finding a group who accept them as they are? How refreshing

to state our ideas and get serious discussions. How important to get to express questions or dare answers in a community that will listen, will question in return, and will invite anyone who would care to engage this community in the UU Center.

Community. Beyond acceptance, we build community. UUs also strive for world community, but meanwhile, we invite relations to grow right here. We may have to work at how to be a community (we're so good at championing the individual that we can forget how to do 'community'). We thrive when we can be a part of a caring community.

Searching. We ask about existence. We question the status quo. We look for the meaning that undergirds our actions, or guides our lives. Where do we find truth? We try to look every possible place for answers. We ask, we challenge, we are haunted and moved by doubt, we are excited by the possibility of discovery, we humbly share our glimmers of truth.

Spirituality. We would touch the transcendent. We would sing the spirit of being. We may savor the quiet meditation time in Thursday Vespers, or feel blessed in Monday Affirmations, or find inspiration in a moment of the Sunday worship service.

Worship. We say this word to refer to celebrating things of worth. What an appropriate name for our Sunday morning services. It begins with the music of our voices in animated conversation. We turn our focus at the Calling Bell and words that invite "the spirit" to be among us ("invocation"). We sing a song, breathing and raising our voices together, hopefully quite familiar with the song by the end of the month.

Our UU flame, the chalice, is dedicated with heartfelt words. Our theme is shared with "children of all ages" before the young people adjourn to classes or youth groups, so we have an opportunity to share intergenerational worship--our big extended family. One of our congregational Board members greets us and we try to welcome and begin connections with our visitors. We take the Offering, an opportunity to offer stewardship to this precious

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

institution (and our community buzz rises in our conversations again). The calling bell invites a pivot of energy. Music will touch us; music will invite the theme of the morning again.

All forms of expression will invite reflection on a theme, while each member of the congregation gives and takes pieces to incorporate in our lives--readings, sermons, standing to sing together, skits, poetry. Finally, we will clasp hands and offer our blessing ('benediction') of peace and love for one another, everywhere we may go. It is wonderful to bring our gifts and our longings, to be nurtured and to celebrate. What a special thing, this liberal religious home in the Rogue Valley. Yours in the Unitarian Universalist faith,

With love, Patt

[Back to Articles List](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

Mason's Musings - April 2000

Diane Mason, RVUUF Board
President

I am writing this the day of our auction, and I am excited about attending, especially since I have never been to one. I am always in awe of the amazing effort and organization that goes into putting together an event such as this. Thanks go to Susan Meek, Elysia Newman, Pat Walden, Marilyn Hart, Bob Carson, Betty Owens-Gordon, Don Dolan and Clayton Gordon, and their "cast of thousands who made it happen.

Not only is quality fundraising happening, but groups and individuals are coming forward to bring their energy to the work of Unitarian Universalism. The Finance Committee

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

is a place where new things are happening. Not only is Finance looking toward creating a new budgeting process, but they already have a Canvass Committee forming. Thanks to new member Sandy Riley, and old members Herb Petschek and Jim Williamson to taking on this very important and complex canvass program. The Committee on Fellowship Ministry has been to a workshop and is formulating a process for conflict resolution. Another group recently formed under Beth Coye,s stewardship to look at coordination of data bases and volunteer work.

Of course, when thinking of new, I have to think of and thank Walter Ensign and Dave Adams for taking on the challenges of Board work. We are asking Walter to Spearhead personnel work to get a personnel policy handbook adopted and to make fair compensation recommendations to us for staff. We then hope to have a standing personnel committee. Membership is beginning new activities to welcome and orient new members. The Caring Committee is streamlining its services. And there is more; thank you to all of you who are willing and able to do the work of justice, caring, support, and love.

I do need to know from you, though, why so few members show up at Congregational Meeting. Last one: 67, and the one before: 80; that's not great to my thinking when we are more than 200. Do you who did not attend need more notice? Do you just have an allergy to meetings? Think the Board is so on the ball that your input wouldn't count? Have an allergy to money talk? Tell me, write me, e-mail me. The Board is listening. We learned a few things at the meeting about future process and the budgeting process, but we want to know more !! Beth and I really are doing focus groups for the

bylaws. Copies of the bylaws will be ready for your perusal April 1st. Our first focus group will be 9 AM-10:15 AM in the library on April 9th. Come give us feedback. We are interested especially in your ideas on youth membership and the requirements for membership. Beth will hold another focus group later in April.

We are cooking!!

Blessed be, Diane

[Back to Articles List](#)

Board Notes

Board Notes 3/19/00

At its March 19 meeting the Board:

1. Approved a policy suggested by the Buildings/Aesthetics/Grounds Cluster and the Finance Committee that will ensure that expenditures for budgeted items will be monitored and that requests for non-budgeted expenditures will be considered either by the Board or by the Finance committee.
2. Reinstated Kids Night Out as a self supporting program subject to future review of financial issues.
3. Named Kate Cleland, Patt Herdklotz and Elizabeth Baxter to develop a Newsletter policy.
4. Gave the Committee on Ministry the additional function of mediating differences and grievances in a timely and orderly fashion.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, April 2, 2000, 12 noon

Phil Hart

Auction Successful!!

The Rogue Valley Unitarian Fellowship Auction held March 18,

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

2000, cleared
\$6,725 for the Fellowship after all costs were deducted. The hard
work of
the Auction Committee and Auctioneer (see Mason,s Musings,
p. 2) paid off in
a tasty dinner, a wonderful evening, and future enjoyment for
successful
bidders who will partake of the services they purchased.
About 110 people registered to bid. Many were accompanied by
members of
their households and friends.

[Back to Articles List](#)

Barefoot Ball Update

Tickets went on sale by the Membership Committee March 19,
2000 for the
Barefoot Ball, to be held at the RU Center Saturday, May 19, 8-
11:30 PM.
Tickets for this groundbreaking, all-inclusive community event,
with music
by Blue Lightning, can be purchased from Membership
Committee folks during
Coffee Hour after the Sunday Service (\$6 adults, \$3 with student
ID, or free
for under 12). Look for large, bright pink name tags.

Book Notes

New on our shelves this month:
A second copy of Corliss Lamont,s The Philosophy of
Humanism, donated by
Margaret St. Clair.
Daniel J Boorstin,s The Seekers: The story of man,s continuing
quest to
understand his world

Purchased by the Library Committee:
David S. Blanchard,s A Temporary State of Grace
Dorothy May Emerson, ed., Standing Before us: A collection of
letters,
essays, stories, poems and speeches by UU women
Anne Odin Heller,s Churchworks

Donated by authors who participated in the Book Signing/Sale in
December:
Stephanie Bartlett,s Highland Flame

Beth Coye,s My Navy Too
Vern Crawford,s Tef Theory
-Ruth Carson, Chair, Library Committee

[Back to Articles List](#)

In the Gallery April 2000

Michael Thorniley of Talent is our featured artist this month. His bold interpretations of cities or country scenes come from his memory and imagination. He uses oil, acrylic, and watercolor applied in heavy strokes of color, often contrasted with black and white, to develop his feeling for the subject, rather than its appearance. For most of his long life, Mike has been a farmer. Although he began painting in 1952, and took art classes at Scripps College, he didn,t touch a brush for almost 25 years. Now, he paints prolifically, sometimes surprising himself with the images he creates.

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

From *Too Many People*

The problem of overpopulation is not a new one. " In ancient timesthe people were few, there was an abundance of goods, and so no one quarreled.....but nowadays no one regards five sons as a large number, and these five sons in turn have five sons each, so that before the grandfather has died, he has twenty-five descendants. Hence the number of people increases, goods grow scarce, and men have to struggle and slave for a meager living. " (Han Fei Tsu, ca. 200 BC).

John McClendon , Too Many People

[Back to Articles List](#)

Ad Manager Needed for RU Newsletter

Volunteer opportunity! Jan Waitt, who has been Ad Manager for years, has

detailed records to help the next volunteer get started. Duties include record-keeping and billing our advertisers. The new Ad Manager can be as proactive in seeking new accounts as he or she wishes. Many thanks to Jan for her years of capable service (and that full page of ads we have). Anyone interested in taking over as Ad Manager may call the RVUUF office at 482-4755.

ALBERTSON,S COMMUNITY PARTNERS CARDS

Do you eat? Do you buy groceries? Do you shop at Albertsons, always, or sometimes? The Fellowship has a way to profit from your eating. Albertsons will give us a certain percentage of our total on a quarterly basis. We have cards which you (or your friends) can present as you check out. Cards are now available in the RVUUF office. There is no charge. To learn more, contact Elizabeth Baxter at 552-1496, or e-mail her at johnjane@jeffnet.org for details.

[BACK TO NEWS AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[Back to Articles List](#)

Ruminations on the Food Bank

With new members entering RVUUF, I decided this was a good time to give some background on the "Food Communion" that takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

For many years the Church had a box at the entrance where people could donate food. The contents were taken to Access in Medford. About 3 years ago UU's in Action decided that the food collected should stay in Ashland, hence it was decided to give the collection to the Ashland Food Bank. As very little food was left in the box, it was decided to have a monthly food collection, which proved to be very successful. Along the way people expressed dismay at forgetting to bring food, so it was agreed that money could be donated in lieu of a can or box of food. This still is in effect. This money is used by

the Food Bank to buy food.

Some people are concerned that none of this money goes to ICCA (Interfaith Care Center of Ashland). Unfortunately not enough is collected to warrant a division. This month we collected \$33. It may be more when many out of town visitors participate. Furthermore, the Food Bank board has budgeted \$100 per month for ICCA snacks. The two groups are completely separate entities, they only share building space. Ashland Emergency Food Bank, now 20 years old, only recently moved into their present office behind ICCA. They operate with the motto "No One Should Go Hungry."

As a follow up to the book donations from Unitarians, the report is that the Food Bank distributed food and books to 25 families through the Hermanos project in February, and to 12 in March.

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

Fran Petschek

[Back to Articles List](#)

EAC Hosts Soda Mountain Update

The Environmental Action Committee met March 17. Speaker was Pepper Trail, Conservation Chair of Rogue Valley Audubon, who spoke on recent developments in efforts to safeguard the amazingly diverse wild lands of Soda Mountain and Steens Mountain. Protection of Soda Mountain is now on two tracks - national monument designation and the new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) EIS (environmental impact statement) just issued for the Cascade-Siskiyou Ecological Area. Comments are needed. Call Virginia Lemon (482-8229) to borrow or discuss the EIS. A decision on national monument designation is expected soon. A decision on Steens Mountain may be made in the fall. This is a much larger area and is now subject to widespread grazing and considerable human disturbance.

Next meeting will be Friday, April 21, from noon to 1:00 P.M.
-Virginia Lemon

[Back to Articles List](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

UUSC, Local Partners, Help African Children

In times of violent conflict, children become the unfortunate victims of societal problems that they played no role in creating. In the Great Lakes Region of Africa, conflicts have forced many families to leave their homes, moving to camps or retreating into the countryside, where they struggle to find food and shelter. Children are drafted into the army, and in place of education they are taught hatred, intolerance and violence. During a recent trip to the Great Lakes Region, a UUSC staffer reported "We often came up to roadblocks manned by very young boys, some barely as tall as the AK-47,s they wielded.

Working with 11 local partner organizations, the UU Service Committee seeks to promote a culture of peace between peoples and offers special programs for children and youth of the Southern Great Lakes Region. Specific objectives include:
Involving the children in public concerts, public education through the media, and regional forums and conferences on Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Conflict resolution training with the children, as well as exchange trips with other cultural groups.

Eileen Adee,
Southern Oregon Rep., UUSC

[Back to Articles List](#)

A VIEW FROM THE DISTRICT

Big news! Your congregation is invited, as are all PNWD

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

congregations on both sides of the border, to join in a congregational self-assessment process. The UUA Fulfilling the Promise Committee has developed a special self-assessment tool, and has invited us to field test it. Your congregation will be receiving a packet in late August with the details, but meanwhile, here's some early information.

The UUA knows that you have pressing issues to juggle and resolve all the time. It doesn't leave you much time for reflection on how your congregation is doing as a whole. What's going right and good with you? What needs work? To help answer these fundamental questions, you will be offered an easy-to-use tool. After your congregation does its self assessment, you will be invited to send four delegates (travel equalization for those who come from great distances) to a workshop in your area to comment, make observations, discuss and join in dialog with other congregations from your area.

The workshops will be offered simultaneously on October 28, 2000 in Anchorage, AK, Vancouver BC, Seattle, WA, Spokane, WA, Olympia, WA, Portland, OR and Corvallis, OR. Continental UUA leaders will be present to facilitate these workshops and to offer the Sunday morning services on October 29. Look for names, places, information and your survey! Join in this exciting process -- what we do here will be a model for the rest of the UUA in 2001!

If you have questions, contact me at the district office: (800) 313-7693.

Anne Heller, District Executive

[Back to Articles List](#)

[BACK TO NEWS AND ARTS PAGE](#)

Minnesota Bound this October?

There,s good reason to go there October 13-15, 2000...A Prairie Home

Weekend:Inside the Twin Cities, featuring attending a live broadcast of the Prairie Home Companion radio show, visiting museums, shopping, and more.

Accommodations are bed and breakfast in the homes of other UU,s in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. \$250 per person. Call Isabel Rife (651) 426-2874, or e-mail the White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church at whitebear@unitarian.org for information.

Homecomings Bed & Breakfast Travel Directory

The 20th Edition of Homecomings, a b&b directory for Unitarian Universalists and liberals in religion, is now available for \$17 for renewing members and \$16 for new members. Call (954) 346-4727 (Florida) for more information.

General Assembly 2000 in Nashville June 22-26

The 39th Annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will meet in Nashville, Tennessee June 22-26. Join the 3,000 UU's expected for GA in Nashville for this year's theme: Fulfilling the Promise: Our Common Call..

[Back to Articles List](#)

United Nations Population Fund

The United Nations does not promote abortion as a method of family planning.

The UN respects the legal right of each sovereign nation to make its own laws on abortion. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the UN's main organization for population and reproductive health issues. It includes assistance in reproductive health services, including family

[BACK TO NEWS AND ARTS PAGE](#)

planning and information. These services are the most effective for preventing abortions.

To eliminate the need for abortions is UNFPA's goal.

Selma McAlaster

[Back to Articles List](#)

Music Notes

Music exists for every season, but music about spring has an exuberant, almost nervous quality. Nature erupts in a fecund frenzy which continues

well into summer, depending on the kingdom and species, and music reflects

the energetic explosion of this first arc of Life's cycle. For the Music

Program here, we have leapt into the season with gusto:

MARCH 12 - "Rebecca Riots" provided music for our service. I am making arrangements with St. Clair Productions to have them sing for our service again whenever they may come through town.

MARCH 19 - Patricia Aulik joined us for our Creativity/Vernal Equinox service to conduct a mini-drumming circle. There may be interest in having a UU drumming circle. If you would like to participate, drop me an e-mail at

church, or leave a note in the Music mailbox box. Later that day, David

Rogers, a fabulous guitarist from Southern Oregon University presented the first of what will become (I hope) a regular series sponsored by our own

Music Committee featuring Rogue Valley and visiting talent.

MARCH 26 - Our choir sang a beautiful piece by Lully with a Unitarian text titled "A Quiet Place" under the fine leadership of Don Dolan

Upcoming events:

APRIL 23 - Our choir will premiere new work, based on an

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

opera I am writing
from Clive Barker's "The Imajica."

MAY 21 - Anton Mizerak will return, this time with a Tibetan-style
flutist.

JUNE 18 - Our first annual afternoon choir potpourri/concert
will be
liberally sprinkled with solos, ensembles, instrumentals, and
whatever else
we can think of ... and Summer doesn't even begin until the fol-
lowing week!
Happy Spring, one and all.

Brian Kerns

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[Back to Articles List](#)

Religious Education Program News Items

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Sunday, March 19th, was our first intergenerational service of
the year. Over
a dozen RE children, from preschoolers to teens, joined the
congregation in
classes for drumming, poetry writing, and art and shared their
creations
alongside the adults in the closing ceremony. What a wonderful
demonstration
of church community! Thank you,
Rev. Patt, for inviting us to participate.

THANK GOODNESS FOR OUR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & HELPERS

Once again, we needed to call upon our parents and teens to
provide coverage
for Nursery and PreSchool-Kindergarten classes when our usual
substitutes
were unavailable.

THANK YOU TO:

Dads - Pat Honsinger, Mel Ginsberg, Joe Knotts

Teens - Allegra Herdklotz-Yasutake, Ben Hoffer.

You were great, the kids enjoyed you, and we all appreciate your
willingness
to help out in a pinch!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SUNDAY APRIL 9th

Instead of starting the morning off with parents in the Great Hall, on the second Sunday of the month the RE children Pre-School through grade 5 go directly to classroom 3-4 for their very own Children,s Worship Service.

Here they are learning to participate in a service, gaining confidence in speaking or performing before a group, and singing UU songs. Each service teaches one of the UUA principles with stories and activities.

THIS MONTH IS PRINCIPLE 6: We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.

[BACK TO NEWS AND ARTS PAGE](#)

REMEMBER - FIRST SUNDAY IS FOOD COLLECTION DAY

The RE children participate in the congregational ritual of Food Collection on the first Sunday of the month. Each class created a collage of food pictures on the special boxes and the boys and girls bring those boxes to the front of the Great Hall to receive your donations.

It takes a few extra minutes for them to get in place, but the slight delay is well worth the valuable experience and lessons for our young UUs. They are contributing to and participating in our church family, they are gaining confidence in being with and in front of adults, and they are witnessing the abundance of our service in action (holding the money box is the coveted position!) Your patience, friendly smiles, and helpfulness as you bring your donations to the front are all appreciated.

[Back to Articles List](#)

PROPOSAL FOR KNO APPROVED

The Board has accepted the proposal of a new format for the Kids Night Out service. Fifteen people participated in a planning session to rework how we do KNO. Present were parents from 5 families who use KNO,

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

RE Committee, 2
staff, Minister, Board Vice President, and 2 interested members.

KNO will continue on second and fourth Saturdays, 6-10pm.
through June 10.

Reservations must be made by noon on the Wednesday before by
calling RVUUF
during office volunteer hours of 9AM-12 Noon.

Cost is \$6 per child for up to 4 hours of baby-sitting, which will
make it
self supporting. We will be following standard practices of child
care,
maintaining a safe environment and adequate supervision. It will
be
recreational in nature with a choice of activity stations.

PLANNING FOR SUMMER AND NEXT PROGRAM YEAR
It,s already time to start planning for next year. First we need to
estimate
the needs for July and August. This is traditionally a time off for
programs
and staff, including paid and volunteer teachers.

We have done a Village class in the past, combining all ages in
one group,
but attendance was sparse and unreliable. We have a large group
of children
this year in nursery and pre-school-kindergarten and it looks like
this is
where the need will be for this summer,s coverage. Second, the
RE Committee
will be reviewing the available curriculum and presenting
options for
adoption. They also will conduct a year-end review of the
program and
personnel and establish goals and guidelines for the 2000-2001
program year.

HELP WANTED

Needed: Volunteer Coach-Assistant to install Internet and e-mail
on MAC

Performa 6200CD and help DRE

set up files for easy transfer to Website and Newsletter Editors.
Puh-lee-ee-eeze, my 20 hours a week are already jammed full
and this

service would help immensely. Plus, we need to clear it out so
there is

enough room to install Brian,s composer program.

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

Thanks, Deana Campbell Hoffer

Jr. Youth Group News:

EASTER EGG HUNT - APRIL 23rd

Bring your baskets and wear your bonnets! The Junior Youth group is organizing and conducting the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We'll be outdoors, weather permitting. Expect lots of fun and maybe even a few surprises!
[Parents: if you have questions, concerns, or special needs for this event, please contact the Director of Religious Education.]

The Junior Youth Group has had their first Sunday of lighting their own chalice. Different youth lead the group in visualizations. This was a sincere morning filled with spiritual talk and sharing. We are all searching for what spirituality really is. On the no class service day, March 19th, they enjoyed roller-skating at Roller Odyssey in Medford. We went to Dances for Universal Peace on Friday March 17th. This gave us a chance to experience one side of the Sufi tradition. For April we will be heading out with Easter plans, and we will look for ways to raise money. The bank account is getting low.

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[Back to Articles List](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)

[BACK TO NEWS
AND ARTS PAGE](#)