

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

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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.

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## Mason's Musings - July 2000

Diane Mason, RVUUF Board President

I have spent the last month celebrating our last year's accomplishments in different ways and in different settings. What a treat for me.

First, in early June the Board, Patt and Deana went on retreat at the Greensprings Inn. As we shared at the June 18 service, we opened the retreat with listing and celebrating our congregational successes. It was indeed a sacred and emotional moment for us to step back and look at four newsprint sheets of wonders; the successes of our year.

With success as our foundation, we dreamed a new year. The theme that emerged for us was "Flourishing as a mid-size congregation: every person a steward. We set goals around structure, policy, team building and covenanting. As we looked around, we realized we really wanted to be doing this with everyone. So, next year we plan to have the church committees, Leadership team leaders, Board and anyone else do a retreat all together in May. This year we will have our all church retreat on the Saturday after Labor Day. Mark your calendars now. It is an amazing experience to dream together.

Second, I had the good fortune to facilitate a Leadership Council meeting when Beth was out of town. They are another reason to celebrate. They have really been working beautifully, ironing out the inevitable kinks of any new endeavor and building a real team. Mazel tov!

Third, it was obvious to me from all of my opportunities to celebrate successes that you all have been busy and excited. There is a lot of LOVE (see, UU's can use the word love in a sentence) and JOY circulating around our congregation. There is an energy afoot that you are generating. It is invigorating. I love walking in the door. I love being a UU.

We have been learning how to do church as a mid-size congregation. We have been learning about community and creating the processes to nurture community. There is this excitement about our becomingness. I think we have jumped the major hurdles of resistance and fear around CHANGE. I am so grateful for all of your efforts, ideas, and energies.

We must always continue to nurture our dynamism, but for now, let the celebration continue! We are the amazing UU's. Travel and recreate safely.

Love to each of you, Diane

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## Board Notes

Board Notes 6/4/2000

Dorothy Williams was approved as ninth Board member to fill out a term for the remaining year (until December).

It was voted to have the Minister maintain a Discretionary Fund for the year 2000 as a separate confidential account not in the general fund.

The Baldwin piano is to be released from the Fellowship at a reasonable date.

The new piano, sound system and roof, and timelines for their installation were discussed.

The role of the Director of Education as leader and administrator was discussed. Deana will research this topic and report her findings

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to the  
Board.

There was extensive discussion of Board goals developed at the retreat June

3. These will be reworked and finalized presently.

-Beth Coye

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## Poet's Corner - Ruth Wire

Sanctuary

This day begins like  
a slice of peach I nibble  
trickling the juice  
into my dry throat.

This precious gift of time  
was grown by my own hands.  
I treat it tenderly;  
it was hardwon,  
this crop, and ripe.

The hot smell of warm fruit  
makes me want to devour it  
in untasted bites,  
so I have quartered the hours  
for breathing in and out,  
giving myself the leisure  
to feel the rest.

I cut out bruises  
visible beneath the fuzz,  
leaving on some segments  
only slivers of yellow  
under red cups  
whose fibers used to  
fit the brain-shaped pit.

I liquefy their perfume  
and sip the sun  
through a coral straw.

Ruth Wire

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## E-Mail Lists Through UUA

You may subscribe to an amazing array of e-mail lists through the Unitarian Universalist Association homepage on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uua.org>

Here,s just a partial listing by topic or subgroup of UUA:

### Antiracist-UU

Antiracist UU activities, resources and ideas. Contact the list manager at:  
[antiracist-uu-request@uua.org](mailto:antiracist-uu-request@uua.org)

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### bgilt-news

Postings of current news about bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues. Contact the list manager at:  
[bgilt-news-request@uua.org](mailto:bgilt-news-request@uua.org)

### UU-Money

Discussions about fund-raising and money for treasurers, finance committee members, canvass committee members, and others. Contact the list manager at:  
[UU-Money-request@uua.org](mailto:UU-Money-request@uua.org)

### WORSHIP-L

Discussion of presenting good worship services. Contact the list manager at:  
[WORSHIP-L-request@uua.org](mailto:WORSHIP-L-request@uua.org)

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### UUHS-CHAT

UU Historical Society discussion of UU History and Historical Research. Contact the list manager at:  
[UUHS-CHAT-request@uua.org](mailto:UUHS-CHAT-request@uua.org)

### MEMB-L

UU membership committees and UU,s interested in membership and growth issues. Contact the list manager at:  
[memb-L-request@uua.org](mailto:memb-L-request@uua.org)

### NEWCOMERS

For newcomers to Unitarian Universalism. Contact the list manager at:

[newcomers-request@uaa.org](mailto:newcomers-request@uaa.org)

#### WC-D

For discussions of Welcoming Congregation programs. Contact [alan@spdcc.com](mailto:alan@spdcc.com)

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#### WC-D

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#### UU-Parenting

UU,s discussing parenting experiences and issues. Contact the list manager

at:

[uu-parenting-request@uaa.org](mailto:uu-parenting-request@uaa.org)

#### JUST-UUS

Information and planning for UU,s involved in social action.

Contact the list manager at:

[JUST-UUS-request@uaa.org](mailto:JUST-UUS-request@uaa.org)

Watch for more e-list news from UUA in future issues of Rogue Unitarian.

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## Environmental Action News

#### Summer Field Work

Environmental Action (EA) will not hold regular meetings in the summer, but

small groups (trained and in-training) will meet for field work in

the Neil  
Creek Roadless Area, which EA adopted in 1999. The meeting  
time for  
September and after has been changed to Monday evenings on a  
trial basis, in  
order to enable more members to attend.

Neil Creek Updates  
Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC) supplied EA with  
an adapted airphoto  
map of the area noting roads, open areas including logged areas,  
known  
trails, and other features. ONRC has asked EA to document  
several  
uninventoried areas in detail.

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Instead of traveling to the MacKenzie River area for "adopter  
training as  
stated in the June newsletter, EA members opted for training  
later scheduled  
for June 30 at Dakubetede Wilderness Campus.

Those attending the training session will share their knowledge  
with others  
in EA conducting documentary field work in the Neil Creek  
Roadless Area in  
July (16 and 22) and August 12 and 19).

Seven members and friends of RVUUF drove and hiked along  
the western  
boundary of the Neil Creek Roadless Area June 17. The weather  
was beautiful,  
which enabled photography of the border areas and views for  
EA records.  
-Kate Cleland

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## Too Many People (TMP)

TMP is preparing for the July 4th parade. Any volunteers will be  
welcome.

As we've noted before, the problem of overpopulation is not a  
new one.

"And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that  
he had and  
Lot with him...And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver and  
in

gold....And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents...And the land was not able to bear them..." (from Genesis 13)

"The strongest witness is the vast population of the earth to which

we are a burden and she scarcely can provide for our needs; as our demands grow greater, our complaints against nature,s inadequacy are heard by all. The scourges of pestilence, famine, wars, and earthquakes have come to be regarded as a blessing to overcrowded nations, since they serve to prune away the luxuriant growth of the human race." (Tertullian, ca. 200 A.D.)

"Whenever all the families of a city reach their full quota, the adults in excess of that number help to make up the deficient population of other cities." (Sir Thomas More, in "Utopia", 1516)

"Were [ earth] empty of other inhabitants, it might, in a few ages, be replenished from one nation only, as, for instance, with Englishmen." (Ben Franklin, 1755).

"Many people seem to think that the problem in India would easily be solved if the open spaces of Australia were thrown open for Indian settlement... [but] it has to be accomplished almost in the twinkle of an eye, as otherwise the relief created by the slow emigration is likely to be more than offset by a sudden spurt in the growth of population." "Even transporting 10 million people in a year... may consume the entire shipping facilities of the Indian ocean."  
(George Kuriyan,1962)

-John H. McClendon, for TMP

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## A VIEW FROM THE DISTRICT

If your congregation has been plagued with money problems, if you are asking questions like:

- ? What do most people give?
- ? What do we do if we don't meet our pledge goal?
- ? How can we plan a pledge drive that meets its goal?
- ? Why do people give?
- ? What do we get for our UUA and District dues?
- ? How do we ask? Who do we ask?

And other such important questions, you'll want to be sure your congregation sends a team to the PNWD Stewardship Conference, in La Conner, Washington, on November 3 - 5, 2000.

The Stewardship Conference will be facilitated by Dr. Wayne Clark, UUA Director of Congregational Fundraising Services. He has been an organizational development consultant for the past ten years, and has utilized his Ph.D. in Human and Organizational systems to guide and coach well over 100 UU congregations during that time, consulting on strategic planning, endowment development, annual canvasses and capital campaigns. Your team (of four or more) will come home trained, and with a plan!

Don't miss this special opportunity to learn and grow, and to help your congregation toward a successful financial future. Send a team. It may be the smartest investment your congregation ever made! Call me at the PNWD office for information: (800) 313-7693!

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-Anne Odin Heller, District Executive

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## Music Survey

Do you sing, play the piano, guitar, or some other instrument?  
Can you  
accompany singers or instrumentalists?

The Music Committee is interested in hearing from members of the fellowship regarding their musical interests and talents. Please tell us if you have a musical talent that you would be willing to share with the fellowship. Also, we are interested in learning what musical preferences you may have.

Please jot all this down on a piece of paper with your name and telephone or e-mail address, and leave it in the office.

We look forward to hearing from you.  
-Don Black,  
Chair, Music Committee

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## Religious Education Program News Items

### July 2000

For the last few weeks we have been CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF RE, having great fun recounting and reliving the activities and events we shared this program year.

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We recorded those recollections on paper balloons for our bulletin board (back wall, beyond the Hall of Information). I encourage you to

drop by over  
the summer to see it -- you'll get a good idea of what RE is  
about!

CHECK OUT THE ANNUAL REPORT for details of the  
astonishing things we  
accomplished this year.

For instance, in meeting the Board goal for age diversification,  
this church  
provided over 97 intergenerational activity opportunities!!! An  
estimated 98  
adult and teen volunteers served in many capacities to carry out  
the RE  
program.

We honored and thanked all our volunteer teachers, advisors,  
assistants, and  
paid staff members on TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY,  
June 18. The kids made cards for every teacher, using fingerprint  
signatures, and selected a  
specific blank book journal for each that they wrapped up in  
gold paper and  
ribbon.

We honor and thank you immensely for the contributions you  
have made in

instilling UUism in the hearts and minds of our children ----

Jill Munn - Nursery Caregiver

Lea Johnson - PreSchool-Kindergarten

Kathy Holden - Assistant in Pre-K

Marilyn Nordquist and Carola Lacy -

Team for Grades 1-2

Camille Korsmo and Mary Lou Bayliss -

Team for Grades 3-4

Bill Johnston and Alan Erwin -

Team for Grades 5-6

Carol Lee Rogers - NEW Junior Youth group

Claudia Steinbroner, Diane Mason, Pat Haley,

Jane Gillis - Team for YRUU (Senior Youth)

There will be one mixed ages SUMMER VILLAGE CLASS for  
young children during this time. YRUU will offer childcare with  
stories, activities, and outdoor play.

On Sundays, children will go directly to the PreSchool-  
Kindergarten  
classroom, as there will be NO FOR ALL AGES in the opening  
of summer  
services. Parents will need to provide summer snacks and drinks  
when they

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bring their children.  
Remember the 10:00 SUMMER STARTING TIME.

NEXT YEAR,S CURRICULUM for all of RE and coordinated with Rev. Patt,s plans for Sunday Worship is: WORLD RELIGIONS. We have several UU curricula to draw from and are planning some very special intergenerational celebrations If you have materials, information, experience, resources, and/or an interest in this subject, drop a note to me.

SUMMER AVAILABILITY of RE Staff and Volunteers will be limited. The RE Committee will meet twice over the summer and the DRE will check the office once a week for messages and mail. The church office will be open weekday mornings. Our staff and volunteer teachers and most of our families will be off for summer adventures and much-deserved vacations. HAVE A REFRESHING SUMMERTIME !!!

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-Deana Campbell Hoffer  
\*\*\*\*\*  
YR.

As you read this, a group of 7 youth will have just returned from Nashville, TN for a week of worship, youth caucus, workshops and networking with hundreds of youth throughout the country.

A thousand thanks to Teddy Hight. Teddy, the Talented and Tremendous, pulled together a new banner starting with a loose idea and some silk. We have been talking about this project for three years and Teddy pulled it together in a week. We will be in the Banner Parade at GA.

We have several service projects going this summer. The youth have volunteered to run the Summer Village with the proceeds going into the youth fund. We are also going to the Tuesday evening dinner to help cook and serve the food for those in need. This is a great project and one that accommodates everyone's summer schedule.

We will be meeting several times in July. We are having dinner and a movie the evening of the 9th, and we are going to Coos Bay the 14th - 16th. We will be hosting the Sunday service for the small UU congregation there. Have a great summer!

WATCH FOR  
year-end Jr. Youth Group news next month!

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