

## Sunday Services for February

February 4, 2001 - „World Religions: Sufism%oo - Rev. Patt Herdklotz will consider connections between Sufism and Unitarian Universalism; guest presenter Khalil Elliott will speak and lead dancing in the Sufi tradition. There will be space cleared so that any who wish to join in with the dancing from the congregation may do so. This is an opportunity to see or try something different that is very meaningful in another culture. Many special thanks to Carol Lee Rogers, who helped design and plan this Sunday Service.

February 11, 2001 - "Annual Humor Sunday: Laugh at the Human Condition" - A tapestry of readings, reflections and music will lift our spirits as we savor a worship service dedicated to awareness through humor. We are invited to bring our funny bones, chuckles and good jokes to share.

February 18, 2001 - „Listen to This%oo - John Baxter (son of our own John and Elizabeth Baxter) and Ellen Reder, authors of Listen to This, will recall some of the 100 interviews on which their book is based. John and Ellen will play examples of interviews, including some where leading musicians recommended their favorite artists and recordings for the book.

February 25, 2001 - "Native American Spirit in the USA" - Our World Religion Series turns to US Native Americans. Rev. Patt Herdklotz will facilitate worship as we look at the rich diversity and common threads in Native American spirituality, and then consider what connections we make with Unitarian Universalism, such as our Covenant of UU Pagans and our UUA seventh principle to "respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

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## Board President's Column

Life really seems to speed by and my plate has been so full. The World magazine talks about the empty winter mind. January and February are those times of moving in, sowing those seeds of spring. On the surface, it does look like nothing is happening but underneath new life is having its way.

I have missed a lot of what has been happening on the Board because I have had health problems: hard-to-define-and-treat health problems; problems I know come from years of neglect of myself. I don't think this is anything life-threatening but I do think it will require another leap into better health. Just the same, feeling unwell for months gives me pause to count my blessings, to focus on the really important aspects of my life and to recognize again the central place you all play in my life. I especially am grateful for all the people I have gotten to serve with on the Board. I have just come from a Board meeting, a lively one at that with passion and thought

and great ideas and lots of love. I am so touched to serve you with these warm and generous people. And as winter envelops me I realize more and more how much I get from service. I used to serve because it was a chance to be a star and feel a little bit better about myself. It was also a chance to promote my ideas. I can't say that as a Leo much of that has changed, but I also serve now because it is the way I grow and my focus has grown more into the joy of the shared outcome than my contribution.

As I have spent more down time than up lately, I have noticed another shift in my inner life. I think I have finally shifted my orientation from getting love to giving love. Since this is February, the month of much contemplation about LOVE and since we have called ourselves a church of love and, I at times proclaimed our dogma to be love, I encourage us all to stretch just a little this month and grow our love a little more with service to each other, our grand religion, our community and our desperate world.

Think less of whether this place matches your needs and look around and see what needs to be done. Join a committee, serve your heart and grow your soul. I've always wanted to change the world but for the first time I know who to change it with and where to start...right here with you. You know it seems that as the body aches and groans with the weight of living, the soul takes wing and both enlivens and deepens us. I am so glad to be a Unitarian Universalist in such times as these.

In love, Diane

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## Minister's Column

Rev. PATter

"Celebrating" the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I let my passion show as I sermonized on Sunday, January 14, 2001. What is the American dream? What was King's dream? How far have we come? How much more do we need to do? Are we going to help provide Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness for everyone in the USA? What of the world? Do we live in a just land? Are we a nation that tolerates everyone? What would inclusiveness look like? Is integration about being homogenous, or is it about a vast co-existing diversity?

My passion begins, where some of us were headed in the 1960's, in the individual understanding necessary to rout out bigotry and prejudice (excuse me, but "racism" is a useless term when we know human beings vary only slightly in their biological make-up). But all the individual work people can muster won't change the culture if we ignore power and privilege. Now my passion moves me into how institutions preserve the status quo.

All of this work has often moved from the energy of Guilt. I don't see Unitarian Universalism as a faith tradition treasuring Guilt as a main modus or ideology, however. I look for ways we can work for inclusiveness--acceptance--freedom--justice that move from the energy of Love

or Fairness (hence Justice) or even Hope (not as final, but keeping movement). But when we see injustice, prejudice, bigotry breaking human spirits and killing our brothers and sisters, what can we do?!

Each day we can choose to do something:  
write a letter for improved change  
tutor  
discuss an issue with someone who believes otherwise  
listen to a different kind of music  
start a project to change the world  
spend a month living on minimum wage; share that journal  
pick one do-able project with our UU,s in Action  
learn about a distant part of the world; share our "discoveries"  
practice active listening  
go someplace where they talk differently  
watch the decisions of a company in which we hold shares  
invest in companies with human values and integrity  
relish another culture's concepts  
savor another culture's arts  
smile and look straight into a strangers eyes

Some of these things will happen while traveling, some will happen out in our towns, some will happen in our homes, and some will happen right in this RVUUF. I look forward to how we expand our "Welcoming Congregation" to the inclusiveness practice to which we all ascribe and celebrate as the richness of diversity.

Yours in the search for truth and meaning, with love, Rev. Patt

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## RE NEWS: OPPORTUNITY

OPPORTUNITY - favorable circumstances; good chance for advancement or progress.

What do all these activities have in common?  
.putting your home in order before the Chinese New Year  
.spring cleaning  
.weeding out and paring down to simplify your lifestyle  
.passing on materials for re-use  
.sharing your talents and passions  
.volunteer service.

I see OPPORTUNITIES!  
Opportunities to gain resources and augment the curriculum for the R.E. Program!

In building the program, we are putting together a „Resource Library% of files, books, and materials that support the R.E. mission and curriculum.

Too many times we have had to spend hours searching for the right book or picture or „artifact%oo that was needed for a lesson or activity -- and often had to do without it.

We have a decent collection of old UUA curriculum that provides the base for the program. We have used our budget wisely to fill in gaps and frugally build our resources.

This is where you come in! The following list will give you ideas about the kinds of things that would be helpful. When you are cleaning, weeding out, sharing your time and talents -- would you keep R.E. in mind and consider using it as an opportunity to support and advance the program.

#### NON-CONSUMABLE ITEMS

Posters, prints, photos, pictures, books, props, ethnic clothing for costumes, artifacts, and articles, appropriate for children, that illustrate, demonstrate, or represent:  
the seven UUA principles  
multiculturalism  
multiracialism  
world religions  
peace and freedom  
taking care of our planet  
the interconnected web of life.

When donating items, let the DRE know if you wish to have it returned to you if we cannot use it, store it properly, or already have the item.

#### CONSUMABLE ITEMS

This includes all the arts and craft materials, leftovers, uncompleted projects, scraps, old jewelry, fabric, etc. We make use of all kinds of materials, like an old white sheet and blue yarn.

for the Jewish prayer shawl. The supply of paper tubes, cartons, tubs, etc. is overflowing, so those can go on to the Recycle Center.

#### TIME AND TALENTS

Setting up files - A-Z Picture Clip File, A-Z Subject File

Setting up library - sort, label, inventory, and shelve the collections:  
curriculum, R.E. administration, parenting, adult R.E., reference, activities, children,s books

Sewing - occasionally need helper for special projects (making costumes) plus mending (we have a dark skinned doll that needs some stitches and clothing)

Artists - we are embarking on a huge and wonderful project of creating murals in the classrooms and could use additional help.

Though everyone will be invited to participate, it takes much planning and preparation.

Handyperson - minor repairs (puppet stage), fix-it and make-it-please projects (could really have used someone to help figure out the structural

base for the dragon costume)

This is just a teaser list to get you thinking. There are many opportunities for supporting and advancing the R.E. Program. Just chat with the DRE or any RE Committee Member to discover what might excite and connect with you.

This is an awesome ministry we provide and it isn't just the children who are savoring the benefits. We all prosper and grow with a quality program for our children and youth. I am delighted to continue in this great work with you.

Deana Campbell Hoffer, DRE

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## Junior Youth

The Junior Youth studied the Earth Centered Services, the Goddess and Native American traditions, from October to December 2000. We began our study with the Goddess tradition with a guest named Marian, who shared her Goddess practice with us. We learned about the Goddess and took part in a Goddess ritual in the Shed. The part that we enjoyed the most was working together to become one machine. With all of our energy, movement, and sound, the machine was strong, and it ran smoothly.

In November we moved to the Native American tradition with an introduction done for us by a brother and sister named Bev and Tom, who shared with us how the Native American tradition is a part of their everyday life. The birds, trees, clouds, rain are all important parts of this path. The youth also had an opportunity to experience a Native American Sweat. It was a cold day, but we were brave and sat on the cold ground knowing it would be warm, probably hot, soon enough. Actually, the youth eluded the hot sweat by jumping into the cold stream to cool off again. Then, after eating, they ran out to play in the cold snow some more.

The teachings came from Terry, a Native American from the Lakota tradition. He is a very gentle teacher, with much respect and love for youth. This was a memorable experience that touched each one of us.

The youth ended their Earth Centered studies by sharing what they had learned with the younger Unitarian Universalist kids. The building of the machine was again the fun part. This time, with more kids and adults, the machine had much more strength and power.

February 4, 2001, will be the day the Fellowship learns about the Sufi tradition. This path is Carol Lee's practice, so the youth will provide their energy in bringing this tradition to the Rogue Valley UU's. We hope that, when the time comes to dance, you will join in with us.

## YRUU Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

The Youth have been busy as ever! After coming back from the holidays we have had many projects we have been working on to start off the New Year.

We are still involved with the Hermanos project in which we will be delivering food this month and next.

Most of us are planning a trip to Eugene to attend the PNWD conference February 16-18. We have been fundraising for our trip. Thank you for supporting our Beggars Lunches. We will have our next one on February 11th.

The group is also excited to be part of the organization team for Pacific Northwest District Youth Program. We have been asked to help with the workshops and planning the Youth led worship service on Saturday Night.

When we aren't busy with fundraising or community service we have been expanding our knowledge of other religious beliefs. We have started a new curriculum in which we talk about our beliefs as Unitarians and those of others, too. It's a good way to learn more about each other and the other beliefs in our community.

We are looking forward to a happy, peaceful and fun year. Stay safe and warm.  
-Ahsa, from the the Sr. Youth Group

## RVUUF Visioning Workshop March 3, 2001

Where are we headed? What's important?

Members and friends of RVUUF, watch your mailbox for a letter inviting you to the Congregational Visioning Workshop set for March 3, 2001, at the Unitarian Center. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in small group discussions to select several goals for RVUUF, take a break for a delicious lunch, then meet in a large group to share ideas and vote on them. Board members and several „elders%oo of the Congregation are being trained to facilitate small group sessions for discussing issues and selecting goals. This work will help RVUUF tie what you, the congregation, want to do, what you think is most important, to the next Annual Budget.

The Visioning Workshop is planned to run Saturday, March 3, from 9:30 AM to about 2:30 PM. There will be a time-out for lunch (details to follow) and fellowship. Mark your calendar, and watch for a letter inviting you to it in early February.

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## Lambda Awards Honor RVUUF

Rev. Patt Herdklotz and a few RVUUF members attended the annual Lambda Community Center Association (LCCA)/LAMBDA Awards Celebration January 13, 2001. The LCCA Board of Directors had already congratulated us as recipient of the Abdill-Ellis Award for RVUUF's "bridge-building.%oo Rev. Patt Herdklotz also accepted the Board of Director,s Award for RVUUF that night. With logo

and text etched on clear crystal, the awards, one a parallelogram, the other leaf-like, honor „service or contributions in specific areas of importance to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered community.‰ The categories in which RVUUF won are:

◆2001 Lambda Award

Abdill-Ellis Award for Outstanding Service to LCCA

◆2001 Lambda Award of Excellence

Board of Directors Award for Outstanding Service to LCCA

In each case, RVUUF was one of five nominees. Rev. Patt brought the awards to the congregation at the January 17 Sunday service. If you missed that, or would like a closer look, they are on display at the UU Center.

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## UU Service Committee (UUSC)

### Stories of Hope Welfare Reform in the USA

Kimberly, a single mother in Fall River, MA, was receiving welfare benefits when her four-year-old son was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. She was told at one point that her son had 24 hours to live. After three months of surgeries and hospitalizations, he is recovering from this often fatal illness, but he requires constant attention. Nonetheless, Kimberly,s case worker reminded her that the two-year time limit on welfare benefits was approaching. She was told she must find other means of support, even though she was providing round-the-clock care for her son.

UUSC is collecting thousands of stories about people like Kimberly, so that policy-makers will understand the human cost of benefit restrictions as they make decisions about the next phase of welfare reform.

Thanks to all who entertained „A Guest at Your Table‰ for the 2000 holiday season. We collected \$864.30  
---\$182.00 more than last year!

-from Eileen Adee,  
RVUUF,s UUSC Representative

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## In the Gallery February 2001

„Favorite Places‰ is the name of our exhibit this month, which features work by three of our members. June Holmes brings oil paintings, mainly of the Northwest, especially the area near Yakima, WA, where she used to live, but also some based on her travels.

Bill Hallett,s paintings reflect favorite scenes from his travels, and not always traditional landscapes.

Pavani finds inspiration in simple outdoor subjects such as trees and hills, using layers of pastel to develop a sense of their significance.

-Charlotte Abernathy

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## Poet's Corner

### RESURRECTION

Rejoice! I believe in the resurrection.  
The resurrection of the gods and goddesses  
of Nature whom we drove away  
To hunker down in their lairs, denied  
attention or purpose while we derive  
>From their sources new concepts of  
gods -- poly, triune, or unitary  
That fail to honor at its roots  
the Nature that sustains us all.  
Yea, though I stumble as I retrace  
my steps back to the Source,  
I believe again and praise,  
as a born-again Unitarian Universalist  
Our parent, mother/father Nature  
and rejoice once again.

Lou Pollard  
18 September 1996

## Happy New Year

Thank you so much for helping us with the Hermanos Project. Eleven youth participated by collecting, wrapping and delivering. We brought armful's of gifts to four families with 12 children. The children were so excited to see us and we struggled with our Spanish to greet them. We also delivered sacks of rice, beans, masa, oil, apples, oranges and lots of baby food. We

went to the camp and for such a cold day we were warmed by their smiles. We will deliver warm clothes and food again in January, February and March.

We shared our youth house with two families last month. Kate and Sam kept the kids thoroughly entertained Friday night.

Our Youth Group has been asked to help with the Youth Programming at PNWD so we are busy planning some fun events in Eugene and a great worship on Saturday night.

Thanks to everyone for participating with our Beggar's lunches. Our next one is January 14th. We will use the money for our trip to Eugene.

Peace and mindfulness in 2001....The Youth Group

Claudia Steinbroner