Service Saturday
Families in Service is holding their annual Building and Grounds Clean-up from 9 a.m. to noon May 20. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed, including families and children. To volunteer, visit the link to sign-up genius on the UUCV website. For more information, please contact Kelley Baker at FIS@uucvan.org or (619) 796-9221.

The Quilters’ Art
UUCV is hosting a quilt show in our sanctuary July through August. As of April 20, only one quilting artist has confirmed participation. If you wish to display your quilts, please contact Laura Stephens at laura.stephens.409@gmail.com, with information on the sizes and how many quilts you would like to display.

UUCV Campout
The UUCV Intergenerational 2017 campout is Aug. 25-27 at Lewis and Clark State Park. We plan to have a potluck dinner night and s’mores night along with an informal Sunday service.

For more information about the campout, e-mail Dorothy or Rick Krahn at dagrazul@gmail.com
For more information on the campground, please visit http://parks.state.wa.us/538/Lewis-Clark

May 2017

Sunday services are at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

April 30: “Faure’s Requiem ... A ‘Lullaby of Death’” – Patrick Scofield
One of the most well loved and performed works of any genre, Faure’s Requiem is an offering of peaceful remembrance of the dead, with a focus on eternal rest and happiness. This Music-Centered-Service will feature a professional chamber orchestra and extended choir, with solos by our own Alexis Balkowitsch and Music Director, Patrick Scofield.

May 7: “The Beauty of the Blues” – Rev. Kathryn Bert
Ralph Ellison calls the blues “an art of ambiguity,” “that constantly reminds us of our limitations while encouraging us to see how far we can actually go.” This sermon is a reflection on the importance of “the blues” as nothing less than revolutionary. Theological themes include suffering, transformation, and transcendence.

May 14: “Faith and the People” – Rev. Kathryn Bert
This democratic faith takes both courage and kindness. Theological themes include: faith, religious diversity, and healthy democracy.

In the ‘Left Behind’ series, author and minister Tim LaHaye talks about the rapture. The rapture, for those of us who haven’t spent time in the south or who don’t listen to Garrison Keillor, is the apocalyptic accounting of the end times where good souls are swept up and taken to heaven and ‘non-believers’ are ‘left behind.’ Where are Unitarian Universalists in the rapture? In this exploration of apocalyptic thinking, we will endeavor to find our place in the end of times.

May 28: “Juneteenth, Celebration and Memory” – Bridgette Fahnbulleh
The Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, but the official end of slavery was June 19, 1865 when Union troops brought the “news” to Texas. Juneteenth is a national holiday that goes almost unnoticed in the Northwest but is celebrated in a big way in the South, especially Texas. The Vancouver chapter of the NAACP invites us to a deeper awareness and commitment to racial justice.
Dear Friends,

‘Promises’ is the theme for May. Promises are powerful things.

In second grade, I met a boy in my class named TJ. Our parents were both getting divorced at the same time. We promised each other that even if other people left us, we wouldn’t leave each other. When I was 22, I met a girl and we became one another’s ‘lost and found.’ We made promises with words like ‘forever.’ When I was called to my first congregation, we promised to learn and grow together and to love one another even when it got hard and we got scared.

TJ moved away before we made it into fifth grade. The girl I knew at 22 discovered that ‘forever’ was much bigger in the real world than what we summoned through our limited imaginations. And the congregation that first called me, let me go when my mom’s health failed and she needed me.

Almost all promises break at some point. Not usually because they lack integrity or commitment. A lot of promises break because the conditions they were made get broken. Someone moves. Time or money runs out. Someone dies.

When we’re left holding the broken promise when everything unravels, it hurts. Especially if we locked the promise inside our heart to keep it from breaking. The leading cause of broken hearts is broken promises.

But it’s important to remember that promises have the power to break hearts because such promises we’re made big enough to change us. To save us. But promises – especially the best ones – were not made to save us from pain. They’re made to save us from living lives that are too small for us in the first place. They were barely big enough to hold who we were – way too small to hold our becoming. We’re drawn to promises that call us to larger living. Most of the time, even the promises that wind up broken, wind up delivering us into a larger life.

I am officiating this month at the wedding of my nephew and his fiancé. They have already promised each other through several iterations of lives that were too small for them as they’ve outgrown old fears and heartbreaks. They already know the secret shared by those who celebrate 50 or 60 years of marriage.

You don’t make a promise to a partner when they’re young and keep it throughout the ages. You make a promise to the person whose hand is in yours – you give everything you have to everything you both can be. You both get changed in the process. Which is why, the next day, you have to make that promise anew all over again.

I made a promise when I came to be your interim minister – a promise to love you into your becoming. I think Rev. Kathryn sees that. I celebrate all the love that we shared in my time. It has been wonderful being part of your becoming.

To the Glory of Life.

Rev. Greg Ward
Dear UUCV Members and Friends,

In my final column as your UUCV President, I want to share a few things. First, as I often do, I return to the subject of gratitude. What makes this church work is all the people who donate their time and resources, often “going the extra mile.”

UUCV had a successful pledge drive, in which we raised more money than last year, with fewer pledges. That helped us in attracting a strong ministerial candidate, Rev. Kathryn Bert.

Thank you, donors and pledge campaign volunteers! And a big thank-you to Rev. Greg, who brought enthusiasm, ideas, and hard work to a fledgling Stewardship Committee trying to support the other volunteers.

I also want to highlight two other groups. First, the Grounds Team operates behind the scenes and we rarely see how hard they work. If you think our grounds are beautiful, it’s because of their efforts in mowing, trimming, weeding, etc.

In addition to their chair, Lee Haskin, please thank Jerry Ballantyne, Skip Morey, Karey Reid, and Dave Fleming. Also, the recently retired Louise and John Barton!

The former Membership Committee stepped down last December before we got a chance to thank them for their hard work. Now that the dust has settled, I want to offer a sincere thank-you to them.

I recently learned that one member, Glenda Turnbull, made over 200 calls to UUCV visitors in about eight months. This was just a quantifi-

able example of their dedication, but she was not alone in working hard. Other members included Merridy McDaniel, Helen Hewitt, Laura Stephens, and Patty Ingraham. They all served our church and our visitors very well.

Finally, I want to thank those of you who have provided support to me over the last 29 months, as I tried to provide continuity during a period of major change at UUCV. There are many of you who provided a shoulder to lean on (or cry on!) and many more who provided help and assistance with all the tasks I was striving to do.

Although I didn’t get everything done that I hoped, some of the things we have accomplished as a church were on my list. I believe we are a kinder, gentler church than we were three years ago.

We are also stronger and more resilient. And we are poised for a bright future under a new settled minister. These changes were things that I hoped for, but not ones I could have accomplished through my own efforts. We did it together, dear readers, and I am grateful to you.

In fellowship,
Karen Banks, UUCV President
Calling a Minister is a Big Deal!

On Sunday, May 14, after second service, UUCV members will be asked an important question: shall we call the Rev. Kathryn Bert as our next settled minister? This is a BIG DEAL! It represents the culmination of our year and a half long search to find a minister who will be a good fit for UUCV. We on the Ministerial Search Committee feel like we’ve hit the jackpot in attracting Rev. Bert to UUCV. We hope you agree and will attend the meeting to participate in this important vote!

The ballot for the May 14 Congregational Meeting will be a little different from that of a typical election. It will have only one name on it: Rev. Kathryn Bert. It may seem odd to have only one “choice”, but we hope you’ve been following along with the search process and understand why Unitarian Universalists use search committees to research the field of candidates and recommend a single minister to be called.

You may remember that Brian Willoughby described a friend whose synagogue had asked three rabbis to candidate. When the vote was taken it was split three ways. The rabbi who had the most votes did not last long in that congregation, since two thirds of the people felt they would have been better off with someone else!

While we can’t tell you who our other options were, we can tell you that at every point along the way it was clear to us which of our options would be good for UUCV. As we narrowed the initial applicant field down from 32 to 8, it was clear. It was also clear which of those 8 we would invite to pre-candidate. And, when the time came to decide who we would ask to candidate, it was an easy and unanimous decision.

Please listen to Rev. Bert preach on May 7 and May 14 and take the opportunity to meet her at some of the events scheduled during Candidating Week. We hope you are able to see the gifts of ministerial experience, warmth, and humor that she will bring to UUCV.

But, if you have any doubts or questions, please speak directly with a member of the MSC. We would be happy to listen to your concerns and address them. Most ministers require a vote of 95 percent before they will accept a call. Let’s show Rev. Bert our enthusiastic support!

This is an exciting time for UUCV. We hope that you will join us on May 14 in calling Rev. Kathryn Bert as our next settled minister!

Your MSC
Dave Irwin, Elisa Wells, Joyce Tobias, Mellie Hock, Phil Giesy, Sue Oshiro-Zeier

Secretary Notes

Staff Schedules in May
In May, two lead staff members will be away.
Rev. Greg Ward will be away from Friday, May 5 to Monday, May 15.
Director of Lifelong Learning Sara Cloe will be away from Friday, May 5 to Wednesday, May 17.
If other staff members need to take time off, details will be provided in the Weekly Bulletin and on the office door.
It’s always a good idea to call and confirm that the person you want to see will be there, as staff members sometimes adjust their hours, work from home, or have off site meetings. Complete staff schedules and normal office hours, as well as contact information, are listed in the Who’s Who column in this newsletter.

Latest Directory available
The newest version of the directory is now available on the office counter. Please check your listing to make sure all the information is correct. To update your information, contact Office Administrator Donna Aase at office.administrator@UUCVan.org or 360-695-1891.

Recent Address Updates
Recently the office has received a few address updates. Kari DeBower, Helen and Dean Harris, and Pat Lindemaier all have updated mailing addresses. If you would like these updates or have an update of your own to report, contact Office Administrator Donna Aase at 360-695-1891 or office.administrator@uucvan.org.
Religious Education News

Provided by Sara Cloe, CRE
Director of Lifelong Learning
cred@uucvan.org

RE Director
Sara Cloe, Director of Lifelong Learning, will be on vacation from May 5-16. People who need Religious Education assistance during this time, should contact Amy Brock, Administrator of Lifelong Learning.

Jr/Sr YRUU Overnight
The Junior and Senior YRUU is having their Spring Overnight May 19 in the Religious Education building.

The night features fun activities, dinner, snacks and breakfast the next morning.

The following day, youth and chaperones' will help with the Families in Service Building and Grounds clean-up. Parents and guardians will receive more information about the Spring Overnight a few weeks prior to the event.

Spirit Spiral Teach-in

The youth in Spirit Spiral will take part in a White Supremacy Teach-in May 28. The teach-in explores institutional racism and is a part of a world-wide teach-in held April 30 through May 7.

Our teach-in coincides with our May 28 worship service. During this service, Bridgette Fahnbulleh, the president of the local NAACP chapter, will talk about Juneteenth and why people of the northwest need to know more about this celebration.

Summer RE Teachers
Teachers and assistants for Summer Religious Education are needed by June 4. The curriculum is Rhinos and Raspberries, produced by Southern Poverty Law Center, and Teaching Tolerance.

The books we will use were gifted to us by Brian Willoughby. It would be a wonderful tribute, to his memory, to have each Sunday staffed by volunteers that share his commitment to love and education. To volunteer, please visit this link or see Amy Brock or Sara Cloe.

Adult Religious Enrichment

Provided by Sara Cloe, CRE
Director of Lifelong Learning
cred@uucvan.org

Drumming Circle
The Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) is starting a drumming circle. The first circle is 7 p.m. May 15 in Room 5 of Religious Education.

The group plans to meet at 7 p.m. the third Monday of each month. For more information, e-mail CUUPS@uucvan.org

CUUPS Gathering Wisdom
The Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) hosts “Gathering Wisdom,” a discussion group, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month in the nursery.

Seasonal celebrations are also held approximately every six weeks and occasionally rituals and ceremonies are held in the sanctuary Sunday afternoons or evenings.

For more information, e-mail CUUPS@uucvan.org.

Tai Chi schedule change
Tai Chi is moving to a new day and time. Beginning May 6, Tai Chi will be held Saturdays from 10:45 a.m. to noon. This is before Qigong, which is from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Those attending Qigong are welcome to stay for Tai Chi. Come and get your Qi restored, and your Ying and Yang balanced on the same day.

For more information, contact Emmett Grote at taichi@uucvan.org.
Good Night, Servetan

Times change, how we get our news changes, and now how we get our UUCV news is changing too.

After a 50 plus-year run (wow!) our monthly newsletter, The Servetan, is suspending publication – supplanted by weekly emailed bulletins and social media.

When I arrived here in 1992, The Servetan was a half-size pink booklet, typed and mimeographed.

Mary Jan Meier was the editor, and the most popular feature was a gossip column called “Have you heard...” about various congregants – a chattier kind of “Joys and Sorrows.”

Because I had computer and desktop publishing experience, I reformatted it to the full-size publication we’ve become accustomed to. Along with regular columns from the minister, the director of RE, and the Board president, we added Stewardship reports and offerings from other major committees.

In the five years I was editor I learned three things:

1. Getting timely submissions was an ongoing battle.
2. Almost every submission needed editing to fit in the allotted space.
3. Weatherwise, the two days before publication deadline were invariably the most beautiful of the entire month, which made the final push especially hard for this particular editor.

Over the past five decades, we’ve had 19 editors who’ve taken on this important but largely unsung responsibility, several for long stints. However, it’s Michelle Glover who gets the prize for sticking it out the longest – at least nine years.

Thanks to all our Servetan editors for serving the UUCV community in this important way. Thanks also to our various church secretaries who maintained the mailing lists and printed the newsletter every month on sometimes finicky copy machines, and to the scores of volunteers over the years who spent the afternoon in the library, folding, sorting and stamping it.

Perhaps someday the Servetan will be resurrected as a quarterly magazine. There are already plans for some new ways to communicate, coming soon. For now, it’s “Good night, and thank you!” to a publication that brought us all closer together as a community.


A Change for the World Favorite – Himalayan Cataract Project

Provided by Donna Shaver

From November 2013 through January 2014, our Change for the World recipient was the Himalayan Cataract Project.

Two highly respected ophthalmologists, Dr. Geoff Tabin (U.S.) and Dr. Sanduk Ruit (Nepal), partnered to restore sight to thousands of Nepalese – mostly in the high Himalayas – who were blinded by cataracts. Their surgical technique can be performed in minutes, at very low cost.

Their early work is chronicled in the book, Second Suns, by David Oliver Relin. Together with partners around the world, they have screened and treated over 7.3 million people, provided more than 625,000 sight-restoring surgeries and trained hundreds of doctors.

To see how their work is continuing, watch CBS’s 60 Minutes “Out of Darkness,” which aired April 16.
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<td>7pm CUUPS Gathering Wisdom Study Group</td>
<td>12pm Care Givers Support Group</td>
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<td>9:30am Path to Membership Class</td>
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<td>9am Coffee and Conversation with our Candidate</td>
<td>7:30am Ministerial Search Committee Check In</td>
<td>11am Brown Bag Social</td>
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<td>3pm Young At Heart Group</td>
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<td>11:30am Women’s Lunch Bunch (off site)</td>
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<td>7pm Leadership Discovery &amp; Development Committee</td>
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<td>10:30am Yoga followed by Brown Bag lunch</td>
<td>9:30am Coffee &amp; Politics</td>
<td>5pm Youth Spring Retreat Begins</td>
<td>9am Service Saturday Grounds Cleanup</td>
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