



The Covenant Sound

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Community
Lacey, Washington
October 2008

Sunday Services at 11:00 am

October 5 “Yom Kippur and Ramadan” This season Jews are celebrating their highest Holy Days. October 8 is Yom Kippur, a complete Sabbath; when Jews refrain from eating and drinking. Muslims all over the world are observing the month of Ramadan which falls this year from September 23 to October 22. These are times of reflection, self-restraint, deepening their relationship with God, and creating a deeper compassion for the destitute. Led by Patti Logan

October 12 “Growing Our Spirit” Our second annual Association Sunday, will raise funds to support projects focused on deepening our Shared Ministry. In 2007, 626 congregations representing nearly 130,000 Unitarian Universalists took the time from their busy calendars to conduct an Association Sunday. This participation proved that when we come together and recognize our common purposes, our pride in our vibrant tradition increases as does our desire to share it with the world.

October 19 “UN Sunday” The theme for this year's UN Sunday is *Human Rights: Dignity and Justice for Us All*. As Unitarians and world citizens, we share the responsibility of ending human rights violations all over the world. There are many ways we can collaborate toward this goal, whether it is through education, advocacy or outreach.

October 26 “Democracy is a Terrible Thing to Waste” As we approach the Presidential election 2008, let's look at how we as local citizens can act to be global citizens.

President's Perspective

by Patti Anne Logan

Did you like the Early Morning Discussion Group on the subject of Evil on September 28? Would you like to do more of these? What subjects would you like to explore?

You continue to be generous to Our Charity of the Month outreach to local non-profits who are helping in many ways in our community. Thanks for your gifts!

Are you coming to church more often? Maybe you should. We have so much to choose from this season — you'll want to be here every day or evening! No “boring committee meetings” either. Here's what you have to choose from:

- Sunday services—always inspiring and never the same twice.
- Monday Morning Tea Time (10:00 am) is a circle of friends sharing their stories with each other.
- Tuesday Morning Exercise 9:30 am) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month is a time for stretching and exercising our bodies.
- Tuesday evenings, Writer's Group (7:00 pm) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.
- Thursday evenings, Spirit of Life (6:50 pm) is a religious education circle to deepen our faith through exploration and discovery.
- Friday evenings, TGIF (6:00 pm doors open, 7:00 pm guided meditation) to help us relax into the weekend.

It's a wonderful time of year for All Souls. Please join us in celebration of our gathering in as the days get a bit shorter and the rains come back. See you at All Souls!

October

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1	2 6:50 Spirit of Life	3 7:00 TGIF Guided Meditation	4 12:00-4:30 Our Lady of the Sacred Earth Coffee Time
5 11:00 "Yom Kippur and Ramadan" 12:45 Road Clean-up	6 10:00 am Monday Morning Tea Time	7 9:30 am Tuesday Morning Exercise 7:00 Writer's Group	8 7:00 Board Mtg	9 6:50 Spirit of Life	10 7:00 TGIF Guided Meditation	11 10:00-3:00 Diversity Council
12 11:00 "Growing Our Spirit"	13 10:00 am Monday Morning Tea Time	14	15 1:00 Visitor Packet Day (put them together) 7:00 Worship Arts Meeting	16 6:50 Spirit of Life	17 7:00 TGIF Guided Meditation	18
19 11:00 "UN Sunday"	20 10:00 am Monday Morning Tea Time	21 9:30 am Tuesday Morning Exercise 7:00 Writer's Group	22	23 6:50 Spirit of Life	24 7:00 TGIF Guided Meditation	25 Habitat for Humanity Lunch
26 11:00 "Democracy is a Terrible Thing to Waste"	27 10:00 am Monday Morning Tea Time	28	29	30 6:50 Spirit of Life	31 7:00 TGIF Guided Meditation	

OUUC-ASUUC Covenant Conference

On September 5, Rev. Alex Holt and two representatives from All Souls (Patti Logan & Carlene Cloud) met with Rev. Arthur Vaeni and Melanie Ransom from the Olympia UU Congregation to talk about developing a covenantal relationship between the two churches.

It was agreed that forming a cluster group of UU Churches covenanted with each other would be helpful to all. Let's work from our strengths. Each church will select 2 members to look at comparative strengths and write a covenant to bring back, for discussion and approval, to the church boards and congregations. The joint group from OUUC/ASUUC will meet again in November.

Some of the ideas for covenant work that are doable, accountable, and visible are:

- Ø Sending of Newsletters to each other
- Ø Link to each other's web sites
- Ø Collaboration in Adult RE Programs
- Ø Collaboration in Children's RE and Youth Group
- Ø Choir exchange
- Ø OUUC Mentors for ASUUC
- Ø Reporting on events
- Ø Outreach to Military families
- Ø Pride Day and other social justice ministries for Lacey/Olympia area

What is a covenant and why is it important for shared ministry? A covenant is a willing agreement between partners. It's a promise to work together. With the encouragement of our District Executive Janine Larsen and our Mentoring Minister Alex Holt, All Souls and the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation are moving ahead to create a covenanted relationship.

Here are some excerpts from a paper "Of Terrorism Horrorism, Covenant, and Rebellion" presented at the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists in Kolovzsdr, Romania in 2006 and recently reprinted in the UU World:

"First, human beings are at our best when we make a solemn promise to one another and try hard to keep them. We are the only animal that makes promises.... Our very humanity lies in the way we carry out our promises to our familys [sic], our coworkers, our neighbors, and our fellow members of the human family.

"The second point is that to be genuine, a covenant must be a 'covenant of being.' It's not just about good words, but about actions.

"Third, the covenant exists for the sake of each individual as well as for the whole group. It is both a gift and a responsibility. The individual is brought into just relationship with the rest of the group, but each individual is also responsible for what the whole group does."

When we join the church, a covenant is created. It's one of those "sacred words". The more you plumb the meaning, the more you are called to live well.

Who would like to help in this process? We will all have a part. For now, we will send two representatives to look at the strengths of the individual churches, wordsmith the covenant process, bring back the results to forge the covenantal relationship in the coming months. Please contact Patty Locan if you would like to be one of the two representatives.

UU Congregation of Grays Harbor

The board members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grays Harbor had made the sad decision to close their doors. They were located in Aberdeen/Hoquiam for 14 years. Their numbers dwindled down to five from as many as 23 members.

They have chosen to give their remaining funds to various congregations in the Pacific NorthWest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We were chosen to be one of the three along with the Olympia UU Congregation and the Pacific UU Fellowship in Astoria, OR.

While we are sorry to know that they have closed their doors, we are very grateful for the money they sent our way. The Board has not yet addressed what to do with the money. But we know it will bolster our efforts to provide services to our community.

Charity of the Month Report

You have continued to be very generous since we began collecting for the Charity of the Month. Here is what we've done so far:

Charity of the Month for June—The Other Bank—Billie's Truck was full of non-food items!

Charity of the Month for July—Food Bank—Russell's Car was full of food plus \$20.00.

Charity of the Month for August—Meals on Wheels—\$61.25.

Charity of the Month for September—SafePlace—in just the first three weeks, we raised \$112.12.

Sandy from SafePlace is working with the faith communities to help domestic violence victims. You can become informed. We will be announcing a class Sandy will teach here at All Souls in November. Please watch next month's newsletter for date and time. This will be a good class for all our Listeners...and anyone who wants to learn how to be a good friend to someone going through an abusive situation.

Habitat for Humanity

It is our turn to support this worthy endeavor. On October 25 All Souls will again provide lunch for those who are working on the houses.

Providing lunch involves someone underwriting the cost of the lunch, several people making the sandwiches, and someone delivering the lunches. Let's make it a success for all concerned and have too many volunteers!

Please contact Billie Clark at 360-349-1476 (note the new phone number!) to volunteer or for more information.

Our Facility

We had our carpets shampooed. They are still looking pretty old with many stains. Since we have limited funds we need to make them last as long as possible.

Some people are allergic to allergens such as fragrances including odiferous flowers and pet dander. As Facilities Coordinator I ask that we only bring service animals into our facility. Let's be aware of others difficulties and make it comfortable for all. Respectfully, Carlene Cloud

Revision of our UU Principles and Purposes

The Principles and Purposes are contained in Article II of the Association's bylaws and are subject to periodic review. The Commission on Appraisal began working on a revision in 2006 and has released a draft revision of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Principles and Purposes.

The draft of Article II is headed "Covenant" rather than the current "Principles and Purposes," and consists of six sections: Purposes, Identity, Sources, Principles, Inclusion, and Freedom of Belief.

The UUA's Seven Principles, which have become embedded in denominational life since their original adoption at the time of the merger in 1961, were modified slightly by General Assemblies in 1984, 1985, and 1995. The question facing the Commission on Appraisal was, basically, whether to retain them or start from scratch. Choosing what could be considered a middle ground, the Commission's draft retains the Principles almost verbatim (slightly abbreviating numbers three and five), but substantially changes the context within which they appear. For example, in place of the current lead-in phrase that we "affirm and promote" the Principles, the draft now says that we "honor and uphold" them.

Now the Commission hopes to hear from as many UUs as possible as to what they think of the draft. In fact, just two days after its release, Child reported, responses began to pour in, "and the number is swelling by the minute." She predicted that the Commission is almost certain to make further changes.

A complete discussion of the revision process and the complete text of the revisions can be found at www.uuworld.org/news/articles/119308.shtml?n. From this page you can also comment on the revision. Such comments are due by October 16.

The changes still have several years more of review and discussion before final adoption at the 2010 General Assembly Meeting.

The mission of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Community is to build a warm, friendly and joyful home from which we respond to the spiritual, intellectual, ecological and social justice needs around us. We embrace diverse ideas and lifestyles as exemplified by Unitarian Universalist principles and stated in our by-laws.

<p>OUR MEETING PLACE 6326 Martin Way E, Suite 103 Lacey WA 98516 360-481-2379 www.asuuc.org</p> <p>Directions: We are located on the NW corner of Martin Way & Carpenter Road (2 story dark green bldg.).</p> <p>§ From I-5 take the Martin Way exit (#109)</p> <p>§ Head east on Martin Way through 2 traffic lights</p> <p>§ Turn left (north) into the parking lot – last driveway before Carpenter Road (third traffic light)</p> <p>Use the door at the right -- the one with our phoenix chalice on it!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">October Charity of the Month</p> <p>Let's Adopt-a-Ghost® to Help Prevent Spina Bifida and Help Those Affected. October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.</p> <p>Spina Bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect in the United States. It can result in varying degrees of paralysis, bowel and bladder complications, water on the brain (hydrocephalus), and learning difficulties. While many people with Spina Bifida are able to walk, chances are they have many secondary effects due to the spinal cord being damaged as a result of not developing properly in the womb.</p> <p>There is no known cause of Spina Bifida, but research has shown that if a woman takes 400 micrograms of folic acid every day and before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70%.</p> <p>Help us prevent Spina Bifida and enhance the lives of those affected by participating in our Spina Bifida Association of Washington State Adopt-a-Ghost program: for only \$1.00, you can Adopt-a-Ghost and help to raise funds for ongoing programs that SBA conducts for families and individuals living with Spina Bifida.</p> <p>You can donate at church or through the mail. We will write your name on a Ghost and post it in the foyer. Let's make it a ghostly place and make a difference for those affected by Spina Bifida.</p> <p>Thank you for your support.</p>
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