

Unity of Salem Newsletter

March/April 2005

2005: The Year of Applied Spirituality

Minister's Message

Hello Friends,

As I sit in my office to write this message to you, our beautiful grounds are shrouded in fog. I know that somewhere up above this fog there is blue sky and sunshine, but that is higher up, down here where I am sitting and where I walk it is all foggy.



Some folks like the fog. I'm not overly crazy about it, and I really don't like driving in it. I feel a little out of control when I can't see beyond my headlights. I don't know what is on the street in front of me. Is there a child on a bike that I can't see? What about a dog or cat? Or is someone crossing the street, or a car stalled and I won't be able to see them until I'm on top of them. So I drive a good bit slower and squint out the windshield in order to get a "clearer picture" of what is up in front of me.

It isn't comfortable feeling out of control is it? We like to know that we have some control over our lives. We like to be able to see clearly what lies ahead and make adjustments in our choices and decisions. Our whole world seems out of control these days. Every day I get up and turn on the TV to catch a little of Good Morning America I have this thought crouching in the background of my mind: what disaster has hit the world this morning. Oh, I don't let it move to the forefront of my mind, because I know that what I focus on I bring into my life, but a part of me is aware that it is crouching in the dark recesses waiting to pounce the minute Diane Sawyer or Charlie starts to talk.

I think that many of us are living with a low-grade fear growling in the background. Perhaps that is why I seem to be aware there seems to be so many petty small complaints these days. I have been aware recently of a number of areas where I am hearing about the "small stuff"; and, I'm thinking it

is because we feel we have so little control over the "big stuff" in our lives, and in the life of the world, that we have our eye out for any little thing which seems to be out of place, covered with dust, too loud, too soft, too big, too small. Finding such a critter, we quickly jump on it and do our best to take it in hand, and make it shape up to our judgments and expectations.

I suspect that we will never have full control over our world and so I'd like to remind us (once again) it doesn't matter what happens to us (or to the world) it matters how we deal with it. The Tsunami that hit our world a little over a month ago left great devastation, many, many lives were loss and there was huge pain. The whole world received that news with compassion and reached out to do what needed to be done. This is heart warming because I am seeing a side of the world which says, "it doesn't matter what happens, it matters how I deal with what happens" and I can and will step up to the plate with compassion: write a check, catch a plane, send prayers and open my heart, my soul and my pocket book and "deal with it" to the best of my ability. Even in the face of the unknowingness in our world, there is one thing we can always know and always trust: wherever we are, God is! There is nowhere we can be where God is not.

So, my friends, let's not sweat the small stuff. When we catch ourselves nit picking about this, that or the next thing, let's take a moment and ask ourselves what that is all about and laugh at ourselves as we realize that we don't have to have control over every thing in our lives as long as we remember that we are One with God, and that God is good - ALL THE TIME!

Peace and Blessings, Georgie

BOARD MEMBERS

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Vice President - Katherine Harper
Secretary ----- Reinholdt Leske
Treasurer ----- Carol Wilson
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P.O. Box 3518
Salem, OR 97302

Sunday Service at 10:30 AM

Who's Church Is It, Anyway?

by Jyoti Light, Board President

I've been thinking lately about why I go to Unity of Salem. I first came here because I'd already considered myself a Unity truth student, having been a member of Unity of Billings (Montana). My first time at Unity of Salem was a "Big Music Sunday" and I was floored by the awesome, dynamic music. I was wowed during "Greet your neighbor" - I saw/felt/heard the sincere love and delight that the congregants took in one another. As I've heard many at Unity of Salem say, "I knew I was home!" I grew to love and appreciate Georgie as our spiritual guide - one who strives by her own example to encourage us to walk the talk. The church community has been a loving support to me as I've transplanted myself from my old life in Montana to new life in Oregon.

I got involved in the church community right from the start. It's my nature to be involved in things I love - in fact, I tend sometimes to over-commit because there are so many things I enjoy doing. A few months ago, I experienced a period of incipient burnout - I was wearing too many hats and wasn't nurturing myself enough. There have been lessons being learned (gotta love those "growth opportunities", yes?) and these have included some painful times of conflict, confusion and alienation. At my lowest point, I thought about leaving.

The next Sunday at the service I was struck by how much I love the community of Unity and that I would miss it if I left. As much as I love Georgie and her teachings, which she shares with us with so much heart and earnestness, I'm not here because of Georgie. As much as I love participating in the music, I'm not here because of the music. It is the community of people who come together at this church on the hill who make it what it is. Your presence, your energy, your consciousness, is an integral part of what makes it so very enriching to be here.

The chant, "How can I serve today, Sweet Spirit?" comes to my mind often. I personally find my experience here to be so much more meaningful when I can serve - because it is by serving that I have the opportunity to make meaningful connections, one person at a time. The point of service is to add your heart and energy to the larger heart energy that is this church community, and to experience the joy of connection.

Jyoti's column continues on page 3.....

President's Column continues...

I encourage and invite you to find a way to serve this lovely community in order to deepen your sense of connection - whether it be by helping on the grounds maintenance team (you've noticed how much yard we have, and our lovely rose garden?), being an usher, serving with others on the revived hospitality committee, reading the Daily Word, watering plants, helping in Youth Ed, helping with the Women's W.I.S.H. circle or men's group (Paladins), serving on the Board, or singing in the choir. You can serve as little or as much as you choose - once a week or once a month or twice a year. The reward is connection. And it is our connections with one another that keep this church vital. Serve, know others, and be known - and you will know the sweetness of this Unity community.

Another way you can serve the community of Unity of Salem is to let the Board of Trustees hear from you! Board members wear nametags on Sundays and at other events (when we remember!), our names and phone numbers are listed in the bulletin, and every once in awhile Georgie will introduce us during the service and have us stand so you know who we are. Please feel free to approach us with any questions or comments you may have. There is a feedback box in the kitchen, and we very much desire and welcome your input - please tell us what you like, what you don't like, what you would like to see here, what ideas you have for this, your community. The Board reviews all feedback together and considers how we may best serve your concerns. We are here to represent YOU, our community members, in our decision-making. So please, let us hear from you!

Namaste-

Jyoti

UP COMING EVENTS:

Our Tuesday Circles resume on Tuesday March 1 with Emptiness to Resurrection: A Circle of Transition. We will explore Rites of Passage, The Endings, The Void and the Beginnings.

First and third Fridays through February, March and April John Meyer and Blythe Eastman will be hosting Shamanic Journeys. Suggested love offering is \$10.00.

First and third Mondays through February, March and April Blythe Eastman will facilitate Chi Lel evenings on a love offering basis

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY:

On Sunday, March 13th, Unity of Salem will welcome 18 new members. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of people who are committed to Unity of Salem.

We welcome into membership:

Johnni Southerland, Joy Gay-Yount, Tammy McCammon, Caroline Collins, Jim Harris, Renee Shearer, Diane Bunn, Carolyn Hakanson, Sharron Durham, Jane Minard, Nancy Ann Snider, Steve Shepard, Midge Powell, Enola Pease, Becky Shepard, Barbara Hill, and Diane Van Gorder.

EASTER SUNDAY:

We will have two Easter Sunday services on March 27. One service will be at 9:00 a.m. with Child Care and one service at 11:00 a.m. with youth education programs downstairs and in the modular. We will have our traditional Living Cross ceremony in both services. Please bring a flower(s) to church with you that day.

**I am One with God. The Spirit of God is in and through all aspects of my Life.
Wherever I am, God is!**

APRIL HAPPENINGS:

During the month of April we will focus on the theme of Prayer and Meditation. The Tuesday Circles will begin April 5 through the 26th and will cover several different types of Meditation. Katherine Harper, Vice President of the Board, will facilitate the Circle. A love offering will be received.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:

April 3 begins Daylight Savings Time. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

CHAPLAIN DEDICATION:

Diana Moskal, Licensed Unity Teacher and Chaplain is offering a Chaplain training through the months of March and April. New Chaplains will be dedicated on Sunday, May 1, 2005.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

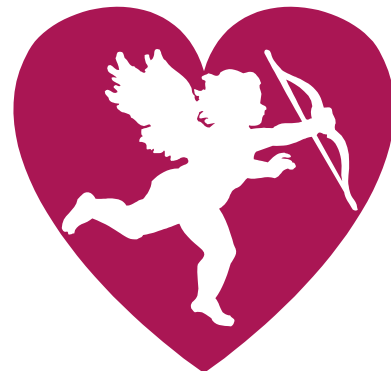
December was a busy month for the Bookstore!!! THANK YOU to everyone who shopped there for Christmas gifts or a gift for yourself! I could hardly keep Marianne Williamson's book on the shelf - THE GIFT OF CHANGE.

Some other popular books are: THE HIDDEN MESSAGES IN WATER (had to re-order this one 3 times) by Masaru Emoto, THE BEST YEAR OF YOUR LIFE - Dream it, Plan it and Live it, by Debbie Ford and REAL WEALTH by Phil Smedstad. Take a look at these great books! We also have a lending library area in the Bookstore that is on the honor system. The Sunday cassette tapes are also made in the Bookstore - just sign up on the clipboard and your tape is ready the following Sunday.

See Diana Moskal if you have any special book orders or any questions!

***Birthdays***

Mar. 3 rd	Katherine Harper
Mar. 7 th	Pres Preston
Mar. 11 th	Diana Moskal
Mar. 24 th	Carol Wilson
Mar. 25 th	Dick Thomas
Mar. 26 th	Keith Mills
Mar. 27 th	Sandy Collins
Mar. 29 th	Reinholdt Leske Adrian Smith
Apr. 3 rd	Pauline Alden
Apr. 9 th	Rev. Georgie Richardson
Apr. 13 th	Sandra Gregory
Apr. 15 th	Linda Morgan
Apr. 27 th	Paula Wills
Apr. 28 th	Estella Leske



COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Daily: Pause for Peace 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.

"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with God's love in my heart"

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. service and youth education, 10:30 a.m.

First and third Monday s: Chi Lel.

First and third Fridays: Shamanic Journeys.

First and third Sundays: Pathfinders 9:00 a.m.

Thursdays: Noon meditation, followed by brown-bag lunch.

Mar. 1st: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Circles resume – "Emptiness to Resurrection".

Mar. 6th: Pathfinders 9:00 a.m.; **and** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

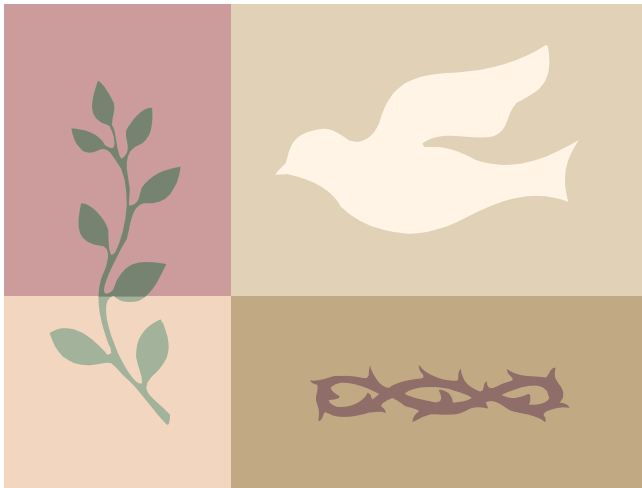
Mar. 13th: 10:30 a.m. New Member Service.

Mar. 20th: Pathfinders 9:00 a.m.; **and** Noetic Science, Y.O.U. room 6:30 p.m.

Mar. 27th: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. – Easter Service with Living Cross Ceremony.

Apr. 3rd: Daylight Savings Time Begins.

May. 1st: New Chaplains will be dedicated.



Dorothy Lucas for being in charge of our Tape Ministry for the past year. Dorothy has duplicated and mailed tapes to folks who are unable to attend church. They are grateful and so are we to Dorothy's commitment.

Linda Androes who has been the team leader for Unity Friends for eight full years. Linda is now stepping down from that position, and so we also say THANK YOU

To Diane Van Groder who is stepping in as the leader of Unity Friends.

To all of our Indigo movie helpers: Kathy and Dave Munsel and Sherri Smith and Kelsey Fritz; and, Estella and Reiny Lesky and Rosie Daley.

Also a huge thank you to Paula Wills who ran the DVD for both showings of the movie as well as running the DVD for Behind the Scenes.

Jim Wallace, Dave Munsel and Ed Lent for spreading bark dust around our office area; and Bonnie Jean Young for taking care of the rose bush by the office; and finally

Bonnie Jean and Bonnie Staebler for their wonderful leadership of our fantastic Reader's Theater group.

We love, bless and appreciate all of you for your many hours of service to Unity of Salem.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU! AND HATS OFF TO:

March Church Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. – Youth Education is available.		1. 7:00 pm: Tuesday Circles begins.	2.	3. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	4.	5.
6. 9:00 am: Pathfinders 6:30 pm: Noetic Science Burning Bowl Ceremony	7. 7:00 pm: Chi Lel	8.	9.	10. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	11.	12.
13. 10:30 am: New Member Sunday 6:00 pm: Paladins	14.	15.	16.	17. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	18.	19.
20. 9:00 am: Pathfinders 6:30 pm: Noetic Science	21. 7:00 pm: Chi Lel	22.	23.	24. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch	25.	26.
27. Easter Sunday: Services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am – Living Cross Ceremony.	28. 7:00 pm: Board Meeting	29.	30.	31. Noon Meditation/ Brown Bag Lunch		

**Unity of Salem
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED