



Your Weekly Newsletter for Upcoming Events

the SUUNday Focus

December 12, 2010

Upcoming Services

Sunday Services at 9:15 & 11 am

December 19	Hollis Bredeweg	<i>The Last Temptation</i>	9:15 am
	Religious Education	<i>Children's Pageant</i>	11 am
December 21	Solstice Singers & Readers	<i>Winter Solstice Singing Ritual</i>	7 pm
December 24	Hollis Bredeweg	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	7 pm
December 26	Hollis Bredeweg	<i>Instant Sermons</i>	11 am
January 2	Rabbi David Kominsky	<i>TBA</i>	9:15 & 11 am

Notices & Upcoming Events

Board Announces Changes

The Board of Trustees has a few changes in membership to announce. Regretfully, we're saying goodbye to Mary Giannini following her resignation from the Board. Please thank Mary for her valuable service the next time you see her. We are happy to report that Hannah Richter, daughter of Erich and Andi Richter and a leader within our youth group, has joined the Board of Trustees. Hannah will serve the remainder of the church year through June 2011. Welcome, Hannah!

Did you get your invoice from the Community Marketplace?

The Community Marketplace was a hit! Now we are just sorting out the paperwork — did you get your invoice? Are you still looking for your donation sheet with all the folks who signed up for your event? We thought that 99.9 % of our invoices and donation sheets actually got to the people we sent them to, but a few phone calls tell us that is a bit optimistic. So, if you have not yet received your invoice or donation sheet, please contact Marie Bjork or Lee Dominey and we will resend same. And for those who have already sent checks, many thanks!



Save Energy. Save Money. Learn How Today!

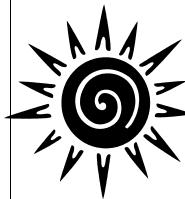
Get a home retrofit. Learn more about improving the quality of your home's energy. Save energy and provide local jobs in Spokane. As members of the Spokane Alliance our Church is supporting energy conservation. The process includes improving insulation, improving weather sealing, and modification of heating and cooling appliances. Based on utility incentives, federal grants and credits, and low interest loans your home improvement may pay for itself by lower monthly utility bills. Learn more at the table staffed by UU members in the

Happy Chalica!

Did you know that today is the last day of Chalica? This *new* holiday was invented in 2007 by enterprising UU Facebook user Daylene Marshall. Chalica celebrates the Seven Principles of the UU Church. Gifts can be made, bought, verbal, written, acts, shared/ personal celebrations. Visit the website www.uuidentity.com/chalica for more info. There is even a Chalica "carol"! Hear it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5zoFZ0rNSE



Winter Solstice Volunteers Needed



Our annual Winter Solstice Singing Ritual (Tuesday, December 21) is right around the corner. Thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to help turn the Wheel of the Year from Dark to Light. Of course, we can use all the help we can get, so below is a list of volunteer opportunities and what they entail. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Jet Tilley at admin@uuspokane.org or phone the church office at 325-6383. Many thanks for helping make this a magical evening.

Graces & Dragons — Greet people at the door; collect the offerings; assist with the candle lighting ceremony; control access in/out of the sanctuary. Training will be provided. G&Ds need to be able to attend at least one planning session, part of the dress rehearsal (Mon, Dec 20 at 6 pm), and arrive early on Solstice Eve (Dec 21 at 6 pm).

****Moving Crew** — Arrange the sanctuary prior to our dress rehearsal and put things back after the ritual on Dec 21. Set-up can happen anytime after church on Sun, Dec 19 until Mon, Dec 20 at 6 pm.

Kitchen Witches — Assist our master kitchen witch, Scott Fitzgerald, with after the hospitality gathering after the ritual. Tasks include setting out treats and clean-up.

Treat Providers — Bring finger-food treats (from fruits to nuts, cookies to quick breads) for the hospitality gathering after the service.

**** Our greatest need at this point in time is Moving Crew...particularly folks willing to put things back after the ritual. So, if you are unable to help set-up, but are happy to help clean-up, please do let us know. All are welcome here ☺**

Celebrating Religious Education at UUCS



Our Annual Pageant Needs You — Come Join the Fun!

We still have some parts available if you are interested in being part of our Pageant. We need more animals, shepherds, camel, an inn-keeper, kings, a servant, and a donkey. The rehearsals are Fridays, December 10 & 17, from 6 – 8:30 p.m. The Pageant takes place Sunday, December 19th, at 11 am during the service. If you are interested contact Diane H. (re@uuspokane.org or 325-6383 ext. 306).

Senior High UU Youth Group White Elephant Party

Tonight @ 7 pm in the Bartok Room. Where did the Christmas lights in the Bartok room come from? From our Annual White Elephant Party. Bring a gift you have either made, were once given or that costs no more than \$1.00. Past Youth Group members (read older siblings) and out of town guests are welcome – as long as they bring a gift.

Learning to be Generous

Our classroom offerings are going well! Please continue to help your children remember to bring some change to class for their offering, and have a family discussion about where they could donate their offering.

UU Principles for Children (and those who love them)

VIOLET VALUE our interdependence with nature.

The Inside Scoop

✦ Our Sharing Tree Update

All the Sharing Tree mittens were distributed last Sunday morning, 61 mittens! That is so fantastic! It will mean so much to the children and parents we're helping.

Important things to remember about your gifts:

- ☑ Please wrap your gift(s).
- ☑ Put the person's name & number on the gifts.
- ☑ Include a gift receipt for each gift in case the family needs to make an exchange.
- ☑ Return the mitten(s) to the Sharing Tree Table when you bring in your gifts.
- ☑ Gifts must be back at the church no later than Sunday, December 19th, unless you are willing to deliver them to the family.

We need help with the delivery! Please contact Diane Huigen (re@uuspokane.org/325-6383 ext 306) for information. Thank you so much for your help! **Your generosity will surely make someone's winter holiday sparkle.**



from the Administrator

✦ Winter Holiday Publication Changes

Due to the flurry of activity during the Winter Holiday Season and the fact I will be taking some time off during the week of the Solstice to celebrate with my family, we will not be publishing a Focus for either the Christmas Eve or the Sunday, December 26 services. If you have something critical to communicate to the congregation for those dates, please send your submissions so they can be published in the

Focus on December 19. **As well, please send any pulpit announcements for those dates directly to Hollis at hbredeweg@comcast.net.**

✦ Knitting Supplies in Entry Way

Would the person who left the two large bags filled with yarn and other knitting (craft) supplies please contact the Administration Office (325-6383)? If not claimed soon, these items will be distributed between Religious Education and the Lost & Found.

✦ Next Week's Special Collection — Ministerial Discretionary Fund

On December 19th you are invited to support the UUCS Ministerial Discretionary Fund. This fund provides emergency assistance to members and friends of our church impacted by job loss, emergency health issues or unexpected financial difficulties. Your gifts to this fund represent grace and mercy to those in need right here in our midst.

✦ On-Line Directory Available

If you want to access the Church Directory and other contact information via our website (www.uuspokane.org), just fill out an On-Line Policy and Access Agreement located on the table by the sound booth and leave it in the folder. You will be snail-mailed the Directory user name and password. Questions? Contact Jet Tilley, Business Administrator, at 325-6383 ext 302/admin@uuspokane.org.



The Inside Scoop

✦ Donate Food Items To Help the Hungry People of Spokane

Please, when shopping this week, think about picking up some extra staples for the 2nd Harvest food barrels in the lobby of the UUCS. Below are the most needed food items by category.

protein: peanut butter, canned meat, hearty soups, chili stews, macaroni & cheese & beans

fruits & vegetables: canned fruits & vegetables, canned or boxed juices, boxed mashed potatoes, dried fruit

grains: pasta, rice, healthy cereals (low sugar & low fat), oatmeal.

Cash donations are also welcome! *Each dollar you give turns into 6 pounds of food – about four meals.* Checks made payable to Second Harvest can be mailed or dropped off at the UUCS office. Food and monetary donations go directly to Second Harvest Food Bank of Spokane.

If you and/or your family need help, please contact our minister, Hollis Bredeweg, or Diane Huigen, Director of Religious Education.

✦ Update: Sage Tea Bulletin Board Featuring Jane Bowen and Rev. Bill Houff

Did you know that Jane and Channing Bowen came to our church because Rudy Gilbert was the minister here in 1959, and they had been members of his church in Denver? Or that Bill Houff holds a BS, MS and PhD in Chemistry? Find out more about these two long-time members of our church by reading their stories on our outside "Sage Tea" Bulletin Board!



✦ Get Your UUSC "Guest at Your Table" Box Today

We are launching our Guest at Your Table project today, December 5. **Each family may take home a Guest at Your Table box to put on your dinner table.** Each time you sit down to eat you add your change to the box. You may also put a check in your box or just turn in a check to Diane Huigen in the RE Office. On Sunday, January 9, you return your box to the RE Office and the monies collected will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

An annual tradition since 1975, the Guest at Your Table program collects money to help the UUSC advance human rights and social justice around the world. This comprehensive program nurtures lasting connections to UU principles, builds awareness about social justice and human rights, and strengthens UUSC's work.

The UUSC works to advance: **Environmental Justice** – focusing on the human right to water; **Defending Civil Liberties** – supporting creative ways to uphold civil liberties in the USA and throughout the world; **Protecting Rights in Humanitarian Crises** – focusing on the rights of marginalized populations, this program responds to major disasters and long-term humanitarian crises like Haiti, Darfur, Northern Uganda, & Myanmar; and **Education and Outreach** – engaging and motivating activists to achieve positive social change. UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

Please support these important efforts by having a Guest at Your Table throughout the Winter Holiday season.