



# the SUUNday Focus

November 27, 2011

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

4340 W Fort Wright Dr  
Spokane WA 99224  
509.325.6383

www.uuspokane.org

## Upcoming Services

Sunday Service at 9:15 am and 11 am

- Dec 4** Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *Minister* *Everything I Need to Know*  
*I Learned in College: Toward the Maturation of Morality*
- Dec 11** Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *Minister* *Not to Know Knowing:*  
*An Introduction to San Juan de la Cruz*
- Dec 18** Doug Huigen, *UUCS Member* *What Child is This?*

## Notices & Upcoming Events



### Partner Church Christmas Cards

Join us in sending holiday greetings to our special friends in Felsorakos! We will supply all the materials you need to create your own special cards. The Partner Church Team will sponsor a card-making booth at the church decorating party on December 3, and again after each service on Sunday morning on December 4. We will send all of the cards together in one big package of peace and joy. Questions? Please contact Shirley Carlson (contact details in the current UUCS directory).

**Interfaith Event: Islamic Culture Center Director Speaking on Monday, Nov 28**  
Eliyahu McLean, director of the Jerusalem Peacemakers, and Sheikh Ghassan Manasra, director of the Islamic Cultural Center in Nazareth, will speak Monday, November 28, at 7 p.m. at Country Homes Christian (Disciples) Church, 8415 N. Wall Street.

This interfaith event is sponsored by various Spokane organizations and individuals. Doug Huigen has seen a film featuring these two men and others who are trying to bring tolerance and interfaith dialogue to their angst-ridden land. There is an inspiring, hopeful message.

### West African Drumming Series

Learn to play traditional drum rhythms from Guinea. Explore complimentary rhythms played on drums of the djembe orchestra, including djembe hand drums, dunun bass drums, and bells. This five-week class series will study traditional handing technique with some modern choreographic embellishment. Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, February 5, and 12 from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. The class cost is \$25; scholarships are available upon request. The series is open to all levels of experience. Space will be limited to the number of drums that are available; therefore, pre-registration is required. For registration or information, please contact Kelly LaGrutta at abohemianheart@me.com.



### November 20 Attendance Count Worship Services

9:15 am – 67 • 11 am – 163 • Total – 230  
Religious Education – 88

### Past Sermons at UUSpokane.org

Did you miss Rev. Dr. Eklof's sermon last week? You can listen to the sermon or read the text at our website.



### ✦ The Pageant is Coming! An Invitation to the Children's Choir

The pageant is coming, the PAGEANT is coming, THE PAGEANT IS COMING!!! Yes, indeed, it is time to start thinking about our beloved Christmas Pageant and about once again singing those wonderful songs that help tell that good old story in a "UU way"! All kids from 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to sing in the choir.

Rehearsals are scheduled as follows for the Children's Choir:

- December 1 at 6:30 pm
- December 8 at 6:30 pm
- December 15 at 6:30 pm

You can get on the choir list or ask questions by contacting our Music Director Deborah J. at 325-6383, ext. 303 or uumusic@uuspokane.org. She needs to have your name by November 29 at noon in order to have materials for you.

### Holiday Pageant: Shepherd? King? Angel? Animal? Dec. 18 at 11:00 am

Our Holiday Pageant requires many children and youth, so please contact Diane Huigen as soon as possible if you wish to participate. If you are part of the pageant you do not have to speak, only our two narrators have speaking parts. We need lots of little children to be animals in the stable. They can wear any animal costume they want, even a dragon or giraffe. This is probably the last year we will do this pageant, so let's make it spectacular! The more the merrier. I'm looking forward to hearing from you! Diane Huigen at re@uuspokane.org or 509-325-6383 x306.



We will have 2 rehearsals for the Holiday Pageant:

- Thursday, Dec 8 at 6:30 pm and Thursday, Dec 15 at 6:30 pm

The pageant will be performed Sunday, December 18, at the 11 am service ONLY

## Celebrating Religious Education at UUCS



### ✦ Donating One Hour to Our Children

Would you be willing to join a team that works just one hour once a month with our UU children Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> grade? We need and want you to join us! You would be helping the teachers with activities and classroom hugs. We would love to have you. Please contact Diane!

### ✦ Senior High Youth Group, Next Meeting Dec 5



\*Starting Monday, December 5, the Youth Group will move to Monday nights from 6-8 pm at the church.

### ✦ Classroom Donations for SCRAPS



Please remember to send your child with some change for their class's offering for SCRAPS. This is the organization the children throughout the RE Wing chose to help this year. Thank you!

### ✦ Learn Our UU Principles = Your Own Chalice

Come talk with Diane once you've learned our UU Principles and then pick your own Ed Tyler chalice. You can pick up a copy of the Roy G. Biv Principles on the shelf in front of the RE Office.



Questions about our Religious Education programs and events can be directed to Diane Huigen, Director of Religious Education at re@uuspokane.org or 509-325-6383 x306.


✦ **Need Up, Giving Down at Local Food Banks**

Thank you to everyone who has helped fill our Food Barrel! On Sunday, Nov. 13, the Spokesman Review had an article stating, "As we get into the winter months, the need just continues to rise so much more. I think we're definitely going to be entering a very challenging period where there are more people turning to our food banks for assistance", Rod Wieber, Second Harvest Food Bank. Food banks & homeless shelters around the area say the need is increasing, but the giving is down. I hope our church continues to do its part to help the people who are in need in Spokane. Again, Thank you so much!

✦ **Teaching Our UU Children About Social Justice: A Story from our Congregation**

It is so important to teach our children about social justice, and we have several opportunities for you to do just that. An example is when Sue Stiritz took her grandson, Tristan, shopping for food to put in the Food Barrel, and then let him put the bags of food in the barrel himself. They also bought socks for the Sock Box and Tristan put them in the box. Tristan was so excited about doing this! You could see the sense of pride and accomplishment on his face when he came to tell us what he had done. You could also take a mitten from the Sharing Tree and take your child/grandchild shopping with you, wrap the gifts with you, and bring them in to church together. Teaching generosity and caring for others by example is huge for teaching children, and think of the special time spent with your special child.

✦ **Warm Socks = Warm Feet = Warm Heart (A Social Justice Project)**

 Three big bags of socks were delivered before Thanksgiving to St. Margaret's Shelter for Women & Children and the Union Gospel Mission. Thank you to everyone who has contributed socks to our Sock Box! Your generosity is really appreciated by our Spokane neighbors. Warm feet are incredibly important to one's sense of well-being in these cold months. To participate, bring a pair or pairs of new socks to church and put them in our Sock Box located in the Friendship Hall. This Social Justice project will continue through March. If you have any questions please call or email Diane Huigen at re@uuspokane.org/325-6383 x306. Thank you!

✦ **Guest At Your Table Box: Get Yours Today!**

Here's another way to teach generosity to your children/grandchildren. Put the Guest At Your Table Box on your dining room table and let your children add change each evening. Read one of the Stories of Hope to them. These boxes bring in more funds and memberships each year to support UUSC's mission than any other initiative. That is amazing to me! Today, nearly every UU congregation in the U.S. participates in this important tradition to support UUSC's mission. Guest At Your Table has been an important part of UUSC and UU culture since 1975.

If you don't want to use a box, we have envelopes. You can write a check to UUSC and put it in an envelope or give your check to Diane Huigen and she will send it to UUSC. PLEASE make your check out to UUSC. Please have your donations in to Diane by Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Thank you for participating!

✦ **Winter Solstice Volunteers Needed**

Our annual Winter Solstice Singing Ritual will take place on Wednesday, Dec 21. As always, your help is needed to turn the Wheel of the Year from Dark to Light. Below is a list of volunteer opportunities and a brief description of what each entails. For more information OR if you are willing and able to lend a hand, please contact Jet at admin@uuspokane.org or contact the church office at 325-6383. Thanks in advance for helping make this a magical evening.



**Graces & Dragons**

Greet people at the door; collect offerings; assist with the candle lighting ceremony; control access in and out of the sanctuary.

**Altar Builders**

Design and assemble all the ritual altars prior to final dress rehearsal. Disassemble altars after the ritual.

**Kitchen Witches**

Coordinate the hospitality gathering after the ritual.

**Snack Sprites (Treat Providers)**

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

✦ **Our Sharing Tree Going Up on Sunday, December 4**



On Sunday, December 4, our Sharing Tree will be in the Friendship Hall covered with mittens. Each mitten will have wishes on it belonging to a family member in need. We will be helping 17 families again this year comprised of women who are head of their household and attending EWU or SFCC and their children. If you have questions, or would like to help, please contact Diane Huigen at re@uuspokane.org/325-6383 x306.

✦ **All Church Holiday Decorating Party & Dinner this Saturday!**



The annual All Church Holiday Decorating Party & Dinner will be Saturday, December 3, from 5 – 8:30 pm. This is a party for anyone ages 1 – 100+ who enjoys having fun. Dinner will be cooked and served by our Senior High Youth. We will be asking for a donation to cover costs. This is an evening full of fun and excitement! **We will decorate the tree, try out 3 or 4 different crafts, sing carols, play games, socialize with friends, and have a visit from a special guest with a white beard and a red suit!** We look forward to seeing everyone there for some UU camaraderie.



✦ **Lots of activity at the Community Marketplace!**

We are pleased to report that 62 generous folks donated 84 bid items, which were bid on by 125 people. We are still making the final count, but it looks like we made about \$15,000 to add to our operating funds. Thanks to some 50 donors our "Support the Sound System" netted \$1275. Many thanks to all involved! Invoices and Donation lists will be sent out – by e-mail to most people – by the end of the month.