



the SUUNday Focus

December 4, 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 11 Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, Minister

*Not to Know Knowing:
An Introduction to San Juan de la Cruz*

Dec 18 Doug Huigen, UUUCS Member

What Child is This? (9:15 am)

Dec 18 Winter Holiday Pageant


Would You Like to Hold the Baby? (11 am)

Notices & Upcoming Events



UU Women: Dinner at the Davenport, Lunch at the MAC

All the women of the church are invited come to one or both events!

 *Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 pm*
Dinner in the Fireside Lounge at the Davenport Hotel and a tour of Christmas Tree Elegance. Please call or e-mail Stephanie Samson (stephaniesamson@comcast.net / 624-3953) if you would like to join us so we will know just how many to expect.

Wednesday, December 14 at 11:30 am
Lunch at the Museum of Art and Cultrre (MAC) and a visit to the exhibit "Seeing Impressionism". Please call or e-mail Judy Gammon (363-0535 / rog_jrg@msn.com) if you will be joining us.

Meet the Art Wall Artists after Second Service Today

The Hoefler family, whose diverse art work is displayed on the Art Wall this month, looks forward to visiting with church members following the second service today. Come meet over coffee in the Friendship Hall with painter Gina Hoefler, her husband Fred, photographer, and their son Vaughn, who works in ceramics.

Journal Donations Well-Received



Thank you to all who gave journals for the Y's Women in Transition program. They were most appreciated!

West African Drumming Series—Limited Space - Sign up Now!

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. Please make your check payable to UUUCS with *Drum Class* in the memo. 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.



✦ Time to Pick Your Mitten from the Sharing Tree!

Our Sharing Tree is up in the Friendship Hall waiting for you to select a mitten. Each mitten has the wishes of a family member in need. We will be helping 17 families this year comprised of women who are head of their household and attending EWU or SFCC and their children. *Thank you for your generosity!* It will be greatly appreciated by these mothers and their children! Questions? Contact Diane Huigen.

Here is the process so the gifts get to the right families:

- ✦ Select a mitten!
- ✦ Check in with a volunteer
- ✦ Tell the volunteer your name and the number of the recipient
- ✦ PLEASE DO NOT walk off with a mitten without checking in
- ✦ Put a GIFT RECEIPT for each item in with the gift, so family can exchange if needed
- ✦ Wrap your gifts
- ✦ Attach your mittens to the gifts so we give them to the right person
- ✦ Bring the gifts to the church no later than Sunday, December 18



Celebrating Religious Education at UUUCS

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



✦ 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 – 4th 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 OWL Classes

Parent Orientation for our Senior High OWL class will be Sunday, February 5th, at 12:30 pm in the Sanger Room. This is just for the parents. The Senior High OWL classes actually begin Sunday, February 12th, at 12:30 pm in the Sanger Room. There will be 14 sessions for the youth. Please contact Diane Huigen as soon as possible as space is limited – re@uuspokane.org or 328-3158x306.

✦ Senior High Youth Group, NEW DAY, Monday, Dec 5, 6-8 pm in the Bartok Room



Silent football and other games & bring a friend to youth group. There will be prizes!

Social Justice Projects

✦ 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)

Thank you so much for bringing in warm socks for St. Margaret's Shelter for Women & Children and the Union Gospel Mission! Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our Spokane neighbors. Two large sacks of socks were delivered this week by Doug Huigen to St. Margaret's and one large sack to Union Gospel Mission. 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!

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 the UU Service Committee's mission than any other initiative. UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all people can realize their full human rights. If you would like more information about the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) visit their website at uusc.org. If you would rather not 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 and have your donations, either box or check, to RE Director, Diane Huigen, by Sunday, January 8, 2012.

"I actually don't believe that religion is about what people believe. Religion is about what we hold sacred, and that's very different from assenting to a set of propositions." — Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President
Quote from Huffington Post article: *Can Unitarian Universalists Make It Another 50 Years?* (See at www.huffingtonpost.com)

The Inside Scoop

✦ 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.



Adult Enrichment Team Programs — Taking a Break Until 2012!

Watch for registration opportunities for Winter/Spring Programs beginning in January and February. The following is a list of exciting options that will be available, but dates/times may still change:

- **African Drumming** with Kelly LaGrutta (Sunday afternoons, 1/8-2/12, 3:30 -4:45 PM)
- **Aging with Grace and Readiness** (Sundays, 1/22-2/12, 12:30-2PM), mixed facilitators
- **Building Your Own Theology** (Sundays, 2/26-4/1, 9-10:30AM), with the Gammons
- **Hungry For Change** by NWEI (Sundays, 3/4-4/8, 9-10:30AM), with Linda Moulder and Ann-Scott
- **'Fourth Sunday' Discussions** — A Spiritual Path's Connection to UU, mixed facilitators; (12:30-2PM, 1/26-Buddhism and UU, 2/25-Humanism and UU, 3/22-CUUPS and UU)
- **Seven Concepts That Will Blow Your Mind** (2nd Sundays, 1-2:30PM, beginning 3/3), w/Rev Todd
- **History of God** Book Discussion (Wednesdays, 6:30-8PM, starts 3/21), with Bill Tracy
- **The Gospel According to Liberals** book discussion w/Rev. Todd; time 2b determined
- **I-Ching** study with Rev. Todd...time 2b determined
- **Simplicity Circles** with Georgette Thornton...time 2b determined

If you have ideas for future programs, or suggestions of facilitators of programs we should talk to, please contact us or come to our open Adult Enrichment Team meetings. We welcome new members to our team and any ideas you might have! We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm in the Cummings room. Or contact the team leader, Ann-Scott Ettinger at bark4snow@comcast.net.