



# the SUUNday Focus

December 11, 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 18 Doug Huigen, *UUCS Member* *What Child is This? (9:15 am)*
- Dec 18 Winter Holiday Pageant *Would You Like to Hold the Baby? (11 am)*
- Dec 25 Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *UUCS Minister* *Rudolph, Santa & the Red Scare: We're All on the Island of Misfit Toys (10 am)*

## Notices & Upcoming Events



### UU Women: Lunch at the MAC

All the women of the church are invited *Wednesday, Dec 14 at 11:30 am* for lunch at the Museum of Art and Culutre (MAC) and a visit to the exhibit "Seeing Impressionism". If you are joining us, please contact Judy Gammon (363-0535/rog\_jrg@msn.com).

### WA United for Marriage Campaign

In keeping with the UUA's long tradition of support for marriage equity and our own church standing as a Welcoming Congregation, the M-Team is pleased to announce UUCS has joined *Washington United for Marriage* as a coalition partner. *Washington United for Marriage* is a broad, statewide coalition of organizations, congregations, unions and business associations that have come together to work to obtain civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples in Washington State in 2012. Go to [washingtonunitedformarriage.org](http://washingtonunitedformarriage.org) or watch for upcoming Focus & SUUN pieces about how you can get involved.

### Got Snow Blower?

Do you have a well-running, light to mid-weight snow blower that's looking for a new home? Would you like to gift it to UUCS? If the answer to both questions is, "Yes!" please contact Business Administrator, Jet Tilley, at 325-6383 during office hours or at [admin@uuspokane.org](mailto:admin@uuspokane.org).

### Community Marketplace Wrap Up and Volunteers Needed!

The Community Marketplace has two goals - to raise money, and increase community. This year we raised over \$16,000 for our operating budget and over 1,400 connections will be made through all the events.

Invoices for your purchases, and information on who purchased your donations, were emailed or snail-mailed this week. If you are missing either item, please contact the church office for a copy.

Did you win something? *You can mail your check to the church, or drop it in the Sunday basket - please be sure to note "Marketplace" so it gets posted correctly.*

Thanks for another great event! We are retiring from being active Marketplacers, but will gladly provide consulting and mentoring to the new Marketplace team. If you'd like the opportunity to work on this great project, please let us know. ~ Lee Dominey and Marie Bjork

### M-Team Meeting Change

Due to the busy holiday season and the happy scheduling conflicts that arise, our M-Team meeting next week has been re-scheduled to Tuesday, December 13 at 4 pm in the EE Cummings Room. As always, all are welcome to join us.



### Our Sharing Tree is Bare & That's a Good Thing! Dec 18 Deadline!

All the mittens were selected by 60 congregants this last Sunday. These folks are helping 17 families consisting of 17 mothers and 36 children, where the mother is the head of the household, struggling to provide for her family and attending college either at SFCC or EWU. *Please have your gifts at church wrapped, with a gift receipt for each gift, & the mitten attached to the package, no later than Sunday, December 18.* These families appreciate our generosity!

## Celebrating Religious Education at UUCS

### Holiday Pageant: Shepherd? King? Angel? Animal? Dec. 18 at 11 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. This is probably the last year we will do this pageant, so let's make it spectacular! The more the merrier. We will have 1 more rehearsal for the Pageant this coming Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 pm. It doesn't matter if you missed the previous rehearsal, you are still welcome to be part of the Pageant. The Pageant will be performed Sunday, December 18, at the 11 am service ONLY. Come join the fun!



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

### Social Justice Opportunities for Teaching our Children Generosity and Caring

We have five opportunities children and adults in our church can participate in which will help someone in our community, and help teach our children about Social Justice. We have our Sharing Tree, the food barrel, the sock box, our Guest At Your Table boxes, and the classroom offerings which benefit SCRAPs. The children need help from the adults in our church to make this happen. Teaching by example is huge for teaching children about generosity and caring. What a wonderful legacy to leave this world!

## UU Principles for Children (and those who love them)

**BLUE: BELIEVE in our ideas and act on them.**

### 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!

### Senior High Youth Group, NEW DAY, Monday, Dec 12, 6-8 pm in the Bartok Room



### Senior High OWL Classes

Parent Orientation for our Senior High OWL class will be Sunday, February 5, at 12:30 pm in the Sanger Room. This is just for the parents. The Senior High OWL classes actually begin Sunday, February 12, 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](mailto:re@uuspokane.org) or 328-3158x306.

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

✦ **Our Food Barrel – A Different Kind of Happy Meal**

This is one thing our Food Barrel goes toward: Quote from The Inlander, Nov. 24: *Inside the cold Second Harvest warehouse off East Trent, volunteers in an assembly line fill paper bags with milk cartons, Chef Boyardee mini-ravioli & packages of kid-friendly cereal. The mood is jovial, but the task isn't a happy one. These volunteers are assembling 3,000 kits containing meals and snacks for local school kids who aren't getting enough to eat. The kids are the cornerstone of the Backpack Program – an initiative that aims to meet the needs of students who receive free or reduced cost meals at school during the week, but for whom food is hard to come by on the weekends.*

\*Each week, Second Harvest food bank distributes 468 kits of food to schools in Spokane, Coeur d'Alene & the surrounding area that kids can take home in their backpacks on Fridays. Each kit contains 2 ready-to-eat breakfasts & dinners, snacks & milk.

\*This is part of a national program by Feeding American to address childhood hunger. Blessings to all who help fill our barrel!

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



It's amazing how the Sock Box continues to fill up each week! Our neighbors at St. Margaret's Shelter for Women & Children and the Union Gospel Mission really appreciate your kind donation. One of the items asked for by almost every family participating in our Sharing Tree was socks. It made me realize how important our Sock Box really is. To participate, bring a pair or pairs of new socks to church & put them in our Sock Box located in the Friendship Hall. This Social Justice project will continue through March. Thank you everyone for sharing! If you have any questions please call or email Diane Huigen at re@uuspokane.org/325-6383 x306.

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

If you haven't picked up your GAYT box yet, you'll find them on the tables in the Friendship Hall. Put your box on your dining room table and let your children add change each evening. Talk about what the box stands for and what the money will do. Share the Stories of Hope. These boxes bring in more funds & memberships each year to support the UU Service Committee's mission than any other initiative. UUSC envisions a world free from oppression & injustice, where all people can realize their full human rights. 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.

✦ **Winter Solstice Volunteers Needed**

Our annual Winter Solstice Singing Ritual will take place on Wednesday, Dec 21. We are still in need of more volunteers for the following jobs:

- **Elves (Moving Crew)** – Arrange the sanctuary after services on Sunday, Dec 18; put things back after the ritual on Dec 21.
- **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.

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.



✦ **Sustainable Works: Upcoming Cost Change. Schedule Now to Lock in Low Rate** SustainableWorks (SW), you may know, is a non-profit founded by the Industrial Areas Foundation's Spokane Alliance. Its mission is to help middle-income families do energy retrofits to their homes and in the process help prevent climate change and provide for creation of living wage jobs that stay in the community. Taken together these three missions lead to the ultimate goal of the Alliance – building community.

Two key points about SW:

- 1) **For those families still thinking about having SW do an energy audit to their house you should know that the price will increase from \$95 to \$195 after Dec 31.** This is because SW will no longer operate with the \$4 million dollar federal stimulus grant it received in 2009. If you sign up before Dec 31, 2011, you will have until the end of Jan 2012 to pay the \$95. For more information or help signing up contact Jerry White at 747-7637 / jerrywhiteis@gmail.com. It can be done online at ww.SustainableWorks.com.
- 2) Lee Dominey has offered to help write a SUUN article that lets us know how many UUCSers have participated in this energy saving program by having their homes audited or retrofitted. She may even provide details about how many got insulation, furnaces, hot water tanks, etc. This article will appear after the first of the new year.

✦ **New Hearing Assistance System Installed**

Thanks to a generous donation of long-time member, Jane Bowen, the Sanctuary and Friendship Hall are now equipped with an induction loop hearing assistance system. The system is designed to work with T-coil (telecoil-equipped) hearing aids and cochlear implants, as well as with the new special receiver units now available at the sound booth. FYI: **UUCS is the first church in Spokane** to have this exciting hearing assistance technology installed.



Jane's generous gift allowed us to complete the initial installation of the system, which includes three (3) T-coil receiver units for people without T-coil aids. We are currently evaluating how many more units we need to purchase. **If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of more receivers (they cost about \$100 each) or toward future audio/visual improvements in our facilities, just make your donation out to UUCS and put "Sound System" in the memo line.**

Things to know moving forward:

- On Sunday, Jan 15th after the 11 am service, Brenda Drake, Owner/President of Audio Loop Solutions, Inc., will be on hand to make a presentation about the new system and to evaluate hearing aids and help people with T-coil aids activate them. Brenda's consultation will be free-of-charge for UUCS members & friends.
- If you just can't wait 'til then, contact your audiologist or hearing aid provider. They will be able to tell you if you have a T-coil and how to turn it on.
- Prior to the January presentation, member Deanna Fendler, leader of the local Hearing Loss Association, will make educational materials available between and after Sunday services.

Thanks again to Jane for allowing us to implement such a fantastic system and thanks in advance to all who donate toward making our Sunday services and community events more accessible to those with hearing loss.

— Your Management Team