



# Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation



## FEBRUARY 2012

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**February 5**

"Early Planning for Your Garden"

Frank Schuchman

**February 12**

"How a UU Sees the Heart" - Joe King

**February 19**

"What is a Chalice Lighter?" - Elise May

**February 26**

"Some of It True" - Rev. Ken Jones \*\*\*

1/2 time minister at Yakima UU

and Logos. Logos is very forward-thinking and rational. It is associated with progress, but it doesn't help us much when a loved one dies or when we struggle to find meaning. Myths are not factual accounts of events, but in some sense an event that happened once, but also happens all the time. The birth stories of both Jesus and the Buddha may be considered myths.

Forrest Church wrote of myths: "Like that of every story, their truth depends on upon their listeners. They will prove as true as love and hope are true, but only if they awaken us to possibilities for love and hope within our lives." Church went on to define God as "our name for a power that is greater than all and yet present in each. The life force, the holy, being itself."

He describes a metaphor of the world as a vast cathedral. The cathedral is as old as mankind and cannot be fully known in a lifetime. With this cathedral, there are windows beyond number, some long-forgotten, some covered with dust and some revered by millions. Each is beautiful in its own way. Each tells a story about the meaning of history, the purpose of life, and the nature of mankind.

The windows of the cathedral are where the light shines through. The light of God or truth or being itself shines not only upon us, but out from within us as well. Together with the windows, we are part of the cathedral, not apart from it. We constitute an interdependent web of being. But the windows are not light; they are only where the light shines through. The light or God remains a mystery.

Rev. Forrest Church wrote nearly two dozen books, many of which applied his theology to everyday life. They included "God and Other Famous Liberals" (1991), "Life Lines: Holding On (and Letting Go)" (1996) and "Lifecraft: The Art of Meaning in the Everyday" (2000).

There is a new biography on his journey, "Being Alive and Having to Die: The Spiritual Odyssey of Forrest Church."

### KVUUC BOARD

Co-President: Jean Lofy

Co-President: Debbie Williams

Past President: Coleen Renee

Financial Secretary: Jim Schwing

Secretary: Don Gallagher

Treasurer: Carol Gilliom

Minister of Religious Education: Lita Malone D.Min.

\*\*\* We live in an age in which we are constantly bombarded by information, lots of it, and also a lot of misinformation. How do we begin to try to take it all in to make responsible decisions? Or how do we know what is useful information or not?"

### CO-PRESIDENTS' COLUMN

By Jean Lofy

I came across an interesting sermon by a lifelong UU and the president of Westside UU Congregation in Seattle called, "Finding God at Costco." She describes seeing a book at Costco by Karen Armstrong and being influenced by her books and those of Forrest Church, the longtime UU minister and theologian and author "Bringing God Home."

Armstrong reminds us that in pre-modern cultures, there were two ways of acquiring knowledge—Mythos

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Adult Religious Education

### Cakes for the Queen of Heaven **Part II**



A Course in Feminist Theology  
Facilitated by Lita Malone, D. Min.

## *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*

Part II: On the Threshold

Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation is offering *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Part II: On The Threshold*. This is a 6-week course in women's spirituality that examines the sacred feminine through the stories of women from our Western religious tradition who balanced on the threshold between an older matrilineal social order and an emerging patriarchal social structure in which the personification of the divine shifted from one which included the female to one exclusively male.

### Our focus will be:

- To encourage participants to discover the female imagery that has been present but unacknowledged in Judaism and Christianity;
- To help participants to look at the painful suppression of female experience in Western religious tradition;
- To enable participants to relate their discoveries and experience to their individual identities;
- To encourage participants to explore a new world view and theology for the future.

Dates: Wednesdays, March 28<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 7-9:00 pm

Cost: \$30

## Children's Religious Education

The **Chalice Children** have been playing with spiders and fairies. Jason Irwin brought in a moma spider, a papa spider and a little pouch filled with baby spiders. The Chalice Children have been exploring the web of life and who better to teach us about webs than spiders! Thanks Jason. On Potluck Sunday Coleen shared secrets of the fairies with the children and they had a grand time listening to stories and learning how to see "softly" with their eyes. Thanks Coleen.

The **Cosmic Explorers** have finally returned to Earth after careening through stars, galaxies, supernovas and black holes for about 9.2 billion years. They have landed on an earth which is barely 700 million years old. It's boiling with molten lava and yet life will soon begin to emerge. It will be almost another 3.8 billion years before they are finished with their journey. Amy Zukowski helped us begin to create our story beads which represent the cosmic events on our journey. Thanks to Amy

## OUR WHOLE LIVES

**Sexuality Education for Kindergarten & 1st Grade**  
Lead Teacher, Leah Irwin

Goals of the Course will be to:

- Strengthen each child's sense of self and self-esteem.
- Provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information.
- Help children develop communication skills.
- Help families communicate openly about all life questions.
- Strengthen parents' roles as their children's most important sexuality educators.

PARENT INFORMATION: Sunday, March 11, 2012  
from 3-4:30 pm

PARENT/CHILD ORIENTATION: Sunday, March 25,  
2012 from 3-4:30 pm

PLACE: KUUUC 400 N Anderson

TIME: Sundays 3:00-4:30

Tuesdays 3:30-5:00

DATES: April 8 to May ?

COST: \$45 per child for materials

\$30 per child for multiple children

If you are interested call: Lita at 509-899-3030 or  
Leah at 509-607-1323

## Dates to Remember for R.E.

- Sunday, February 19, **SPIDER MAN** (Jason Irwin) will visit the Explorers' Class
- Saturday, April 28, Science Center Trip
- June 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Camping trip & Coming of Age Ceremony on the Columbia River at Horse Thief State Park

## KVUUC COUNCILS

**ALL OUR COUNCILS MEET RIGHT AFTER SERVICES ON SUNDAYS.**

### 1st SUNDAY

1. KVUUC BOARD

### 2nd SUNDAY

2a. WORSHIP COUNCIL

2b. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

### 3rd SUNDAY

3. MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

### 4th SUNDAY

4a. GREEN SANCTUARY COUNCIL  
& SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

### PERIODICALLY

FINANCE COUNCIL

### 3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAYS

#### Sustainable Film Series

January 20 - 7:00 p.m.

#### "Supersize Me"

Director Morgan Spurlock takes a hilarious and often terrifying look at the effects of fast food on the human body, using himself as the proverbial guinea pig. For one month, Spurlock eats nothing but McDonald's fare.

This is a chance to review this sometimes disgusting film and learn what our fast food and processed foods are doing to our bodies. Discussion to follow film.

### EVERY THURSDAY

SACRED FIBRE CIRCLE

Every Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

## FUNDRAISING ITEMS

### T-SHIRTS GALORE

#### Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts

If you want a SSL t-shirt, see Jean Lofy or call her at 962-8040. There are several sizes available.



KVUUC t-shirts - see Bill Beattie at church on Sundays and purchase a beautiful shirt for \$15. We will be wearing these shirts whenever we work in our community!

#### Drink More Coffee, Eat More Chocolate

You don't really want to give up those staples, do you? You can do the world good by making sure your coffee and chocolate honors workers' rights!

#### EQUAL EXCHANGE - FAIR TRADE

- shade-grown regular and decaf coffee (ground or beans) (even large bags)
- organic green and black tea
- cocoa
- chocolate bars
- olive oil from Palestinian farmer co-ops



Give Jean Lofy your order - you can order large bags of great coffee!

#### READERS' CONTEST

Win an Equal Exchange product for the right answer - chosen randomly from all correct answers received by **Friday, February 10.**

Read through the newsletter and find the contest question. Send your answer to the question (it used to be EASY - and it is getting to be more of a challenge!) to Cynthia at [cmurray@fairpoint.net](mailto:cmurray@fairpoint.net) or give her a call at 509-933-3198.

#### Contest Question:

Rev. Forrest Church was the minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City for 30 years. Name one of his many books to win this month's contest.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kittitas-Valley-Unitarian-Universalist-Congregation-KVUUC/121639554572008>

## LOCAL COMMUNITY

### ELLENSBURG FOOD CO-OP

February Order Cycle - February 7 - 13

Pick-up Date: February 16 at Hal Holmes Community Center from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Ellensburg Room - you can enter from the parking lot or the library side.

Currently, the co-op has 10 producers and delivers to the Upper County as well. You don't have to be a member to shop online.

Check it out at [www.ellensburgfoodcoop.org](http://www.ellensburgfoodcoop.org) or see Debbie or Jean if you have questions.

Founding memberships are \$100.

Also, the Co-Op is hosting a Winter Potluck at Raw Space - Wednesday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed by live music - "Better Day" is the band. It will be a fun and interesting evening.

### THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

#### ELLENSBURG VEGETARIAN SOCIETY

3rd Tuesdays - 6:00 pm

Bring a potluck entrée, bread, or dessert and share in the best food in town! 307 N. Pine - the Historic Odd Fellows Hall. Look for the big sign.



February's dinner will be followed by a presentation by Jim Baird of Cloudview Ecofarm.

### THE 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

#### SILENT PEACE VIGIL - CHANGE!!!!

Third Wed. from noon - 1:00 at the post office. February 15.



## REGIONAL NEWS

**Chalice Lighters** - Individual UUs contribute \$15 or more up to three times per year to help a congregation with a special project linked to growth. Go to [pnwd.org/chalichelighter.php](http://pnwd.org/chalichelighter.php).

And talk with Elise May to find out what you need to do to become a Chalice Lighter.

For all KVUUC folks:

### SAFE CONGREGATION

This is the revised version for KVUUC. The Board met on January 8 and reviewed the document and made some changes specific to our congregation. - Please read over this and call or email any comments to Cynthia at [cmurray@fairpoint.net](mailto:cmurray@fairpoint.net) or 509-933-3198.

Some changes have been made to this policy - you will find the changes (either replacement of words or add-on words) shown in RED.

Please re-read the material and call or email one of the Board members to suggest additions or deletions. The final approval will be decided at the first Board meeting of March (March 4).

### SAFE CONGREGATION

**Subject:** Screening and Selection of Workers with Children and Youth

**Responsible Group:** Children's Religious Education Council

**Approved:**

D R A F T

### POLICY:

Those working with children and youth in the context of our Unitarian Universalist faith have a crucial and privileged role, one which may carry with it a great deal of power and influence. Whether acting as a youth advisor, chaperone, child-care worker, teacher, minister or in any other role, the volunteer has a special opportunity to interact with our young people in ways which are affirming and inspiring to all involved.

It is important that volunteers are capable of maintaining meaningful friendships with the young

people they work with; they must exercise good judgment and mature wisdom in using their influence with children and youth and refrain from using young people to fulfill their own needs. Young people are in a vulnerable position when dealing with people older than themselves, and may find it difficult to speak out about any inappropriate behavior of their leaders, teachers and caretakers.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the entire congregation, not just those in leadership and teaching positions, to create and maintain a climate that supports the growth and welfare of children and youth. In an effort to protect our young people as well as our leaders and teachers, selection criteria and screening procedures will be implemented.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

Workers who provide direct care and/or supervision to children or youth at the Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation (KVUUC), as advisors for youth and volunteer Religious Education teachers, at events or in programs, must have been active participants at KVUUC for at least six months. Active participants are church members or friends who are involved with church councils, activities, and/or events.

1. Advisors and teachers for High School Youth must be at least 25 years old; advisors and teachers for Middle School Youth must be at least 21 years old.

REPLACE: **Advisors and teachers for middle and high school youth must complete an application, WATCH program form, and interview with the Director of RE.**

2. All compensated workers and volunteer religious education teachers, volunteer youth advisors and sponsors, and OWL facilitators must read this policy and sign the Code of Ethics included in this policy.

3. Supervision:

a. Youth under the age of 16 (who did not drive themselves to the church) must have an adult responsible for them when on KVUUC property on Sundays. When events are held, parents/guardians are to pick up all youth (up to age 18, or age 16 if the youth drove to church) promptly at the end of the event. All parents must personally and directly inform the Minister/Director of Religious Education (MRE/DRE)/Youth Coordinator/Adult in charge of event if the youth will be carpooling to or from an

event other than Sunday worship. Youth may not remain on KVUUC property after the event has concluded. In the event that a youth has not been picked up, at least two adults must remain with the youth. If only one adult is remaining, that adult is to contact the MRE immediately. If the MRE cannot be reached, the adult is to contact a member of the Board.

b. There will be a minimum of two adults scheduled to supervise each group. At least two adults, including childcare workers, should be present in each classroom on Sunday mornings, and on every outing, overnight and other church related activity with groups of children, including the children's rehearsals and trips. Paired teachers/advisors/ supervisors may not be members of the same household or family. At least two adults must remain with youth at all times until all youth have left the premises or until parent(s)/guardian/caregiver have arrived on KVUUC property and taken charge of youth. The MRE/DRE or the primary on-site adult leader may make exceptions to this two-adult rule on a case by case basis. Youth aged 14 - 18 may assist a qualified adult in RE classes of children of preschool age through fifth (5th) grade. Middle School Youth who have completed and passed the Red Cross Baby Sitting and/or CPR course may assist in the nursery, with a qualified adult or teen leader.

c. For the purposes of these requirements a "group" is defined as those minors who have been assigned to a nursery, preschool, or individual class or specific program or activity within the context of that class, as well as youth who are taking part in a planned, organized component of their program.

d. Minimum adult-to-child/youth ratio is as follows:

- 1 -· Nursery/Preschool—1:6
- 2 -· Elementary—1:6
- 3 -· Middle School—1:8
- 4 -· High School—1:10

e. Any relationship developed between an adult and a youth outside of KVUUC activities must be with the knowledge and consent of the youth's parents/guardian. This is for the protection of both the youth and the adult. Adults will best protect themselves from false accusations of misconduct by keeping the parents informed of their actions.

f. Corporal punishment may not be used under any circumstances.

g. If an adult other than a parent or guardian has a private one-to-one meeting with a child or youth during the event, another worker in the program shall be notified about the meeting, either before the meeting or promptly afterward.

h. No adult, other than a parent, guardian, or sponsor is to be alone with a child or youth offsite.

#### 4. Abuse:

a. Teachers, helpers, or youth group leaders who have gained the trust of young people are in a unique situation to observe behavior or be party to a conversation in which a possible abusive situation (either within or outside of the church) is revealed. Information on issues relating to sexual misconduct and abuse, the Code of Ethics, the reporting mechanism, and the need to create safe places for children and their adult and adolescent volunteer leaders, teachers and caretakers will be provided at our annual teacher training.

b. If a worker, volunteer, or any other adult suspects abuse (sexually molested or exploited, injured or been the victim of significant objectionable conduct) of a minor during a KVVUUC program or event, the adult must immediately report to the MRE. Workers and volunteers that suspect the abuse of a child are also to report such suspicions to the MRE/DRE, who will then work with the reporter in taking further action, including the reporting of the incident to the parents/guardians. Adults who, although neither a person in charge of an event nor a person affiliated with the event, nevertheless acquire knowledge or a reasonable suspicion that one or more youth at a KVVUUC-sponsored event has been sexually molested or exploited, injured, or been the victim of significant objectionable conduct, must notify the individual in charge of the group, and together report to the MRE/DRE. ADD ON: **Workers and volunteers that suspect the abuse of a children are also to report such suspicions to the MRE/DRE/Board Presidents, who will then work with the reporter in taking further action, including the reporting of the incident to the parents/guardians/law enforcement.**

c. If the MRE/DRE ascertains that a child or youth is in a situation of risk, the responsible person should

immediately remove the allegedly abusive adult (or the child) from the situation and take any other steps necessary to protect the minor.

d. The MRE/DRE will alert the co-Presidents of the Board of Trustees that an abuse situation has been reported. Otherwise, the matter is to remain confidential. Release of information could interfere with successful prosecution, could result in unwarranted damage to the reputation of the accused, or may endanger the child.

e. If the reported abuse involves a worker or volunteer at KVVUUC, the supervisor of that person will immediately relieve that person of any duties involving supervision, care or teaching of children and youth at KVVUUC until the matter is resolved. The supervisor will keep a written record of who reported the suspected abuse and any circumstances.

#### 5. "Friendship" with Youth:

Although we hope that youth and adults will have genuine fondness for one another, any adult who looks to youth for friendship is not sufficiently mature to be in a position of responsibility over them.

REPLACE: **Although we hope that youth and adults will have genuine fondness for one another, any adult who looks primarily for friendship is not sufficiently mature to be in a position of responsibility over them.**

A "friendship" is reciprocal, where neither person has more responsibility for the health of the relationship than the other. This is antithetical to the adult/youth relationship, where the adult is the one who assumes primary responsibility for maintaining appropriate boundaries and cultivating an atmosphere of health and trust. Therefore, it is the adult volunteer or compensated worker's responsibility to avoid or discourage inappropriate friendships.

#### 6. Confidentiality:

Adults who work with children and youth under the aegis of KVVUUC are responsible first to the children and youth, but to the church as well. Sometimes an adult will learn that a child or youth is the victim of abuse, is suicidal, has a serious drug problem, etc. It is KVVUUC policy that this information is communicated to the Church's professional staff immediately. For this reason, please try never to give children or youth the impression that you will keep secrets for them. CONFIDENTIALITY IS NOT KEEPING SECRETS. For the most part, a covenant of

confidentiality will mean that you do not repeat information told to you in confidence.

However when the information is of a major, crisis nature, encourage the child or youth to seek help from a parent or other authority figure. Consult with a person of greater authority in the church, Minister or DRE, about an appropriate course of action.

7. Transportation of youth, age birth to 18:

a. Regarding transportation to, from and during Church or District Events: It is the responsibility of parents to provide safe transportation to and from KVVUC. Volunteers and compensated employees are not allowed to pick-up or drive children and youth home from KVVUC or to be alone in a car with one child or youth except by prior parental arrangement and notification of the MRE/DRE.

b. All drivers must be at least 25 years of age. There must be enough seat belts for everyone, and everyone must wear a seatbelt. Drivers shall obey all traffic laws.

c. Drivers transporting minors shall: have a valid driver's license, provide evidence of active automotive liability insurance; and be qualified to operate the vehicle that they will drive. The MRE/DRE may perform motor vehicle record searches as needed to assess the driver's ability to safely transport our minors.

d. Parents must give permission for any leader to transport their minors. This permission will include all relevant details pertaining to the event, such as date and location, name of driver(s), time of departure and time of return, and emergency contact information. Drivers will keep this information with them or in the vehicle.

e. No driver may consume alcohol or use any form of drug which can affect physical or mental performance during or before carrying out his/her duty as a driver. A minimum of two adults must accompany a group going off-site. Exceptions for exigent circumstances only may be made by the primary on-site adult leader.

LET THE BOARD KNOW OF ANY CHANGES YOU THINK ARE NEEDED - by February 26.

## NATIONAL NEWS

From **Administration**: The Eliot & Pickett House is offering a [30% \(PDF\)](#) discount for any new reservation made with them for a minimum of a two nights stay, between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>.

From **Beacon Press**: Start downloading [e-books from Beacon Press \(PDF\)](#) on your Kindle, Nook or iPad today! An announcement of [new titles available \(PDF\)](#) in hardcover and paperback for January and February 2012.

From the **Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)**: The [Church of the Larger Fellowship \(CLF\)](#), a unique congregation without walls, opens its doors even wider with the launching of its [new website \(PDF\)](#): [www.QuestForMeaning.org](http://www.QuestForMeaning.org). The website offers many new resources, including weekly online UU worship. Come explore!

From the **Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)**: The CLF, a unique congregation without walls, offers [discount prices \(PDF\)](#) on its UU pewter & enamel lapel pins and pendants through February. Items can be found in the CLF Gift Shop.

Also from CLF, hear from UUs who would enjoy being a snail-mail penpal for one of our [prisoner-members \(PDF\)](#)! See our flyer for details. Click here to learn more about the CLF Prison Ministry.

From **General Assembly and Conference Services**: Inclusive, welcoming and accountable at [GA 2012 \(PDF\)](#). There will be something for everyone at this Justice GA!

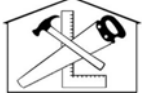
From **International Resources**: [International News \(PDF\)](#) from the UUA. —*For ministers, presidents and publicity committees*

From **Skinner House Books**: An announcement of the new title [Soul to Soul: Fourteen Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing \(PDF\)](#).

**UU HELPERS** - The people listed below have special skills you may need - remember shop locally! ☺  
If you have a skill/service you would like to advertise to our congregation, let Cynthia know, at 509-933-3198.



**KARUNA ANNIE BERRYMAN** - Reiki Certified. Reiki-Shamanic healing work. Soothe, hum, heal, cleanse, release, and raise vibrational frequency. Sliding fee scale — \$20 - \$80 per 1 hr session  
**CONTACT: 509-304-9545**



**DON GALLAGHER** - Quality Carpentry - Remodeling, painting, roofing, plumbing and electrical repairs. Don Gallagher and Miguel Rodriguez. **CONTACT: 509-306-0608.**



**BRUCE HAGEMEYER** - Bruce Custom Remodeling - Licensed General Contractor  
Building - Remodeling - Carpentry - Plans & Permits  
**CONTACT: 509-964-2086.**



**COLEEN RENEE** - Certified Spiritual Healer. Coleen, a medical intuitive, psychic and licensed bodyworker for 15 years, offers healing for the body, mind and spirit through individual sessions (in person or by phone) and classes. See her for Angel Readings, Life Coaching, massage or Body Listening. **CONTACT: 509-312-0220.**



**DEBBIE WILLIAMS** - Brick Road Books. Used and new books. Turn your lightly used books into a donation to KVVUUC - just tell Mike or Debbie that the proceeds from selling your books should go to KVVUUC. Family-owned and operated. Come in to 305 N. Main Street.  
**CONTACT: 509-925-1999.**

Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
affirms, promotes, and celebrates the full participation of all persons  
in all of its activities, without regard to age, gender, sexual orientation,  
race, class or any other category of exclusion.

