

UUCEConnections

Volume 20
Issue 4
April 2016

**Camille Lively Joins UUCE
as the New Choir Director**



May Worship

Our theme this month is "Acting Together" from our Aspirations:

*As a people of faith
Grounded in our principles,
We cultivate lives of meaning, reverence and depth.
We create sanctuary where all hands are held;
Together we act toward justice, healing and sustainability.*

May 1 This Sunday we will explore how we work together to cross-pollinate through music, stories and food so that together we cultivate safe spaces for dialogue and bending towards justice. Ministerial Intern Kimberly Wootan

May 8 Belonging will explore the question "Whose are you?" and wonder into the longings that bring us to gather.

May 15 Passing the Torch A dialogue between wisdoms of experience and of prophecy. New member welcome and Baby Dedication

May 22 What 'we' raises questions of identity and appropriation.

May 29 Stillness and Action invites versatility between realms within ourselves.

Events and Classes

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday May 7th
from 9:30 to 11am
Come one come all!

Adult Exploration

Leadership Development:
Group Dynamics
& Leadership
May 3rd, 6 to 8:30 pm

Your UUCE

Tuesday, May 10th
6 to 8:30pm

UU History

Ministerial Intern Kimberly Wootan, DRE Katy Seipert and Rev. Sydney will explore the heretical history of our faith. Thursday evenings May 19 and May 26th from 6 to 8pm in the Chapel



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REV. SYDNEY A. MORRIS

minister@uueugene.org

Church Office Tues. – Fri., 9 am – 1:30 pm

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Dir. of Religious Education
KATY SIEPERT

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Music Director
TOM SEARS

music@uueugene.org

Mon-Wed, 9am-3pm

Th, 9am-Noon

UUCE Minister's Message

Let me tell you how much of a joy it is to work with the wonderful staff here at UUCE. Our Director of Religious Education, Katy Siefert, continually opens up new doors to me, and is an inspiration with her positive spirit.

Tom Sears, our Music Director, shines his wisdom and goodwill on all our planning and celebrations. In her guise as pianist, Susanne Giordano brings spiritual depth to all she plays. Wayne Parker, our Business Manager, has a spirit of conviction about UUCE that strengthens and nurtures everyone he meets. Phoebe Gildea, our Office Coordinator, accomplishes amazing amounts in limited time, and it's a thrill to watch her expand her professional scope. Bookkeeper Dorna Bauman enjoys (!) her work and generously spreads her joy around. Lead Custodian Bob Smith is here weekday evenings in his characteristic quiet and thorough caretaking, as Matt and Patrick continue their unfailing gifts of labor and helpfulness. Our new data entry/systems person Stephanie Dahl is so very calm, kind and precise. These folks are dedicated and creative, and I see them taking great satisfaction in doing the very best they can to assist UUCE be it's best.

As we begin to think of bidding Tom farewell and beginning to meet our Interim Music Director Camille Lively; as we happily launch our Ministerial Intern Kimberly Wootan into her next adventure; as we find ourselves partnering again as minister and congregation, now for a 4th year; as we get ready to write reports for the Annual Meeting in June and rejoice in a year well done; as we move with the living days - I hope for each person the joys of a spring of deepening spirit.

It is an honor and a privilege to work with all of you at UUCE, comprising as you do this grand experiment in principled covenanted community.

See you in church,
Rev. Sydney



UUCE Message from Board President

As surprising as it is to me, the season for daffodils is already behind us, and the season for roses is coming right up. That means the time has come to begin contemplating the upcoming fiscal year. How do we want the next year to bloom?

For those of you who may not know, our church runs on a fiscal year that begins July 1st and ends June 30th. Each year, our congregation makes decisions about the budget, the slate of leaders on the Board and on the Leadership Development Committee, and other vital elements that define our church for the whole year's term.

We've scheduled our Annual Meeting announcement in the eBulletin and in the Sunday Handout, and in case you haven't heard the event will take place on June 12th, right after service, in the Sanctuary.

Before we venture forth into this annual voting opportunity, it might be helpful to overview how the different categories of membership are defined, and what they mean. Anyone is welcome to attend our annual meeting, but only Voting Members can vote.

Friends are simply that: Friends. We welcome you, and all, to gather with us as we shape our future. A member is considered to be "a person who is either entering ninth grade or is 15 years of age or older, who has satisfied the aims of the Newcomers Orientation Program as set forth in the UUCE Membership Policies, and who has signed the Membership Book. Through such signing the member enters into a covenant with the members of the church to use the Unitarian Universalist Association's Principles and Purposes as guiding values in his or her life."

According to our Bylaws, "a voting member is a member who has made an identifiable financial contribution of record of any size to the church in the previous 12 months." For those of us who plan to vote, please remember that in order to vote you must attend and participate in the meeting itself.

To summarize the process, the annual count of voting members is determined by Membership and our Operations team. As stated in the Bylaws, "the Safe Congregation Policy may provide guidelines" that influence the final list of voting members. The Bylaws also contain details on Honorary Lifetime Members.

Please direct any questions you may have regarding the Membership Roll to Membership, as it is much less stressful to address questions sooner in the process, as opposed to the day before.

You are also welcome to review UUCE's Bylaws. To access the Bylaws, navigate to <http://uueugene.org/blog/document/bylaws/>. It may help to use the CTRL+F search function and search for the words "Membership," "Vote" or "Voting."

We appreciate and value our congregation's input and guidance as we shape the upcoming fiscal year.

Sincerely,
Sarah France
UUCE Board President



May Quick Calendar

**Group Dynamics
& Leadership**
Tuesday, May 3, 6 to 8:30 pm
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**Pancake
Breakfast**

Saturday May 7,
9:30 to 11
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Movie: Fix It
Thursday May 5, 6pm
Bijou, 13th Ave, Eugene
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Your UUCE Class
Tuesday, May 10th 6 to 8:30pm
p.2

Byrdsong Concert
Saturday, May 7, 4 pm,
UUCE Chapel
[p.8](#)



**A Tribute to
Broadway Musical**

May 21, 7pm,
UUCE

[p. 9](#)



**Movie:
Plant Pure Nation**
May 27, 7pm,
UUCE Sanctuary
[p.18](#)

UUCEWorship

Music Matters



Welcome, Camille, To UUCE

Camille Lively is so excited to join the music team at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene! It is truly a dream come true to have an opportunity to work with such a vibrant and committed musical community. Camille received her MM Choral Conducting from the University of Florida and her BA in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. She is the founding director of Hulla-ballo, Kassia Children's Choir in Hong Kong; founding director of Yopp! Children's Choir in Gainesville, FL; former Musical Director for the Junior Intern Program at the New London Barn Playhouse in Bristol, NH; former conductor for Pro-Musica

Youth Chorus in Chicago; and former Choir Director for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Melbourne, FL. She has worked as a private voice teacher, soloist, and choral singer throughout the world, most notably with Katterwall Ltd., Hong Kong, Opera Hong Kong, and the Chicago Sinfonietta, as well as choral tours of the US, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Italy, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. Camille recently moved to Eugene from Chicago where she worked as the Operations Manager for the Steans Music Institute at the Ravinia Festival. She now works for the Oregon Bach Festival as the Coordinator of Education and Operations and sings for the Eugene Symphony Chorus.



UUCEWorship

Notes from Your Intern Minister

My focus is on working together, but navigating that occurrence, given the fluidity of age, races, class, gender and beliefs can be tricky. I believe that one way to do this is to share our stories, songs, prayers and food. When we break bread together, when we listen and share our stories and when we sing or pray together, we can shut off the part of our brains that analyses and move into our bodies and hearts that connect.

In this way we create bridges of understanding that can be built upon. Then when we make mistakes, when we say or do something hurtful, when we disagree, we are still linked by those things we have shared. When I was partnering with the asylum seekers from central Africa we began all our times together with a prayer or song. Back home they may have been on different sides of their political wars but in their home where they were all seeking refuge they overcame their differences by remembering that they were all children of god.

We here at UU in Eugene are working together to move the world towards justice. We have differing ideas about how to go about it, but we can start with a song, we can come together and hold hands to pray and remember that we are all creatures of this amazing creative energy and work towards a greater good.

I want to thank Sally O'Donnell for the wonderful opportunity to lead the End of Life course! Not only did I learn the steps to making my end of life meaningful and organized for my family and myself, but I had the opportunity to share in other congregants' journeys as we explored together the steps we need to smooth this inevitable transition.

Contemplative Practices

Mondays, 5:00 - 5:45 in the Chapel

As spring unfolds we continue to seek simplicity and grace with our Contemplative Practices program. During the month of May we will open our chapel doors each Monday at 5:00pm to hold space and sit together with open hearts and minds. Our May program will take root in the traditional meditative practices as we dedicate ourselves to a consistent and rich ritual. Please join us as our roots spread out and our spirits bloom.

Contemplative Studies

5:15pm - 6:45pm in Chapel at UUCE

May 5th: focus is on Global Awakening

Introductions, Presentation, Discussion and brief Practice
(one hour.)

Tea (half hour social.)

Workshop focus:

We will be studying excerpts from The New Earth by Eckhart Tolle

Upcoming Studies

June 2: Non-Dualism (Mooji and Jean Klein)

July 7: Taoism and Medical Qigong (Lao Tsu and Dr. Yang, Jwing-Ming)

August 4: Mindfulness (Thich Nhat Hanh)



Sally and Kimberly

UUCEWorship

Byrdsong Consort's Spring 2016 "European Tour" Saturday, May 7, 2016, 4 p.m., UUCE Chapel



Please join Byrdsong Consort for the final performance of their Spring 2016 concert program, featuring music from England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy and Germany from the 16th through 18th centuries.

The program will include works by Praetorius, Holborne, Playford, Goudimel, Thomas Simpson, Falconieri, Robert Tannahill, and Turlough O'Carolan, as well as arrangements of traditional tunes from the British Isles.

A \$5 suggested donation will benefit UUCE's General Fund. Seating is limited.

Alice Barkan – bass viol, recorder

Michael Bardossi – violin

Julia Heydon – violin, recorder, voice

Elnora Sears – tenor viol, recorder, baroque flute

Tom Sears – harpsichord, viol, recorder



Spring Concert/Dance: "A Tribute to Broadway" May 21, 2016, 7 p.m., UUCE

The Women's Chalice Choir and UUCE's Chamber Singers will present a concert/dance featuring some of Broadway's biggest hits. Accompanied by a 4-piece band, the program will include medleys from *Les Miserable* and *Phantom of the Opera*, and single hits such as *Forty-Second Street*, *Let It Go* from *Frozen*, *Get Happy*, *Send In the Clowns*, *New York, New York*, and much more. The Sanctuary will be set up cafe-style with tables

positioned around a central dance area. Lesley Rex will add to the ambience with a colorful slide show of Broadway-related imagery. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening in the Social Hall.

Suggested donation: \$10

In Harmony,
Tom

See next page

“A Tribute to Broadway”
a concert/dance



The Women's Chalice Choir
and UUCU Chamber Singers
With a 4-piece Band

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Suggested Donation: \$10

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene

1685 W. 13th Ave.

Eugene, OR 97405

UUCEWorship

The UUCE Sanctuary Choir, directed by Tom Sears, presented a memorable performance of Misa Brevis Pro Servito: A Mass for Unitarian Universalists on Music Sunday.

The UUCE Sanctuary Choir

Soprano

Lauren Bruyere, Jean Cotel, Sally DeCou, Thea Evenstad, Patricia Hendricks, Christia Lindsay, Lesley Rex, Janet Russell, Joyce Salisbury, Heather Schantz-Mulford, Lynn Stephen, Jean Weick

Alto

Julie Aspinwall-Lamberts, Patricia Franck, Christine Gordon, Sage Holgate, Polly Jamison, Cynthia Munyon, Phyllis O'Neill, Jennifer, Rowan, Nadja Sanders, Judy Shaw, Laura Stevenson, Ren Thomas

Tenor

John Clay, Bob Fraley, Jon Miller, Joyce Smith, Dick Weick, John Roy Wilson

Bass

Dave DeCou, Mike Hoekstra, Ralph Hollingsworth, Alex Miller, Dave Rogers, Jim Weldy, Kevin Wyatt-Stone

Music Director, Tom Sears
Pianist, Susanne Giordano



Religious Education



In the coming weeks, children in the RE program will be practicing what it means to live in mixed age group communities – older children will be encouraged to help the younger children in the group, and learning by proximal development will be largely in play as children influence and encourage one another and as we all continue to learn about the Five Jagged Rocks of Unitarian Universalism.

One of the rocks is “truth unfolds” – the idea that the truth is not sealed and continues to unfold as we continue to learn, influenced and educated by our Six Sources – the religious traditions that have come before us as well as the deepening understanding and truths of science. This certainly holds true for me in my life. As soon as I think I know the score - that “this is the way it is going to be” - a new truth reveals itself and life shifts yet again.

In RE last week, the children in RE sang a song that was the result of a collaborative effort by members of the RE Committee, the RE Assistant, and myself. The words are:

“Love Transforms/
Truth Unfolds/
Now is the Time./
Sacred Souls/
We are One.”

I played my guitar. My playing, and the voices of the children gathered in the room started out soft and tentative, then grew in strength and volume with each round of

singing. This is the pattern for all new learning, I suppose. It doesn't feel quite right, yet, because we're still new at it. And with each new round of practice, we feel more and more confident in our abilities. It is my hope that by the end of this term, this song will be firmly embedded in the minds and hearts of everyone who sings it – that we riff on it, add new layers and harmonies, new guitar lines to accompany it... Truth continues to unfold, and while that unfolding may not always be the most comfortable, it can lead to deeper fun, deeper gratitude, and deeper grace.

What truths are unfolding in your own life? What areas do you have opened for new growth? What practices would you like to cultivate? This is an excellent time to begin again in love.

Katy Siepert

UUCEConnecting

COMING UP IN R.E.

Coming of Age Credo Celebration:

June 4, 4:00-6:00

Each session of the Coming of Age program culminates in the youth writing and reading their credo statements. This year, plan to attend this uniquely UU celebration of life's unfolding. Together we will explore what it means to come of age, to come into your own, and to come to understand yourself. In the month leading up to this event, you are invited to bring photos of yourself from middle school to add to our Coming of Age wall which will be featured at the celebration!

Young Adult Conversation Series:

Join Rev. Sydney for conversations about the Big Ideas.

Friday, May 13 from 5:00-7:00 at BeerGarden (777 W 6th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402), or **Saturdays, May 14 and 28 from 10:30 to noon** at Townshend's Eugene Teahouse (41 W Broadway, Eugene, OR 97401)

Adult RE - UU History

Thursday evenings, beginning May 19, 6-8 pm
– Chapel

Did you know... Unitarians and Universalists were not always Unitarian Universalists? Come learn about the history of our particular and compelling heresy, the love that has transformed us as a movement and as a people, and the ways in which we grapple with what it means to be of service to the world. This three part series is taught by Rev. Sydney, DRE Katy, and Intern Minister Kimberly.



Art Gallery Welcomes Barbara Council

Artist Statement

Painting is my chosen mode for discussing social and environmental subjects in the present day world. I dream of a heightened awareness of our impact on the planet, and I dream of compassion both for and from all people.

Laughter is, after all, the best medicine, and so my artwork is saturated with humor. My subjects often have goofy smiles, too many eyes, or other anthropomorphic features that distort realistic interpretations. The living world takes on surrealism through my painted illustrations. I believe that a touch of humor also welcomes conversation, thought, and new friends.

Bio

Barbara grew up in the forests of Northern Michigan near many rivers and lakes. The changing of the seasons taught her about how everything in life plays a part in everything else around us. This ultimate connection to nature strongly drives her to observe, learn, and create – and so she decided to be an artist. Her technical studies began at Kirtland Community College in Roscommon Michigan. Five years later she received a Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts in Illustration from Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids. She now works, lives, and teaches in Eugene, Oregon, among a saturated arts community and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. Her artwork can be found in many forms, including children's books, food truck menus, indoor and outdoor murals, greeting cards, and gallery walls.



UUCE Outreach

May Community Offering

Burrito Brigade was started in February of 2014 with the goal of providing free nutritious vegan burritos to hungry people in Eugene and Springfield. We began by making 30-40 burritos each Sunday and handing them out downtown. We have grown a great deal since our first founding, now we make between 500-600 burritos every Sunday. Our mission is to feed the hungry of Eugene and Springfield through a local community network of donations while engaging our community in the fight to end hunger. It is our belief that everyone deserves food, no matter what, and that it is one of the most basic human rights. Burrito Brigade's burritos are always vegan and free to everyone.



Our **April Community Offering** was dedicated to Tom Sears and his service to the music program with our church. The April collection raised \$3,616 for the acoustic paneling for our sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.



Dick Weick, Choir member, speaks for April Offering

UUCE Outreach

Creative Arts Eliot Camp 2016 for UUs and their Friends and Family

Did you know that there is an arts-related summer camp run by The Eliot Institute for UUs of the Pacific Northwest District (Western Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska) and their friends and family? "Creative Arts Eliot" is one of four UU camps that take place at the beautiful Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal in Seabeck, Washington. Creative Arts Eliot will take place this summer from Saturday, August 13 through Thursday, August 18, 2016 and will offer opportunities for UUs and friends and relatives to enjoy many wonderful aspects of a multi-generational "camp" experience while also pursuing an interest in one of six artistic or creative endeavors. Talented presenters will delight and inspire during a five-day

camp full of creativity and fun with morning workshops in Photography, Writing, Ukulele, Vocal Music, Painting, and Beginning Craft Brewing (adults only for Brewing; age 12 and up for all others). Campers choose one activity to focus on while at camp, and spend the rest of their time enjoying waterfront fun, sports, games, singing, UU community, evening programs, and numerous other planned activities including Firelight and music and an "Extravaganza" on the last night to celebrate everyone's creativity. Join us from August 13-18, 2016 for our annual Creative Arts Eliot at Seabeck! For more information, please contact the Eliot Administrator at Eliotregistrar@gmail.com or visit our website at www.eliotinstitute.org.



Eliot Winter Choir



Eliot Fire Side

UUCE Outreach

Conestoga Project is Three Years Old!

Our conestoga project celebrated three years in March. We started out with two conestoga huts and added a third in July 2014. This program is part of the city Overnight Parking Program, which is managed by St. Vincent DePaul. Opportunity Village Eugene donated our first huts. Community Supported Shelters, which builds the huts to the design and under the direction of Eric DeBuhr, donated the third. One of our residents, Vicky, has been with us for all three years and Ray joined us in August 2013 and James in January 2015. We are very grateful to Vicky and James for their gardening and landscape work.

We have a small oversight committee which we named the "Conestoga Wagon Circle": Barb Prentice chairs the group. The other members are Gretchen Miller, Sue Craig, Ron Milton, Jeanne-Marie Moore, Christina Wagner and Janell Heidenreich. A member of the committee meets regularly with each resident.

We recently wrote a Mission Statement for the program:
In keeping with our faith, we will provide a safe, secure, stable, environment for our conestoga residents.

In addition to providing shelter, we have been able to supply electricity to the huts, thanks to our Building and Grounds crew. As you can imagine, this is much appreciated by our guests. We also provide bus passes as needed. Our latest amenity is a washer and dryer for our residents' use. This was made possible by generous donations by the Osgoods and Katy Siepert. This beats schlepping laundry to the Service Station or a laundromat.

Space constraints prevent us from adding another hut, but I hope that we will be able to expand our outreach to unhoused citizens in other ways in the future.

Barb Prentice
barbprentice1@gmail.com



UUCE Outreach

Ethical Eating: Food & Environmental Justice

The subject of food -- and all that it entails -- has been a focus of our denomination for several years. In 2011 an official statement of conscience was adopted. We encourage everyone to read

the whole statement, as well as additional information, at <http://www.uua.org/statements/ethical-eating-food-environmental-justice>. Following is the beginning of the statement:

2011 Statement of Conscience

Aware of our interdependence, we acknowledge that eating ethically requires us to be mindful of the miracle of life we share with all beings. With gratitude for the food we have received, we strive to choose foods that minimize harm and are protective of the environment, consumers, farmers, and all those involved in food production and distribution.

Environmental justice includes the equitable distribution of both environmental burdens and benefits for populations of residents and workers. Marginalized people have often been able to find housing or work only in areas exposed to environmental

pollutants, with consequent negative health and quality of life effects.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to address our relationship with food. Our Principles call for recognition of and respect for the other. As we search freely and responsibly for truth, meaning, and spiritual wholeness, we will make a variety of individual choices about food. Ethical eating is the application of our Principles to our food choices. What and how we eat has broad implications for our planet and society. Our values, Principles, and integrity call us to seek compassion, health, and sustainability in the production of food we raise or purchase..."



Movie: *PlantPure Nation* Friday, May 27, 7pm, UUCE Sanctuary

Join us to watch the documentary *PlantPure Nation* on Friday, May 27. This film follows individuals helping people experience the health benefits of a plant-based diet and touches on topics such as food deserts, the environment, small farms, modern medicine, and legislation. There will be time to stay for discussion afterwards. This is an Earth EqUuity Food: Nourish Others and Ourselves / Sustain the Earth activity and is in conjunction with members of the larger Eugene community. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the film begins at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The event is free.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Thank you!
Justine



UUCE Outreach

Food for Lane County Food Rescue Night

Thursday May 26th from 6:30-8:30

770 Bailey Hill Rd.

We meet and work together to repackage food donated for those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. Volunteers must be 14 or older, or 12-13 accompanied by an adult.

Contact Berry Broadbent, service in Action, at 541-344-9037 or email hunger@uueugene.com.

FFLC Food Barrel Update

“Healthy treats” are the most requested food for our FFLC donation barrel, located in the south entry. Please donate healthy treats such as nuts, dried fruit, popcorn, trail mix, granola and protein bars, baking mixes, and chocolate. What’s your favorite?

FFLC barrels cannot accept bulk food items or food in glass containers. Contact Berry Broadbent, Service inAction, at 541-344-9037 or email hunger@uueugene.com.

Learning More about Food for Lane County

The Earth Equity Food Project sponsored two events in April to learn more about Food for Lane County. Karen Edmonds, Services and Program Director, spoke to a group about food insecurity in Lane County and the various programs provided by Food for Lane County. Approximately 16% of Lane County residents are considered to be “food insecure”. There are four main ways that we can help: donate food, donate time by volunteering, donate money and advocate for food justice issues.

In addition, we took a tour of the Food for Lane County facility. FFLC is heavily supported by volunteers, approximating the equivalent of 32 full-time employees. The warehouse is a beehive of activity. Working with 189 partner agencies and distribution sites, FFLC distributed 8.2 million pounds of food in 2014-2015, the equivalent of more than 17,000 meals a day.



UUCE Outreach

Freedom Fighter Stricken by refugees' plight, anthropologist gets involved

"Claudina" was two years old when her father left Guatemala for work in the United States, and five when her mother left to join him.

For the next nine years, she endured emotional abuse at the hands of an aunt and uncle. She was raped by a relative and lived with the threat of sexual assault whenever she was alone outside.

She didn't trust the local police department, which was corrupted by gangs and organized crime. She felt abandoned.

With nothing to lose and desperate for a better life, Claudina fled Guatemala—unbeknownst to her parents—in an effort to rejoin them in the states. She was 14.

Claudina is one of the Guatemalan refugees that Lynn Stephen has helped to freedom in America.

Stephen, an anthropology professor and codirector of the UO Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies explores the impact of globalization, migration, and nationalism on

obligated to get involved.

Working with graduate students Darien Combs and Brenda Garcia, Stephen has conducted in-depth interviews with more than a dozen refugees seeking asylum here. Her team has documented the threats of violence, extortion, and torture that have led thousands of Guatemalans to head north—and the same abuses awaiting them should they be deported back to their homeland.

Stephen combines her research and the refugees' stories into a powerful petition for political asylum. Refugees then submit those "declarations" to the courts, with Stephen providing expert testimony in writing, and if requested, orally.

"My expertise as an anthropologist allows me to put this person's story in context, to say, 'This is consistent with what my research shows,'" she said. "Meanwhile, we are engaging as faculty—and engaging our students—in real-life human rights work."

Stephen sees parallels between the situations facing Guatemalan refugees and those of the Syrians trying to escape the violence in their homeland. Both groups have faced strong resistance to their plight and unwelcome receptions from certain quarters of society. This at a time when more people have been displaced from their native lands than during any other period in history.

"What's really frightening to think about is the Guatemalans who are coming now are bringing with them long histories of violence, and the war was officially over 20 years ago," Stephen said. "What I have learned watching refugees from the war in Central America is that violence doesn't end. The political part of the war might be over, but the violence isn't. Some people talk about how it was safer for them during the war than now."

Such was the case with Claudina. As she approached the Mexican border with the US, she was kidnapped and beaten. Her captors freed her only after her father wired them \$7,500.

She eventually made her way into the country and in January 2015, Claudina was granted her petition for asylum; she now lives with her parents in the West. Others helped by Stephen have settled around the Northwest, and communities are emerging in Michigan and Florida as well.

"You can't beat the outcome, which is saving someone's life," Stephen said. "Being deported back to a situation of intense violence and persecution is often fatal. Obtaining political asylum allows people to abandon a lifetime of fear and begin to live their lives."

—Jim Murez

Cascade Magazine of the UO College of Arts + Sciences
<http://cascade.uoregon.edu/winter2016/social-sciences/freedom-fighter/>

Lynn Stephen is a member of the UUCE community.



indigenous communities in the Americas, with an emphasis on gender and race.

Over the past eight years, she has served as an expert witness for more than two-dozen refugees from Mexico and Guatemala seeking political asylum through US courts. Three from Guatemala for whom she's provided extensive support have won their request, and nine additional cases are working their way through the judicial system.

Stephen came to the role through her research on challenges facing indigenous peoples in Central America. The more Stephen delved into the stories of the victimized there, the more she felt

UUCE Outreach



Picnic Supper

A benefit for homeless children and their families.

**Thursday, May 5, 2016
5:30-8 p.m.**

St. Mary Catholic Church

**Celebrate your blessings!
Host a table; help a family.**

**Call Paula
541-743-7144**

**Proceeds
help families at
First Place Family Center**



UUCEOutreach



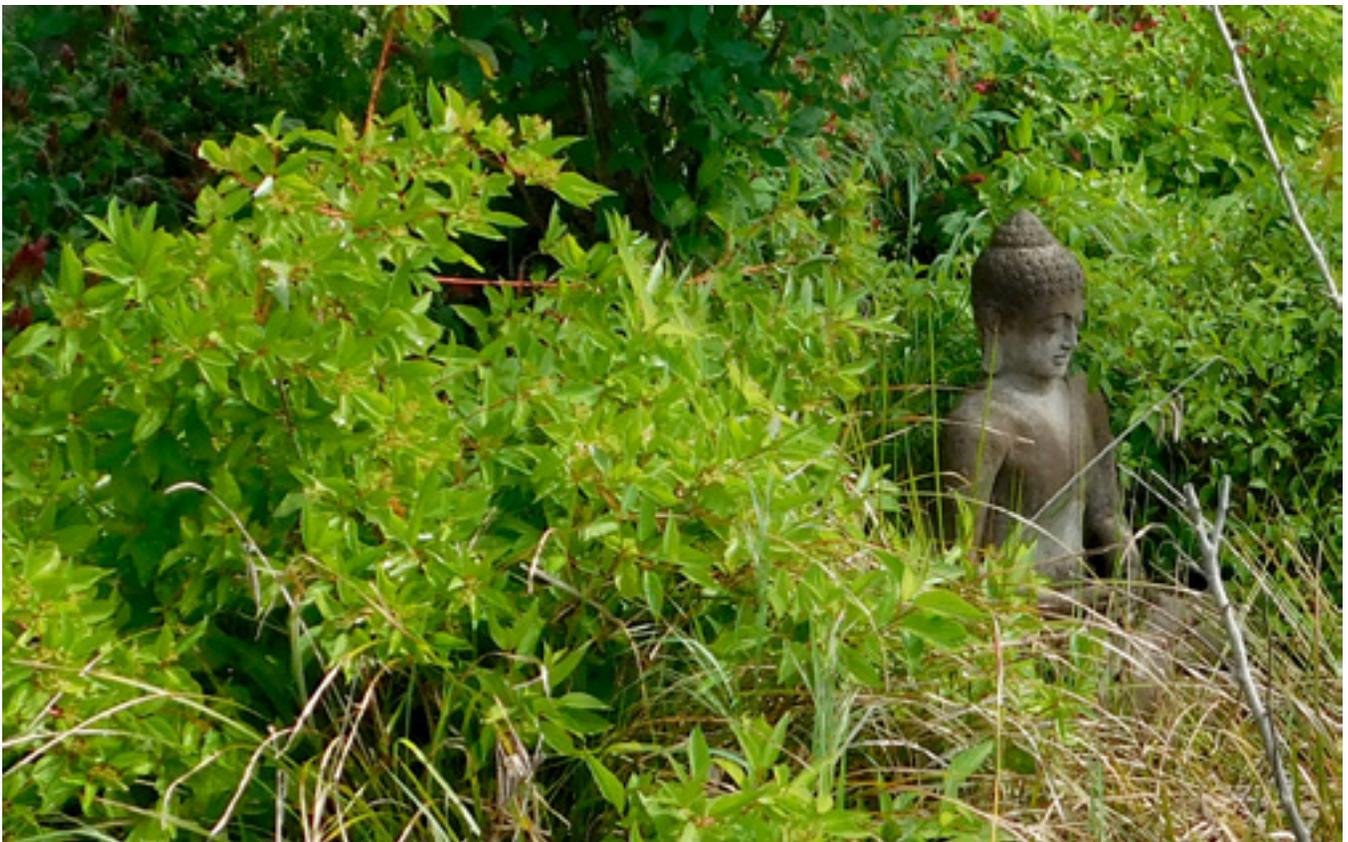
U.S. healthcare... At The Tipping Point

Health Care For All Oregon Sponsors FIX IT
- Health Care at the Tipping Point at the Bijou

**Thursday May 5, 6pm
Bijou, 13th Ave, Eugene**

This powerful documentary produced by a corporate CEO deals with the problems of business in securing health care coverage for their employees in a world of ever rising health care costs in the US. A public showing at the Bijou on 13th Ave, Eugene begins at 6pm Thursday, May 5. A donation of \$6 is

requested, no one turned away. Sponsored by Health Care for All Oregon, a Service in Action member. Visit the HCAO table after Sunday service for more information. Pat Bitner, healthcare@uueugene.org <<http://healthuueugene.org/>>.



UUCESewardship

Financial Campaign Launches with April 10 Breakfast

More than 250 of us gathered to appreciate the Chalice Choir's rousing music, to hear a story of birds using the stars to navigate, to try our hands at creating origami birds, and to enjoy each other's company. We celebrated the legacy of UU's who came before us, and took a step towards fashioning a legacy of our own: the funding of another church year, and an effort to make our building more affordable for ourselves and for the UU's who will follow us. More hopes and dreams for our church were inscribed onto river stones which are displayed on a table near the kitchen entrance. More stones are waiting there, if you wish to add more thoughts to the mix.

Throughout April, a team of visiting stewards reached out to our members and friends to strengthen our connections to each other and to request financial support towards these goals. Thanks to visiting stewards Emmet Band, George Carroll, Katy Colburn, Tiana Creech-Marrone, Kay Crider, Rachel Cummings, Dave DeCou, Sally DeCou, Kathy Dillon, Carisa Hettich, Jason Kimball, Wanda Kuenzli, Brian Lewis, Dick Loescher, Michael Mattick, Jon Miller, Ron Milton, Sydney Morris, Phyllis O'Neill, Gil Osgood, Bonnie Phipps, Lesley Rex, Judy Shaw, Martha Snyder, Kathy Thomas, Erin Troberg, Susan Verner, Jane Wagner, and Duana Welch.



Kathy's 94th Birthday



UUCEStewardship

And finally -- to those who welcomed a steward and to those who have already pledged, we thank you!

If you haven't had a stewardship visit yet but would like one, you are invited to call Judy Shaw, 541/359-6074, or Kay Crider, 541/968-9988 to make arrangements.

To date, we've received 37 pledges totaling \$159,787 towards funding our annual programs and 31 pledges totaling \$467,105 towards our goal of paying off half of our mortgage. Please pledge as generously as you can and return your pledge card as soon as you are able. Every pledge is needed and is received with gratitude for its power to free our future and embrace our dreams!



UUCEStewardship

Treasurer Tibits

We are nearing the end of our Fiscal Year (June 30th of every year). You realize that we have started our Annual Stewardship drive for FY 2016-17. But that also means that the end of the previous pledge year is upon us. If you think that you might not be able to meet your current pledge please tell me so that we can determine if our funding for this year will be adequate. I will send out statements to all soon as a reminder.

OUR MONEY: To meet our current mortgage obligations we pay \$8,885 every month. Over \$100,00 per year. With this we have our beautiful building and grounds. That is a steep mortgage payment - think of what we could do with our programs if it were paid off!

Dave DeCou

(541-513-5360) or treasurer@uueugene.org

Interested in Leadership?

There are many ways to share your deep attachment to our church. We have a Board of Trustees here at UUCE who work with great imagination, care, and diligence to provide strong leadership for our Congregation. If you have skills to share at this level, we would like to have you "put your hat in the ring". Our Leadership Development/Nominating Committee is gathering applications, both for the Board and for the Leadership Development Committee.

Our process will end for this year with the June election by the congregation. But there is always next year! Stating your interest early allows for training, orientation and familiarity with processes to develop. If you are interested, please email Lauren Bailey at rolfsing@msn.com or call her at (541) 915-6275.

