

# UUCE CONNECTIONS

Volume 22 Issue 11  
November 2018



**Small Group Ministry-  
Connect, Grow, Serve**

# UUUCE MINISTER

**Nov. 4 All Saints Day.** This is a Sunday to honor those who have been the “saints” in our lives and have died. You are encouraged to bring a picture or some belonging of that person(s) or something that reminds you of them. There will be a time to put all of these reminders on a community altar.

**Nov. 11 Sarah Skochko**

**Nov. 18 “An Attitude of Gratitude”** The cultural holiday of Thanksgiving is upon us with the implicit mandate to “be thankful.” There is intense pressure to feast with huge groups of people and to roll home afterwards, stuffed to the gills. But for some, Thanksgiving is a holiday even more lonely than Christmas. Can we find an attitude of gratitude in the midst of the commercial and societal pressure?

**Nov. 25 “Memory, Sentiment, and Truth”** It is a great shock to many of us to learn that our memories are not necessarily accurate or truthful on one level. On another level, memory has honed down facts and stories to reveal the emotional truths of our lives. Does it matter if our memories are factual or merely sentimental? Is truth a casualty of memory?

## Contents

UUUCE Minister	3
UUUCE Calendar	4
UUUCE Outreach	6
UUUCE Communications	5
UUUCE Stewardship	14



**Minister**  
**REV. LOIS VAN LEER**  
lvanleer@uuma.org

**Board President**  
**BARBARA KELLOGG**  
president@uueugene.org

**Music Director**  
**BRAD SCHULTZ**  
music@uueugene.org

**Dir. of Religious Education**  
**KATY SIEPERT**  
uucedre@uueugene.org

# UUCE MINISTER



Changes, changes, changes: so many in so little time while I am settling into my shared ministry here at UUCE! And while I may be settling in, the changes may be unsettling for some of you. I want to keep you all informed and share my reasoning behind some of the changes:

1) **Worship** Have you all noticed that we have 4 chairs on the Worship Chancel now? That is because there are actually 4 staff that are actively helping create and shape worship: Our Music Director, Brad; our Director of Lifelong Learning, Katy our Intern Minister, Sarah; our Lay Worship Associates; and myself. Susanne is part of that crew as well but is often either sitting at or moving between the piano and organ. Having 4 chairs may seem insignificant but to me it is anything but. It is a way of honoring how each of the staff hold the worship space.

2) **North Entrance** Most people do not use the 13th Avenue entrance on Sunday mornings. In my not very humble opinion, that foyer or atrium is the most beautiful space in the entire church. I wish it could be our dedicated chapel, but the doors are fire exit doors, and a path to them must be kept open at all times. But I digress. Back to the North Entrance: there was nothing inside that door that “said” Unitarian Universalist. So, we posted our 7 principles there, moved a “Welcome” banner to hang on one wall, and moved the brochure rack to that area.

3) **Welcome Table** The Welcome Table and nametag Kiosk are now in the back of the sanctuary. Why? Visibility and flow of traffic. We are hoping to move the Kindness Table into that area as well for the same reasons. And wouldn't it be great if EVERYONE wore their nametags?!!! I joked that I am going to take sticky labels and slap them on people's hands and write their names on them if they aren't wearing their nametags. I was only half joking. Maybe we should all start over and use the “lanyard” style nametag that hangs around people's necks.

4) **Candle Area for the Joys and Sorrows of Our Lives** Instead of having many different sizes, shapes, and colors of votive holders with candles in them, we now have one large bowl with small votive candles that can be lit easily as well as easily replenished. It saves tablecloths, the time and energy of removing wax from votive holders, and adds a simplicity to the area.

5) **Gender Neutral Bathroom** now has its own sign that matches the signs on the rest of the bathrooms. No longer is the sign for it a piece of paper taped over an old sign.

6) **Holding Meetings of Committees and Teams Working in Similar Ministries** This may seem like a no brainer, but what I have found is that this is a busy church full of busy people who

often have a particular focus. My goal is to have the right and left hands know what the other is doing and find ways to support one another and address gaps in ministries or programs. If you look at UUCE's organizational chart, you will find 5 Ministry Areas with many individual committees, task forces, or teams listed under that ministry. Little boxes, little silos. At a meeting of many of the folks who work in the “Outreach” ministry, we talked about how to pull together and best support each other's efforts. “Outreach” has now become “7th Principle Collaborators” and includes all the groups working on justice issues. A similar meeting was held with all the persons involved in the path to membership here at UUCE.

7) **The Sunday Morning Order of Service** We have separated out the worship order of service from the compilation of all of the meetings and goings on at the church. Those are meticulously compiled and sent out every Friday via email, available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and at the Welcome Table, on the UUCE website, and posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church. A former congregant once said to me that he came to church to breathe, to be free from the high-tech world and information overload in every other area of his life. Sunday morning services are designed with that in mind: breathing, being fully present.

You will notice that none of these changes are HUGE changes. They are subtle but each one evolved out of what is often called “the view from the balcony.” In other words, it is a view removed from immersion in the fray. It allows some distance and a different perspective. I would invite each and every one of you to try on the view from the balcony or even that of a first-time visitor. What proclaims Unitarian Universalism at UUCE? How easy is it to navigate one's way around? Are you welcomed or left alone to fend for yourself and feel incredibly self-conscious and as if you do not belong?

There will be more changes coming. Some small, some larger. But each one is considered in the light of ensuring best practices that work for this congregation and prepare it to be a congregation that does not merely survive but thrives into the future. And a great deal will remain the same: community, connection, caring for one another, acting for justice in the larger community, celebrating the rites of passage in our human lives, and engaging in meaning making. It is all sacred work. I am so very grateful to be traveling with you in this work.

In gratitude,  
Rev. Lo

# UUCE CALENDAR

UUCE Calendar



# UUCE COMMUNICATIONS

Dear UUCE,

November's Soul Matters theme is Memory. We are exploring this theme through our SpiritJam sessions, our discussion groups, our film series, and our services each Sunday. In a recent 'Harry Potter and the Sacred Text' group discussion, we got onto the topic of how memories can implant themselves and be passed down through the generations: stories of bravery, or deep creativity, or excellence in one area or another, can shape the generations that come after. On the flip side, trauma is also often handed down through the generations, through our behaviors and our communication styles, as well as genetically, through our 'epigenetic inheritance'. Scientists have found that life circumstances, such as extreme stress brought about by abuse or wartime, will leave epigenetic markers that are passed down from generation to generation.

When thought about in this way, the concept of memory changes for me. It means that my body is quite literally a map of my ancestors, their lives and stories etched into my very bones.

Early this month, I will be in Oaxaca, celebrating Day of the Dead with a group of women, including my mom. We will be in this place at this time to celebrate, observe, participate in, and learn from the people for whom this day holds deep meaning and symbolism. I wonder, too, if it might also hold deep healing for the people whose tradition is to celebrate this day. If epigenetics is correct, that past continues to live on in us. In interacting with our ancestors, might we give ourselves opportunities to heal from a past that we weren't yet alive for?



I find this thought both strange and somehow, hopeful. Honoring our past, both the life we've lived thus far, and the generational rivers that have flowed together to bring us to this life we are living today, means that we are deeply honoring ourselves. By giving ourselves over to the meaning of our lives, we are able to create lives of gratitude, connection, and grace.

This November, take some time to think about and talk about (with trusted others) your past, your ancestry, and your experiences. Take some time to consider the thread that ties us to both our past and our future, and if you need it, do a little tweaking and mending of the thread. Light a candle. Say a word of prayer or forgiveness. Write down what you wanted to say, but never got a chance to. Then, burn it, or plant it in the earth. Make of it a ritual to honor yourself and your personal journey. I don't know that this will help, but it can't hurt, and it could be fun!

It's a wonderful way to prepare a place inside yourself for the gratitude that comes with the Thanksgiving Season. In my memory, Thanksgiving has always been a relatively large event. My mom used to host dinners for the "widows, orphans, and black sheep" – her friends and family from wide-flung places all coming together for a large and delicious meal. I am grateful for these memories, because they help me to step outside my natural tendency to go for the small and simple. I love a good party, but I can feel overwhelmed by the logistics, planning, and prep needed to make it happen. Remembering these events my mom threw during the course of my childhood, I am inspired to just take a chance and let things happen as they will.

I look forward to hearing from you about your memories, ancestors, and traditions that are meaningful for you.

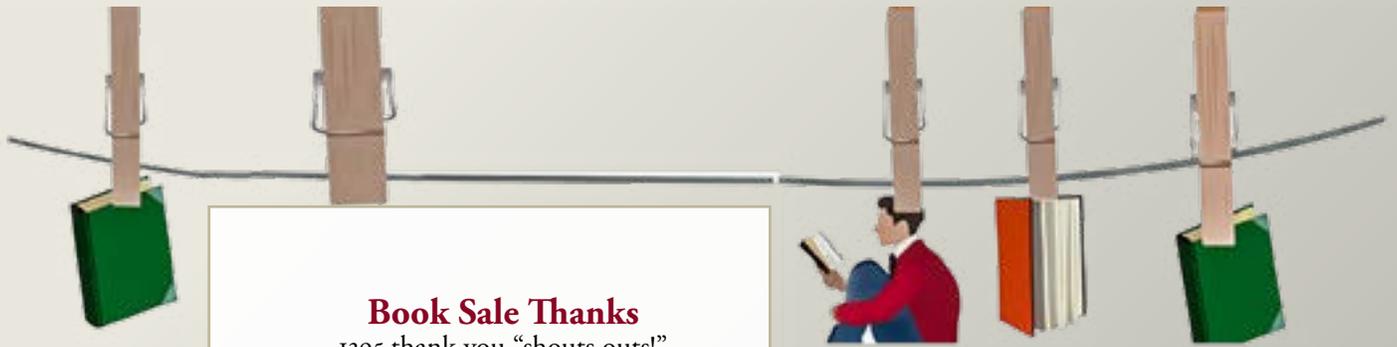
It is good to be together,  
Katy



*Wagner kids at UUCE  
Halloween Party*



# UUCE OUTREACH



## **Book Sale Thanks** 1395 thank you "shouts outs!"

That is what we garnered for our wonderful, fun, delightful, and just plain joyous Book Sale this fall. Actually \$1395.94. This event is such a great way to raise money for UUCE, and the aftermath is full of cozy contentment, as you settle back for a good read!

For many it is book rental.....and we take them home and read them and bring them back next year! It was, for many, also a great way to find wonderful gifts.

So, thanks to all who contributed and all who worked. These are the names of the folks who donated not only books, but time to help out with the sale:

Emmet Band, Phyllis O'Niel, John and Nita White, Lindsay Crawford, Barbara Flitcroft, Bonnie Phipps, Charlotte Writer, Melinda Johns, John Wilson, Susan Bertrand, Frankie Hill, Jean Marie Stien, Diane Woolridge, Marilyn Milne, Eric Swegles, Kathy and Ed Filip, Ruth Anne Fraley, Judy Shaw, Bob Cox, Sigrid Jones, Janet and Rob Barnes, and several others whose names I did not register who just pitched in.

Judy Sawyer and I especially want to thank Laramie Palmer, who stored 41 boxes of books, and worked all 3 days to help so very much with every aspect of our sale.

AGAIN, THANKS TO ALL who so generously DONATED, stored, arranged, BOUGHT and in the end packed up! Looking forward to next September.....

Judy Sawyer and Sue Craig



## **Play Reading** Author seeks actors to read play

The play is about the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German dissident theologian, who spoke out in protest at the Nazis in Germany during World War II and was imprisoned. The play concerns his life in Flossenbergs Prison before his execution.

For information, or if you're interested, please call: Tom Romano 971-708-4963 or e-mail at [thomasromano3829@gmail.com](mailto:thomasromano3829@gmail.com)

Note: The plan is to present the play at UUCE!

# UUCE OUTREACH

## Small Group Ministry-Connect, Grow, Serve

UUCE has offered the Small Group Ministry (SGM) program to members and friends since 2003. For many people, their experiences with SGM have been among the most meaningful and satisfying aspects of their connection with the church.

Participating in this program provides the opportunity to meet with a small group of people to deepen connections and friendships, to explore personal and spiritual growth, and to provide service to the church or the larger community. The groups have a trained facilitator, guidelines for interaction that include respectful listening and sharing, and a structured format. We request a commitment to attend each session. If needed, the church can provide child care for SGM groups that meet at church.

This 10-session SGM series will have several groups of up to 10 people. Each group will meet for 2 hours twice a month from January through May 2019 and will do a service project. The overall theme is: "Currents of Life." The topics of the individual sessions will be inspired by the monthly church worship themes. Some of the proposed session topics are: Family, Journey, Curiosity, Sanctuary, Wholeness, and Vision.

Registration will be available in the lobby after the Sunday service from October 21 through November 11, 2018. Or you can get a registration form from the church office or from the UUCE SGM web page ([www.uueugene.org](http://www.uueugene.org) > LEARN & CONNECT > Groups > Support Groups > Small Group Ministry). Registration forms are due by November 11, 2018. We suggest a voluntary one-time donation of \$20-\$40 to support program expenses and the church budget.

More information is available from the UUCE SGM web page, the SGM pamphlet, and the SGM steering committee (Dick Loescher, chair, 541-485-1157; Bonnie Koenig; Connie Newman). Email questions and comments to [info-sm@uueugene.org](mailto:info-sm@uueugene.org).

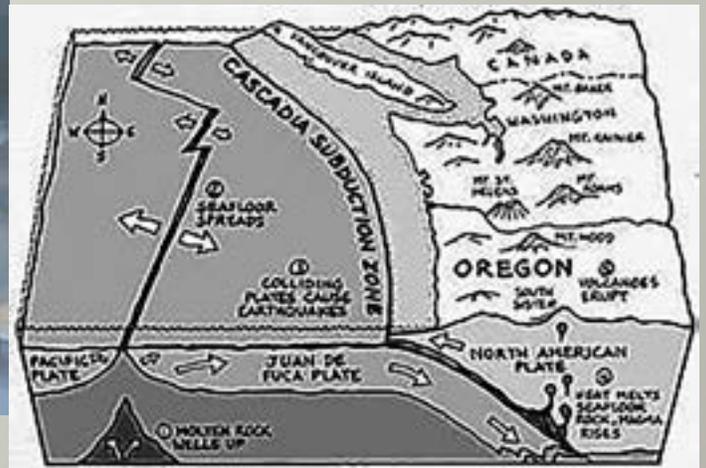
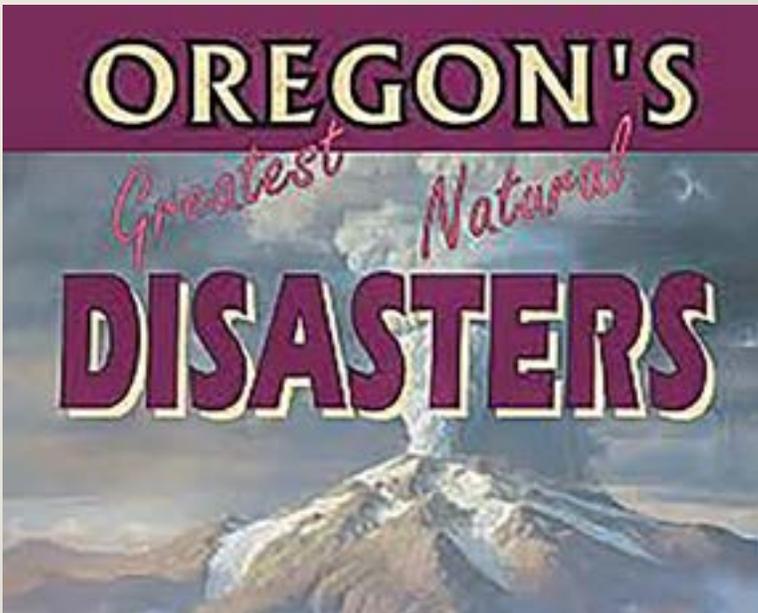
Quotes from previous SGM participants. "Wonderful way to get to know new people." "I especially appreciated being able to share with people of a different generation." "It really makes you think about things and explore yourself in ways you never have before."

Dick Loescher



# UUUCE OUTREACH

## Preparing for an Emergency



I am reading William Sullivan's book, "Oregon's Greatest Natural Disasters." His stories include floods, earthquakes, storms, volcanoes, and the like. In some cases, people are temporarily stranded or significantly delayed by the ensuing conditions. In none of the cases could the emergency have been anticipated. Having a 3-day emergency kit with you won't be a matter of life or death, but it may well improve your comfort. Five days after the recent Indonesian earthquake, one survivor said that he hadn't had anything to eat for 4 days. Hopefully you'll not find yourself in that position should you be caught away from home in a disaster.

Some stories about disasters find people at home. Some types of emergencies begin with the need to leave the house in a hurry, often to avoid a flood or fire. In this case a "GO" bag can contain the things needed for such an emergency: grab it and GO! Know the best escape routes in several directions.

Other situations require the residents to stay in their home, such as a severe storm or falling volcanic ash. Preparations for such an event include having adequate supplies of food and water, and plans to handle a lack of utilities, such as electricity, gas, and water, should they be affected by the disaster.

The Cascadia earthquake was singled out as a particularly major future disaster. I found an internet article giving the average time between Cascadia quakes as 246 years. It has now been

318 years since the last Cascadia quake. The web site ([projects.oregonlive.com/maps/earthquakes/timeline](http://projects.oregonlive.com/maps/earthquakes/timeline)) shows that the last time that there was a gap this long between quakes was 6000 years ago, before the invention of the wheel. It is the time for us to prepare.

Following the quake, as in so many disasters we've heard about, we will be on our own for some weeks to months, quite possibly without power, water, and gas service. Stores will most likely be closed, as they will also not have services. We hope that all Eugene residents will become self-sufficient for this early period following the disaster. Due to damage to the infrastructure, it will be difficult to leave the area during this time. As we improve our own readiness, we need to help others in the church to improve their readiness. Likewise, we need to reach out and help our neighborhoods prepare.

Our mission: Empowered by Love, we transform ourselves and serve our world.

To face the threat of disasters, we need to transform ourselves to become prepared, and serve the community by helping everyone become prepared. The preparedness group also welcomes your help. To join the list, please send your email address to Bob Fraley, [fraley@acm.org](mailto:fraley@acm.org)



## Harvest Holidays Events Schedule

- Harvest Online Auction:** Bidding from November 10 through December 2 at 11:30 am  
New Fixed Bid item(s) at 11:15 every Sunday up through  
November 25  
Final bids by 11:30 am on December 2  
Winners will receive e-mail notification on December 2
- Holiday Bazaar:** Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, December 1, 9am – 4pm  
Wrap-up Sale beginning with Kids' Hour, after church on  
December 2.

## Harvest Holidays Events Celebrate Beauty, Abundance and Fun

Get ready for fun and festivity! Two events – an auction and a holiday bazaar – will bring us together to celebrate the warmth of our community and financially support our church. On Sunday December 2, the two events conclude together: final bids can be made on auction items that morning, items remaining from the bazaar will be sold, and a Kids' Hour store will offer items suited to a kid's budget.

**Harvest Auction.** To register to bid, send a message to [auction@uueugene.org](mailto:auction@uueugene.org). Bidders will receive an e-mail invitation to access an online catalogue with descriptions of all items up for auction. You'll find two kinds of items: those auctioned through traditional competitive bidding, and others offered as a fixed bid. All bidding is online. If you do not have a computer, you can get help with bidding after church at the Harvest Holidays Events table.

**Holiday Bazaar.** A first in our new location, the bazaar opens its doors to the public for a festive celebration of our values – during the traditional season of gratitude and giving. Gifts, crafts, art, and food – most of it made by UU's – will be available for purchase. UU musicians will also perform. Everyone is invited to help create a festive and memorable event. Here's how:

### Donate

- handcrafted goods for sale at UUCE Handmade Tables (contact Judy Shaw at 541-359-6074)
- specialty baked goods and canned goods for sale at UUCE Homegrown Tables (contact Judy Shaw at 541-359-6074)
- lightly used or unused treasures in excellent condition, for sale in the Regifting Store (contact Janell Heidenreich at 541-607-9110)
- artwork to hang in the December Art Gallery (contact Scott Hovis at 541-731-3412)
- ribbons and natural objects (acorns, pine cones, pine and fir boughs), for craft activities (contact Sue Craig, at 541-607-0204)
- a half hour of your musical talents (contact Jean Cotel, at 541-954-9799)

**Volunteer** to help during the bazaar weekend. Sign-up sheets are at the Harvest Holidays Events table or online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094FADA628A1FB6-holiday>

Questions? Send e-mail messages to [bazaar@uueugene.org](mailto:bazaar@uueugene.org). One of us will answer you promptly!

# UUCE OUTREACH

## Watch for Interfaith Night Shelter Program Sign-Ups

As reported in our September newsletter, those who participated in the Interfaith Night Shelter Program run by First Place Family Center last year had an overwhelmingly positive response to their interactions with the families we served. We look forward to serving parents and children again during January 7-14, 2019.

This time, however, we will be providing breakfast and dinner for 40 to 60 people, as well as activities for children, at the new First Place Center Annex, located at the corner of Fox Hollow and West Amazon in South Eugene. (No overnight stays needed for UUCE!). This new space can shelter up to 20 families.

Please mark your calendars for the dates you are willing to participate, and stay tuned for an electronic link to sign up for the following:

- bring food, prepared or raw (we will provide lists of what's needed)
- serve and/or prepare meals on site
- be part of general hospitality
- provide entertainment or play games with children.

You will also be able to sign up at church following the services starting in November.

This year it is important to sign up as soon as possible because those who serve on site will need to fill out a simple application for, and pass, a background check, which takes St. Vinnie's about three weeks to process. This background check can be picked up at our table after the Sunday services or downloaded from this site: <https://www.svdp.us/get-involved/volunteer/>, using the volunteer application link on this web page designated for "First Place Night Shelter (Annex Building) Volunteers". Please drop off the completed application at our table, or give them to any Annex team member, who will be wearing red "Ask Me" ribbons. We will also need at least one person with a food handler's certificate on site for each meal. That can be done right now and is easy to take care of online for a fee of \$10. Just

click on the following link, <https://www.orfoodhandlers.com/eMain.aspx?State=OREGON> and you'll be on your way. It takes about an hour and 15 minutes to complete the video and test and make your payment.

What better way to serve those in need and be part of this important community-wide effort? This is heart-fulfilling work. Bright Blessings to us all!

For more information, contact Barb Prentice@ gmail .com.



### Volunteers needed!

Kurdish-Syrian asylee Hussain, with his wife Avin and their two sons, are in need of a new home, after experiencing ongoing

hostility from a neighbor in their apartment building. These are the family members whom our congregation, through the UUCE Refugee Sanctuary group, helped to unite and settle in Eugene last year.

Thanks to Barb Prentice, a house has been found for an affordable rent, but it needs work before the family can move in. The owner will cover some remodeling costs, and Refugee Sanctuary members will help with the work. We are hoping to find more volunteers with skills in basic carpentry, flooring (carpet, vinyl, or laminate), and installing cabinets and counter tops. We are also looking for leads on inexpensive materials.

If you can help, please contact: David and Sherry Beaver at 541-337-2752.

Update on the family: They all have their green cards. Mahmoud and Mohammed are enjoying school and Cub Scouts. There are many things to celebrate as we watch this family thriving in our community!

# UUCE OUTREACH

## Community Offering in November

The worship theme for November is “memory.” And on Sunday, November 25, we will remember the needs of others by donating our Community Offering to Trillium Produce Plus, a supplemental food program through Food for Lane County. The money will help pay for the personnel and gas that’s necessary to get more food to more places.

Why is this program so important? Because it supplies fruit, vegetables and bread to those in our community who might otherwise be unable to afford them on a regular basis. Free to those who are income eligible, Trillium Produce Plus is one of Food for Lane County’s programs aimed at providing fresh produce, establishing positive eating habits, and fighting both hunger and obesity.

There are 16 Trillium Produce Plus sites in Lane County, including the recent expansion into Junction City and Florence. From July of 2017 to July of 2018, 26,400 households representing 105,600 family members participated. UUCE has been a site since August of 2017, currently averaging 35 customers representing 70 family members twice a month. We also average 5 volunteers and 15 volunteer hours per occasion, distributing an average of 700 pounds of produce per month.

“There was a real need for a Produce Plus site to be in our area,” says Berry Broadbent, a member of UUCE’s Earth EquUity Food Project. “People are very appreciative. These customers feel like family.”

Food is distributed at UUCE from 3-6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. For more information, visit the Earth EquUity table in the south hallway after Sunday services.  
Berry Broadbent, [eefood@uueugene.org](mailto:eefood@uueugene.org)  
Valerie Elliott, [community-offering@uueugene.org](mailto:community-offering@uueugene.org)



# UUUCE OUTREACH

## Art Gallery Welcomes Larena Cornell

### ARTIST STATEMENT

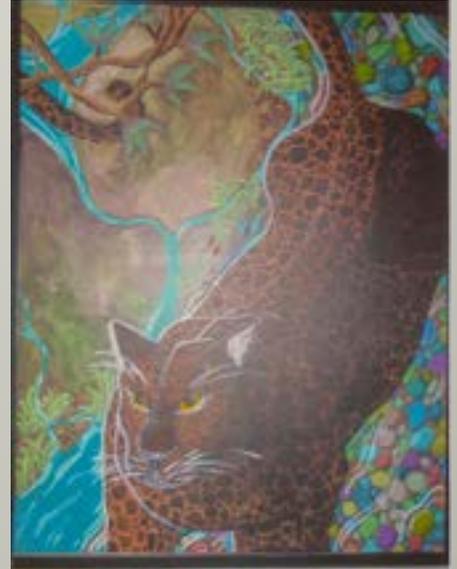
Hello! I'm a local artist from the Eugene & Springfield area. I use various media including watercolor, acrylic & pen & ink. I enjoy sketching, painting & drawing subjects from fantasy, movies, dreams, writing - anywhere I find inspiration.

I create art for self expression, exploration of concepts & ideas - but I also really enjoy art that inspires other people to do & be their best. I want to create art that makes others happy. Art that makes them think about matters most in life - that makes us strive to be better people to ourselves & each other. To be our best & to just be ourselves. Each one of us is unique & special. Use whatever talents you have to make the world a little better, day by day.

Thank you for coming out to see my artwork. Prices are on the pieces & I do take payments if you are interested in buying some original artwork. This is a small sampling of my most recent artwork. I have much more that is available if you are interested, as well.

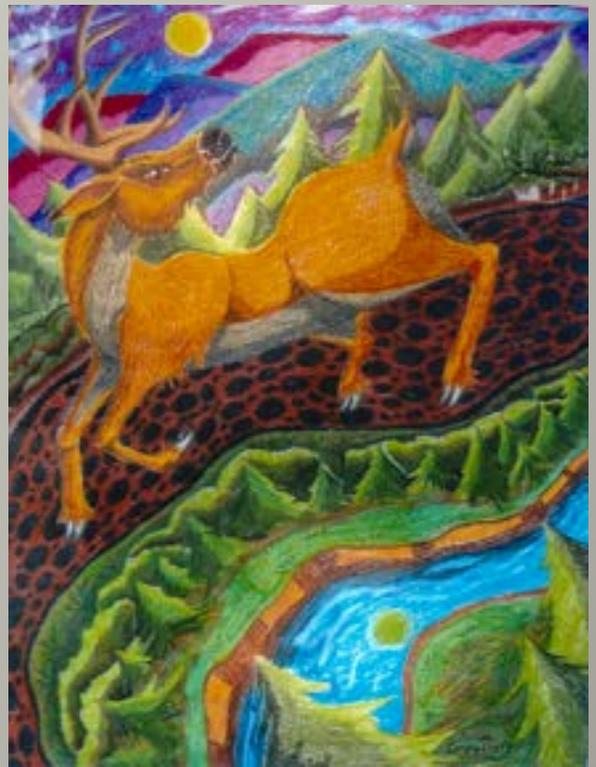
Again - thank you & hope you all enjoy!

  
Larena Cornell *draws*  
LARENA CORNELL



# UUUCE OUTREACH

Art continued from page 13



# VOICE STEWARDSHIP

## More Chalice Progress!

We are excited to share the elements of a carve wood chalice and its surrounding base! The basswood chalice is hearing completion. It will be centered on its mahogany base, and both will hang on the wood sanctuary wall. More carving, plus sanding and staining, will occur before its completion, estimated for early December.

Our deepest thanks to artist Martha Snyder!

Submitted by Marilyn Milne



# UUCE STEWARDSHIP

## Awesome October Progress Report, Building & Grounds!



*John White finishes working on the south acoustic panel.*

The BAGguettes worked on numerous projects from late September into October, with one obvious and major accomplishment being the angled acoustic panels in the sanctuary. An acoustician recommended eliminating the 90-degree corners behind the choir, which we have accomplished using old-growth hemlock left from remodeling the building. Over the coming weeks, we will sand and stain the hemlock to match the existing wood wall.

Other work included covering the hose bibs, moving and rehangng “Black Lives Matter” banners as well as relocating bulletin boards, beginning to clean and rehab a stained glass window from the first UU church in Eugene, repainting the handicapped parking symbols, hanging quilts and a clock in the sanctuary, placing a wrench near the gas shutoff valve, repairing the folding doors between the social hall and sanctuary, installing door stops, draining air conditioning condensation, and touching up the interior paint.

In the UUCE garden and landscape, we harvested the gourds and corn, saved the corn stalks for décor, weeded the area around the sign at 13th/Chambers, and mowed.

The building’s commercial kitchen stove passed a required inspection of its fire suppression system.

We have a great team of volunteers. The grounds crew includes Saro Hendrickson, Gretchen Miller, Sigrid Jones, Vicki and Bill. The building team includes Eric Swegles, Emmet Band, John White, Marilyn Milne, Ruth Anne Fraley, Dave Fountain and Rick.

Please join us on Tuesday mornings!

Submitted by Marilyn Milne



*We harvested gourds from the UUCE garden.*