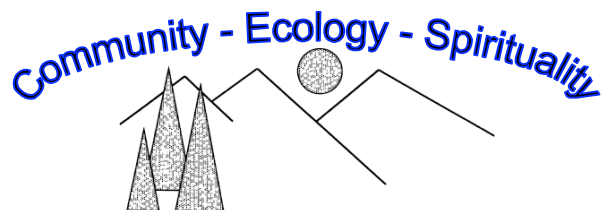


Coming Home

The Newsletter of the Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists

Vol. 15 No. 11 November 2009



We are a religiously liberal, welcoming community, united in a responsible search for knowledge and spiritual growth. Bound by no dogma or creed, Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists value and promote peace, liberty, social justice, and environmental sustainability through personal, community, and global action.

Upcoming Services

Sundays at 10 am:

November 8: Hospice with Dan Judd

Beth Walden

November 15: Veterans Day

Sean Duncan

November 22: Bring a Principle to Life: the Third Principle

Jay Black

November 29: Secret Identities

Sean Duncan

Fridays at 7 pm:

November 6: Spirituality of Sound

Thomas Mayfield

November 20: Poetry share

Lorien Belton

Services are held at 596 E 900 N,
in Logan.



- Gold leaves against a dark blue sky
- A warm hat

The Quick Brown Fox Jumped Over the Lazy Dog

This month I had a writer's block. I even warned Alvan that my article might just consist of, "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog." Shortly after sent that message, I remembered one of the tricks I use while walking. If I'm getting bored with the laps and have run out of things to meditate about, or have no inspiration for the usual meditations, I just make a gratitude list. My next thought was that this is the article for November, the Thanksgiving month. So, I'm inviting you to make your own gratitude list. Here's part of mine:

- Books
- A job that I love
- Friends – I won't even start naming them, the list would be too long
- A warm "banky" to cuddle with Pounce, the cat, for a cozy nap
- Clean sox
- Computers connected to the Internet
- Books
- Green tea by the half gallon
- Eyes
- The squeals and laughter of the five children next door
- Music
- More books
- Covered parking
- Amazon.com – I even get some of my groceries from them
- Frost paintings
- Coconut milk
- Students
- Short hair
- Cotton, wool, linen, raw silk
- Pencils and pens
- And some more books
- Feet
- Hugs
- New sheets on sale
- Web cams to watch weather around the continent
- Seismograph strip charts
- Cell phones
- Rocking chairs
- Really should list all the friends because that's a big one
- Nutrition and those who can guide me
- There is an outside of the box
- Those who bend to the task
- Oh, did I mention books?
- Humor
- Online newspaper
- Thumb drives
- Finger nails
- Kitty snores
- Stones
- And another very big one, my CVUU community/chosen family

OK, I've run out of writer's block. Now, I'm in danger of running out of space. Peace and gratitude to you all.

Beth Walden, CVUU Lay Leader

Pardon the President...

Yowza! It is cold this morning. Before I trudge out to feed the chickens & sheep and to scrape the ice off the car windows to help shuttle the kids to school this morning, I wanted to share a few highlights from our recent board meeting discussions & decisions.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE: A quick reminder that our board meets at the church on the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30-7:00 pm. The next meeting is November 17th. Anyone is welcome to attend.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT: Former and current board members and committee chairs plan to hold a retreat on Sunday November 1st to brainstorm for the future of the congregation. Results of that retreat should be ready to share for the next newsletter!

MEMBERSHIP: The board discussed the fact that we have a number of folks on our rolls who haven't been able to attend church events or contribute time or money to the congregation for a long time. We need to ensure that we aren't paying dues to the regional & national UUA groups for people that are not active members, but we want to encourage these folks to remain part of our community. At the next board meeting, we will discuss a strategy to contact and invite these people to get more involved in CVUU and we may seek to create a 'friends of CVUU' status for people who are no longer active members.

RE PROGRAM UPDATE: The board invited our RE director – Sarah Ringueberg – to report on the status and plans for the RE program this fall. Sarah shared a list of teachers, classes, and special events. While there are a very large number of kids in the pre-K-2 class and the 7th-9th grade OWL program, we encouraged Sarah to take steps to contact families and find out what it might take to get more of the kids in the 3rd-6th grades to come more regularly to RE classes. We are also exploring options to engage our high school youth in the RE program – perhaps as teacher assistants in the other RE classes. The RE committee is also brainstorming options for engaging the middle-schoolers after the OWL program ends this December. Contact Sarah for more information (sargahah@yahoo.com).

SECOND MORTGAGE PLANS: As I outlined in the last two newsletter articles, we are in the process of drawing up legal documents for a 'second mortgage' agreement with Jay and Leslie Black to begin paying off the remainder of our building purchase costs (our first mortgage is with Lewiston State Bank covers just over half of the value of our church). In our September

meeting the Board approved a motion to negotiate a second mortgage with the Blacks to begin paying off this debt in January 2010. This mortgage would be at a 5% interest rate amortized over 20 years, though it would only be in effect for a 3 year period (through December 2012). We hope to review and approve the final second mortgage paperwork at our November 17th board meeting. The additional monthly payments for this second mortgage will be roughly \$900 (on top of our existing monthly payment to Lewiston State Bank of roughly \$1,200). This additional payment was anticipated by the previous board and included in this year's CVUU fiscal year budget.

FINANCIAL GUARANTORS: As part of the second mortgage agreement, we will need to have several CVUU individuals or families sign up to serve as financial guarantors of the loan. At our recent board meeting, we discussed the roles and obligations of these guarantors. Put simply, people who agree to serve as guarantors would be asked to cover a share of the monthly payments for the church for the second mortgage in the event that we were no longer able to cover our obligations (an extremely unlikely worst case scenario). Importantly, we are also building a dedicated financial reserve fund for the church that would be tapped first for this purpose. Guarantors would be obligated until the second mortgage is replaced with a new consolidated loan (which we plan to put in place as soon as possible, but no later than January 2013).

Over the next few weeks we hope to develop informational materials and formal legal documents to share with people who are interested in serving as financial guarantors. We will also set up one or more informational sessions where potential guarantors can ask questions and give feedback about how this process will work.

Serving as a guarantor is a way to contribute to our church community, to help us secure our building, and to move forward toward our goal of a new consolidated mortgage (free & clear of individual financial ties between members and the church). The Black family has been extremely generous in their willingness to help us acquire the building and are looking for other families to join them as financial 'backstops' for our congregation over the next 2-3 years. We plan to contact potential guarantors in the coming weeks to solicit their support. If you are interested in more information, please contact me or Suzanne Marychild (smc@loganlegal.com) anytime.

SOLAR PANELS! Our solar panels and reversible electricity meter have been fully inspected and are up

and running! One cool feature is an online website that monitors the output from our panels. Log onto <http://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public/systems/kD291507> to see live graphics showing the power being produced by our solar panel system!

As always, I invite anyone to contact me with any questions or concerns they might have about CVUU or the actions of the Board. I am most easily reached by phone at 435-760-7377 or by email at jacksonsmith2@comcast.net.

Doug Jackson-Smith, CVUU President

Religious Exploration

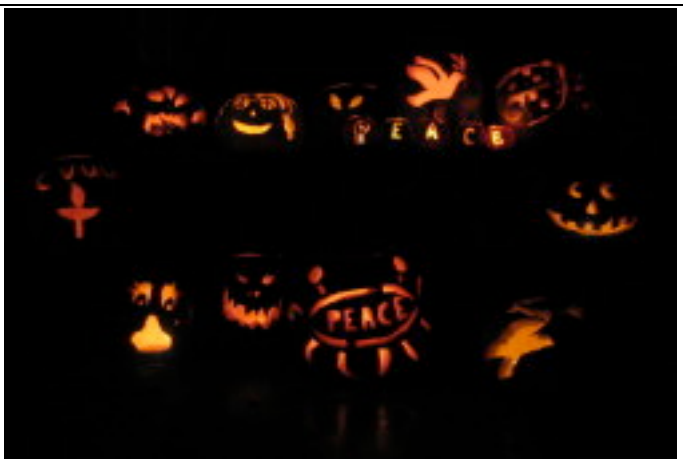
RE friends and families,

Hope you all are doing well and had a happy Halloween! We have had some fun activities this fall. The 7th-9th grade class went to the Bear Bottoms corn maze and the Hengges had a really neat haunted house at their place. We carved “pumpkins for peace,” and had costume parade, along with an “Energy in Action” class, where the kids provided refreshments to share during coffee hour.

Soon we will be preparing for the annual “Alternative Gift Market”. It’d be nice to have many participants/volunteers as possible. We would especially like to have our older youth get involved. If you would like to help out please let me know. Jenny Norton and Leslie Black will also be involved in planning for this event.

Also, just a reminder-please fill out a registration form for RE and turn it in to me a.s.a.p. (one per family). If you haven’t received one yet, please see me and I will get you one. As always, thank you for your enthusiasm and willingness to participate in our RE program.

*Sarah Ringueberg,
Director of Religious Exploration*



CVUU youths carved Pumpkins for Peace at the October 30 Friday service.

November Circle Dinner Date! Yeah!

On Saturday, Nov. 14th CVUU has scheduled another Circle Dinner opportunity. Hope you folks who could not attend one in Oct. will be able to sign up. Even if you attended a Circle Dinner in Oct., please feel free to come again in Nov.! (We are offering only the Saturday date so as not to conflict with the Friday evening Bioneers event at the Logan Tabernacle.)

Circle Dinners are pot-luck and a wonderful way to enjoy each other in a smaller group setting. They offer good food, interesting conversation, warmth of fellowship, and opportunities to connect more deeply with CVUU friends.

Please watch for the sign-up sheet in the kitchen at CVUU. Or you can respond to Leslie Black at lesandjay@gmail.com. You can offer to host or attend – whatever works for you.

A big thank- you to Dawn Holzer, Jeanne Wallace and Maribeth & Alvan Hengge for hosting the Octobert Circle dinners!

Leslie Black, Membership Committee

RUaUU? - part 2 Nov. 8th

November 8th, after the Sunday service, CVUU is offering another session on “RUaUU?” Visitors, guests, and friends are invited to come learn more about Unitarian Universalism and, more specifically, about CVUU. Even if you missed the first session (Oct. 18th) you are welcome to attend part 2!

At our first session of RUaUU? we asked participants what they are looking for in a church home and shared some of our spiritual journeys. There was good discussion about theology, spirituality and ecology. We presented an overview of UU history and the seven Principles & Purposes. This second session is more specific about how our CVUU church functions, what opportunities are offered for participation, and what it would mean to become a member.

A commitment to be more deeply involved in the life of the church provides opportunities for sharing your unique gifts, talents and energy, and to join others for the preservation of an effective religious community. Membership is a way to find support for and deepen your own spiritual growth, broaden your connections with friends and serve your community.

Please feel welcome to attend RUaUU? part 2! Refreshments and childcare will be provided.

Oh yeah almost forgot, warm towels - Beth

And the Winner of the Great Alien Debate was . . .

The Great Alien Debate, a service celebrating our 5th principle, was a beaming success. This year's greatest alien debater was Christina Roy, with Caitlin Hengge taking 2nd place. The best costume award went to Emma and Rosie Jackson-Smith as the white-complexioned two headed alien, followed by Christina Roy in a self styled set of wings in 2nd.



The proposition to allow aliens to kidnap humans for drug testing was soundly defeated by the audience vote. We thank all participants, and wish to give special appreciation to Dr. Jen Peeples and Dr. Tom Worthen, both of USU who coached and moderated. We also want to say thanks to 'Dave', a very memorable candidate and debater.

Nick and Susie Flann



Financial Planning for Women

Wed. November 11: Should you switch from traditional to Roth in 2010? Learn more about individual retirement accounts, the difference between traditional and Roth IRAs and why you should consider converting your traditional IRA to a Roth in 2010.

Time: 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the USU Taggart Student Center room 335. Bring your lunch. The same program is repeated in the evening: 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Family Life Center, 493 North 700 East, Logan.

Programs are free and registration is not required. For further information contact: (435) 797-1569; jean.lown@usu.edu; <http://www.usu.edu/fpw/>



Floating ducks off my deck, see there's always more - Beth



CVUU Calendar for November 2009

<i>Sun.</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Th.</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
1	2	3	4	5 7 pm Hootenanny	6 Spirituality of Sound 7 pm OWL Class	7
8 9 am Discussion Hospice RUAUU? (see p. 3) OWL Class	9	10	11 Financial Planning for Women (See p. 4)	12 7 pm Hootenanny	13 7 pm OWL Class	14 Circle Dinners (see p. 3)
15 9 am Discussion Veterans Day OWL Class	16	17	18	19	20 Poetry Share 7 pm OWL Class	21
22 9 am Discussion The 3 rd Principle OWL Class	23	24	25	26	27 NO OWL Class	28
29 9 am Discussion Secret Identities NO OWL Class	30	And one more (I'll really make it my last this time), knees - Beth				

Calendar entries in black are Sunday and Friday services; other events are in blue.



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