



# KUUUC NEWS

May 2017

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## Worship in May

**April 29, Annual Meeting and Potluck**

**May 7**

*We Were Made for These Times*

Rev. Bill Graves

RE & Worship Councils

**May 14**

*Challenges to Religious Faith*

Matt Altman

Green Sanctuary/Social Justice Councils

**May 21**

*Flower Communion "The Simple Gift"*

Membership Council

**May 28**

*Justice Sunday: Supporting Communities Under Siege*

Jim Schwing

Comnet

## KUUUC BOARD

### Co-Presidents:

Karen Johnson & Vacant  
copresident1@kvuu.org

### Past Co-President:

Jason Irwin  
pastpresident@kvuu.org

### Secretary:

Vivian Dunbar  
secretary@kvuu.org

### Financial Secretary:

Jim Schwing  
financialsecty@kvuu.org

### Treasurer:

Carol Gilliom  
treasurer@kvuu.org

### Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Bill Graves  
minister@kvuu.org

### Director of Religious

**Education:** Maggie Patterson  
recoordinator@kvuu.org

### Music Director:

Jan Jaffe  
music@kvuu.org

KUUUC needs folks interested in outreach through our website Facebook, and newsletter, No prior knowledge is required—we'll provide the training.

Tracking money your thing—we need some new blood working with the books.

Also if you are interested in please email Jim at schwing@fairpoint.net

## Upcoming Special Events

**REMINDER**  
**ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK**  
Sat Apr 29 - 6:00 pm, KUUUC

**OUR ENVIRONMENT**  
Tue May 9 - 7 pm, Sat May 27 - 9:00 am  
United Methodist Church

**KUUUC BOARD MEETING**  
Wed May 3 - 6:00 pm, KUUUC

**KUUUC CHOIR PRACTICE**  
Thu May 4 - 7:00 pm

**REMINDER**  
**BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY**  
by Rev. Bill, Thu May 4 - 7:00 pm  
(pizza plus at 6:30p.m. RSVP to Bill)

**VEGETARIAN SOCIETY**  
Tues, May 16 - 6:00 pm, IOOF Hall

The theme for  
May is:  
**Courage**



# KVUUC NEWS

## A Bulletin From Bill, May 2017

### Looking to the Future

#### **On my future with KVUUC:**

During the past several months Frances and I have been in a process of discernment regarding my, and our, future with KVUUC. I have consulted with several ministerial mentors on the issue as well as members of our Council on Ministry (Debbie, Bruce and Becca), various members of the congregation, and, of course, my own heart. I have concluded that if the Board and congregation see fit to offer me an extension of my contract past next August, I would be pleased and honored to serve another year. I was gratified by the attendance and feedback I heard from the congregation's conversation on ministry in April led by Tandi Rogers from the UUA, and by the willingness of generous persons to step up and assume critical tasks in our congregational life. I am excited by the prospect of collaborative leadership with Co-Presidents Kristen and Debbie, at the possibility of leading the congregation in a visioning process I call "Dreamcasting", of participating in our all-congregational retreat at the "Lazy F" next Fall, of working further with dear friends on the Kittitas Valley Interfaith Alliance (4 services already planned), of working with our incomparable duo Jan and Maggie in building our music and RE programs, of possibly continuing on with the "Build Your Own Theology" group. As for the services I lead I am excited by plans made in consultation with the Worship Council to explore core UU themes such as each of our seven Principles, our particular conception of spirituality, our proud history, and the evolution of our concept of divinity.

I should also be clear that if it occurs next year would be my last. I will be approaching 74 and sense that it is time for retirement (I prefer the Spanish: "jubilacion"). I would hope to be of help in using the year to prepare for the direction the congregation wishes to go next.

#### **News from the UUA:**

As some of you may have already read our denomination has been visited by pain and controversy. Earlier in April, The Reverend Peter Morales resigned as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as did two other senior officials. You can read more about it at [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org) (also p. 5).

The controversy leading to the resignations had to do with criticism over the hiring of a white, male minister to be Southern Regional Lead of the UUA instead of a woman of color that had applied. Those who spoke out in opposition used direct and harsh language alleging that, under Morales' leadership, the UUA has continued to be a "white supremacist" organization. Morales' initial response was also heated, stating: "What bothers me is the characterization of the UUA as a 'white supremacist' organization. [cont.]

# KVUUC NEWS

## **A Bulletin from Bill, May 2017 [cont.]**

If you call us that, what do you call the Aryan Nation?" On resigning he admitted that his words had made the matter worse rather than better.

I am saddened by the fact that oppression of minorities has been with us for far too long. I am also saddened by the obvious pain visited colleagues and friends involved in this particular incident and their families. An oft-repeated adage is our Unitarian Universalist values call us to seek to build a better world. In our efforts to do so, we sometimes stumble and trip over each other. When we do, we seek, to the best of our ability, to forgive ourselves, and each other, and begin again in love.

To life. L'Chaim.

*Rev. Bill*

## **Bill's Blurbs for May 2017**

### **Sermon Preview: We Were Made for These Times, May 7**

Bill will explore our calling as Unitarian Universalists to social justice involvement. Part of our historic covenant is to keep faith with the community of resistance. Now, especially now, as we are astonished and enraged over the latest degradations of what matters most, we are beckoned to help mend the part of the world within our reach. We were made for these times. The KVUUC choir will be singing.

### **Building Your Own Theology Session 2: Thurs. May 4, 2017 at 7:00pm**

(As usual Bill invites you to come at 6:30 to share a vegetarian pizza so long as it lasts)

Building Your Own Theology is a systematic, disciplined and group process assisting participants to develop credos, or statements of individual beliefs. This classic curriculum designed by Rev. Richard Gilbert discusses all the important questions of religion from a UU perspective,

For this session we will consider chapter 2 (Your Religious Odyssey) and chapter 3 (Varieties of Liberal Religious Experience) in the BYOT curriculum book. This is an ongoing class in which regular attendance and some outside reading is encouraged.



# KVUUC NEWS

## Rev. Bill's Whereabouts in May

- 1-2 Whidbey Island office\* (except as otherwise indicated)
- 3-7 Ellensburg office hours at KVUUC \*\* (staying with Jim Schwing)
- 3 Board Meeting -6pm)
- 4 Open time for coffee/conversation at Dakota Café - 8:30-10:00am
- 5 Choir practice - 5:15
- 5 Lead "Building Your Own Theology, Part II" conversation group pizza/finger food at 6:30pm while it lasts; class 7-8:30 p.m.).
- 6 Council on Ministry to meet at Dakota Café-8:30am.
- 6 Congregational Hootenanny/Sing-a-long with Jan and Don
- 7 Lead worship service at KVUUC; attend council meetings (RE and Worship); visit RE classes
- 8-10 Whidbey Island office\* (except times otherwise indicated).
- 10-23 Annual bicycle road trip
- 24-28 Whidbey Island office\* (except times otherwise indicated).
- 29-31 Family reunion in Walla Walla

\* Bill IS AVAILABLE to return phone calls (360-661-7289) or emails (wcgraves@whidbey.com) when on Whidbey Island. He also is available for conferences or meeting by Skype or comparable service by prior arrangement. Bill's Mailing address is POB 1254; Langley, WA 98260.

\*\* When in Ellensburg Bill is available by prior arrangement for conferences, conversations, meetings, counseling, listening, home or hospital visits or just camaraderie.

## Opportunities Free - First Come, First Served

Canning Jars - Call Debbie Williams, 509-925-1999

Mucho Yarn (Cynthia's Stash)  
Women's Clothing

} Call Jim Schwing, 509-929-3238

# National News

## Three co-presidents to lead until GA 2017

Excerpted from a UU World Article of the same title

In a special meeting Monday night, April 10, the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees appointed three people to serve as interim co-presidents of the UUA until a president is elected June 24 by the General Assembly.

UUA President Peter Morales resigned on April 1, three months before the end of his tenure, in the face of a controversy over UUA hiring practices, which critics say systematically favor white UU ministers. The Rev. Harlan Limpert, chief operating officer, and the Rev. Scott Tayler, director of Congregational Life, announced they would also step down. (See our updated guide to this evolving story.)

In an announcement released at 11 p.m. Monday, the board said it had appointed the Rev. Sofía Betancourt, the Rev. William G. Sinkford, and Leon Spencer to serve as co-presidents. The board made its decision in a closed meeting, or executive session, before releasing the letter.

"In making this appointment the Board intends to recognize the significant opportunity before us, to recognize the time constraints involved, and to model a profoundly collaborative approach to shared leadership," the board said, in a letter published on the UUA website and on the board's Facebook page. It noted that at its special meeting the previous Thursday, April 6, the board unanimously approved a UUA Presidential Transition Plan to "frame the brief tenure of the transition team and help to shape Unitarian Universalism into the future."

Betancourt, who is assistant professor of theology and ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, will serve as interim co-president for the Commission for Institutional Change. "Her work as a religious educator, parish minister, and seminary professor provide well-honed leadership qualities [that] will surely enrich the team," the board said.

Sinkford, who is senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and who served as UUA president from 2001 to 2009, will serve as interim co-president "for the roles of president as outlined in the UUA bylaws."

Spencer is professor emeritus in Leadership, Technology, and Human Development at Georgia Southern University\*. He will serve as interim co-president for Constituent Outreach, according to the board. "He is a person of broad experience and the 2007 recipient of the UUA's annual Distinguished Service Award who has been a longtime leader in our journey toward becoming an antiracist and multicultural faith," the board announced. Spencer formerly served on the UUA Board of Trustees, chaired the Nominating Committee, and held many district leadership roles, the board said.



# LOCAL NEWS



**circle suppers** are hosted potlucks. The host chooses a date and decides how many folks can be accommodated. Those who sign up are contacted and receive a general category of food to bring so that the meal will be reasonably balanced. The cozy setting of a home, the intimacy of sharing a meal, the extra time for conversation.

Sign-up sheets are available on Sunday. Please see Janet Adams

## OUR ENVIRONMENT

**NOTE:** Our Environment meets on Tuesday May 9 at 7:00 pm and Saturday May 27 at 9:00 am—at the United Methodist Church. All are invited.



The emphasis is on what we can do locally that will affect the future of our planet by being active in working with various organizations in our community to make changes that are essential—please join us!

KVUUC's website:  
[kvuu.org](http://kvuu.org)

## Bee Garden Buzz

### Lupine

Lupines are great for adding architectural interest to the landscape with their upright spires of flowers. Some are small, some are tall, but all are showy. They come in a wide range of colors, too -- from shades of blue and purple to pink, red, orange, yellow, and white -- so you're sure to find the perfect one for your yard.



### Growing Conditions

Easy to grow, lupine thrives in cool, moist locations. It prefers full sun to light shade and average soils, but will tolerate sandy, dry soil. Plants develop long taproots, so loosen the soil to a depth of 12-20 inches using a rototiller or garden fork. They will not grow in clay.



# Thoughts from Around the Country

## CROSSING THRESHOLDS

"We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried, most people were silent. I remembered the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad-Gita; Vishnu is trying to persuade the Prince that he should do his duty and, to impress him, takes on his multi-armed form and says, 'Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.' I suppose we all thought that, one way or another."

—Robert Oppenheimer

At times in my life, I've had to step back to fully take in the puzzling enormity of some action or decision I've taken. In those moments I've instinctively reached out for some kind of comfort in the form of a self-embrace, hugging myself with my arms crisscrossing my belly, reaching around my back, as I wondered "What have I done?" These moments were sometimes good and other times bad, but usually the implications were somewhat ambiguous.

Scientist Robert Oppenheimer ushered humanity into the nuclear age by unleashing the power of the atom in the 1940s. Oppenheimer realized that life as anyone had experienced it before was forever changed. His generation slipped into an uncharted landscape with an array of terrifying and beneficial possibilities in it. Oppenheimer couched this realization in religious language of scripture, quoting lines from the Bhagavad Gita: "I have become death, destroyer of worlds." One world order was dying while another world order was being born — and Oppenheimer was left wondering, What have I done?

When I was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry two years ago I had a similar realization: I had crossed a threshold and entered an entirely new world as a religious leader. The ceremony, participants, speeches, and even the cake communicated to me on a visceral level that life as I knew it would never be the same. In that moment I resisted the urge to hug myself, not wanting to be a spectacle at the spectacle of an ordination. But that moment is seared into my memory as a huge, joyous threshold event.

Whatever your threshold event is, whether it's developing a curative vaccine, entering into marriage, starting a new job, moving into a new home, becoming a parent, or becoming a UU minister, I hope you allow yourself the grace of a self-hug as well as the hugs of loved ones. May you be open to the grace that seeks to embrace us all on our journeys.

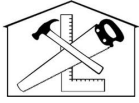
Prayer:

*Source of our lives, here we are on the verge of an incredible change that we cannot fully comprehend. Help us to reach out and to reach in for strength, compassion, and wisdom as we navigate the uncertain roads ahead. Amen.*

*Daniel Gregoire*

The Rev. Daniel Gregoire is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton in Grafton, MA. He loves being a guide to those on spiritual journeys and a companion to all in life transitions.

**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 Jim know, at 509-933-3198.



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



**RICHARD GALLAGHER** - Experienced auto trouble-shooter. Services: repairs, carpooling, garden preparation, snow removal, unusables removed, needed items located. You have needs? Richard has solutions!!!  
CONTACT: 509-306-9329.



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



**TAMZEN SHISSLER** - Because Tamzen is a busy student, please call early in the week to make sure she has time available to care for your children from ages 2-10. She is now a junior in high school and is a graduate of the Red Cross Babysitting class. She charges \$6 per hour for one child, more for additional children. She can also help with household chores or watch the kids while you do chores.  
CONTACT: 509-962-5650.



**JAN JAFFE** — is now accepting adults for **music lessons!**

- Piano, guitar, voice
- Experienced teacher
- Master of Music Education from CWU, 2009
- Specializes in beginner & hobby adult lessons
- Flexible evening schedule for regular or special occasion lessons
- All music styles, songwriting, & theory

(Also available as a performance coach for individuals, ensembles, bands, worship teams, etc. Improve skills and build confidence for talent shows, competitions, and workshops.)

CONTACT: 509-679-1383 [janjaffe@gmail.com](mailto:janjaffe@gmail.com) [www.linkedin.com/in/missjan](http://www.linkedin.com/in/missjan)



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

Our web page: [kvuuc.org](http://kvuuc.org)

Our Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kittitas-Valley-Unitarian-Universalist-Congregation-KVVUC/121639554572008>