

SCUUF

South Coast Unitarian Universalist Press



December 2016 Issue

(Deadline for material for the January 2017 issue: December 28, 2016)

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**SCUUF Programs and Activities
for December - All programs will be
held at the Dolphin Theater at 10 am
except as noted otherwise.**

December 2016 – Theme is “Story”

Dec. 4. *“Boccaccio – The Decameron”* Robert Mahaffey. Giovanni (John) Boccaccio was an older contemporary of Chaucer and highly influential on him and others, such as Shakespeare. We will closely examine the third tale of the first day, which is an exchange between Saladin and Melchisedech, a Jew

Dec. 11. *“Three Versions of Christmas, a Play,”* with Thea Wilson Directing. You may remember how much fun this play was when Thea directed it last year.

Dec. 18. Solstice Celebration. Sunset Bay Gazebo, NOON. Suzann Robins Stroup will coordinate. Please bring potluck foods to share.

Dec. 25. Christmas Day. NO SERVICE

Jan. 1 New Year’s Day.

A SCUUF Thanksgiving Dinner at Martin Annex

A fine thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by the 15 or so fellowship members. This may be our last thanksgiving gathering at Martin Annex as the building is up for sale.

Below, the remains are shown of the 19 lb. turkey cooked by Chez Jean.



The next photo shows a butter knife that may have been left behind at our last Equinox celebration. Barb Taylor found it in her picnic bag. Anyone recognize it?



**NEW Post Office Box for SCUUF:
Box 3242, Coos Bay OR 97420**

Charles Smith, SCUUF President

As some of you know, Charles experienced a stroke on Nov. 6. He was found, under a fallen bureau, by two of our members when he didn't come to Sunday service. He was air lifted to OHSU in Portland and after a few days in the ICU, was transferred to a rehabilitation facility. He is healing, but had some serious injuries. I am enclosing his current mailing address in case you would like to send him a card. He is not up to many phone calls. His son and daughter are in touch with Catstone Tree, a good friend of his here in town and they are working toward transporting him down here, as this is where he wants to be. Do send him your good, healing thoughts. Jean

Charles Smith
c/o Cascade Terrace
5601 SE 122nd Ave
Portland, OR 97236

In Charles' absence, Asialee will serve as temporary President, according to our by-laws. As we see how Charles is progressing and what his wishes are, the Board will determine by January whether to hold a special election to fill the office of President until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2016.

A NEW APPROACH TO PROGRAMS

The Program Planning Committee recently joined the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, "a group of over 200 UU congregations who follow the same monthly worship themes so we can more easily share small group material, as well as worship, sermon, music and children's religious education resources."

Although the Soul Matters Sharing Circle is a once-a-month model, we will be using the themes and the resources as the basis for many of our upcoming Sunday programs. ***We'll begin this new approach in January***, when the monthly theme will be "Covenant." We hope you find it meaningful, perhaps even useful.

Soul Matters is a distinctive small group curriculum. Like other small group programs, its central goal is to foster circles of trust and deep listening. However, Soul Matters adds four unique components:

1. Explore the Worship Themes in More Depth

Soul Matters is not a "stand alone" program. It is

designed as a companion program to a congregation's worship experience. Congregations using Soul Matters position it in their system as "an opportunity to explore our congregation's monthly worship themes in more depth."

2. Experience the Worship Theme, Don't Just Talk about It.

Unitarian Universalists want to do more than just read and talk about spiritual topics. Discussing a topic is important. But there is nothing like experiential learning. Honoring this, Soul Matters participants are given a spiritual exercise each month in which to engage prior to their group meeting. For instance, when we wrestled with the concept of grace, we didn't just read what theologians had to say about it, we also challenged ourselves to find a way to bring grace (a gift one doesn't expect, earn or even deserve) into another person's life.

3. Questions To Walk With, Not Talk Through.

In traditional small groups, questions are an opportunity for the group to think together. Soul Matters uses questions differently. We see them as tools for *individual* exploration. Instead of asking our groups to go through the questions and discuss them one by one, Soul Matters participants are asked to read all the questions ahead of time and find the one question that "hooks them"—the one that speaks to and challenges them personally. Participants then live with—or "walk with"—that question for a couple weeks leading up to the group, coming to their meeting, not with an answer to each of the questions on the list, but with a story about how this one particular question led them to deeper, personal learning. This technique leads us away from abstraction and intellectualizing and challenges us to think about how the topic (and question) apply to our daily living.

4. A Reminder That UUism is Distinctive, Not an "Anything Goes," Religion

Our monthly themes are not just interesting topics. Rather they focus us on a spiritual value that our UU faith has historically honored and emphasized. At each meeting, we are reminded that our faith promotes a preferred way for us to be in the world. This is why each monthly theme is framed by the question: "What does it mean to be a community of _____?"

From a Soul Matters participant - "*It's like getting a new chapter to a great book every month.*"

SCUUF CARE COMMITTEE

The following comprise the SCUUF Care Committee:

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Amazon Smile contributes 0.5% of all your purchases, to South Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, if you identify SCUUF when you buy through "smile.amazon.com." Try it!!

HERE TO SERVE:

THE SCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2016-2017

Charles Smith, President. chazcms@gmail.com

Asialee Crumley, Secretary. asialee.crumley@gmail.com

Jean Adamson, Treasurer. J5adamson@gmail.com

Marian Crumley, Director. mjcrumley32@gmail.com

Kathy Maxham, Director. kmaxham@gmail.com

Support the SCUUF Virtual Thrift Store. If you can contribute merchandise (clean, intact, functioning), please contact Asialee Crumley by email (asialee.crumley@gmail.com) or telephone (541-888-4349)



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