

# SCUUP



South Coast Unitarian Universalist Press

January and some of February 2006

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## The Purpose of this Fellowship

To further freedom of religious experience and toleration of religious ideas;

Promote personal choice based on reason and conscience;

Celebrate the worth and dignity of each human being;

Accept the motive force of love;

Advocate the never-ending search for truth;

and Proclaim the importance of a religious community.

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*Barb's Bits...*

## Chance & Change

Do you see each New Year as a chance to make changes for the better? Time for a fresh start, a new beginning? How many chances do we get before it's too late to change?

On December 19, my daughter's swim team coach arrived late to morning practice. Chris had left his boat access-only home in the dark of the morning to find so much rainwater in his boat that, instead of taking the time to bail it out, he pulled the drain plug after speeding away from the dock. (The forward momentum of a craft causes the water to be suctioned out through the drain hole.)

The weight of the rainwater made the boat high in the bow. The boat hit a barely submerged snag, invisible in the dark, and tilted even higher, toppling Chris out into the icy, dark waters of the Umpqua River. He grabbed hold of the side of his craft and managed to haul himself inside without capsizing the boat. As he struggled to replace the drain plug, his weight shifted and the boat rolled over, trapping him beneath.



Chris was wearing heavy boots and an insulated rain jacket. He didn't think he was going to get out of the river again, but he managed to free himself and struggle towards shore. By the time Chris' feet finally touched the river bottom and he slogged to shore, he was numb with cold. It was several minutes before he could begin the quarter-mile hike back to his home.

When I told my daughter the title of this column, and that I was writing about her swim coach's accident, she framed it thus: You mean, it's a wake-up call. What direction is my life taking? I must be doing something wrong. I have another chance to do things right.

I told her some people might see it that way; my take is somewhat different.

Every day is precious. Take nothing and no one for granted. As long as you're alive, it's never too late to change, no matter how often or how hard you've tried before. You never know when your boat will hit rough water. Some days you may feel you are bailing for all you're worth, but you're still sinking. If you do capsize, you need not flounder on your own. Call for help; grab a lifeline. We're all in this together.

May 2006 bring you the chance you need for the change you seek. ☺

## Among UUs

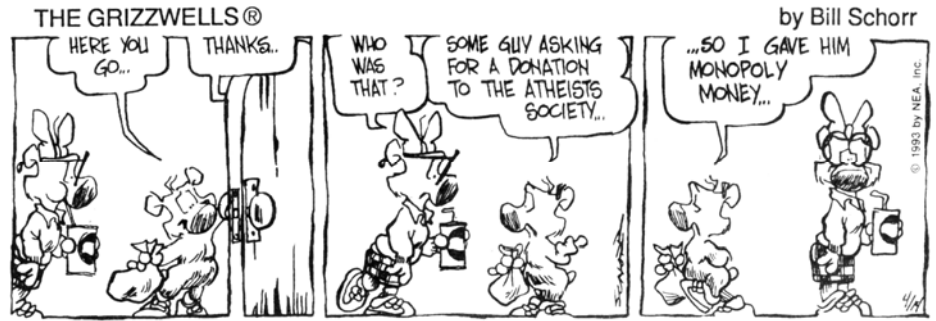
Ray Harris, an active member on the SCUUF Board since July 2004, passed away suddenly on December 27. Ray recently participated in the SCUUF-sponsored *Building Your Own Theology* workshop. Ray and Anita Harris often brought their grandchildren, Dancia and Jamie, to the Sunday programs. We will miss Ray's quiet smile, committed service, thoughtful comments, and gentle manner. A memorial service is planned for March.



SCUUF friend and member, Loisa Dewater, had her cancer surgery in Portland in mid-Dec. and is in good spirits, recovering nicely at home. ☺



The Stueve-Giles family entered the gingerbread house competition, sponsored by the Empire Café on the Southwestern campus. The design featured a heart motif with rock candy hearth and chimney, a decorated tree, and stack of firewood. The M&M's creation won first place in the competition! As fitting an award-winning competitor, the house was put on display in Ingersoll Heights and later eaten.



## BYOT Ends, What's Next?

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, The 10-week *Building Your Own Theology, Part 2* seminar group will come to a close. Starting in October, the 8-member group has been meeting regularly and discussing issues such as:

- ☺ By what authority do you make your truth claims?
- ☺ What is *holy*?
- ☺ Whatever happened to *sin*?
- ☺ How should we feel about injustice? Guilty? Responsible?
- ☺ Is there a meaning in suffering?
- ☺ Death and immortality

The final product for the seminar is a UU catechism. This manual of instruction is an attempt to articulate faith and moral issues for an individual.

This program is one of many that can be offered by our fellowship. Each year, the Adult Religious Education committee selects interesting and engaging seminars and workshops and brings them to the South Coast. Now that BYOT2 is over, it is time to select the next offering.

There are many UU materials available for workshops. To find a list of topics, one nice place to visit is our own Pacific Northwest District. It has a very

nice lending library. You can access the Dorothy Spoerl Resource Library catalog at <http://www.pnwd.org/pages/pnwdLibrary.php>

At the library, you can browse the following topic areas:

- ☺ Parenting
- ☺ Curricula
- ☺ Social Justice
- ☺ Worship
- ☺ Congregational
- ☺ Adult Books
- ☺ Music
- ☺ Youth & Y. Adults
- ☺ Media
- ☺ Teacher Resources

One suggestion is to select a program related to our *Year of Nonviolence* theme. **Please send your ideas and requests for Adult RE programs to [scuuf@markstueve.com](mailto:scuuf@markstueve.com)** ☺

## Here to Serve

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*South Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*  
**January - February 2006 Calendar**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Jan 1 Changes I Want to Make</b> An original program by Paula Bracken.	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>8 Out of the Flames I</b> The remarkable story of a fearless scholar, a fatal heresy, and one of the rarest books in the world; Barb Taylor brings a program on Michael Servetus.	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>15 A Season of Nonviolence</b> Special program led by Lilah Bidwell.	<b>16 MLK Day</b>	17	18	19	20	21
<b>22 Hike Hidden Creek Trail</b> Join us for a hike at South Slough Reserve. Meet at 11am at SSNERR interpretive center. Carpool from Fisherman's Grotto in Charleston at 10:45am. Dress for the weather. Call Dennis for more 888-8234.	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>29 Chinese New Year</b> Like all good holidays—let's eat! Join us for a <b>no-host lunch</b> at Tai's Dynasty in North Bend at 11:00am.	30	31	<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>2 Groundhog day</b>	3	4
<b>5 Out of the Flames II</b> The remarkable story of a fearless scholar, a fatal heresy, and one of the rarest books in the world; Barb Taylor brings a program on Michael Servetus.	6	7	8	9	10	<b>11 Lincoln's Birthday</b>
<b>12 Guatemalan Travelogue</b> Daina Swanson shares memories and lessons from a recent trip to Central America.	13	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b>	15	16	17	18
<b>19 Hike Our Mile</b> Our destination is our adopted mile of beach on North Spit, immediately north of the New Carissa. Meet at 11:00am at NB Public Library or at access road on North Spit at 11:15am. Dress for weather and bring a lunch.	<b>20 President's Day</b>	21	22	23	24	25
<b>26 Our Endangered Values</b> A special program on the life and philosophy of President Jimmy Carter, presented by Karen Sparks.	<b>27 Barb's Birthday</b>	28	<i>Unless otherwise noted, programs are at 3 pm in the North Bend United Methodist Women's Center 2389 Meade Street.</i>			

*Our March 5th program, presented by Paula Bracken, is entitled **The Accidental Buddhist**.*



**South Coast  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship**

Box 3216  
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**January-February 2006**

SCUUF Membership is open to all who agree with our purpose  
and are willing to make a commitment of time, talent, or treasure.

Visit SCUUF online at <http://scuuf.pnwd.uua.org>

**A New Look for UUA and SCUUP**



You will notice a new banner on our front page. The change was inspired by the introduction of a new logo for the Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA web site announced it “was intended that this identity would distinguish all UUA materials with a mark of quality and integrity and offer a visual representation of a modern and dynamic faith.”

You can read more about the new Unitarian Universalist Association logo by visiting <http://www.uua.org/programs/online/uuacorp.html>.

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