

# Good News



from the **Northwest Region**  
of the Association of Unity Churches

Summer 2008

## Inside this Issue:

Restore The World	3
Financial Update	4&5
Youth Ministry Info	6&7
Earth Care Ministry	8
LUT News	9
Prosperity Task Team	10
Regional Rep Update	11

If you would like to submit something for the next issue, the due date is October 1st. Email your article to: [debcris1952@webband.com](mailto:debcris1952@webband.com)

**T**his newsletter is published quarterly by the Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches.

Postal Contact:  
Northwest Region  
P.O. Box 6185  
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Website:  
[www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org)  
Webmaster: Ted Clark

*The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of clear communication that helps unify the ministries of the Northwest Region.*

## *Heart Notes*

**From your Northwest Regional Chairperson, Philip Arthur Zemke**

Good summer's greeting and blessings beloved family of the Northwest Unity Region.

It is a good and common event of our lives to attend family reunions in the summer time. The August 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Northwestern Unity Summer Retreat at Crystal Mountain is just such an occasion. We gather to tell the story of our past year and to catch the sacredness of our lives in those stories. Black Elk, the Oglala Lakota elder said, "It is the story of life that is Holy, and it is good to tell it." So, we will gather at Crystal Mountain to tell the story of the Holy and Sacred that forms the fabric of our lives as one family. I have come to see each Unity Ministry and center as a band or clan of extended families that share a body of values and practices. In each season, Winter at the Goldbar regional youth conference, Spring at Menucha, Summer at the Summer Retreat, and Fall at the leadership training, our clans gather to renew the purpose and acquaintance with our lives as Unity Truth students; and to build upon the Sacred Story of the Northwest Unity Region. And it is a good story to tell.

The story of the evolution of the facilitation of the Region is good to tell. The experiment of having an Administrative Assistant, and thus a central location for communication within the region is going well. The job description and application is nearly finished and we intend to have the position functioning by November 1<sup>st</sup>. In concert with the emphasis on communication, the new current mailing and e-mail list of regional members is nearly complete. Having the Alternative Regional Representative function as an active Board member has been a blessing. More hands and hearts make the work go easily. A more easily read financial reporting sheet is in experiment. And an idea for a regional wide current events page on the Northwest Regional website is in the preparatory phase. Communication is the key to our success as a timely and vibrant region and this is good to tell.

I wish now to share a story for you to catch as regards the twenty-first century identity and purpose of the Unity practice in our world. Charles Fillmore has been termed an American Mystic. Mysticism is a verb that identifies the activity of seeking and finding a knowledge of the Principles of the Creator creating creation, and the practice that demonstrates those Principles in daily life. The history of high mysticism in the West and the East speaks consistently of the balance of contemplation of the Principles and the activity of demonstration. This balance between

*continued on page 2: Heartnotes*

## Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches Re- gional Team Members

### Philip Zemke Chairperson

Unity Church of Bozeman, MT  
(406) 580-1292  
philipzemke@aol.com

### Scott McClintock Vice-Chairperson

Unity of Anchorage, AK  
(907) 346-2824  
revscott@gci.net

### Inge Tarantola Treasurer

Unity Church of Roseburg  
(541) 957-1452  
spirit@unityofroseburg.org

### David Elliot Secretary

Unity of Tacoma, WA  
(253) 383-2684  
david.rev4unity@gmail.com

### Barbara Wilson Regional Representative

Unity in the Olympics,  
Port Angeles, WA  
(360) 457-3981  
bwilson@olyopen.com

### Janet Rhodes, LUT Regional Representative

(360) 956-3715  
jjrhodes@thurston.com

### Billie Blaine Chaplain

Unity Church of Portland,  
Oregon  
[revbillie@aol.com](mailto:revbillie@aol.com)

### Rosella Turner-Teal Member

Unity Church of Kent,  
Washington  
[dwellinpossibility@sprynet.com](mailto:dwellinpossibility@sprynet.com)

*continued from page 1:Heartnotes*

inner and outer is a task for all of our lives to harmonize every moment. Charles and Myrtle Fillmore were eminently successful in fulfilling this purpose of balance. They established their foundation on the Principle of Sacred Unity, and then using what we term appreciative inquiry they asked each of us to find that Sacred story of our Unity with the Divine Consciousness in the appearances of our daily lives. Charles and Myrtle mediated for others. Affirming the truth of the most high as a reality of possibility, regardless of the storyline of the absence of good in any appearance or situation brought to them. I am increasingly understanding the role of those who stand upon Unity Principles as serving as mediators in the conversations about the stewardship of the Sacred human being here on Earth.

Unity as a movement is recognizing a new balance between contemplation and action. The work of the Unity-wide Spiritual Action committee, the Earth Care ministry, and the multiple examples of Unity ministries serving in their communities was highlighted at the International Unity Gathering in June in Arizona. The collaborative work of inter-faith communion and inter-Unity cooperation is putting active feet to our contemplative prayer of the Sacred Unity that transforms all life. The practice of contemplation and demonstration in activity is not an either or, but an, and both reality.

The role of the Mediator is one of compassionate listening and appreciative inquiry. First and foremost we are the presence of the Good as the immanent Truth of Life. In Love for the process of

Wisdom revealing from the Mystery we can claim all success, not as a product of our personal liking, but as a step in the transformation of all consciousness. We are, in the Jesus Christ model of being the one "sent out," not the tellers, we are the collaborative askers. As mediators we are upon the foundation of love and care for each party of the conversation. Every voice is speaking from their belief in how the world works for them. Asking the right question reveals the momentary answer as to "what is mine to do here right now." Albert Einstein said that, "no problem is solved from the level upon which it was created." All is solved at the level of Spirit. The path of the continuing transformation of the creation of the Creator is our journey together. In this time of history to which we are created we have that to do which only we as unique demonstrations of God Consciousness can do. When we see as a true purpose our asking the question which is born of love and compassion, we are being the Presence and the Power of the Good in action. Our Sacred Unity mediates for all diversity in appearance.

So dear extended family of Unity this is my story of the Holy Life today. Thanks for catching for me. I am blessed to know that many of us will gather at Crystal Mountain in August to love on one another and tell the story of the Divine in our lives. And for all I give thanks for your story where ever it is told. It is good to tell the story.

In all blessings,  
Philip



## NW Regional Family Retreat at Crystal Mountain 2008

### Featured Speaker Christina Baldwin

### *Restory Your Life, Restore The World*

Author Christina Baldwin is determined to share a good news story. “What we face today, humanity has faced before,” she proclaims. “Remove the cell phones and Internet, the mountains of stuff, and what *we* are living through—our ancestors lived through. Over and over again, human beings have found themselves at the edge of everything they thought possible: crowded between a rock and a hard place, pushed between rising seas and encroaching glaciers, faced with volcanic explosions violent enough to cause global climate change, afraid there was no way forward. But—“and this is where the dynamic, 60-something author looks excited and delighted—“our DNA is coded for survival. The fact that you and I are here is proof that they made it! We’re going to make it this time, too. We just need some new maps. I’m not talking about GPS, I’m talking about how essential it is to tell each other stories that inform, inspire and activate us to discover the next steps.”

“Story is a map,” says Baldwin in her latest book, *Storycatcher, Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story*, “and the map that gets one person through gets the next person through. That’s why we love to listen, read, and watch stories of other people’s experiences: we imagine ourselves facing what they faced. Once we have the benefit of their experience in story, we anticipate being able to react even better than they did. This is called vicarious learning—and human beings are incredible at it! My mission is to take this capacity to imagine better reactions and turn that energy from individual insight

to collective insight. I believe we can use story to imagine ourselves into a new world. That’s why I’m talking to people about restorying the world to restore the world and inviting everyone to join the Storycatchers Network.”

Christina has been a passionate advocate for *the way of story* since publishing her first book on journal writing thirty years ago. “We begin understanding the map of story,” she says, “by revealing our story to ourselves. And as we experience how story heals, we begin to see that story is at play everywhere. We literally create our lives through how we live out the stories we carry. For example: two brothers grow up side by side living with a demanding father who tries to whip them into shape. One makes up a story of victimization: the other makes up a story of heroism—their lives will be different!”

“This doesn’t mean changing our history,” Christina notes, “Storycatching our lives means changing the *meaning* we create out of events. Now, having experienced the power of making meaning within our individual stories, there are millions of Storycatchers ready to practice making meaning with our collective stories. The story field around us is full of stories that reinforce fear, helplessness, isolationism, violence, and a sense that the world is a dangerous place. But we can create a story field that reinforces courage, impact, connection, dialogue, and a sense that the world is a place of infinite possibility. We need to tell, write, and show stories that heal the social level and talk ourselves into creating the world we

want and need.”

“Every time we use story to create connection in the moment, we heal the world a little and we create a different possibility—like my friend standing in line at the driver’s licensing bureau. A young mother was there with three kids; one child was clinging to her leg whining, two were racing around using other adults as pillars in a game of chase. Unspoken tension was rising. My friend pulled out a notepad and nabbed the oldest boy. ‘What’s your name? Know how to play Hangman?’ Within seconds she and the kids were on the floor and engaged with each other. ‘Who’s willing to hold my place in line?’ she looked around and asked, ‘Anybody a good speller willing to help us think up words?’ Soon two more adults were in the game.

“‘This is what I mean by restorying the world,’ I responded, ‘You made peace in the moment, and now your telling me the story gives me ideas for what to do when I’m in such a situation. It seems like a small thing, but a little moment, like a small pebble, can have huge ripples because it’s the small things that inspire us to big things, and the small stories that allow us to see the big stories differently.’”

Come join Christina Baldwin at the upcoming Unity Retreat at Crystal Mountain where along with Richard Levy, David Roth, Garnett Hundley and Beverly Daugherty and James Howard, you will have the opportunity to celebrate the stories you want and need to make a better world.

## From The Desk of the Treasurer — Rev. Inge Tarantola

Menucha was, once again, a huge success and a great opportunity for me to be together with all of you. I trust that you too had a wonderful time and that all your questions regarding budget and finances were answered.

Here is the projected budget as compared to actual year-to-date, reflecting three months of activity. The final figures for Menucha are not in yet, so we will reflect that in the next newsletter. The regional team expenses are going to be higher than expected this year with more board members living farther away and travel costs being higher than last year. Bank charges are higher than expected due to increased cost for credit card charges. The summer retreat expenses have already started, but no income yet, hence the negative figure. The Field Licensing expense will level out by year-end. The love offerings are right on, so thanks to all of you for your generosity and for keeping our commitment to a balanced budget. All the rest is pretty much on target with 25% of the fiscal year behind us. Hope to hear from you with questions or suggestions.

Affirming for all of you and the region a prosperous time, never mind what the news and the papers are saying. Whether you think you can, or think you can't, you're right. ~ Henry Ford. With God all things are possible.

Crystal Mountain is just a short time away, so hope to see you there.

God's richest blessings,  
Inge Tarantola

## 2008 NW Unity Regional Conference

### *Sharing Our Journey-A Report From Menucha*

by John Butler

Your Northwest Region has enjoyed the beautiful grounds at Menucha for several years running. This year, as part of our EarthCare theme within the Region we decided to give back to Mother Nature and specifically Menucha by doing a small community service project. The ideal is that we leave the grounds in better condition that when we arrived. So, as part of our conference, a handful of committed volunteers spent a wonderful couple of hours to build



the new labyrinth at Menucha. The labyrinth is down by the rose garden and is nearly finished so we set some stone, measured and re-fit the arch of the pathway and generally helped out. Hopefully, next year some of you will walk this labyrinth knowing that your fellow Unity leaders helped in a small way to build it.

In addition, Menucha offered another project- to help rid the area of an invasive non-native species that has infested their grounds. As this Divine Idea to give back to Menucha manifested in Divine Order, the day chosen to give back was Earth Day which allowed us to help energize this national day of reverence for Mother Earth.

Thanks to all who helped and we look forward to continuing to build awareness of the One Presence in our thoughts, our choices and our actions.

Mark your 2009 calendars early! Next year's conference will again be held at Menucha - April 27-30, 2009.

**P** psychological courage entails a cleansing of the doors of perception, allowing us to see things as they really are rather than through the distorted lens of the past. The more we are cleansed of expectations, the more we see what is and the more we can respond to it creatively.

~ Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.,  
*Fire In The Soul*



***Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches***  
***Fiscal Year — 2008 - 2009***

	Proposed	Mar-May	25.00%
	Budget	Actual	Percent
<b>Income</b>			
Offerings from Churches & Others	114,300	29,360	0.26
Sustaining Programs-Summer Retreat	7,000	-1,875	-0.27
Sustaining Programs-Reg. Conf. Menucha	3,000	-4,076	** -1.36
Youth Ministry	10,000		0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$134,300</b>	<b>\$23,409</b>	<b>0.17</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Tithe (a)	13,400	2936	0.22
Salaries (Youth Programs) (b)	40,100	9912	0.25
Contract Bookkeeping (b)	5,400	1330	0.25
Newsletter	800	213	0.27
Regional Team Exp	7,000	5109	0.73
Employee Expenses Payroll Exp.	3,100	750	0.24
Regional Rep Exp	13,700	1527	0.11
Alternate Region Rep	1,000		0
SEE Scholarship	1,800		0
Insurance	2,800		0
Bank Service Charges	200	275	1.38
Equipment Rental Visa CC Machine	200	32	0.16
Office Supplies	100	7	0.07
Postage & Mailings	300	89	0.3
Y.O. U. Exp	6,500	430	0.07
Uniteens	4,500		0
Children's Ministry Exp	7,000	1000	0.14
Next generation Unity	1,600	461	0.29
LUT Rep Exp	5,800	335	0.06
Other Exp (Flowers etc)	800		0
Regional Website	900	100	0.11
Earth Care	1,500		0
Field Licensing Program	3,500	1721	0.49
Contributions Pioneering Church	3,000		0
Fall Training	2,500		0
Cell Phone	600		0
Administrative Support ( 6 Month Trial)	5,000		0
Judicatory Representative	1,200		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$134,300</b>	<b>\$26,227</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>		<b>-2,818</b>	

\*\* Not Final Yet

## *Summer is A Busy Season For Our Regional Youth Ministry*

### **19th Annual UNTREAT The Power of Us**

June 22 through June 27th 2008 at Cispus Center near Randle, Washington sponsored by our Western Region Association of Unity Churches Youth Ministry! Participants from 17 churches - 52 teens / 16 adults [6 were NGU age]

In family groups of 12-13 youth the Uniteens experienced and reflected on the tone they send out into the world. This was represented by one of 6 bamboo tubes that when combined in our Thursday ceremony created a huge wind chime that of now hangs about 30 feet up in the trees of Cispus. It has a very organic sound as the wind meets the sail that then sends the striker against this tubes. The sail was woven by the Uniteens using recycled materials. The families went through a process to choose the word that represented their tone they wished to send out into the world. The choices were La Bella Vida (the good life) Strength, Love, Harmony

and Laughter. The sixth tube was left blank representing Great Mystery. Bill Brock of Corvallis designed the wind chime and brought it to camp. Ginger Landtree designed the weaving portion and guided the camp in this reflection of our weave into the world. Each adult and youth brought their gifts, their tone to the camp and we were blessed by each other. In their experience of manifesting and realizing their connections they experience "the power of us" and the power of thoughts and actions. The youth face physical, emotional, social and spiritual challenges and conundrums on the Cispus challenge course where both individual and group thoughts and actions affect the experience of all. It is a blessing to be in service to the Uniteen ministry of the region. Our youth are filled with insight, energy and wisdom and are vital contributors within our spiritual communities.

Blessings,  
Chris Castaldi



#### **Next NGU Retreat in the Planning Stages!**

The dates for our fall retreat is September 12th-14th. Look for more information about it on our website - [unitynwregion.org/ngu.aspx](http://unitynwregion.org/ngu.aspx). A special thanks to everyone on the planning team for all their hard work and dedication.

-Nick Muncie-Jarvis



Other activities included 7:00 AM river walks, Heart Share talks within families, tee shirt decorating, Godwalks on the Cispus campus, studying the Power Within in family group times, blind-folded ice cream sundae eating, learning about prayerful movement meditation, evening campfires with artistic presentations by the campers, and the always anticipated Thursday night dance!

Through all of these experiences, the kids grew in Spirit and relationships. Unbeknown to the youth, this camp also provides all of the adults an opportunity to grow in Spirit, and deepen relationships between themselves. "Unity" becomes a feeling, an emotion, a visceral reality.

~ George Conrad

Uniteen Sponsor,

Unity Church of North Idaho

#### **Your Youth Ministry Connections:**

**Penny Gruver,**  
**Consultant/Children**  
2802 S. Laurel  
Port Angeles, WA 98362  
gruverfamily67@msn.com  
(360) 452-7953

**Jackie Green**  
**Consultant/Teens**  
1111 S Skyline Place  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212  
jackienwyou@comcast.net  
(509) 928-0896

**Chris Castaldi**  
**Unitreat Event Coordinator**  
3114 Cottonwood Ct West  
Linn, OR 97068  
(503) 632-7792  
chriscastaldi@bctonline.com

**Nick Muncie-Jarvis**  
**Next Generation Unity**  
**Consultant**  
9914 SW Conestoga #224  
Beaverton, OR 97008  
(503) 524-4030  
ztx@juno.com

**Northwest Region Youth of Unity  
RENDEZVOUS 2008  
August 10 – 14**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Regional YOU event in Oregon!  
2<sup>nd</sup> Rendezvous ever!*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Regional YOU summer event!*

Musical Ministry of  
**LeRoy**  
White



The Y.O.U. Counselors at the 29th Annual Kids Camp

**Y.O.U. Rendezvous** is a 4-night 5-day communion with Spirit. Daily activities include large group workshops, small group discussions, singing, meditation, dancing, prayer and vespers, plus challenge course, slip and slide, swimming pool.

**Our mission** is: Freeing our dreams we the Youth Of Unity NW Regional Leadership Team focus our spirits on enlightening and empowering those we have the privilege to impact. Releasing our inhibitions we commit ourselves to creating an inspirational atmosphere of light, love and clarity.



Sponsors, Counselors and Kids at Camp Waskowitz  
Watch for a big celebration next year when the Northwest Region Youth Ministry celebrates the 30th Annual Kids Camp!

You are cordially invited to the . . .

**75th Anniversary**

**Celebration of Unity in Yakima  
1933 – 2008**

**Saturday, August 9, 2008**



Please call or email Chris at Unity Spiritual Life Center for reservations and tickets.

Cost is \$30

509♦575♦5551

ChrisAtUnity@CharterInternet.com



Friends from every era of Unity's life can look forward to gathering at:  
**Howard Johnson Plaza**  
9 North 9th Street - Yakima, WA 98901  
For a Sumptuous Banquet, Silent Auction  
&  
a Special Program: "Moments in Time"  
Festivities begin at 6:00 pm  
with the Silent Auction & Dinner at 6:30pm



## Unity Earth Care Northwest

*We declare our covenant with God to walk upon Earth for the greatest good of all creation.*

### A Harvest Prayer

The garden is rich with diversity...  
 Basil, mint and lavender,  
 God keep my remembrance pure.  
 Raspberry, apple, rose,  
 God fill my heart with love.  
 Dill, anise, tansy,  
 Holy winds blow in me.  
 Rhododendron, zinnia,  
 May my prayer be beautiful.  
 May my remembrance O God  
 Be as incense to thee  
 In the sacred grove of eternity  
 As I smell and remember  
 The ancient forests of earth.

—Chinook Psalter

### More Fruits – “Spiritual Gardening” at Unity Center of North Idaho

“They’re the church with the garden,” say neighbors of the Unity center in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Maintained by their Green Team, the community garden has graced the front lawn of the church since 2004.

Each spring, families adopt individual plots to plant in a kaleidoscope of flowers and vegetables. The first year the garden became a “pumpkin patch,” and in October the children proudly presented their pumpkins at the Sunday service, just in time for Halloween!

For William Kettle, chair of the Green Team, gardening is about fellowship, meditation, and being in the One Presence. He says, “It’s not so much about growing food. It’s about experiencing the Spirit within us and being fed by the Beauty around us. We bring our willingness and beingness to the garden, and its abundance becomes a demonstration of our joy.”

### Fruits of the Work – A “Greener Unity” Promoted at 2008 Convention

The Wigwam Resort outside Phoenix, Arizona was the perfect setting to promote a “greener Unity.” Instead of being in one high-rise complex, guest rooms and meeting rooms were in separate buildings, giving everyone plenty of opportunities to enjoy the Arizona sunshine.

Over 20 people attended the “Greening Unity Forum.” Presentations included starting a green team at San Antonio, Texas, installing a new green roof in Fairfax, Virginia, and pioneering a ministry with a green focus. And the brand-new *EarthCare Congregation Program* for Unity ministries was unveiled.

Other “green” activities included giving a bag, notebook, and water bottle made of recycled materials to each attendee, making a recycling bin available, and sponsoring an information table.

Developed by the national EarthCare Team, the *EarthCare Congregation Program* is based on the Northwest Region’s “Path to Earth Care.” The EarthCare Team is asking for ministries to review and field-test the program and give feedback. Contact them at [earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org) if you’re interested. The program leaflet will also be posted on the Northwest Earth Care webpage (see our contact information below).



Community Garden at Coeur d’Alene Unity

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Contact Unity Earth Care Northwest at  
[unityearthcare@yahoo.com](mailto:unityearthcare@yahoo.com)

Visit our webpage at [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org)  
 go to /Programs/Earth Care

# Licensed Unity Teacher News

By Janet Rhodes, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

Life happens.

As your licensed teacher representative and a member of the Licensed Teacher Ministry Team, I was planning on attending the annual People's Convention in Phoenix. There were meetings to attend, the licensed teacher forum, people to talk with, friends to see, workshops to attend...

And my body decided otherwise. It told me that I needed to stay home. So I stayed home, had some needed day surgery that went very well, and had lots of time to spend with God.

This all happened rather quickly ... in May, with convention only a few weeks away. I felt so glad that Diana Moskal, our Licensed Teacher Representative alternate, was able to go in my place. It all worked out in Divine Order.

Of course, I was reminded of a few things during this experience. First, sometimes I don't see things about myself that are obvious to other people. It took three people saying "Do you really think you will be able to sit for the length of a flight from Seattle to Phoenix?" before I consciously realized that no, I really couldn't sit that long. Second, Spirit does find other ways to get the message out in front (my three friends). Third, Divine Order is unfolding all the time (Diana was able to attend!). Fourth, sometimes, even when I've made a commitment to participate in something, it is the wise thing to un-commit myself (and people will understand). Finally, I really do need to remember to slow down periodically, breathe deeply, and Be!

Read on for information on Convention and other items of interest to licensed teachers.

## **Diana - On Attending the 2008 People's Convention**

I was not planning on going to the Unity People's Convention in Phoenix, AZ this year. However, when Janet Rhodes called me in May to see if I could go in her place, it did not take me long to say "yes!" There were so many blessings that I hardly know where to start and what to share! The theme for the Convention was "Getting To Know You—Deepening our Relationship with God, Ourselves and Others." I did experience this theme as I connected with many people — LUT reps from other Regions, Shirley Kennedy who is the LUT coordinator, my wonderful roommate Barbara Wilson, and many

people from the Northwest region and people from all over the world.

In the LUT area, we were told to encourage all LUTs to sign up for the LUT newsletter via e-mail from Shirley Kennedy. Also visit the Unity.org website at least once a month to stay informed. See the "Update on SEE Classes" to learn about curriculum changes, course name changes, courses being added, and a new fee structure effective July 1, 2008.

I came home so inspired and impressed by the Association's visions, strategic plan (2008-2012), the Thriving in Unity possibilities for all Unity ministries, and so much more!

Thank you, Northwest Region, for your financial assistance! I feel very supported and appreciated!

Blessings to all,

Diana Moskal, LUT Alternate Rep.

## **Association LUT Newsletter by email**

Are you receiving the LUT Newsletter by email? If not, you can sign up for it! The Association has an "Opt-In" email policy. If you want to receive the LUT e-newsletter, sign up by going to [www.unity.org/eneews](http://www.unity.org/eneews). You must sign up for each of the Association's e-newsletters individually.

## **Update On SEE Classes**

There are some changes to the Spiritual Education and Enrichment program. They are:

- Metaphysics I is now taught in two parts (Part 1 and Part 2) for 20 hours TOTAL
- Class eliminated: "Talks on Truth"
- New Fee Structure: the fee to register for a credit class goes from \$25 to \$36 on July 1.

Also remember to check before teaching a SEE credit class to learn if class guides and/or a syllabus are available. Diana learned at Convention that class guides and syllabi will soon be on the internet! If you need guides or a syllabus before they are on the web, contact the SEE extension coordinator by emailing [esee@unityonline.org](mailto:esee@unityonline.org) or phoning 816-251-3535, ext 2035.

For "Session C" classes:

- o "Nonviolent Communication" has been eliminated as a required class

*continued on page 10: LUT*

## Prosperity Task Team

Ann Armstrong, Licensed Unity Teacher, Task Team Leader

What a blessing to be in the NW Region, surrounded by its natural beauty wherever we turn! The practice of blessing, accompanied by expressing gratitude and appreciation, is a cornerstone of prosperity! I have been realizing a subtle difference between being grateful and appreciating. Appreciation shows pure joy and delight for its object, while gratitude may be the result of a previous perception of lack. So, sometimes I am really grateful for the manifestation of my wants and desires, but I try to focus on appreciation of all that I observe and that comes my way. In this way I can stay aligned with the Truth that “this is an abundant universe” and I am more able to stay in that flow of abundance.

The Prosperity Task Team has two programs on its agenda: The Keepers of the Light and Praying for Individual Churches.

The Keepers of the Light, facilitated by Rev. Georgie Richardson, is in its fifth year. The intent is to be a model of prosperity consciousness for the whole Unity movement. A member of each congregation is invited to be a Keeper of the Light. Rev. Georgie e-mails the monthly affirmation and a prosperity message to all the keepers each Monday. By joining together in prayer and holding the consciousness of abundance the Keepers create a group energy and thus expand the Light of Prosperity. If your ministry does not have a Keeper of the Light, you can contact Rev. Georgie Richardson at [blessyourheart44@aol.com](mailto:blessyourheart44@aol.com).

For the second year the Prosperity Task Team and the Keepers of the Light will be holding individual Unity ministries in prayer for a week at a time. This will begin again in September. We will try to reverse the order of churches so that, if your “prayer week” was late in the year, it will be earlier this year.

Namaste,  
Ann Armstrong LUT  
[unityonthehill@aol.com](mailto:unityonthehill@aol.com)

### Meet David Roth

Blend a whoosh of Will Rogers, a dash of David Letterman, and a touch of James Taylor-meets-Jerry Seinfeld and what do you get? An award winning singer/songwriter/speaker- David Roth! Enjoy he and his music at Crystal Mountain. Check out the enclosed flyer.



“David and his music will touch you to the very depths of your soul, he’ll make you laugh and cry, inspire you to rise and fly....”

*Jack Canfield, co-author, Chicken Soup for the Soul*

*continued from page 9: LUT*

- o Art of Teaching Part 2 has been added. Art of Teaching Part 1 will be learning how to teach and Part 2 will be practicing how to teach.

### Due Date for LUT Annual Reports Changes

The annual reports that you have been filling out in the winter are going to be due March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year starting in 2009. The forms will be online at [unity.org](http://unity.org).

Janet will make a MS Word file of the form so you can complete it on your computer and save the information for ease of use (it will be on the Region’s web page or you can email Janet). When you move, change phone numbers, or change email, please remember to use the form to update the Association’s office in Missouri. Also remember to send updates to Janet; see contact information in box.

One in Truth,

Janet Rhodes, licensed teacher representative

### Contact Information

Janet Rhodes,  
LUT Representative  
[Janet.rhodes.lut@comcast.net](mailto:Janet.rhodes.lut@comcast.net)  
360-956-3715  
3705 Eagle Lk LN NE,  
Olympia WA 98506

Diana Moskal,  
LUT Rep Alternate  
[moskaldj@aol.com](mailto:moskaldj@aol.com)

## A Word From Our Regional Representative

### Report From Standards Team Meeting

The Standards Team is made up of the regional representatives from the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. We met in June prior to the Association of Unity Churches International annual convention which was held outside Phoenix, Arizona.

One of the items on our agenda was to update our purpose statement. Here it is:

*The purpose of the Standards Ministry Team is to assure standards of professional excellence for our Association that further our mission to create and support vibrant, diverse, spiritual leaders and communities that foster transformation and inspire people to make a positive difference in our world. We will:*

- Act as a vehicle for feedback for the Association Board of Trustees regarding the impact and implementation of Association policies and procedures in the field ministries
- Review and/or develop and recommend policies and procedures
- Evaluate the professional qualification and competence of ministers and others who apply for "other paths" leading to orientation that are referred to the Standards Ministry Team
- Review and make decisions for ministers or ministries requesting restoration
- Act as a resource for the Future Trends Ministry Team, providing them with a regional perspective

Other agenda items included:

- Ministers who solicit congregants to become involved in pyramid marketing programs. We concurred that this is an abuse of power and a violation of our Minister's Code of Ethics. If you have any questions with regards to this, please contact me.
- Spiritual leaders who are outside

of our credentialing process. After lengthy discussion, we determined that the needed response was two-fold. 1) We need a task team to look at requirements that would ensure individuals are qualified to do the work of spiritual leadership. I am a member of that team. 2) We also need to explore alternative ways to serve ministries without credentialed Unity leaders such as through telecommunications. If you have any ideas on this subject, please share with me.

• Greater consistency across regions. Every region works a little differently. The creativity is great. The downside is misunderstanding and miscommunication as people move in and out of regions. We are exploring possibilities for bringing regional boards together. Perhaps at the midyear meetings in January.

• Trends and ways to support ministers. Areas of interest include: how to reach 20 somethings who are highly creative, technologically savvy, and into meaning; how to reach and empower our congregants within the larger organization; and how to more powerfully use technology.

• Agreements for building rentals, speakers, workshops, wedding information, etc. Every region may want to create resource lists. The joint website for the Association and Unity will be a great place to make resources available.

Let us also celebrate the joint website of the Association and Unity School that is currently in the works. This is a grand new day for our UNITY!

Love and blessings,  
Barbara

## Meet Christina Baldwin



Christina Baldwin is a writer and seminar presenter of 30+ years experience. She has contributed two classic books to the exploration of journal writing, including the well-known classic, *Life's Companion, Journal Writing as a Spiritual Practice*. This work led her to a long study of personal growth and group dynamics and as a result of that experience she wrote *Calling the Circle*, the First and Future Culture to explore how social container releases needed wisdom. In recognition of the requirement for increased spirituality, she wrote, *The Seven Whispers, Spiritual Practice for Times Like These*. Her most recent book, *Storycatcher, Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story*, reminds readers of the necessity of story to communicate in all areas of professional and personal life. Christina holds a B.A. in English with honors and Phi Beta Kappa from Macalester College, and a M.S. in Educational Psychology from Columbia Pacific University. She currently lives on an island near Seattle, WA, from which she travels extensively to lecture, teach, and call people and organizations into conversations of heart, meaning, and spiritual activism. Christina has been a friend and fan of Unity for over a decade. She is one of the featured presenters at Crystal Mountain this year. Read her article on page three and then register!!



Northwest Region  
of the Association of Unity Churches

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