

Good News



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

Winter 2008

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches.

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

If you would like to submit something for the next issue, the due date for articles is April 1st. Email your article to me at: debcris1952@webband.com

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Heart Notes

From your Northwest Regional Chairperson, Philip Arthur Zemke

To my beloved sisters and brothers of the Northwest Region in Unity

Today I heard it expressed, “**EVERYTHING GREAT IN 2008**”. This is a powerful affirmation for each of us to carry forward in our hearts and visions. As we seep deeply in the Season of the Light of new possibility, that I pray was what we have experienced this past month, I pray as well that the future is calling us to every new possibility to be the Light, Life, Truth, Love, and Substance of peace and joy for our world and for each other. At the heart and foundation of all great spiritual practices is this understanding that each moment brings with it the new possibility to transcend the past on our heroic journey to see the new as the Divine Creator of the Universe sees the creation. A world created whole and prospering with the abundance of grace and good that is the natural state of all life. The New Year offers us the Genesis possibility to claim the Good we are seeking as our God, and to affirm the “Let it be” of harmonious possibility in our domains of ministry, in our Northwest Region, and in the world. Let it be that everything is great in 2008.

In my meditations over the 12 Holy days and nights from Christmas to Epiphany I have held a picture of our Region that increases and enhances each part of the whole. This meditation was warmly prompted by reflections that have come from several Ministers, Licensed Unity Teachers and Lay Leaders about the purpose and demonstration of the Region as a tool of spiritual growth for us all. As I reflected upon the words from wise spirit I began to see a dawning picture that asked me to put forward three enquiries. What is our **experience**? What are we **exploring** through those experiences? And, where are we able to **experiment** with our past and present experience on the way to new possibilities for the demonstration of Unity Principles and Practices in our Region?

I experience Unity as an **Educational Movement**. We learn that we may practice unto demonstration. Our second nature of learning transforms

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Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches Regional Team Members

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and aligns us to our first nature of being. In the twenty years that I have been participating in our Region it has been apparent that we experience a consistency of success in our Youth Education activities. It has been apparent that we experience success through attendance at Regional and sub-regional trainings. It has been apparent that the experience of learning at Goldbar, and the Spring and Summer conferences is a concrete portion of the energy of celebration at those events. **We celebrate and demonstrate the experience of learning.**

We have a current experience of the success of our Educational activities. We can be excited to explore what is already working within the domains of success to see them more successful. We have a map to a known world call education and we can journey through it. **Exploring what is working is like polishing the Gold of our Good.**

Experiencing and exploring are processes of the past and present. In the future that is opening to each of us individually and collectively we are surely going to discover new worlds of being in this world of new possibility.

What would that be like as a vision and manifestation for our Region? **We are Creations experimental demonstration of yet unseen possibilities.**

It is said that the human being is the creature who thinks in stories. Each of us has a story that has sacred value to the Holy Story of Life. All stories have a birthing beginning experience (Divine Origin), a middle that illuminates the heroic journey (Transformation by exploration and experimentation) and a re-birth completion of re-union with the Divine as one. We are telling our story in each of our homes, churches and centers. We are telling our story as a collective culture when we say we are one with the Unity Movement as the Northwest Region, and as Unity Worldwide. Each story tells of the past, the present, and the possibilities of the new manifestations of the sacred. What are we willing to claim as the awakened possibilities for the teaching and practicing of Sacred-Making in our beloved Northwest Unity Region in this New Year?


All Peace and Love to you in this New Possibility


Philip



Renew your
spirit, mind,
and body
at a
2008 SpiritPath
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NW Regional Conference at Menucha 2008

Patty Williams, Conference Coordinator

2008 NW Unity Regional Conference

“Sharing Our Journey”

April 21 through April 24, 2008

at Menucha Conference Center on the Oregon side of the Columbia Gorge

Ministries from throughout the region are encouraged to send their Ministers, Spiritual Leaders, Licensed Teachers and Lay Leaders to participate in this inspirational and informative conference.

Conference brochures will be going out toward the end of January with full details about the conference, however we've also included a registration form below. The award winning New Thought singer/songwriter David Roth will be joining us this year. Watch for your brochure with additional information on the fabulous presenters who will be participating. If you have any questions, contact Patty Williams, the Conference Coordinator, at pwilliams001@kc.rr.com or by calling her cell phone at 503-957-3540.



Photo Courtesy of John McAnulty

Due to the travel distances for some within our region, any scholarship funds received will be disbursed to those who travel the farthest distances and email a request for financial support to the conference coordinator.

2008 NW Unity Regional Conference • REGISTRATION FORM Begins at 4:00 PM on Monday, April 21, and closes at 1:00 PM on Thursday, April 24

Mail to: Regional Conference, c/o Unity of Olympia, 1335 Fern Street SW, Olympia, WA 98502

Name: _____ Email: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Position in Church: _____ Phone Number(s): _____

I would like to room with: _____ Special Food needs: _____

Lodging request (please circle one):
Single (\$485) Double (\$430) Triple (\$400) Dorm (\$340)

I would also like to support the scholarship fund for Conference in the amount of: \$ _____

Options for commuter and daily registration will be included in the final brochure, however, we encourage you to consider registering for the entire event.

Form of Payment: Check Enclosed (payable to NW Unity Region) Visa MasterCard Discover

Card # _____ Exp Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Proposed Budget for 2008 - 09 — Rev. Inge Tarantola, Treasurer

Draft Proposed 2008-09 Budget Available for Review

Board for the Northwest Region is making the **draft proposed budget** for the next fiscal year available for you to review well before Regional Conference. We hope you will look at the draft and mail or email your questions and comments to Rev. Inge Tarantola, see contact information below.

We need to receive comments and questions **by February 15th** to have them when we go over the budget in detail during our next Board meeting.

What will happen with my comments?

While reviewing the draft proposed budget, the Board will keep in mind your comments and questions. Because of this review, the proposed budget that you see in April at Regional Conference may differ from the version you see here.

At Conference, you will receive a summary of the comments, along with changes made to the budget.

Discussing the Budget at Conference

You will receive the proposed budget when you arrive at Regional Conference. On Tuesday, the Board will be available informally for questions and discussion. The conference body will vote on the budget during the business meeting on Wednesday.

Does the Budget Differ from Prior Years?

In general, the main income and expense categories remain the same. We propose reducing some expenses and income and increasing others. This makes the total budget about \$16,640 higher than this year's budget.

Income. We are proposing an increase to love offerings, which provide most of the Region's income, and increases in income from Regional Conference, the summer Retreat, and Youth Ministry. Regional SEE programs have been deleted, since none are planned.

Expenses. We omitted the MEP Scholarship until a Scholarship Team is formed and proposes what to put in place in light of the changed program at Unity Institute. We shifted the way some expenses are shown; e.g., Uniteens is listed separately from other Youth Ministry expenses. We propose increases for Regional and LUT Representatives, Youth Ministries, the Board's expenses, Earth Care and tithes. Website expenses are lower.

Our budget provides for:

- Regional communication such as the newsletter and website
- Support for ministers, ministries, licensed teachers, Youth Ministry, our Region's field licensing candidate, and other programs
- Regional involvement in the International Association of Unity Churches

Why are there Increased Expenses?

Some increases are due to the increased costs of doing the Region's work. Some are due to the need to be more involved in the International Assoc. of Unity Churches to represent the Northwest Region. Also, recent changes to the bylaws have increased our mailing list to include ministers and licensed teachers separate from ministries.

This Year's Expenses/Income
We appear to be on target for income this year, based on data

through November. So far, expenses are less than budgeted. However, some requests for reimbursement have yet to come in. The fiscal year ends Feb 29th.

Want More Information?

Get more detailed budget information from the Region's website: **unitynwregion.org**. You will find the draft proposed budget, total expenses and income for fiscal years 2005-06 and 2006-07, and the current year's income/expenses through Nov. 2007.

Comments on Budget Due

February 15th

Send questions and comments to:

Rev. Inge Tarantola, Treasurer
34801 Mathews Rd.
Eugene, OR 97405
Ingetar@pacinfo.com

Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God - the rest will be given.

~ Mother Teresa



Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches

Statement of Values

As members of the Northwest Region we commit to:

- Creating spiritual community through education and practice of the Unity teachings and principles
- Experiencing unity in diversity as God in expression
- Practicing innovation and creativity in all that we do
- Healing and transforming through the power of love, prayer and Spirit
- Supporting our children and youth on their spiritual journey.

Mission Statement

We love, respect and support each other as we grow and empower our ministries.

Vision Statement

We are a community of powerful, prosperous and successful people committed to Unity ministry. As a region we pray together, reach out, and care for each other. Through the sharing of resources and information, and the education and training of our leadership, we encourage ministries to thrive. We utilize systems, processes, and technology to enhance our capacity to minister with ease and flexibility. In God, we enthusiastically do together more than we can do alone.

We Offer You:

- Professional peacemaking training
- Our Spring Regional Conference
- Paid Youth Education Consultant who presents workshops/conferences and trainings within our region
- Paid Youth of Unity (YOU) Consultant who presents rallies, workshops/conferences and trainings within our region
- Summer Camp for youth and teens
- A Regional Representative
- A Licensed Teacher Representative
- Two SEE scholarships towards becoming a Licensed Unity Teacher
- One regional MEP scholarship awarded to second-year Student
- Regional Trainings for church boards
- Yearly Family Summer Retreat at Crystal Mountain in August

<i>Fiscal Year 2008 -2009</i>	
<i>Proposed Budget</i>	
Income	
Offerings from Churches and Others	102,200
Sustaining Programs-Summer Retreat	10,000
Sustaining Programs-Reg. Conf. Menucha	3,750
Youth Ministry	13,200
Total Income	\$129,150
Expenses	
Tithe	12,600
Salaries (Youth Programs)	44,530
Contract Bookkeeping	5,400
Newsletter	800
Regional Team Exp	6,000
Employee Expenses Payroll Exp.	3,100
Regional Rep Exp	13,700
SEE Scholarship	650
Insurance	2,800
Bank Service Charges	200
Equipment Rental Visa CC Machine	200
Office Supplies	100
Postage and mailings	300
Y.O. U. Exp	6,500
Uniteens	4,500
Next Generation Unity	1,570
Children's Ministry Exp	7,000
LUT Rep Exp	5,800
Other Exp (Flowers etc)	800
Regional Website	900
Earth Care	1,500
Field Licensing Program	3,500
Contributions Pioneering Church	3,000
Peacemaking and Fall Training	2,500
Judicatory Representative Expense	1,200
Total Expenses	\$129,150
Net Income/(Loss)	0

**NW Next Generation
of Unity Retreat**

SPIRIT IN ACTION
May 2nd - 4th, 2008
Unity Church in Lynnwood, WA

Spirit in Action is your invitation to live and to express your inherent divinity, your most spiritual self, out to those around you. Join in community with Unity's young adults from around the north-west region and beyond as we act from our spiritual understanding

Live your truth through the diverse activities this retreat offers including workshops, small & large group activities, meals, and a service experience. You may register online or by mail through our website unitynwregion.org/nguretreat.aspx. The registration fee is \$160 and includes all meals, lodging, activities, materials, and a weekend in an active spiritual community (save \$25 if you register before March 14th. Registration closes March 28th). We look forward to creating memories with you this May!

Act from the truth within.

"The joy of a spirit is the measure of its power." ~

Ninon de Lenclos

For more info and to register visit:
www.unitynwregion.org/nguretreat.aspx

To have questions answered contact:
Northwest.NGU@gmail.com or
Nick Muncie-Jarvis - ztx@juno.com (503) 524-4030
Tami Graham - gramkracr@aol.com
Krista Harper - kristah30@hotmail.com
Terry Murray - terrymurray@kw.com
Jennie Willingham - jenniewillingham@hotmail.com



**NW Region Youth Ministry
Calendar 2008**

(Some prices may vary slightly)

Jan 24 Youth Services Team at Huston
Jan 25-27 **Youth Team Conference** at Huston Center - Gold Bar WA \$205
For *Ministers, Y.O.U. Sponsors, Uniteen Leaders, Youth Ed. Directors*, and, SEASONED teachers

March 14 - 16 **Kids Camp YOU Counselor Training** Spokane
\$50 + \$180 camp fee = **\$230**

April 25 - 27 **YOU Rally** at Cispus Center near Randle WA
1 check for chapter @**\$180** each person
(\$160 postmark by 3/30/2008)

June 27 Kids Camp - YOU Counselors arrive at Waskowitz
(W YOU Service Project)

June 28 - July 1 **Kids Camp** (Campers arrive)
Camp Waskowitz - North Bend WA **\$200** kids
(\$180 postmark by 6/7/08)

July 13 - 18 Appreciative Inquiry Summit for International Y.O.U. at Unity Village

August 10 - 14 YOU Rendezvous \$250 includes Leadership Training

August 21 - 24 NW Regional Retreat at Crystal MT WA

September 26 - 28 Fall **Youth Ed Directors Leadership** - Seabeck WA **\$185**

Oct 17 - 19 **YOU Retreat** at Camp Waskowitz near North Bend WA **\$180**
(\$160 if postmark by 10/1/2008)

Classes & Events In the Northwest Region

March 29 Healthy Talk Decision-making, presented by Janet Rhodes, licensed teacher

Contact: Priory Spirituality Center,
Olympia WA, at 360-438-2595 or

www.stplacid.org; or

Janet Rhodes at janet@healthytalk.org

Do you know about a Unity training, workshop, SEE In the Field, or other event of interest to congregants, ministers and/or teachers?

Please send information to:

Janet Rhodes, 360-956-3715

Janet.rhodes.lut@comcast.net

3705 Eagle Lk LN NE, Olympia WA 98506

Keep in mind that the newsletter comes out quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

Licensed Unity Teacher News

By Janet Rhodes, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

Last November, I wrote an article on spiritual love and boundaries for the Unity of Olympia newsletter. I thought I would pass part of the article on to you, since as licensed teachers, we often must teach about keeping boundaries at the same time that we are teaching students to love unconditionally.

Boundaries and Spiritual love ... the need for safety. How do we put these ideas together? Doesn't loving everyone unconditionally mean that we include everyone? Doesn't Unity say that everyone is a child of God and therefore Good, and that everyone is in his or her right place, and that we should love and include everyone?

Yes ... and no Let me explore this some more.... Do we have to like or trust someone to feel spiritual love for them? No. Divine Love connects us at a deep spiritual level. It is compassion for that person, no matter where he or she is on his or her life path or he or she behaves.

Part of our journey as spiritual beings in this physical world is to know that others are expressing their Christ nature as well as they can in the moment. At the same time, it is important to spiritually, mentally, and emotionally call on them to express ever more of their Christ essence. To join someone at a level of behavior that threatens harm to an individual or a group is co-dependent behavior. It is harmful to us and to them.

In integrity with Spiritual principles, we expect the highest and best from others. It is wisdom and love to realize when the highest and best that a specific person can express in the moment is unsafe to others.

We must draw the line on behavior that is damaging. And to recognize in wisdom and love how that line must be drawn.

If you would like to read the last half of the article, in which I talked about a time in my life when got to explore this Truth myself, please let me know.

Do You Know about the Licensed Teacher Ministry Team?

Several years ago, the Association of Unity Churches International (Association) established a Licensed Teacher Ministry Team. I joined this team in Fall 2007 and will journey to my first-ever January Team meetings soon. Look for information on what happens at the Team meeting in the next newsletter.

SEE classes

Unity Institute keeps working to expand opportunities to take classes. **SEE classes** are offered on-line and by telephone. Unity's on-line courses include a forum in which you can post your answers to questions and read feedback from instructors and other students. The **Telebridge** option allows you to participate in scheduled discussions while you do your assignments and homework at your own pace. Visit www.unityeducation.org and check out the Distance Learning pages for more details.

New Website

The Association has an updated website with a new look and opportunities for us to contribute ideas and information to the site.

There are two pages of particular interest to licensed Unity teachers: the BLOG page at www.unity.org and the Info Xchange page.

On the BLOG, you can comment on-line on various topics.

On the Info Xchange page, you can share information that is unique to others interested in Unity.

These pages are very new and there are only a few items listed in the BLOG and on the Xchange page.

One in Truth,

Janet Rhodes, licensed teacher representative

Contact Information

Janet Rhodes, LUT Representative

Janet.rhodes.lut@comcast.net

360-956-3715

3705 Eagle Lk LN NE, Olympia WA
98506

Diana Moskal, LUT Rep Alternate

moskaldj@aol.com



Unity Earth Care Northwest

The Earth Care Team envisions all Unity ministries, collectively and individually, responsibly caring for God's Creation through cooperative prayer, thought, and action.

Prayer for New Beginnings

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be. Amen.

—Appleseeds.org

“Path to Earth Care” Workshop Goes International

On July 15, Barbara Wilson presented our Path workshop and a Sunday lesson on earth care to the Unity Church of Nanaimo, British Columbia. It was much like “preaching to the choir”! The people in attendance were individually involved in recycling, conservation, and community gardens. Nanaimo's Licensed Unity Teacher, Kathy Eliassen, expressed interest in using our “Love is the Healer” ceremony for a future Sunday service. (It's available on our webpage—see below.)

Our thanks to Unity in Nanaimo for graciously promoting our work and for their passion for earth care!

* * * * *

Contact Unity Earth Care Northwest at
unityearthcare@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage at www.unitynwregion.org
go to /Programs/Earth Care

Fruits of the Work – Native Area Reclamation in Issaquah

Klahanie is a 900-acre master planned community located in Issaquah, Washington. After moving into Klahanie, Judy Willingham, LUT, saw a huge need literally in her own backyard's native area. Non-native blackberries were smothering most of the native shrubs and had even grown into the trees. In March 2007, with the approval of their community organization, Judy organized work parties to remove the non-native plants.

Condo neighbors volunteered for a total of ten Saturday mornings. In the spring, work parties removed the invasive plants, and individuals pulled shoots all summer. The last Saturday in October another work party planted 25 native shrubs in the reclaimed native areas and spread mulch around the plants to save water and prevent erosion. The mature shrubs will provide shade to deter blackberry growth. The “before and after” photos below show the fruits of their efforts.



Blackberries choking out native plants



Native area with new plantings and mulch



unity.fm
the voice of
an awakening
world

Unity.fm is the new 24-hour Internet radio network from Unity, providing leading-edge, spiritually based live programming.

Visit us at www.unity.fm to explore our entire lineup of network programming and sign up for our free weekly program guide.



Your Youth Ministry Connections:

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(509) 928-0896

Nick Muncie-Jarvis
Next Generation Unity Consultant
9914 SW Conestoga #224
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(503) 524-4030
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The Wisdom of Dumbledore

Dark and difficult times lie ahead. Soon we must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy. But remember this, you have friends here. You are not alone.

~Dumbledore in Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire

Unitreat Planning and Camp

April 4, 5, 6 - Spring Unitreat planning retreat.

All those planning to volunteer at summer Unitreat are invited to join us as we collaborate on creating the summer camp experience. This is a good time to check out the camp facility, orientate oneself to the experiential learning intentions and the environment of Cispus Learning Center and how it compliments our Unitreat curriculum. It is also fun to connect with others serving Uniteens throughout the region. Space is limited to 10 participants so call Chris if you are interested.

June 22- 27, 2008 – Summer Unitreat. For all youth who have finished 6th, 7th or 8th grade, this 6 day, 5 night camp offers 2-1/2 days on the challenge-by-choice ropes course at Cispus Learning Center, service projects, creates meaningful friendships to that last through high school and beyond. Camp integrates socialization, spirituality, reflection and fun for the emerging teen-tweens in your church.

We have many NGUers (Next Generation Unity) adults who serve as counselors for this event. If you are of NGU age & wish or wonder about serving this regional middle school camp in the beautiful, some-say-magical-woods of Cispus contact Chris @ chriscastaldi@bctonline.com or call (503) 632-7792.

Daylight Saving Time

*Move your clocks ahead
one hour before you
come to church Sunday,
March 9th.*

*Make a note
of it...it's
really early
this year!*



Prosperity Task Team

Ann Armstrong, Licensed Unity Teacher, Task Team Leader

News From the Prosperity Task Team

Abundant Blessings to each of you in this New Year! 2008 is overflowing with possibilities from the Field of All Potentiality!

I trust that your ministry has been looking forward to or has received your letter telling of the week that the Prosperity Task Team and the Keepers of the Light in the NW Unity ministries have been or will be holding you in prayer. Collectively we pray for Divine Order in all aspects of your ministry, which includes: inspiring leadership, harmonious relationships, abundant finances, vibrant programs, enthusiastic congregations.

Rev. Dorothy Pierson responded to our prayers for the *Prove Me Now Ministry* which operates in the NW Region. "Thank you for praying for us Oct. 15-21. We are grateful and open to new ideas of abundance! As you give in prayer, you surely shall receive every good thing you envision for you as individuals and as a Region. I love the Northwest region! Lots of love! Dorothy and Phil too!"

Rev. Cheryl Rochet shared an idea that Unity Spiritual Life Center in Yakima is doing to energize Abundance. Each Sunday before they receive their tithes and love offerings there is a time called "Celebrating Abundance." This is an opportunity for people to share good things that are coming to them from God/Universe. Cheryl walks through the congregation with a microphone so that these "good things" are included in the tapes and CDs that are made each Sunday. Cheryl reports that this is very inspiring.

At Unity of Salem this is our second Year of Appreciation. We have

a big dream and have set an intention to build a new sanctuary on our sacred 9 acres on the hill. We intend to do this using the Law of Attraction and the power of Appreciation. Rev. Georgie Richardson in her recent newsletter Minister's Message said, "We intend to draw forth from the Universe, via the Law of Attraction, all of the people, the finances, the ideas, etc. that will be required to accomplish this vision. "She also shared some thoughts on Appreciation and Abundance. "Appreciation is one of the highest vibrations we can hold in our consciousness. Appreciation, love, joy and gratitude all vibrate equally energeticallyWe live and breathe and have our being in a sea of abundance - the Substance of the Universe, my friends. This sea of abundance IS the Kingdom of Heaven; and, Jesus said **it is God's good pleasure to give it to us.** We must allow the Kingdom access into our minds, our hearts and lives, and have faith in Jesus' words and faith in that which we teach in Unity: 'Thoughts HELD in mind produce after their kind.' Robert Collier in SECRET OF THE AGES reminds us: 'You don't have to originate the ways and means. The Universal Mind (God Mind) knows how to bring about any necessary results.' In other words the how is none of our business - the 'how' is up to Spirit. Let us hold the vibration of appreciation and allow Spirit to take care of the how."

What is your ministry appreciating and intending for 2008? E-mail your thoughts and ideas to the Prosperity Task Team.

In Love and Appreciation,
Ann Armstrong LUT
unityonthehill@aol.com

A Very Important Reminder!!

Your Northwest Region offers two scholarships each year for a Spiritual Enlightenment and Education (SEE) session. The scholarships cover tuition and shared room and board at Unity Village. One is paid for by the region and the other is provided by Unity School. Both are awarded by the Northwest Regional Board.

These scholarships are available to Unity truth students that are participating within the boundaries of our Northwest Region.

Application is made by writing a letter to the Northwest Regional Board explaining why a scholarship is requested. The Regional Board will evaluate the applicants prior to selection. All applicants will be informed of the Regional Board's decision.

Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2008 to be considered for a scholarship in 2008.

Send applications to:
Rev. Barbara Wilson,
Regional Representative
1025 W. 11th St.
Port Angeles, WA 98363

For further information, call Barbara at 360-457-3620 or e-mail bwilson@olypen.com.

Please forward this information to anyone who may be interested in a SEE scholarship.

Blessings for an extraordinary New Year!

Barbara Wilson



A Word From Our Regional Representative

Leader of the Pack

My children consist of two Labrador mixes, one part springer and the other part husky. Their combined weight is about 140 pounds. I weigh approximately 110.

When we are out for our long morning walks, I pray that we will not meet another dog along the way. It's not that my dogs are hostile. Just the opposite. They tend to mob the innocent wayfarer with curiosity. It can be pretty alarming for the other dog and its master. So I do all I can to maintain a respectful distance. (I refer you back to our respective weights!)

Unfortunately my restraint and anxiety excite my dogs to the point of barking, growling and lunging. That's when I resort to anger and admonishment, something I learned at home when I was a kid. (I even have a shrill scream that is reminiscent of my mother.) Of course, that approach didn't work then and it doesn't work now. I simply end up feeling embarrassed and powerless; and my dogs now appear dangerous.

They need training, or rather, I need training. I must learn to communicate to their dogness. They really want my affection; and they give me their loyalty. It's my job to lead them confidently and competently through the use of clear communication and boundaries.

Ministries can be like dog packs. When they don't know their boundaries, they can pull you in every direction. You can be overwhelmed and stressed out by the multitude of demands. As spiritual leaders, we have the

highest of intentions. Yet our soul faculty of love* is not enough in the absence of healthy boundaries and good discipline. We may resort to old conditioning and do exactly what we would not do.

I once believed discipline to be cold and rigid. (Obviously I never was a parent, although I have seen parents also challenged in this area.) Now I better understand how discipline is needed to best express wisdom, vision and power.

In the past, I put off dog training classes. My excuses were that I just didn't have the time, or it was too expensive, or the timing was not right. The truth was that I didn't really value the importance of that training for the peace and harmony of our pack.

I realize that it is time and it is worth the cost for me to learn dog language and make clear the boundaries that keep us safe and happy together.

I encourage you as spiritual leaders to get the coaching/counseling/support necessary to learn good communication skills and to establish and maintain appropriate boundaries and rules of conduct for yourself and for the spiritual community that you serve.

One of the first things I will do in 2008 is to attend dog obedience school so my life won't continue to go by way of the dogs!

*Note: I believe that it is important to distinguish between "love" as the all-encompassing principle and "love" as one of our 12 faculties. Love, the principle, permeates all. Love, the power, is only one of twelve!

Fall Training Last October

Rev. Anna Joy Grace presented "Leadership Training: Healthy Congregations" at Unity Church of Kent, Washington. Those who attended found it extremely helpful and a worthwhile experience. Unfortunately only a few individuals and ministries benefited as attendance was small.

The board is addressing at least one possible explanation for the low turn-out—late notice! We are making plans now for the next fall training. The topic we are exploring is appreciative inquiry. We hope to have dates and place by the time of regional conference.

If you have not yet experienced Rev. Anna Joy Grace's workshop on healthy congregations, definitely consider bringing her work to your ministry or subregion.

Ministerial Education Scholarships

When you peruse the initial budget proposal included in this newsletter, you may notice that there is no amount budgeted for ministerial education scholarships. Because of the many changes at Unity School, it is time to rethink how we support this program. The regional board has decided to bring this matter before the conference body in April for discussion and direction.

However, if you have thoughts on this subject and/or a special interest in it, don't hesitate to share your ideas with me by e-mail.

Blessings for a most extraordinary New Year!
Barbara

NW Regional Family Retreat at Crystal Mountain 2008

Jai Tomlin, Retreat Coordinator



Announcing the 28th annual NW Unity Regional Retreat at Crystal Mountain, WA August 21st-24th

Featuring Rev. Richard Levy & David Roth
and possibly... Michael Beckwith TBA.....
and many other exciting presenters and performers

For more information call, 1-888-UNITY10

Or email: registrar@nwunityretreat.org

Or visit our Web Site (under construction for 2008)
<http://www.nwunityretreat.org>

Or contact your local Unity Church

MIRACLES ON THE MOUNTAIN Journey into the Soul

By Alan Minor
Photos by John McAnulty
& Alan Minor



Once upon a time, not so very long ago and not so very far away, an idea was born — an idea, which grew and crystallized into an annual event that has touched, even transformed, the lives of thousands of people. Each summer since 1982, in a high alpine valley on the northeast flank of Mt. Rainier National Park, several hundred people from the Pacific Northwest, the greater U.S., and Canada have gathered at Crystal Mt. Ski Resort. For over 25

years they have literally *gone to the mountain* to be inspired, refreshed and renewed by the presence of not only exceptional transformational teachers and creative artists, but also one another.

In the Beginning

During the 1970's, Seattle area Unity churches held an annual retreat for their members at Seabec Conference Center. By the early 1980's, a need for change was felt. In 1981, Scott Sherman, Senior Minister at Seattle Unity Church, heard Jerry Jampolsky, author of *Love Is Letting Go of Fear*, speak about the transformational power of the principles and teachings presented in *A Course in Miracles*. That occasion sparked the conception of an expanded, more inclusive retreat that could serve many more people, not only Unity congregations, but also the general public. Jampolsky's talk led Sherman to contact other *ACIM* teachers and luminaries. He arranged for them to gather in 1982 for a 'miracles festival' supported by Sherman, other Unity ministers in the Seattle area, and a handful of volunteer staff. Thus, 'Miracle Mt.' was born at Crystal Mt. Resort in July 1982. It was an instant and remarkable success. Over the course of 10 days, including two weekends, upwards of 1,500 people came to hear programs and music by *ACIM* teachers and authors such as Hugh Prather, Judith Skutch, Bill Whitson, Jerry Jampolsky, and Kenneth Wapnick, Marianne Williamson and performers Oman and Shanti, Charley Thweatt, Bob and Heidi Hall, and Michael and Maloah Stillwater. To this day, people who were there comment on the sense of wonder, joy, and exhilaration they experienced.

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Miracle Mt. continued as an *ACIM* centered event through 1984, organized and supported by Puget Sound area Unity churches. From 1985 forward, the North West Unity Region of the Association of Unity Churches has provided sponsorship. A paid Coordinator was hired and the program expanded beyond a focus on *A Course in Miracles*. In 1985 the program was held at Whistler Mt. Ski Resort in British Columbia. In 1986 it returned to Crystal Mt. Resort where it has mostly remained and become known generally as the 'Crystal Mt. Retreat.'



Unity in Diversity

When asked about the purpose and intention of this annual event, Dr. Jai Tomlin, Event Coordinator, responded, "Our intention is to bring together the awakened leadership of our time so that, together, both presenters and retreat participants may realize and become the fullness of our potential." According to her, this leads to a focus on creating programs that are rich with a variety of presenters and experiences. That inclusive attitude seems to allow for learning that includes the heart as well as the mind.

Programs in recent years have included workshops by leading teachers in various realms of consciousness; music and concerts by professional musicians; theater skits; a Saturday night dance; and small group sessions to explore creativity and artistic expression, meditation, Native American wisdom, experiencing more joy in life, chanting, singing, dancing, relaxation, meditation, and spiritual development.

Keynote presenters have included well-known authors, teachers, activists and leaders, such as Danaan Parry, Jerilyn Brusseau, Wayne Dyer, Don Miguel Ruiz, Joan Borysenko, Alan Cohen, Amy and Arny Mindell, Matthew Fox, Mary Manin Morrissey and many others.

Teachers affiliated with the Unity movement have included, Rev Scott Sherman; Rev. Richard Levy; Rev. Linda Spencer; Rev's Mike and Faith Moran, Rev. Sallye Taylor, Rev. Jim Rosemergy, and many more regional ministers.

Musicians and performers have included local, regional, and national artists Billy Mack, Carlos and

Johnny, Merkaba, Charley Thweatt, Karl & Jeanne Anthony, New Folk artist David Roth, and Jim Scott - composer and performer for many years with The Paul Winter Consort, especially for *Missa Gaia* performances.

Experience spiritual renewal - feel strengthened, refreshed and inspired. Join us this year for a heart lifting, awe inspiring, foot tapping, and fun filled retreat with the NW Unity community of friends.

See you on the mountain!

Celebrate the Four Seasons of Peace and Nonviolence

Go to www.agnt.org for more information!

SEASONS for PEACE and NONVIOLENCE



Gandhi King Chavez
Season for Nonviolence
(January 30–April 4)

Season for the Earth
(April–June)

Season for Humane
Service
(June–August)

Season of Interfaith
Celebration
(September–December)



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