Since 1865
THE ALLIANCE
Portland's First Unitarians

SEPTEMBER 2017

Fellowship

LEADERSHIP NOTES: CO-PRESIDENT

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 11th

Dave Miller, Host of *Think Out Loud*, Oregon Public Broadcasting

Note the date: October 11th

November 1st

Jeff Mapes, Senior Political Reporter, Oregon Public Broadcasting

JOIN US!

For only $20 a year in dues, members are enriched by fellowship, learning, and service to the First Unitarian community.

To join, pick up a form at a monthly luncheon or email Petie Padden at petiepad@icloud.com.

Visitors are always welcome.

Welcome to the start of another informative and inspiring year for The Alliance of the First Unitarian Church. It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of talented leaders and serve with Jan Wolf as Co-President. Together with our new Leadership Team, we have worked hard to continue the tradition of community, service and life-long learning as we plan for the 2017-2018 Alliance year.

A Garden of a Thousand Stories – thus begins our year with a talk by Steve Bloom, Chief Executive Officer of the Portland Japanese Garden. Our programs over the next nine months will touch on the many aspects of our larger community – nature, stories of our time, local politics, arts in the Northwest, doctoring for our homeless and urban poor, poetry and prose, and of course music. All the details are on the yellow bookmark, sent with your renewal letter. We hope you will be with us for all the stops on our journey.

As in the past, we will have three catered luncheons and six brown bag events. We hope to offer the fan-favorite ***Lunch-In-A-Jar*** again this year. Watch your monthly E-Newsletter for all the details of how to make your luncheon reservation and order a *Lunch-in-a-Jar* for the brown bag events.

Planning is starting for the annual Greens Sale. Soon you will be hearing from one of our Leadership Team members about opportunities to volunteer for one of the sale committees. The Alliance continues to make a difference as we share the proceeds of the Greens Sale with our church and various agencies in the larger community that serve women and children.

As with the Greens Sale, we depend on your volunteer efforts that help host our monthly luncheons and keep our large and active organization going. Thank you for all

you do and we hope you will continue to step up and lend a helping hand.

Jan and I welcome your comments and suggestions as we work with the Leadership Team to continue the traditions of The Alliance.

Yours in fellowship,

Veronica Williams
Co-President
vlw14@comcast.net

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Suzanne Kosanke

Though Suzanne Kosanke claims she stands back and waits to be asked, her legacy of service reveals willingness. A birthright Unitarian in the St. Paul, MN Unitarian church, she began "divine service" as a cherub in the Xmas Pageant, eventually growing into the role of Angel Gabriel. During her years at the St. Paul church, she wrote RE curriculum published by the UUA, served on the Board, and directed Adult Education's Wider Ministry Program.

In college, Suzanne graduated with a BA and BS in History from the U. of Minnesota, as well as an MA in English from U. of Hawaii where she remained to teach a variety of American Lit and composition classes.

Suzanne Kosanke continued

She joined the small UU church in Honolulu and her participation ranged from parking attendant and kitchen duty to Membership and Board secretary.

While teaching for 20 years at the U. of Hawaii she and her husband Dennis lived on the 30th floor of an apartment and raised their two children. But Suzanne admits she "felt deprived" living in Waikiki. "Tomatoes just wouldn't grow in pots. Home is where I am growing things!"

Driving through Portland on later visits to their son at the U of O, she observed that Portland supplied public transportation and "cultural stuff" and was "just weird enough." Following her retirement she and Dennis settled in a NE bungalow and she planted a garden where vegetables, herbs and flowers flourished; tomatoes, though, became squirrel snacks!

Suzanne's participation here at First Church reflects interests as varied as her garden: Quilts of Love, Chalice Choir, Covenant group, and the Children's Mosaic Restoration project. Recently she joined The Alliance. "I love being in a group with such a distinguished history and worthy goals." Already on the Leadership Team, she shares Program responsibilities this year with Eric Terrell.

Soft spoken, observant , humorous, she is also an engaging storyteller...with telltale Hawaiian roots. Listen– and watch– for her occasional accompaniment… swaying arms ala hula!

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Leslie Pohl-Kosbau

Leslie is a bona fide birthright UU! Her deep commitment to First Church began as a babe-in-arms during Richard Steiner's term in the 1950s and led to singing with the Children's Choir while her mother accompanied on piano.

With a Bachelor in Fine Arts from U. of Oregon she returned to First Church, taught Kindergarten through 2nd grade in our Children's RE program and chaired the RE Committee. Her skills led to additional leadership positions: member/Chair of the Nominating Committee, Vice Moderator of the Board, and President of the Pacific Northwest District of the UUA.

While her BFA emphasized print making and etchings, (have you seen her prints recently displayed on the Art Wall or her Alliance posters?) she devoted her career to shared gardens— "produce to give away." She was the first female Parks Supervisor and the second female horticulturist at Portland Parks and Recreation. In 1975 she started the Portland Community Gardens Program and directed it for 35 years.

Now retired, she maintains her passion for chamber music and gardens. "I am so lucky," she claims. "My travels with the Hardy Plant Society have taken me to many gardens, Normandy, Brittany… all wonderful, though my preference is for the more natural English and Japanese."

For 40 years Leslie and her family have enjoyed living in an historic (1892) SW Portland home. There she and her husband raised two sons, one who is deaf, both of whom now live out of state.

Describing herself as an extrovert, Leslie comments she is "always trying to learn how to be kind to all creatures." She recalls a poignant personal experience of kindness from homeless strangers after a serious fall a few years ago.

Dedicated to preservation of the church artifacts that are our "living history," she gives much time currently to chairing the Children's Mosaic Restoration committee and maintaining the archives. She knows our church's historical distinction, but she believes strongly, "First Church needs to look forward to our future as a downtown church. We need a planning committee *now* to begin considering ways our valuable spaces can serve future needs for our church as well as our community."