UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 5
Music Changes Everything: How BRAVO is Bringing El Sistema to Oregon
Seth Truby
Executive Director, BRAVO Youth Orchestras

January 9
The Pacific Wonderland’s Creative Flux
April Baer
OPB’s State of Wonder

JOIN US!
For $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 the Welcome Table during a monthly luncheon or contact Membership Chair Marty Anderson.
martaffy@aol.com
503-643-1177

LEADERSHIP NOTES: PROGRAMS

The Alliance’s practice of having two people to fill some positions is a super fantastic idea. It makes for a lot of “cross pollination.” And the fact that the terms alternate is brilliant. All this to say that this position is a busy one. Suzanne Kosanke and I share the job this year, and we alternate months being responsible for the program.

Working with Suzanne is a gift. She is organized, hard-working, encouraging, and she anticipates everything. And even Eric Terrell (who I followed) is in the wings, occasionally offering suggestions, information and encouragement.

Program work is enormously satisfying. The first task is thinking about program topics and presenters. What would members enjoy? What are topics of special interest in these times? What programs could draw The Alliance and the body of the church into closer connection? What topics could stimulate our thinking, present new perspectives, teach us?

The next step is to go in search of those presenters. In my brief experience of seeking presenters for five programs, there has been quick agreement from all but one, and that was due to reluctance to commit so far in advance.

Then come the details. I write about the program weeks in advance for our Enews, the Front Steps, and Sunday bulletin. I get poster information to Leslie Pohl-Kosbau, and provide a little information to Julie Wunderlich for the Fellowship newsletter. I meet with the speaker in advance for an interview and write an introduction. I determine if we need any special set-up in the Eliot Chapel and relay that information to the sextons. I meet the speaker at noon on luncheon day and make sure all is in order. Eventually the time comes to sit down, listen and enjoy.

Our best program leads have come from you, Alliance members. If you have an idea for a stimulating, enjoyable program for the future, please send it to me in an email. You will find my email address in your membership directory.

You are an important part of the teamwork that makes for successful programs!

Yours in Fellowship,
Carolyn Buhl,
Co-Vice President of Programs

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Mary Andrews

The holiday season begins...a season when grateful families and loved ones share tables and, perhaps, stories. Mary Andrews will gather again on Thanksgiving with her three sons and their families. They all live in Portland! We can imagine their retelling of humorous and poignant family stories. In residence now at Willamette View Manor, Mary has compiled a book of such stories, entitled Writing for Fun, written by her beloved husband Jim before he died in 2016. Mary’s dedication to the well-being of family and youth has been a focal point her whole life.

The daughter of a Methodist minister, Mary was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. She met Jim at church when he was eleven. They married after she completed her BA in Education from Hamline University. Mary taught 3rd grade for six years while Jim pursued his doctorate and they began to raise three sons. While Jim taught and did research, then chaired the Department of Communication Disorders at...
Mary Andrews, continued

Northern Illinois University (NIU-DeKalb), Mary earned a masters degree in family studies and completed post-masters work in family therapy at NIU. She served for many years as therapist and director at Kairos Family Center.

Their complementary careers resulted in a mutual discovery: children experiencing speech disorders “made amazing improvements” when families and children partnered with speech therapists. Mary and Jim co-authored and published a book of their findings and co-directed workshops around the US and Canada.

When the couple retired, choosing a place to live was a no-brainer. They settled in Portland in 2002, joined First Church, and enjoyed years of travel, Portland Symphony, Oregon Ballet Theater, and their growing family. Mary’s devotion to family-centered matters led her to join and lead our Lay Ministry program, co-chair COHHO (Committee on Hunger and Homelessness), and enjoy a group reading books with racial justice themes.

In Mary’s comfortable apartment, her computer and desk occupy a convenient space, “for emails, mainly,” she says. But when holding Writing for Fun, she reflects, “I write my own stories….” And she had better add a page! On October 23rd Tim and Jen Andrews joyfully welcomed Mary’s sixth grandchild, Dexter Floyd Procter Andrews. We join the Andrews family in the spirit of thankfulness this season!

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Betty Ann McKay

When Betty Ann and Bob McKay were choosing their retirement location, Portland came quickly to mind; two of their three children were living here. Looking back on the various places in which she has settled, Betty Ann noted she has lived east to west across this country, as well as places in between. Born in Brooklyn, she spent her childhood/high school years in Westchester County, NY, but headed south for college at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. She majored in political science, an early interest that led to a summer internship in the office of a Kentucky senator in Washington, D.C. About that experience Betty Ann admits, “My stay was brief. My eyes were opened.”

She devoted many of her career years to teaching primary students throughout the Midwest. For a few years in Illinois she enjoyed teaching American History to 8th graders. Currently, Betty Ann’s continued interest in political matters is evident in her reading choices– the latest, E.J. Dionne’s One Nation After Trump.

After Betty Ann and Bob settled in NE Portland and found First Unitarian, Betty Ann entered into the life of our church by reading plays with the Good Times group, serving on the ushering team, and joining The Alliance in 2016. Singing with the Women’s Choir she realized, “this is where I experience the beloved community.” She also has strong concerns for social justice matters.

 Plenty of activities around Portland also hold her interest: walking tours with the Architectural Heritage Society, monthly service at Albertina Kerr Center, live theater, and light hiking. Her gardens look a little thirsty. She notes, “I’m looking forward to the rainy season.” Then, she confesses she might tackle the pile of unread newspapers and books beside her reading chair.

Betty Ann looks forward to meeting more of us. Let’s introduce ourselves.