



*Congregations doing justice together*

**Save The Date! Saturday, October 14, 2023**

## **Oregon UU Voices for Justice Annual Meeting**

**Theme:** Connecting Communities for  
Justice

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of  
Eugene  
(Also on Zoom)

**When:** Gather at 9:30 AM, end at 3:00 PM

**Speakers:** Rev. Alison Miller, *First Unitarian  
Church, Portland;*

Brenda Smith, *Executive Director, High Desert  
Partnership*



## **Highlighting Our Congregations' Work**

### **The Roseburg UUs Celebrate Pride!**

Jacie Pratt writes:

The PRIDE FESTIVAL at the fairgrounds was a marvelous success. Our UU booth was busy offering greetings, supportive answers to leading questions, hugs in teary moments, and information about Unitarian Universalism. Five of us set up our booth with banners and rainbows, UU literature, and chairs to encourage chatting.

Many asked why we, a church, were there, which gave us a chance to offer our pamphlets and explain our First Principle.

[Donate today](#)

## **Oregon UU Voices for Justice Mission**

**Oregon UU Voices for Justice** is a statewide liberal religious advocacy network that seeks to educate, organize, and mobilize UUs and their congregations to advocate for policies

One young girl, standing slightly back from our table, asked why a church would be important to her. I hope everything about my demeanor and answer touched her heart and mind. Another, standing not quite close, asked a question and let her tears fill her eyes. A heartfelt hug reached her and the rest of the contact happened therein. Bit by bit, our UU information was carried off by the curious.

Many agencies in the county brought their support and information to the festival. Personal contact was plentiful and resourceful, with many ways to help find your way in life when help is needed.

Yes, the protesters were there. They were held outside the gates for a while by strong security. They entered the festival eventually, since the invitation was open and free, and they could not be denied. So, in they came, into the center of things in their usual way, with the police watching carefully. Eventually, music and entertainment filled the air and drew everyone's attention to the Drag show. The protesters quietly watched, or not, as they chose. The festival volunteer security staff were very effective.

As the festival ended, we knew we had had a memorable day. We left, knowing in our hearts that we had been part of an immensely important event, affecting the way people live together in Douglas County. I hope there will be more opportunities for our members to experience the heart of their values and bring them to action.

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## The UU Church in Eugene Did More Than Create a Land Acknowledgment Statement

A few members of the UU Church in Eugene who were involved in the creation of the Land Acknowledgement statement read quarterly at the Sunday service formed an Indigenous Connections Circle (ICC), Some ICC members have tribal affiliations, and some do not. One month, ICC decided to host a lunch to raise money for the Chinuk Wawa Scholarship Fund at Lane Community College. Chinuk Wawa is a contact language once spoken across the Pacific Northwest. Like many Indigenous languages, Chinuk Wawa lost many speakers during the 20th Century, and is now being revitalized. ICC's language program was developed in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

ICC chose to support this program because of its proximity to the church and because of a need that is not being met elsewhere. The cost of tuition is often an obstacle for people who would like to enroll. ICC would like to make Chinuk Wawa available to more people.

ICC provided Lunch for Language at the church on a Sunday in May. An information table displayed materials written in

designed to build an Oregon that:

- Affirms the worth and dignity of every person.
- Promotes justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Supports religious freedom.
- Upholds the right of conscience and the democratic process.
- Recognizes and respects the interdependent web of all existence.

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## Members of the Board

**Sue Craig, Chair** - UU Church in Eugene

**Barbara Dow, Co-chair** - Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland

**David Delk, Treasurer** - First Unitarian Church, Portland and Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland

**Kathleen McKinney, Secretary** - UU Fellowship of McMinnville

**Kevin Fairham-Wheeler** - First Unitarian Church, Portland

**Max Merrill** - UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend

**John Raymond** - Florence UU Fellowship

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## Current Board Activities

- **Planning** a 2023 Annual Meeting
- **Rebuilding** personal congregational

Chinuk Wawa by students of the program, including translations of children's picture books, a coloring book, and a magazine. Over 35 people participated, raising over \$700 in contributions. ICC hopes that this event is the start of a growing relationship with the program.

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- relationships, post-pandemic
- **Preparing** for the 2023 Oregon legislative session
  - **Endorsing** a proposal for an Oregon public bank
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## 2023 Oregon Legislative Information

Check out this page for information on the 2023 Oregon legislative session and committees:

<https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/2023-legislative-info.html>

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