



# In Unison

The monthly newsletter of Unity in the Olympics

January 2017

## Doing Evil in God's Name

**By Suzanne DeBey:** *Suzanne has been a lay leader in the Port Angeles/Sequim Jewish community for 35 years and has written a regular PDN column on Jewish topics for almost 30 years. In 30 of her 37 years of teaching, she taught world religions as part of the curriculum, requiring her to study the various faiths and cultures of the world*

“Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction.” (Blaise Pascal) Jihadist attacks have all been ostensibly carried out in the name of God. One group told the victims “God wants you dead”. In America, Westboro Baptist church members say that God hates gays, and those supporting gay rights will be condemned to hell. A pastor says he believes the wounded in the Orlando shooting should also die simply because they were in the gay nightclub. The murderer at a Planned Parenthood clinic said he did it “in God’s name”. American Muslims, peacefully expressing their faith, have been beaten, stabbed, shot and assaulted. “When religion turns men into murderers, God weeps” says Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in his book *Not in God’s Name, Confronting Religious Violence*.

Watching hate perpetrated in the name of religion, I am reminded of the third commandment, “Thou shall not take the Lord’s name in vain”, commonly assumed to mean we should not curse using God’s name. However, the Hebrew actually says we should not “carry” God’s name to commit evil. This commandment now takes on a whole new meaning. Christianity and Islam, as two of the three Abrahamic religions, accept the Jewish Bible as part of their holy texts, so they also follow the 10 commandments. Justifying evil through their faith then is a violation of that commandment.

Of course there are verses in religious texts demanding the killing of one’s enemies, apostates or non-believers. However, when they are understood in historical perspective, it is clear this intense hatred is no longer what major world religions espouse. All extremists “cherry pick” those verses to express not God’s will, but their own hatred and revenge for perceived wrongs.

When Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Elie Wiesel, may his memory be for a blessing, was asked if the 9/11 devastation could be explained, he said, “Can it be explained? Yes, by hatred. Hatred is the root of evil everywhere. Racial hatred, ethnic hatred, political hatred, religious hatred. In its name all seems permitted. For those who glorify hatred, as terrorists do, the end justifies the means, including the most despicable one.” Terrorism, however, is not limited to just one religion. Anyone attacking innocent people to spread fear and hatred is a terrorist.

In order to heal our world, this baseless hatred must end. Those spreading fear and hate should be called out for the bigotry they are encouraging, both ordinary citizens and political candidates. Rabbi Karyn Kedar says we can put our shattered world back together “by following Godly imperatives like giving, compassion, justice and acts of loving-kindness. If the world is broken, the mystics say, fix it. In this way you mend your spirit and eventually the world.” (*God Whispers*).

*Continued on Page 4*

# THANK YOU VERY MUCH

*To Matt who made  
the entry-way and sidewalk safe  
after the snow.*

*To Tim for adding  
twinkling stars to  
the Candlelight Service*

*To all those who participated  
to make the Candlelight  
and Christmas day  
Services extra special*

*To Teia for organizing all the  
Christmas decorating*

*Your generosity  
touches us all!*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

13<sup>th</sup> Ruth McNeece  
16<sup>th</sup> Bob Eash  
22<sup>th</sup> Teia Stitzel  
22<sup>th</sup> Barbara Wilson  
23<sup>rd</sup> Michele Menia  
25<sup>th</sup> Laraine Gau  
31<sup>st</sup> Jan Wyman

*Take pride in how far you have come  
and have faith in how far you can go.  
Unknown*



### MISSION STATEMENT

Unity in the Olympics provides an accepting place in which to experience the Peace, Love, and Oneness of the Christ within so that we may more fully express these gifts in the world.

## UNITY IN THE OLYMPICS

2917 East Myrtle Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Phone: 360-457-3981  
Email: [uito@olympen.com](mailto:uito@olympen.com)  
[www.unityintheolympics.org](http://www.unityintheolympics.org)

**New Office Hours:** Mon. & Wed., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

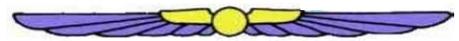


### SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Meditation 10:00 - 10:15 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship time following service

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Teia Stitzel, President  
Duane Morris, Vice President  
Janice Wyman, Secretary  
Alice Alexander, Treasurer  
Charles Mawson, Trustee  
Kim Perkins, Trustee  
Erik Simpson, Trustee



### LICENSED UNITY TEACHER

Margaret Denstad

## Our Church Finances

| November Income                   |                   | November Expenses         |                |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Tithes/Offerings                  | \$ 3224.75        | Advertising & Promotion   | \$ 142.04      |
| Rental Income                     | 225.00            | Bank Service Charge       | 37.15          |
| Book/Lit Sales                    | 4.00              | Books/Literature Expense  | 18.50          |
| Classes & Workshops               | 21.00             | Building Expense          | 43.31          |
| Fund Raising                      | 8.07              | Kitchen & Potluck Expense | 69.34          |
|                                   |                   | Postage & Delivery        | 47.00          |
|                                   |                   | Computer & Internet       | 37.95          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>               | <b>\$ 3482.82</b> | Copy Machine              | 171.71         |
| <b>Tithes (Oct. paid in Nov.)</b> |                   | Guest Speakers & Music    | 625.00         |
| Silent Unity                      | \$ 100.00         | Janitorial & Lawncare     | 211.25         |
| Northwest Region                  | 100.00            | Office Supplies           | 0.00           |
| Unity Worldwide Min.              | 50.00             | Payroll                   | 802.87         |
| MANNA                             | 50.00             | Telephone                 | 50.55          |
| TAFY                              | 50.00             | Tithe Expense             | 410.00         |
| Hospice                           | 30.00             | Utilities                 | 327.85         |
| First Step                        | 30.00             | Worship Supplies          | 120.00         |
| <b>TOTAL TITHES</b>               | <b>\$ 410.00</b>  | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>     | <b>3114.52</b> |



The Divine  
and I are one.

## POTLUCK & SPECIAL MEETING

SUN., JAN. 15TH  
AFTER SERVICE

Board to discuss:  
Construction Funds

Then join Rev. Donna for:  
"Conversation: Forming  
Our Vision Statement"



Continued from Page 1

We must speak out against anyone carrying God's name to commit evil. Embracing those who hold different beliefs is crucial in showing the love that all faiths espouse. Rabbi Kedar says, "Never betray your sense of right. The self cannot truly be full without tending to the needs of others. We live in relationship, not in isolation. Our quest for kindness and love must extend beyond the walls of self to the hearts and minds of others."

Kein yhi ratson...may it be God's will. Shalom.

What We're Reading:

NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG by Kent Nerburn

*This beautiful book is the story of two men, one white and one Lakota, each entrenched in their own culture yet struggling to construct a bridge of understanding to share with the world. In the quote below, Dan (the Lakota elder) is addressing Kent's fears about writing the book. The lesson is potent, ageless wisdom...a lesson for our time and for all time:*

"There's a reason why my people have survived," he said. "Now, I want you to understand this. People are going to get angry with what you write. They are going to be angry at you and they are going to be angry at me. I don't care. I am not a coward."

I made a mild protest. "That's an awfully harsh word."

Let me finish. You cannot be afraid. There is good anger, too, and you have that. It is the anger from seeing clearly. It's the same anger I have. It's the anger the Old Ones warned me about. You must learn to control that anger, then it can be of use. But there is bad anger, too. It is the anger of people who only want their own way. That anger is selfish. It is a child's anger, and you must not back down from that anger. If you back down from it you are being a coward. Do you understand me?"

"I think so," I said.

"Good," he answered with finality. "You will use your gift well if you stop being afraid of other people's bad anger."

## The Interfaith Community of Clallam County Invites You to: Listening Circles



**When:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6pm

**Where:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 East Lopez, Port Angeles

**What:** Listening Circles are a type of dialogue that fosters curiosity, compassionate understanding and deeper respect for the experiences of each person present.

**Topic:** How do we unite as a community and as a country? Building Bridges with "the other" (part 2). What's working? Where do you need help?



Consider watching Lesley Hazleton: The doubt essential to faith.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ORDQFh0Byw>

For more information, contact Marilyn Eash at [marilynnoe@msn.com](mailto:marilynnoe@msn.com) or (360)477-0681.

### Blessing

From all that is broken,  
 let there be beauty.  
 From what is torn, jagged,  
 ripped, frayed,  
 let there be  
 not just mendings  
 but meetings unimagined.  
 May the God in whom  
 nothing is wasted  
 gather up every scrap,  
 every shred and shard,  
 and make of them  
 new paths,  
 doorways,  
 worlds.

Jan L. Richarson  
*In the Sanctuary of Women*

### Meditations Guided by Jeshua's Words

as channeled by Judith Coates  
 Eva McGinnis, facilitator  
 The 2nd & 4th Fridays  
 from 7:30—8:30 p.m.

The focus of the ongoing meditation experience will be to deepen (or start) your meditation practice as you breathe and relax into Jeshua's beautiful healing words. "In this sacred space of Oneness you can reconnect with Spirit energy and experience Jeshua's blessing. As we join together we will create an even more powerful energy of Peace and Love." Judith Coates. (Love offering accepted)



**Sponsored by Oakbridge University**

### THE TWELVE POWERS JANUARY

The power for this month is **FAITH**  
 The ability to believe, intuit and perceive.

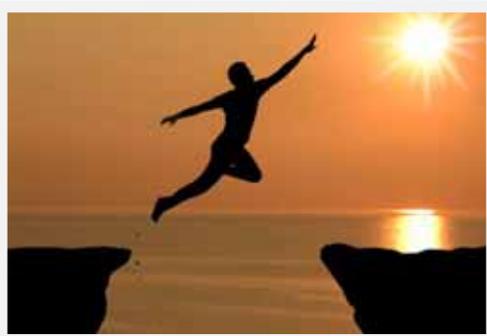
Disciple—Peter

Area of the body—Center of Brain

Color—Blue

Affirmation— *Faith blesses my day  
and paves my way*

*Faith*  
 is seeing  
 light with your  
 heart when  
 all your eyes see is  
 darkness



# Candlelight Service 2016



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING:



The Board met on December 18th. Alice Alexander, Teia Stitzel, Charles Mawson, Duane Morris, Kim Perkins and Jan Wyman were present. Judith Coates came to share her thoughts with the Board

**Finances:** The Nov. tithe was \$348. The Board allocated \$100 from income to the Minister's Search Fund (new balance: \$5807) and \$100 to the Building Fund (new balance: \$3932). A budget team has been formed and will meet in late January or early February.

**Administration:** Judith shared her belief that it was time to actively seek a minister. She and Kim will draft a letter to UWM explaining what we have to offer and what we're looking for in a minister. This information can then be provided to candidates.

**Special Membership Meeting:** Scheduled for Jan. 15 to discuss use of designated funds for roof repairs with the Board, and vision statement refinement with Rev. Donna.

**Outreach:** Alice will deliver the Angel Tree gifts to the Salvation Army

**Building Maintenance:** Duane plans to move contents of the old shed to the new so the old can be torn down. Erik moved paint to the back room of the church during the freeze to prevent it being ruined.

**Next Board Meeting:** January 15th after the service.

**JAMES TWYMAN** *Presents:*



**A SOUND CALLED UNITY**

Screening at Unity in the Olympics  
 Sunday, January 22nd, 12:30 PM  
 Admission: \$10

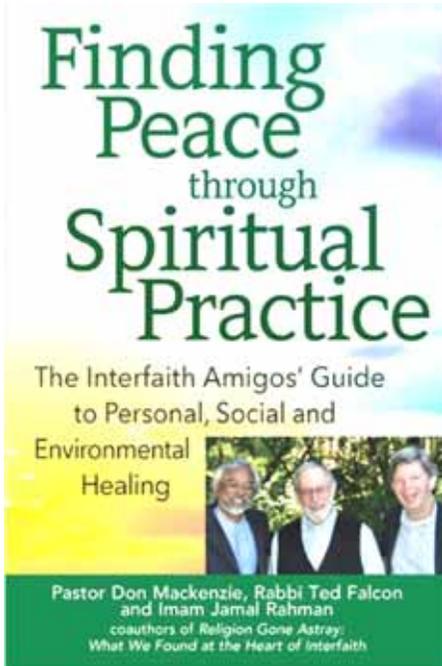
# *The* TWELVE POWERS

*Celebrating the Charles Fillmore Classic*

Watch the Trailer at: <https://vimeo.com/180241648>



PRODUCED BY REV. ED TOWNLEY, DIRECTED BY JAMES TWYMAN, WITH REV. WENDY CRAIG-PURCELL, REV. HOWARD CAESAR, REV. RICHARD MARAJ, REV. JUSTIN EPSTEIN, REV. MOLLY ROCKEY, REV. OGUN HOLDER, REV. MARJ BRITT, REV. LISA DAVIS, REV. LARRY SCHELLINK, REV. LINDA MARTELLA-WHITSETT, REV. BRENDA LYN BATCHELOR, REV. CATHY JEAN NORMAN, REV. TIM LYTTLE, & 27 OTHER UNITY MINISTERS



### Class Dates & Times ~ Location

Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
January 18 ~ March 8, 2017

Unity in the Olympics  
2917 East Myrtle Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

360.457.3981  
[www.unityintheolympics.org](http://www.unityintheolympics.org)  
UitO@olypen.com

### Required Text

[Finding Peace through Spiritual Practice:](#)  
The Interfaith Amigos' Guide to Personal,  
Social and Environmental Healing

### Reading Assignment

Feb 8: Introduction & Chapter 1

### Instructor

Rev Donna Little  
RevDLittle@gmail.com

### NEW CLASS OFFERING:

## Don't Miss This Wonderful Learning and Sharing Opportunity

*If we want to heal our personal and planetary problems,  
we have to move beyond talking to spiritual practice.*

Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon and Imam Jamal Rahman, who have become known as *the Interfaith Amigos*, believe truly effective interfaith dialogue can inhibit the demonization of any religion. Their work together, which began with the horrors of 9/11, aims to help us see all authentic spiritual traditions as sacred avenues to a shared Universal Reality—when we achieve this, the healing of our shared personal and planetary problems begins.

In this, their third book, the Interfaith Amigos look at the specific issues we face in a pluralistic society and the spiritual practices that can help us transcend those roadblocks to effective collaboration on the critical issues of our time. Focusing on the interconnection of spirituality and authentic interfaith dialogue, they examine:

- How Spiritual Awareness Can Heal Our Own Traditions
- Beyond Polarization: Confronting Our Most Personal Obstacle
- Spiritual Paths to Environmental Stewardship
- Spiritual Paths to Social Justice
- How to Make Spirituality a Way of Life

This book helps awaken readers to the spiritual consciousness within each of us that provides the foundation for much-needed healing. Each chapter includes spiritual practices to aid us in reclaiming the deep spiritual truths of our own being.

*Unity in the Olympics is partnering with  
The Interfaith Community of Clallam County*

*to make this class available to members of our community. If you would like to participate in a Study Group, but can't come to the Unity class on Wed. evenings, contact Donna Little (360 549-4944) or Marilyn Eash (360 477-0681). We have day and evening groups in Port Angeles and Sequim.*

*Let your friends know about this exciting opportunity.*