



In Unison

The monthly newsletter of Unity in the Olympics

February 2017

The Reason Is: To Love

By Kim Perkins

I heard a Rabbi being interviewed on the radio recently about what happens to the giver when he or she does some act of loving kindness to another. He said, **“It may be a paradox, but when we are loving, we are as close to our human perfection and our God-self as we can get.”** We fulfill our humanity and our spiritual purpose all at once. In other words, we always get something back when we give from our heart. We benefit, as well as the other person.

Philosophers and thinkers and all of us can get into deep discussion about the question “Why are we here?”, but it is rather simple. **The reason we are here is to love.**

Before we dismiss this thought as sentimental drivel espoused by ministers and sappy songwriters, think about it for a moment: We feel closest to God when we are kind and thoughtful. We feel our lives count for something when we say or do something that helps another in some way.

We feel our greatest joy when we share love. Isn't that true? Don't you feel good about yourself and your life and your world when you let yourself be truly loving?

There is always a benefit to giving, whatever it is we are giving. What goes around comes around. No matter how you give, there is a benefit, but some benefits are more lasting than others.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about doing things that others can see – loud prayers, fasting, and giving money. He doesn't say that doing things so others can see you doing them and giving you credit is wrong. He simply says that when you do good for the purpose of **“being seen of men”**, you have already received the benefit.

But Jesus indicates that there is a greater reward on an inner level - **“from my Father which is in heaven.”** Meaning that when you give for the sake of giving, when you love for the sake of loving, there is a much greater return from God, a return that comes back to you again and again.

English author Albert Pine said, **“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”** It's establishing a consciousness of love, or an energy field of love that remains with you, that you then operate through almost without knowing it.

The title of this article is The Reason Is: To Love. That means our reason for existing is not only to sit around and be loving, but actively let love move through us. We are not only to think loving and kind thoughts, but to actively be kind.

How do we do that? By listening, by offering kind words, by forgiving, by believing the best about others, by seeing the Christ in others, by letting out our own imprisoned splendor, by a hundred random acts of kindness that you never get recognized or thanked for.

We usually think of Albert Einstein as an intellectual, but I'd like to share some words of his about the importance of other people. I think what he says is true and insightful: **“Strange is our situation here on earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that people are here for the sake of other people, for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy.**

Continued on Page 4



To Tim for diligently having a children's lesson prepared every Sunday

To all those who contributed food or money for the TAFY dinner Jan. 21st

To Alice and Kim for the huge effort it took to generate year-end documents: 1099's and contribution letters

To Akasha for her excellent janitorial work and for arranging Sunday Service flowers

Your generosity touches us all!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

10th Tom Cline
14th Robin Hubbard-Swanson
25th Duane Morris



When you love and laugh abundantly, you live a beautiful life. (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

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www.unityintheolympics.org

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

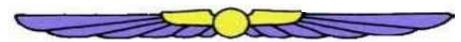


SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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

December Income		December Expenses	
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 4410.90	Advertising & Promotion	\$ 232.53
Rental Income	400.00	Bank Service Charge	6.35
Book/Lit Sales	8.00	Books/Literature Expense	111.25
Classes & Workshops	0.00	Staff Gifts	150.00
Misc. Income	59.00	Conference, Mtg. Expense	33.30
		Insurance Expense	670.18
		Computer & Internet	37.95
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4877.90	Copy Machine	117.51
		Guest Speakers & Music	350.00
Tithes (Nov. paid in Dec.)		Janitorial & Lawncare	162.50
Silent Unity	\$ 100.00	Office Supplies	15.65
Northwest Region	50.00	Payroll	771.26
Unity Worldwide Min.	50.00	Telephone	50.55
MANNA	50.00	Tithe Expense	348.00
TAFY	50.00	Utilities	327.85
Hospice	24.00	Worship Supplies	18.41
First Step	24.00		
TOTAL TITHES	\$ 348.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	3403.29



SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 19TH
AFTER SERVICE



Continued from Page 1

Many times a day I realize just how much my outer and inner life is built upon the labors of my fellow men (and women), both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to return as much as I have received and am still receiving."

In South Africa there is a philosophy called Ubuntu which affirms our humanity and intrinsic connection to other people. Translated from the Zulu to English, it says **"I am what I am because of who we all are."** South African Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu describes Ubuntu as the **"true essence of being human"**.

We are here on this earth to love and support each other. When I am loving, I benefit personally and all those exposed to that love benefit too. In turn, as love spreads, more and more people are touched and uplifted, and inspired to also be kind and loving. It sounds simple, but this is how we can heal ourselves, each other and our planet. So, truly, our reason – our purpose – is to love.



Kim is an author and national speaker. She has enjoyed successful careers in retail, telecommunications and nursing. Both her parents were Unity ministers. She has been an active participant and guest speaker at many church centers.

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



When: Tuesday, February 14, 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.

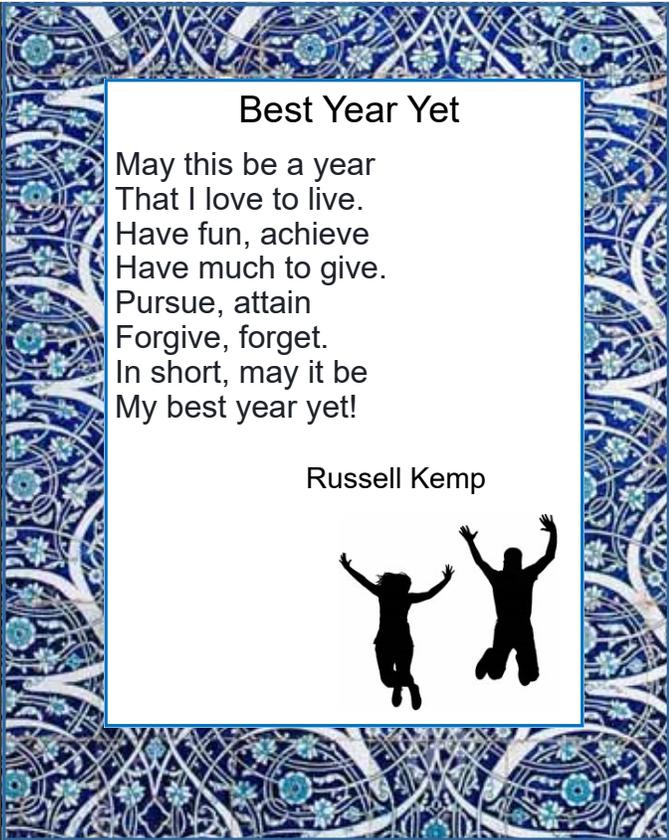
Who: members of churches and faith groups, including those not affiliated with a church; followers of spiritual practices, including those who are "spiritual but not religious." Invite your friends. All are welcome.

Why: Too often, religion is misused as an instrument for division and injustice, betraying the very ideals and teachings at the heart of the world's great traditions. However, at their best, religions and spiritual traditions inspire billions of people in wise and wonderful ways. Interfaith dialogue, at its best, is people deeply rooted in their own tradition creating a bridge across differences to respectfully share with another.

How: A multi-faith team will facilitate the evening. Participants share their personal understanding and experience on a group topic.

Topic: What does it mean to you to "love your enemies"?

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



Best Year Yet

May this be a year
That I love to live.
Have fun, achieve
Have much to give.
Pursue, attain
Forgive, forget.
In short, may it be
My best year yet!

Russell Kemp



Our Vision

Thank you so much for your loving support to Unity in the Olympics by sharing in our process to form our Vision Statement at the visioning meeting on Jan. 15th. **Good Work, Well Done!**

Through our open and passionate conversation, we have developed the CORE IDEA of our Vision for UitO:

Spiritually Transformed Lives.

This is the End Result of our Being here.

We left with the assignment to consider this phrase... **Spiritually Transformed Lives.** Let it sit in our Hearts and in our Minds. How do we speak of it? How do we keep it simple? How do we hold it in a place of Honor?

Please share any thoughts or feelings you have about this Vision Statement:

The VISION of Unity in the Olympics is:

Spiritually Transformed Lives.

Rev. Donna Little

revdlittle@gmail.com

THE TWELVE POWERS FEBRUARY

The power for this month is **STRENGTH**

The ability to endure,
stay the course, persevere.

Disciple—Andrew

Area of the body—Loins

Color—Spring Green

Affirmation— *I have the strength
to accomplish all that is mine to do.*

A little more
persistence, a little more
effort, and what seemed
hopeless failure may
turn to glorious success.

- Elbert Hubbard



Bits & Pieces

On Jan. 28th, **Allie Winters** took part in the **Solo and Ensemble Festival** at the Port Angeles High School where musicians from this area participate. Allie performed a duet with Kelsey Cammack and a piece with other choir members. She was chosen to attend the **All State Honors Choir** in the Seattle on Feb. 17th. The following week she will go to Idaho with the Jazz band for the **Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival**.

TAFY (The Answer for Youth) has moved to its new location in the vacated **Gross Nursery** building on 1st near Race Street. The big project at the moment is renovating the downstairs bathroom to include showers. The living room of the former apartment upstairs will be used as a day room for families with young children. Plans are in the works for a vegetable garden in the nursery yard. And ultimately, the facility will reopen as a commercial nursery to provide job training and skills for youths.

**To donate or volunteer call:
(360) 670-4363**

Jaden Hayes lost his father when he was four, and his mother died in her sleep when he was six. "I tried and tried and tried to wake her," he said. "Anyone can die." His Aunt, Barbara DiCola became Jaden's guardian and shortly after moving in with her he told his aunt he was sick and tired of seeing everyone sad all the time. He asked her to buy him some little toys to give away in downtown Savannah, GA to make people smile. This little boy, who has every reason to be sad, now elicits not only smiles, but hugs and tears from total strangers. See his story on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCPc2RIMTII>

**Random Acts of Kindness Day is Feb. 17th.
What will you do to make someone smile?**

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The Board met briefly on January 15th. Alice Alexander, Charles Mawson, Duane Morris, Kim Perkins, Erik Simpson, Teia Stitzel, and Jan Wyman were present.



Finances: The Dec. tithe was \$497. The Board allocated \$100 from income to the Minister's Search Fund and \$100 to the Building Fund.

Administration: After a short discussion, the meeting adjourned to commence the membership meeting.

Special Membership Meeting: Fourteen members of record were present. The meeting was called to discuss the Board's use of member-donated designated funds from the bathroom remodel/sewer project to finish paying for emergency roof repairs in September (Total cost: \$6950). The members were asked whether they would "forgive the loan" of \$1650 or whether the Board should reimburse the member-donated fund account. The vote was to forgive the loan. The Board will continue to designate funds to the Building Fund as they have been: A minimum of \$100 per month and more when income allows. Formation of a contingency fund was discussed.

Next Board Meeting: February 19th after the service.



**Gathering for Hope
January 21st**
Organized by an ad-hoc group of community members including educators, farmers, ministers, musicians, physicians, government employees, small business owners, social workers, students and retirees, this gathering attracted more than 300 people to sing, march and share their hopes for the future of our community.

Once at the Heritage Center, there was more singing, drumming by a Klallam family and a the sharing of hopes for our community and our nation. The most poignant were those spoken by children: homes for all, no hunger, a clean environment.



Participants marched from the memorial park adjacent to the court house (see below) to the Lower Elwha Heritage Training Center which the Tribe had graciously made available. The group was lead in singing by the Interfaith Community Peace Choir.

Those who had written and/or drawn their hopes were invited to transfer them to cloth to be made into a collective art piece after the event. The gathering ended with marimba music, food and a feeling that bridges had been built and hopes revived.



What We're Reading:



Having read many books about experiencing change in our lives, none has recently affected me so deeply as Broken Open by Elizabeth Lesser. This book was given to me by a physical therapist in the rehabilitation center that I was in. She gifted it to me a few days before my discharge.

As Buddha said "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear. And I was ready!"

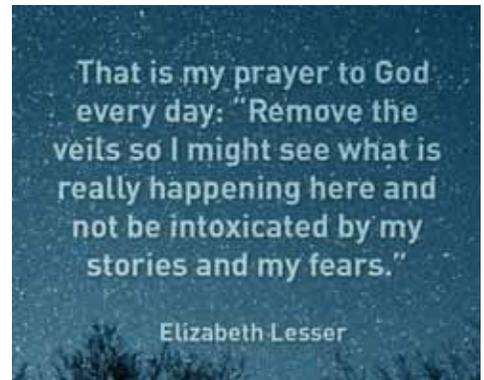
As you can see, the cover of this book is simple, with a sub-title of "How Difficult Times Can Help Us Grow". It also reflects a quote on it from Caroline Myss, one of my favorite writers, stating that this was "a most extraordinary book".

The author of this book, Elizabeth Lesser, is the co-founder of The Omega Institute in NY, recognized internationally for its work in holistic health and spirituality. The book begins with a personal story of her trip to Jerusalem with a friend. Along the way she meets an old long-haired man who comes up and tells her "something is wrong" and "you are afraid", which led her to a personal experience of breaking open and blossoming.

Chapter after chapter this book flows easily with her stories and those of many others; and somewhere along the way, I connected to their stories. Ultimately the book is about experiencing change and seeing how we grow through all experiences. For me personally, it invited me over and over again to feel my feelings and not just "know" in my mind that I was okay. Sometimes I don't feel okay; and this book invited me to embrace my feelings as part of my soul's growth. I especially liked the story of "No Birth, No Death" in chapter 5 as described by Thich Nhat Hanh at a workshop given at the Omega Institute. In this talk he referred to a simple piece of paper, looking into the nature and life of the paper, which does not have a beginning nor end. So, too, it is with our bodies!

The language of this book is easily readable. I quickly enjoyed all 300 pages, slowing down to absorb each chapter that spoke to me. I look forward to the author's next book entitled "The Seekers Guide", Making your Life a Spiritual Adventure.

Pat Coughlin Mawson



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