



In Unison

The monthly newsletter of Unity in the Olympics

August 2015

We're taking a break this month from our series by Catherine Ponder to share this interesting bit of Unity history...enjoy.

How Unity Adopted Eastern Religious Ideas

By Rev. Eric Page

On New Year's Eve 1914 a large crowd gathered to dedicate a new Unity administration building in Kansas City, Missouri. Bundled in heavy winter coats, the people stood in the dark street before two giant limestone columns. Myrtle and Charles Fillmore, founders of Unity School of Christianity, watched as handwritten blessings from around the world were added to the cornerstone. At midnight the crowd saw electric lights illumine the dark structure as the ring of chimes ended the silence.



Charles Fillmore Myrtle Fillmore Founders of Unity Church

Charles Fillmore addressed how a foundation must begin with a great idea. The analogy of a structure was appropriate as his speech described how Unity's Christianity was built on the "right concept of God as Spirit."

Today the international Unity movement is sometimes described as a positive, practical, progressive approach to Christianity. Its spiritual communities and publications utilize the Bible, Jesus' teachings and prayer. Unity honors the universal principles in all religions, encouraging the practice of meditation and spiritual growth.

Unity Founders

Given their early biographies, the unorthodox religious leadership of the Fillmores seems an unlikely prospect. From birth Myrtle Fillmore (1845-1931) learned the religious values of the Methodist Episcopal Church her family attended near the small settlement of Pagetown, Ohio. Charles Fillmore (1854-1948) was born on the Chippewa Indian Reservation near St. Cloud, Minnesota, where his father worked as a government official with the tribe. Charles was largely self-educated and learned Christianity through self-interest rather than regular attendance.

When Charles and Myrtle married in 1881, they began exploring their personal theologies together, particularly a new religious lay movement known as New Thought. These groups explored progressive Christian perspectives, based on Jesus' teachings.

Eastern spiritual ideas were also especially popular with New Thought folks, leading the Fillmores to explore the ideas of syncretism, mysticism and spiritual evolution. Syncretism combines different forms of belief and may attempt to synthesize disparate ideas or practices. Mysticism is the experience of direct communion with ultimate reality. Mystics report direct knowledge of God and spiritual truths through subjective means like intuition. Spiritual evolution involves the consciousness unfolding, developing and changing.

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THANK YOU!

Duane, Marguerite, Charlotte, Elaine
for gardening

Jan, Char, Alice and Gayle for work-
ing on the newsletter

Barbara for kitchen duty

Charles & Pat for being Prayer
Chaplains

Pat, Charles, Alice, Charlotte and
Teia for being Worship Assistants

All of our guest speakers

Alice for her bookkeeping skills

Teia, Char, Jan and Karen Jensen
for helping provide flowers

The County Fair Committee
Steve, Lisa, Teia, Char and Jan

Allie, Trista and Katlynn
For the Children's Blessing

*Our church works because of
all of you, and we are grateful!*

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3rd Linda Reidel

3rd Susan Zurcher

5th Susan Kreml

12th Penny Gruver

19th Lou Lawrence



Youth is the gift of nature,
But age is the work of art.

Garson

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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Email: uito@olympen.com
www.unityintheolympics.org

Office hours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays & Wednesdays



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
Steve Schach
Charles Mawson



LICENSED UNITY TEACHER

Margaret Denstad

Our Church Finances

June Income		June Expenses	
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 3145.00	Guest Speakers	\$ 750.00
Rent	120.00	Advertising & Promotion	267.55
Book/Literature Sales	5.00	Copy Machine	171.71
Fundraising		Insurance	184.24
Classes/workshops	45.00	Book/Literature Expense	33.59
		Office Supplies	58.01
		Worship Supplies	(10.00)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3315.00	Payroll	746.55
		Telephone	140.22
Tithes (May, paid in June)		Janitorial	75.00
Silent Unity	\$ 100.00	Utilities	265.91
Northwest Region	100.00	Music	0.00
Unity World Wide	50.00	Computer & Internet	0.00
MANNA	50.00	Tithe Expense	511.60
Dream U	50.00	Bank Service Charges	33.43
TAFY	50.00	Lawn Care	248.30
Salvation Army	111.60	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3476.11
TOTAL TITHES	\$ 511.60		

Like any family, we are always in need of certain staples:

- ♥ Cough drops
- ♥ Toilet paper
- ♥ Paper towels
- ♥ Paper napkins
- ♥ Tissues (small)
- ♥ Postage stamps



DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER GATHERING DUST?

We're currently having technical difficulties with the computer at the sound board in the sanctuary and could use a desktop if you have one you'd like to donate. We also could use a laptop or two. Currently, Teia brings hers for screening Youtube videos and song lyrics during Sunday service. A laptop for the minister's office would also be a great help. If you have one to donate or know of a great deal, please contact the church.



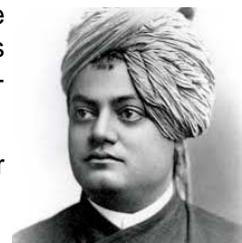
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Early Influences

Three key sources indicate the influential books the Fillmores read. The first source is the Fillmore's inventory of books they sold through the first issue of *Modern Thought*, published in April 1889. It advertised 109 books and 94 pamphlets, which they sold from their one-room office in a downtown Kansas City office building. The strongest emphasis among the works was on Christian Science and Theosophy. The inventory also included Eastern-themed texts such as *The Bhagavad Gita*, *The Yoga Philosophy*, *Legends and Theories of Buddhists* and *The Light of Asia*.

The second source is the Fillmore Family Book Collection, today housed in the Unity Library and Archives at Unity Village, Missouri. Its 87 books represent the family's interest in history, religion and literature, including the Transcendentalists. The full contents of the original library are unknown.

The third source is a list of seven pamphlets, based on his American lectures, for sale by Swami Vivekenanda in the July 1, 1897 issue of *Unity* magazine.



Swami Vivekenanda

Other Influences



Annie Rix Miltz

Many people influenced the Fillmores, particularly New Thought teachers Emma Curtis Hopkins, Annie Rix Miltz and R. C. Douglass. The Fillmore's teachers were all Americans who shared their fascination with Eastern philosophy.

There was no great Asian pilgrimage in the Fillmore's lives, and in fact, during the first 40 years of their organization, they rarely left Kansas City. They managed a family life and administered an ever-growing religious structure. In September 1893, they did attend the Parliament of World Religions held at the Columbian Exposition (a World's Fair) in Chicago.

Unity's Uncommon Christianity

It was at the Parliament of World Religions that Swami Vivekananda, considered a key figure in the introduction of Hindu philosophies and interfaith awareness to America, spoke of religious tolerance and universal acceptance. From there, Unity founders joined other groups in challenging the widespread Western understanding of the Divine. While today the idea of one God expressed in different religions is especially popular, the notion was relatively new when the Fillmore's began their quest.

Unity is still benefiting from positive practical concepts from Eastern religions. Today we live in a religiously diverse nation. Through its embrace of syncretism, mysticism and spiritual evolution, Unity continues to demonstrate how listening to and honoring a variety of spiritual practices benefits our world.



Emma Curtis Hopkins

Eric Page is a Unity minister, archivist and spiritual education instructor. He coordinates research and preservation of Unity's rich heritage in the [Unity Library and Archives](#). Eric also serves as an adjunct faculty member at [Unity Institute® and Seminary](#) and teaches church classes on religious history, scriptural interpretation and spiritual principles.



What Unity Means to Me

The next few months I will be doing a series of interviews asking the question "What does Unity mean to you?" I will ask as many people as I can, so please be thinking about this. My first interview is with Carl Alexander. He has been studying Unity and other religions for a long time.

Carl says, "For me, Unity is a way to know and understand the inner meaning of Christianity, through the process of intuitive knowledge called 'Gnosis'. It is a way to gain greater understanding about one's self, other people and the mystery of life, by delving into the Eternal Oneness which is at the heart of all things. Unity in the Olympics is a place where I can go to be with like-minded seekers of spiritual values, and always find a welcoming home-away-from-home.

Blessing,

Alice



NEWS: Allie Winters and others will be doing an Improv Theater on the 7th and 8th of August at the Port Angeles Community Theater (1235 Lauridsen Blvd). Time is 7:30. This should be fun.

Patty Edwards, Unity minister from Kerrville, Texas will be visiting her sister Alice and brother Guy from August 2nd through August 4th.

Gayle Wilson will be taking over as Administrative Assistant in September when Char leaves for Oklahoma for the winter.

Wanted: Musician

We are holding in prayer that perfect musical person who will become our pianist and possibly more. If you have the passion, skill and experience we are looking for to be that person, please apply today. Or, if you know of someone who might "fill the bill" or would like to supply other musical talents occasionally, please encourage them to contact us. Musicians will be paid a stipend for each Sunday or Special Event.



Please call 360-457-3981 for more information. Thank you!



ANGEL OF THE MONTH

Duane Morris

Even though you may not see him, Duane is a quiet, sneaky Angel. He dedicates a portion of his time to help Unity in the Olympics in many ways.

- ♥ Garden Guru
- ♥ Loves Landscape Design
- ♥ Gives regularly of his "Treasures"
- ♥ Vice President of the Board
- ♥ Volunteers his financial expertise to Unity
- ♥ A devoted spiritual supporter
- ♥ Helps paint fences
- ♥ Great listener
- ♥ Ready hugs and smiles

We are so grateful to Duane for all that he does to make this place of Spirit loving and welcoming.

Notes from the Board



The Board met on July 19 with Teia Stitzel, Steve Schach, Charles Mawson, Duane Morris, Alice Alexander, Jan Wyman and Char Coachman present.

Finances: The June tithe of \$332 will be allocated as follows: Silent Unity \$100, Unity NW Region \$50, MANNA \$50, UWWM \$50, Dream U \$30, TAFY \$22 and Salvation Army \$30. One hundred dollars will also be donated to Tom Swanson's Cycle for Education drive.

Administration: The Board will investigate getting a line of credit to complete the sewer hook-up and handicap bathroom projects. ♥ Board terms were adjusted so that all four Board members are not leaving the same year. ♥ We will update QuickBooks (our accounting software) when the 2016 update is available

Outreach: A committee to plan our booth at the fair will meet Sunday, July 22nd after church. ♥ We will ask for sign-ups for 24 hours of prayer in conjunction with World Day of Prayer on Sept. 10th. ♥ We will renew our ad in the yearly "Who's Who" with the addition of our window logo.

Maintenance: Need volunteers to finish painting the Memory Garden fence. ♥ Approved \$100 for replacing the broken transom window latches in the sanctuary.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, August 16th at 12:30 p.m.

IT'S COUNTY FAIR TIME!

Your Loving Presence Needed

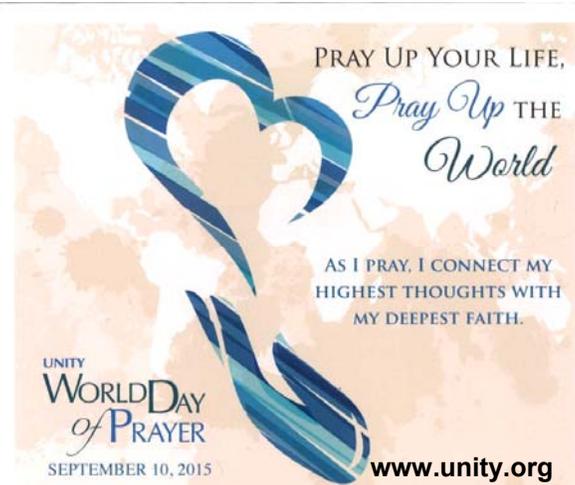
Unity has a booth at the county fair August 20-23. Can you help "people" the booth? There's nothing to sell, including Unity. Just be there to greet people and direct those interested to free literature and perhaps answer a few questions.

We're also having a "Give Away" rather than a raffle. Duane is providing a couple garden consultations, and we also have some Essante Organic products and a few other things.

We need at least two people in the booth at all times. Entry for vendors is free. The booth is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. We could also use



set up help on Wednesday. Even if you can only do a two-hour shift, please contact the church by phone or email to sign-up.



Pranic Healing at Unity

gayle@pranichealing.com
360-477-1872



Pranic Healing Intros:
August 7 & 14 7 pm—9 pm

Twin Hearts Meditation:
Every Friday 9 am—10:30 am

Lords Prayer Meditation:
1st & 3rd Friday 6:30 pm—8:30 pm

Please come and bring a friend!

Garden Consultations:



Duane Morris (No relation to Cisco), who does such a beautiful job on our gardens here at church, is offering his expertise in landscape design for your garden.

The Cost: A donation to the church in any amount you choose.

Contact Duane at:

duannemorris@wavecable.com

360-461-1293

New ADA Toilet Installed

Pat and Charles Mawson donated a new handicap-friendly toilet and the cost of installation.



It has been installed in the men's bathroom which will become unisex with proper signage. We're still searching for a carpenter to create a wheelchair access door through the back of the library.

Thank you Charles and Pat!

Our New Old Fence



We're looking for volunteers to finish painting the Memory Garden fence. If you have time, we have all the supplies. Call or email the church (uito@olyphen.com)



Celebration of Life

Ellen Ravis made her transition on July 7th. She came to us a year ago from the East Coast and purchased a home in Sequim which she shared with her kitty Monkey. She was active in the Newcomers Club and here at Unity. In her creative life she was a violinist, owner of many horses and cats, scrapbooker, photographer and painter. At an early age she learned to fly and at one point she and her husband owned an airport. Come help us celebrate her rich and creative life:

**August 30 at 1 p.m.
Here at Unity**



It was a day of culinary delights. First we watched the hilarious video of the late Rev. Skye St. John's "Restaurant of Life", where (be forewarned) you get what you order. It's not advisable to order from the "Whine Bar" especially the "Aches and Champagnes". You might also want to avoid the "Not My Fault Fritata" and the "Poor Me Pork Chops".

Following the service we had a more Positive Potluck. Board members provided taco bar fixings, which were augmented by a yummy variety of salads and side dishes. Pat Mawson's baked beans were awesome!



Taco Bar Plus (Linda, Barbara & Jan)



POTLUCK SUNDAY

July 12TH



Our Closing Circle: Let There Be Peace on Earth



Junior Worship Assistant Allie