

Spirituali-Tea takes a look at three kinds of thanks

Folks who are interested in discussing diverse spiritual ideas in an atmosphere of respect and inquisitiveness are invited to join Spirituali-Tea, a group that has been meeting for years, at 875 Seventh St. in Florence at 6:30 p.m. This week, on Monday, Nov. 19, the group will discuss the concept of gratitude.

In one of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's talks, he defined giving three thanks — verbal, heartfelt and active.

"Thankfulness is of various kinds. There is a verbal thanking which is confined to a mere utterance of gratitude. This is of no importance because perchance the tongue may give thanks while the heart is unaware of it. Many who offer thanks to God are of this type, their spirits and hearts unconscious of thanksgiving. This is mere usage, just as when we meet, receive a gift and say thank you, speaking the words without significance. One may say thank you a thousand times while the heart remains thankful, ungrateful. Therefore, mere verbal thanksgiving is without effect," he said.

Real gratitude, according to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, comes from the heart: "But real thankfulness is a cordial giving of thanks from the heart. When man in response to the favors of God

manifests susceptibilities of conscience, the heart is happy, the spirit is exhilarated. These spiritual susceptibilities are ideal thanksgiving."

He continued by defining a deeper and more profound way of showing actual gratitude.

"There is a cordial thanksgiving, too, which expresses itself in the deeds and actions of man when his heart is filled with gratitude. For example, God has conferred upon man the gift of guidance, and in thankfulness for this great gift certain deeds must emanate from him. To express his gratitude for the favors of God man must show forth praiseworthy actions. In response to these bestowals he must render good deeds, be self-sacrificing, loving the servants of God, forfeiting even life for them, showing kindness to all the creatures," he said.

Those "praiseworthy actions" — selflessness, love for others, kindness and self-sacrifice — are the only way to honestly show real gratitude.

At the end of the gathering, Spirituali-Tea will read the prayer requests that have been left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse, 208 Laurel St.

For more information, call 541-590-0616.

Kiwanis to host free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 22



SUSSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

Volunteers at the 2017 Florence Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Florence Elks Lodge 1858 helped serve traditional holiday fixings to more than 200 people.

The community is invited to the Kiwanis of Florence's annual Florence Community Free Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 22.

The dinner will be from noon to 2 p.m. at the Florence Elks Lodge 1858, located at 1686 12th St.

Cash donations will be accepted but aren't required, along with donations of dry or

canned food for Florence Food Share.

"Our focus is on the guest," said Thanksgiving Dinner organizers. "We will be doing things a bit different this year in the dining room. We will be taking orders from the seated guests and meals will be served to them at their table."

Small teams of volunteers of Kiwanis members, Key Club

members and community members will work to cover numbered tables, which will fill the Dining Room and Back Room/Dance Floor area (on the West Side).

All meals will be served from the kitchen in a restaurant atmosphere.

Volunteers are still needed. To help, email florencekiivolunteers@gmail.com.

FRAA gets into the 'Spirit of Giving' with tree

The non-profit organization, Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), is pleased to offer customers a special way to do some Christmas shopping/decorating while giving back to youth in our area. FRAA artists are donating all sales of the handmade items on the gallery's "Spirit of Giving" Christmas tree to the Mapleton Art Program.

Art instructor Jessi Nelson teaches to all grade levels, from

kindergarten through 12th.

As Nelson states, "I would use the donated funds to add to the school supplies for ceramics, tapestry weaving and relief printmaking. I base my curriculum around skill-building through various media, as well as the principles and elements of art."

FRAA Art Center and Gallery is located at 120 Maple St. in Historic Old Town Florence.

The resident artists invite the community to come by and see their beautifully decorated tree Wednesday through Sunday from now until Christmas. Also, be sure to stop by on "Shop Small" Saturday, Nov. 24, as FRAA will be serving spiced apple cider, mimosas and cookies to customers starting at 2 p.m.

It's their way of saying "thank you" for supporting local small businesses.

Community Chorus plans concerts

The Community Chorus of Florence Oregon will pay homage to Leah Goodwin at the Dec. 8 and 9 concerts.

Leah volunteered generously to the Chorus and other venues throughout the years before her unexpected death recently.

Taking her place in providing technical sound support to the Chorus this year will be Topher Keppol, whom Leah trained in sound technology.

The Goodwin family generously donated the sound equipment for this concert.

The concert, "Sing We Noel", will take place on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101 in Florence.

These performances are free to the public and refreshments will be served after each concert. Donations will be gratefully accepted and will be used to support the Siuslaw High School Music Program and the Community Chorus.

For information call 541 997-3469.

SHIBA to help with Medicare

People with Medicare have the opportunity to change their health and drug plans through Dec. 7.

Local SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) counselors are open for appointments most Fridays during Annual Enrollment in the computer lab at the Florence campus of

Lane Community College.

To schedule an appointment, call 800-722-4134.

SHIBA counselors assist with Medicare choices, problems, enrollments and questions. As trained volunteers serving under the direction of the Center for Medicare Services, they offer free help and services.

Join Us In Worship

<p>BAY BERRY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Friday Evenings – 7 p.m. SINGSPARATION You are invited to come and sing your favorite Ole Time Gospel songs. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship & refreshments before we sing. Bay Berry Square is 1.5 miles north of Fred Meyers' Store 88906 Highway 101 N, Florence, OR (milepost 185N) For info: Jack - 541-999-8278 + Ron - mccrary9483@gmail.com</p> <p>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Located at Munsel Lake Road and North Fork Road Worship Services 10:00 AM Sunday All are welcome! 541-997-7268</p> <p>COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH 4590 Hwy. 101, Across from Fred Meyer -- 997-7418 Sunday School, 9:30a.m. - Worship, 10:45 Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. -Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.</p> <p>CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD Corner of 10th & Maple --997-3533 Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Family Connections Sunday Nov 18th, Florence Events Center. Cross Road Assembly of God Thanksgiving service at 10am, lunch served after florencecrossroad.org • office@florencecrossroad.org</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC 1935 25th St. - 997-7660 • Pastor, Ron Allen Series "People of the Bible." on Wednesdays 6 p.m. A friendly place to worship, vacationers welcome. Sun.; 11am & 6pm, Sunday school 9:45am.</p> <p>FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 2nd & Ivy - 997-2961 -Non-Denominational Worship Service: 9:00 am & 10:30 am Middle School and High School youth groups meet on Wednesday.</p> <p>FLORENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16) 1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.) Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Worship: Sunday 11 a.m. www.churchofchristflorence.org</p> <p>FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 12th and Nopal -997-9020 Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Mens' Breakfast @ 8 a.m. Online Worship Service@ www.florencecnaz.com</p> <p>FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) - 997-3951 Worship on Saturday 10:30 A.M. Adult/Children's Sabbath School 9:15 A.M.</p> <p>FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP 87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road RUAAUU? All are welcome to explore the answer. Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m. www.florenceuuf.org - (541) 997-2840</p>	<p>FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Worship Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday Adult Classes at 9am; Children's Sunday School at 10:30m Coffee Fellowship Following Service 2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025</p> <p>FOURSQUARE CHURCH 1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) -- 997-6337 Pastor George Pagel -- Something for the entire family. Sun. Services: 10:45 a.m., Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m. Website:florence4square.com</p> <p>NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. 21st & Spruce Street - 997-8113 Adult Forum 9 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship services; Sun. 10:30am & Mon. 5:00 pm Welcome to all! www.lutheranchurchflorence.com</p> <p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW Traditional Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Reverend Greg Wood Sunday School and Nursery - Organ and Choir All Welcome. Come as you are. 3996 N Hwy 101 997-7136</p> <p>RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) "War is still not the answer." FCNL We worship in homes at 11am Sundays Call 997-4237 or 902-9511 for locations.</p> <p>RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S. Every Sun., Bible Class 9 a.m., Worship Service 10 a.m. 85294 Hwy. 101 S. - 997-8038 DVD of Weekly worship service available. Pastor Randy Benschoter</p> <p>ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2135 19th St. - 997-6600 8:30am, Tuesdays, Morning Prayer Sunday Services: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Wed, 11 a.m. Everyone Welcome - Come walk our Labyrinth.</p> <p>SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE DUNES CATHOLIC CHURCH Masses: Sat. 5:30 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. 1.5 miles south of river on Hwy 101 - 997-2312</p>
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WHAT'S COMING UP:

<p>NOVEMBER FESTIVAL OF TREES November 24th 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>SeaCoast presents KEN LAVIGNE November 24th 7:00 p.m. Pre-Talk 6:15</p> <p>HOLLY JOLLY FOLLIES November 30th, December 1st & 2nd</p> <p>EMPTY BOWLS November 30th 5:00 p.m to 8:00, December 1st 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. December 2nd Noon to 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>DECEMBER A Christmas Story December 13th - 16th</p> <p>Charles Suniga "Home for the Holidays" concert Dec 22nd - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Jazz Kings "Ring those Bells" concert December 12th - 7:30 p.m.</p>
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