

Unitarians to discuss ‘Power of Gratitude’ Sunday

Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller will lead the worship service at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday Nov. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m.
 This week's message is titled, “The Power of Gratitude.”
 “We experience more of whatever we focus on. This

principle is becoming more understood every day,” said Miller.
 “And, as those who followed the Oprah Winfrey show as long ago as the 1990s discovered, when we focus on what we're thankful for, our lives begin to change.”
 Miller is a longtime student

and practitioner of this principle and will help address some of these questions on Sunday:
 Why is this so?
 How does it work and what can we do with this understanding?
 FUUF, located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road,

is wheelchair accessible. Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.
 For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org.

Spirituali-tea to host film screening, birthday celebration

When the Baha'is of Florence hosted a screening of “The Gate,” a documentary about the life of The Bab, at City Lights Cinemas last month, audience members asked, “What about Part 2: The life of Baha'u'llah?”
 In answer to that question, there will be a showing of “Light to the World” at the Siuslaw Public Library at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 25.
 Both films were produced to honor the 200th anniversary of the births of The Bab and Baha'u'llah, founders of the Baha'i Faith.
 “Light to the World” chronicles the life of Baha'u'llah from his birth in current day Iran in 1817, through a series of imprisonments and exiles over a 40-year period, to his last days in Akka, in current day Israel, where he passed from this life

in 1892.
 Today, the cities of Akka and Haifa are homes to the Baha'i World Center.
 All are welcome to the gathering. After the film there will be a time for questions and answers, followed by light refreshments and fellowship.
 Then on Monday, Nov 26 at 6:30 p.m., the group will celebrate the 74 birthday of James, who has co-hosted Soups On (now Spirituali-Tea) with his wife, Suzanne, for almost 20 years. The celebration is open to all and will take place at 875 Seventh St.
 The topic for Monday's evening will be “Laughter.”
 The gathering will include cake, coffee, tea and fellowship, ending with prayer requests left in the prayer pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse in Old Town.

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because there isn't a pool in Mapleton. Marco Polo, Sharks and Minnows. You know, fish out of water!”
 Santa Claus will also be there, though there will not be an official photographer.
 “You'll have to do that yourself, thus #SiuslawSantaSelfies,” Spencer said.
 Participants will also be able to share their views on parks and recreation in the Siuslaw.
 “The idea is very much to help people come together to talk about the future of parks and recreation in our region, and to do it with fun,” said Spencer. “This is a series of programs that we're planning over the next while. I think we want to keep going until we hear from a lot of people about what they want to see.”
 The first event in the series, which was held in October, took place in various locations throughout Florence.
 “We had events at the Senior Center with yoga, the pickleball court with John Griffin, and we had some events at Miller Park,” Spencer said, stating that more than 50 people turned out to talk about the future of parks and recreation.
 “One of the things that was so interesting to see how excited the kids were about the idea of having a community space where they go and play and use a pool and all of those really fun things. We invited kids to draw their vision of the future of parks and recreation in the

area, and that was a real joy. We will be doing that again with the kids in Mapleton.”
 All of this is done in an attempt to find out what the Siuslaw region wants when it comes to parks and recreation, which the Vision found was a need when they first began polling residents about what they wanted in the area years ago.
 “When we did the more than 700 surveys and all the work that went into the Siuslaw Vision, one of the things that rose to the top was that people wanted a shared vision,” Spencer said. “Another one was parks and recreation or community center. A lot of interest around our region for a great parks and recreation facility, program and activities.”
 There have been multiple groups in the region that have called for specialized facilities for their favorite recreational interests. Griffin and his fellow players are pickleball “evangelists,” hoping to get a more robust court in the region. There's the Siuslaw Regional Aquatic Center group which wants to reopen the Mapleton pool. There's also the newly formed cribbage club in Mapleton, which is helping to host Siuslaw Play Day 1.2.
 “Then there's the youth soccer folks,” Spencer said. “There were all of these groups working on their own, and sometimes we can duplicate efforts.”
 So, the Siuslaw Vision is stepping up to get a broad vision of what the entire community

wants when it comes to parks and recreations.
 “To me, one of the things I love so much about the Siuslaw Vision is it makes sure we're all on the same page,” Spencer said. “This series of events is, in part, is a way for us as a community to come together, do some surveys, talk about what we would love to see in the future, and find ways we can come together around a unified vision for that in our area.”
 One of the concepts that keeps coming up is the need for a community center.
 “A space that allows a whole bunch of activities to take place, that has facilities that are diverse and varied,” Spencer said. “A lot of meeting spaces, a lot of community rooms. I really think that seems to be a place where there seems to be a lot of interest.”
 However, that's not to say that all of the regions recreational activities would be centered in one space.
 “I don't think there will be a particular space that will be everything for everyone,” said Spencer. “I think the reason that it makes sense to work together as a district is because it gives us more ability as a bunch of people to have spaces that work for us that are up and down the river. Deadwood has its fantastic life around their community center. Mapleton has the pool that it's anxious to see reopen. We have some needs here in Florence for more recreation. It's really looking at a vision for the entire area and

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It's good to see the year-to-year balance sheet, because we didn't have a balance sheet for most of last year. It's good to see our cash and current assets are quite a bit higher than they were a year ago. It feels like we are in a better position operation wise,” Green said.
 Reports from Chief Abel and Operations Chief Dickerson were for the most part routine, although there was some confusion surrounding the final salary and vacation payments that were paid out to former Chief Director Jim Langborg.
 Director Carnahan was again a voice questioning the financial aspect of Langborg's resignation, asking that staff work to clarify the situation regarding the specifics of his owed vacation and final salary payments.
 “There is nothing we can do about this now. I just want to be open and straightforward with things and I think we need to address this a little more,” Carnahan said.
 Staff agreed to investigate and respond to Carnahan's concerns at a later time.
 The ongoing integration of SVFR and the Western Lane Ambulance was the next major item of business discussed.
 President Green reminded directors that the next board meeting will be convened with members from both SVFR and WLAD in

attendance.
 “There is a joint board meeting of the ambulance and fire district scheduled for December 19th, at which time I expect the IGA Committee is going to recommend a new job description, and then a discussion of the concern that the present IGA is probably going to be a deterrent to the hiring process — specifically the provision that it can be terminated in 30 days,” Green said.
 Chief Abel responded to the Green's comments by pointing out the work being done to update and codify the qualifications sought for the permanent chief.
 “In one of the existing job descriptions it says the Chief Director works for both boards. Western Lane Ambulance as well as the fire board. In reality, the legal relationship — the employment relationship — is with SVFR and the relationship with WLAD is through the IGA,” Abel said. “And we did actually specify duties that were included in there and good discussions of

qualifications, education and years. The boards had some really great input and I think we have nailed this down.”
 Director Hickson has been working with Abel and Green, along with WLAD Directors Ric Yecny and Larry Farnsworth, to rewrite the job requirements for the Chief Director position and said he feels the new description better represents the needs of the district.
 “We hammered some things out and there were clarifications in some areas, in terms of job descriptions and expectations —what we would prefer to see and what we were willing to consider. And this plan is one of the reasons we really wanted to hire Steve. His proposal for what it was going to take to find a permanent chief was very well thought out, specific and comprehensive,” Hickson said.
 The next meeting of the SVFR will be held Wednesday, Dec. 19, in a joint meeting with the WLAD Board of Directors at SVFR Station 1.

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