

Universalists seek to remember those lost

The Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) will host a special Remembrance Ceremony this Sunday, Aug. 8.

The Rev. Ruth Miller will guide a ceremony designed to help people say good bye to those who left this plane of existence during the past 18 months, and whose passing could not be recognized publicly at the time.

This ceremony is not a substitute for a memorial service, but a time to acknowledge the need for closure, and an opportunity to let go of one form of relationship and acknowledge a new form.

There will be a table for photographs or objects of remembrance that visitors might want to bring and share.

All are welcome to attend this ceremony starting at 10 a.m.; doors open at 9:30. Masks are required, and seating has been spaced accordingly to give ample room for social distancing.

FUUF is located at the northwest corner of Highway 101 and Heceta Beach Road and is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, visit florenceuuf.com.

CROW Advanced Students present 'mini show' after working with professional artists

On Aug. 2, 11 nervous teenagers entered the CROW Center for the Performing Arts. Chairs were set in a circle, and the kids quickly selected their seats. Within minutes, uneasy giggles and banter were replaced with a creative writing prompt in their new 2021 Advanced Acting Program journals. The teens began to write, "What do you already know about traveling performers?"

Within minutes, students were asked to share aloud their journal entries, followed by a lively discussion about the history of live theatre. Students learned about the origins of performance in Ancient Greece, as well as a comparison of touring performers such as troubadours, minstrels, circus performers, cruise ship employees, buskers, national tour casts, and more.

The ultimate goal for this year's camp is to create a "mini show" which will "tour" Florence and entertain an audience of kids from the Boys and Girls Club, as well as random passersby on Aug. 13, which is the last day of camp.

The camp's concept was created by CROW Artistic

Director Melanie Heard. "I wanted our teens to learn about something new. Something they might not have ever thought about or considered as a possible career path in the arts," Heard said. "I wanted them to return to CROW and be excited and inspired about life's possibilities again."

Heard once again invited her good friend, Diane David, to join her as Co-Director of this year's camp and David traveled up from California, where she lives. David also co-directed the Advanced Acting Program in 2019, when students wrote, directed, and produced an original play titled, "My Heart From The Page To The Stage."

David is a professional stage manager, with a vast resume in the arts. She has worked with performers such as Ben Vereen, Lily Tomlin, Burt Bacharach and many more. She has musical directed large musicals, stage managed, toured, performed for Disneyland, and worked with many people in the professional theatre circuit.

"She brings with her a wealth of knowledge," Heard said. "I'm really grateful to Diane for coming to Florence, and sharing her gifts with our local



Advanced Acting students with Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshop (CROW) will perform for the public next Friday.

kids." In addition, retired Disneyland Senior Art Designer Brian Sandahl, a new resident in Florence, taught students about scenic artistry and how to create portable backdrop. "Brian created the original design of the backdrops and the students are going to execute the painting and learn about how the concept was created, firsthand," Heard said. "This is an outstanding opportunity for our local kids to work with a professional

artist and designer." Over the remaining days of camp, students will spend time writing, designing, self-editing, peer-editing, testing, polishing and performing skits and vignettes that align with their chosen theme.

The result will be an approximately 15-20 minute "mini show" that will be performed in the CROW parking lot, on the Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk in Historic Old Town Florence and Gazebo Park. The best performances for the general public to catch will be at 12:45 p.m. at the Board-

walk, or 1:15 p.m. at the Gazebo Park on Aug. 13.

The CROW Advanced Acting students hope to see the community at their first public performance since the pandemic began.

Heard is also interested in taking the show on the road later on in 2021, perhaps performing for the schools and or senior living facilities in the early fall.

For more information, visit www.crowkids.com.

If you have questions, contact Heard at 541-999-8641 or crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com.

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Elks National Foundation will award major scholarships

Florence Elks Lodge #1858 is supporting the Elks National Foundation in its Most Valuable Student scholarship program for the 2021-22 academic year. The foundation will award four-year scholarships to the highest rated applicants.

Florence Lodge encourages local high school seniors who are U.S. citizens to take advantage of this great opportunity.

The top 20 finalists will be vying for two first place

awards of \$50,000, two second place awards of \$40,000, and two third place awards of \$30,000. The remaining 14 finalists will receive awards of \$20,000. Male and female students compete separately and do not have to be related to Elks members.

The program opened Aug. 2 and will close Nov. 15, 2021. The winners will be announced at the end of April 2022.

For more information, visit enf.elks.org/MVS.

This message is sponsored by Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue.

FIRE PREVENTION GUIDE | PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

A Great Escape Plan

The National Fire Prevention Association recommends families work together to create an escape plan that can keep them safe in the face of danger.

There are multiple facets to a great escape plan, including your pre-drill, drill and post-drill action steps. Read on for an easy way to make sure your family is ready to react if a fire disaster were to strike.

Pre-Drill
Before performing your drill, take these steps to ensure a solid plan. Walk through the home to inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Draw a floor plan of the home. Mark two clear routes out of each room, including windows and doors. Ensure your smoke alarms are strategically placed outside of bedrooms, inside the kitchen,

and inside laundry rooms. Make sure your windows have release devices inside to ensure they can be opened immediately in the event of an emergency.

Drill
It is vital that you run through periodic drills to ensure all members of the family understand the plan. Pick a day when all of your family members are home. Have your family members take their positions in their own beds. Sound one of your smoke alarms to begin your drill. Encourage your family members to move quickly through your home, feeling doors for heat and staying low to the floor to avoid rising smoke. Practice closing doors on your way out of the home; a closed door will help slow the spread of the fire. Select and convene at your

outside meeting place (such as a neighbor's house or mailbox). Take mental notes during your drill so you can address any potential flaws in your escape plan.

Post-Drill
Once your drill is complete, sit down at the table to discuss your family's performance. Encourage questions from your children to ensure they are clear on all the details of your escape plan. Offer positive feedback and critique any behavior that went against your escape plan; it's important to save this information for after the drill to prevent slowing down your practice evacuation. If you have security cameras within your home, you can also record your drill and watch it back as a family.

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