

SPRING DISCOVERIES NEWSLETTER

2021

Board Report by Joan Broeckling

Greetings from your Board of Trustees! These past few months have brought transformation in how the Board works together, deepening our trust and engagement. There have been wonderful new opportunities as well as some unusual challenges, and as we have dealt with them, the Board has reached higher levels of cohesion and collaboration. Board members have faithfully participated in meetings twice a month, openly sharing their perspectives with one another. We completed a 15-month study of the book, *15 Commitments of Conscious Leadership*, and we are actively committed to acting “above the line” in all our decisions and interactions.

We have continued to move into a deeper understanding and application of mission-centric ministry. Our frame of reference is, “How does this support our mission of transforming lives and inspiring people to make a positive difference in our world?” Things at Unity Spokane are not ‘business as usual’ and this is not just because our ministers retired, but because we are moving into a new phase of evolution as a ministry. This new phase brings with it greater volunteer engagement, which in turn requires a higher level of collaboration, creativity and communication between the Board, staff and our volunteer leaders and teams.

Challenges we’ve faced in recent months include beginning the ministerial search process, adapting to the pandemic and hiring new staff members. We have implemented a new structure that is simultaneously mission- centric, collaborative **and** ensures that all ministerial roles are covered by staff or volunteers during this transition period. We are also working to update computer systems, data management and policies and procedures in preparation for the arrival of a new minister.
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Adult Spiritual Education Update

CLASSES & SPIRIT GROUPS

Sunday Service 10 am

Office & Bookstore by appointment

Office(509) 838-6518

Fax.....(509) 838-5537

Website.....www.unityspokane.org

STAFF

Youth & Family Minister

Rev. Jackie Green

Interim Admin.....Amber McKenzie

Bookkeeper.....Linda Tweedy

Communications.....Liza Mattana

AV / MediaCaleb Strine

Custodian.....Bee Reynolds

2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joan Broeckling President

Judi Jamison Vice-Pres.

Lisa Zuber Treasurer

Charlie Ker Secretary

Al Konigsfeld Member

Alan Bisson Member

Pat White Member

Elsa Bro Member

New winter Zoom SpiritGroups are thriving with over 35 participants, including...

- **Monday Book Study:** *Be Water, My Friend* with 13
- **Wednesday Discussion Group:** *Sunday Message* with 2
- **Wednesday Book Study:** *My Grandmother's Hands* with 5
- **Thursday Power of Eight:** *Meditation Group* with 8
- **Friday Book Study:** *Healing Code* with 9

Stay tuned for a new series of book studies and Spirit-Groups coming this Spring! For more information or questions, contact Al Konigsfeld at [DreamWalkersCoaching@hotmail.com](mailto:AlKonigsfeld@dreamwalkerscoaching.com).

Licensed Unity Teachers: Revs. David & Donna McClure, Mary Teresa True, Karen Dunmore

Board Report continued...

At times, questions, confusion and uncertainty have arisen from instituting these structural organizational changes; we, as a community, continue to work through these issues with the help of our Unity principles/other spiritual tools and our commitment to one another and to the Center.

We deeply appreciate the congregation's continuing engagement and willingness to step up and take responsibility for fully embodying our mission through your financial support, volunteering, prayers and participation. We're looking forward to an amazing 2021, as we all join together to co-create with Spirit our ever-evolving Unity Spiritual Center. Blessings to all!
To contact Joan, email board@unityspokane.org.



A Hub of Hearts

I've always liked the expression, "It takes a village." I think it's because I believe it's true but also because it's a beautiful thing to witness when people step up, do what needs to be done and care for each other in the process.

That is exactly what has happened since the Transition Team took shape in the fall, a team consisting of 13 people leading 10 teams, all essential for Unity to function. Our first task was to arrange the details of the Simmons' celebration and then to communicate with each other about the work our teams have been doing. We meet via Zoom every other week, connect with each other, share our ideas and ask for help from each other to accomplish each of our tasks successfully.

The teams and leads are as follows: the *Chaplains* led by Al Konigsfeld; *Sunday Services* led by Amber McKenzie; the *Library* led by Ann Howard; *Technology* led by David Leinweber; *Facilities* led by Gary Lock; *Outreach and Marketing* led by Gaye and Dave Ribble; *Youth & Family Ministry* led by Rev. Jackie Green; *Finance* led by Jim Sledge; *Connections* led by Salli Sledge and Jeff Hunter; and *Adult Spiritual Education* led by Judi Jamison.

When I asked what word(s) they would use to describe what we're doing together, they said the following, "facilitating the function of the Center, connecting, working as a team, creating possibilities, cohesion, taking an active role and living our mission." A metaphor used was that of a wheel - each spoke is a group and the Transition Team is the hub. We decided we are a hub of hearts!

This group of people, along with their team members, have rolled up their sleeves, gotten to work and are living our mission. It's a village I am proud to be a part of.

Transition: Noun

the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE



AN INTERVIEW WITH REV.
JACKIE GREEN



What challenges and opportunities have the Youth & Family Ministry had over the past three months? We continue to assess what works and how we can be more creative on our once-a-month Zoom calls. Challenges include our own ability to develop skills with technology to the point where we can connect, plan, organize and facilitate, so we can engage kids and families who have the technology available to connect, yet feel “Zoomed out” and shy about seeing their face on the screen. We feel blessed to have had an opportunity to achieve moments of technology success and intimate heart connections. Some of our Youth Ministry volunteers were able to attend the virtual regional Youth Team Conference, always a wonderful opportunity to connect with others serving youth in our region.

In what ways have you and the Youth & Family Team been transformed as a result? We have come to recognize how even a few short moments of being in the presence of a person are powerfully important in lifting the spirit. Being curious and listening deeply is a sacred connection. This has also been a time to let our creativity “out of the box.” Our team is transforming as youth ministry staff serving all ages are connecting on a regular basis, and our connections with parents are deepening beyond what they’ve ever been before.

What has inspired you and your team most during this time? Collaborating with this group of adults to serve our young people inspires me as our purpose is clear. Whether we are planning online, social distancing at Unity to prepare creative supplies for home or post office delivery, or facilitating our once a month Saturday Zoom call, it is a gift to my spirit. I know that while I do this in the name of transforming the lives of our kids and their families, I am also transformed. My attitude, enthusiasm and sense of self-worth is enhanced. They are making a difference in my life. The drive-bys were the best! Seeing their shining eyes!

What would you MOST like people in our ministry to know about the work you and your team continue to do during this time of transition and COVID-19? We hold vision. We hold space in consciousness for our vital evolving transforming youth ministry that is adapting to what is yet to be. I see this as a time when we disappeared from view in our building like a caterpillar. We are now in the cocooning stage and will reemerge like a butterfly. We will celebrate the beauty of our change. I would like everyone at Unity to know they are part of our Unity Spiritual Family. Some are like grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings. We treasure times when we share together and connect. It takes our entire village for all of us to grow through each stage of our lives. We all co-create the energy that draws support for being the very ones we have come here to be.

Is there anything our community can do to support you and your team further? Vision and pray that we are prepared to offer gatherings for our young people on Sunday mornings inside our building when that time arrives. (Continued next page)

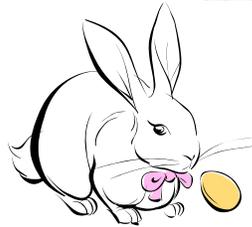
Volunteer Needs: We need an “expert” volunteer, perhaps an educator who has gone through this in a school setting, to coach us on how to arrange the physical set-up of the room, to dispense supplies, to determine how many of what age can come, to schedule participation, etc. We have five youth groups: UniTots (nursery 0-4/5ages), UniKids (kdg-2nd), UniFriends (3rd-5th), Uniteens (6th-8th), Y.O.U. (9th-12th). **Each group needs a team of 4 volunteers: 2 each Sunday and 2 to rotate with them when the need arises. ALL of our groups need more volunteers (10-12 more)** at least 16-18.



[Zuber kids enjoying their circle packets]



[Rosie, Cheryl, Shalon enjoying a porch visit]



	Sunday, March 28 at 2 pm	
Unity Youth Zoom Gathering		Meeting ID: 814-9887-2920 Passcode: 422795

You are lovingly invited to join these Youth & Family Events!

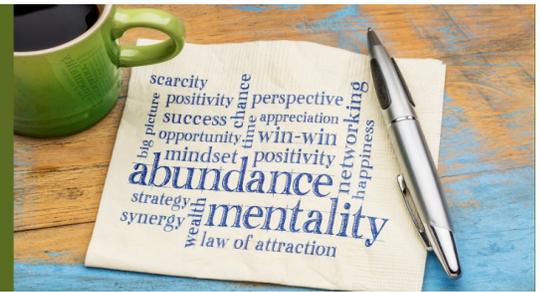
- March 28, Palm Sunday, 2 pm / Easter Zoom
- April 25, Sunday, 2 pm Family Spring Fling - Games in Manito Park

Listen to your heart and if you feel called to volunteer in the Youth & Family Ministry, please contact Rev. Jackie Green to apply: jackienwyou@comcast.net

abundance report

Thank
you

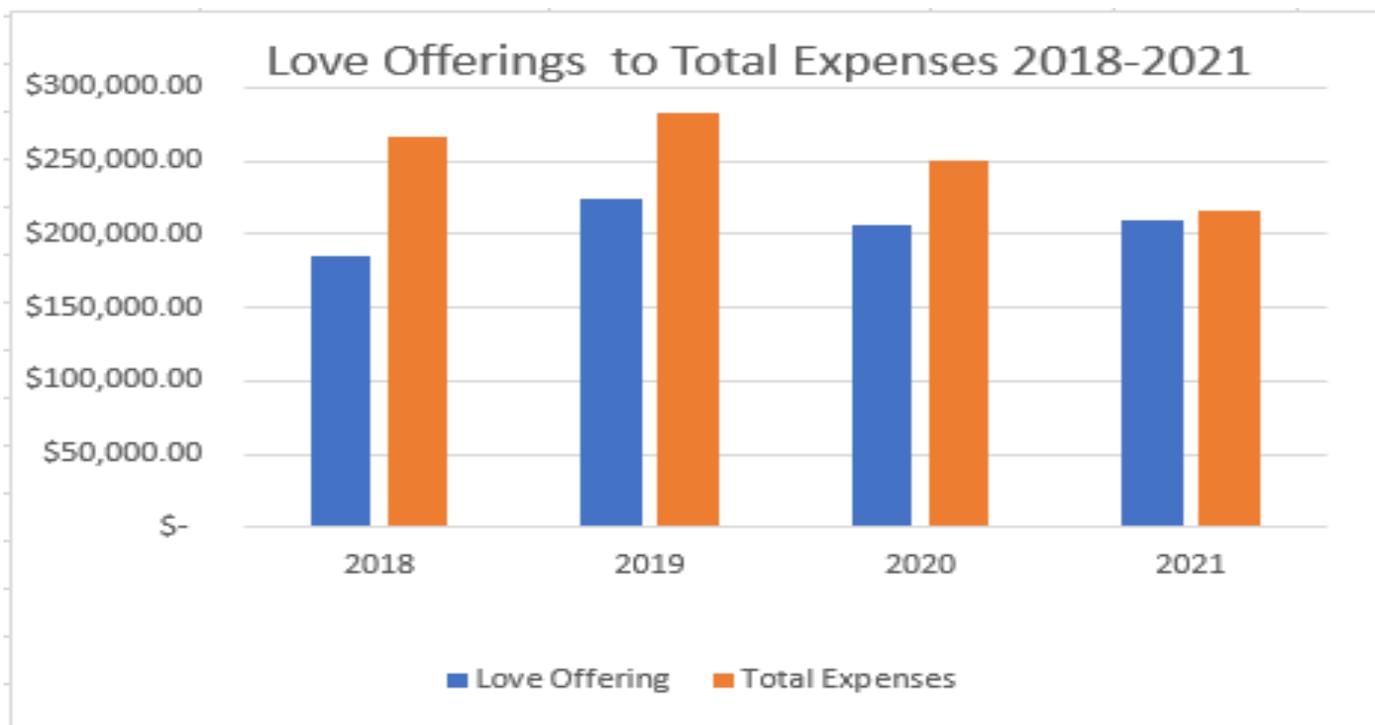
by Lisa Zuber, Board Treasurer



Part of my own personal mission as the Board Treasurer and a member of Unity Spiritual Center Spokane is to encourage gratitude and an abundance mentality. With that in mind, I am very grateful that despite all the challenges 2020 and 2021 have presented, our community continues to step up and give what they can - both financially and through their gifts of Spirit.

As a Board, we acknowledge our Divine abundance and are dedicated to our core value of **fiscal responsibility** and to sustaining our ministry through love offerings and relying less and less on fundraisers. As you can see in the graph below, over the past four years, we have been working toward this goal. Eventually, we will be completely self-sustained and able to utilize fundraisers and extra income to re-invest back into our Center and community to support our mission - these funds can go back into youth programs, adult spiritual education, scholarships, outreach services and so much more! I want to encourage all of our members (myself included) to continue following the mindset of abundance and gratitude despite what may be happening in the world around us. As Jen Sincero states, *“Gratitude is one of the strongest and most transformative states of being. It shifts your perspective from lack to abundance and allows you to focus on the good in your life, which in turn pulls more goodness into your reality.”*

Thank you for making Unity Spiritual Center Spokane a place filled with goodness, transformation and inspiration. Together, we are transforming lives and inspiring people to make a positive difference in our world.



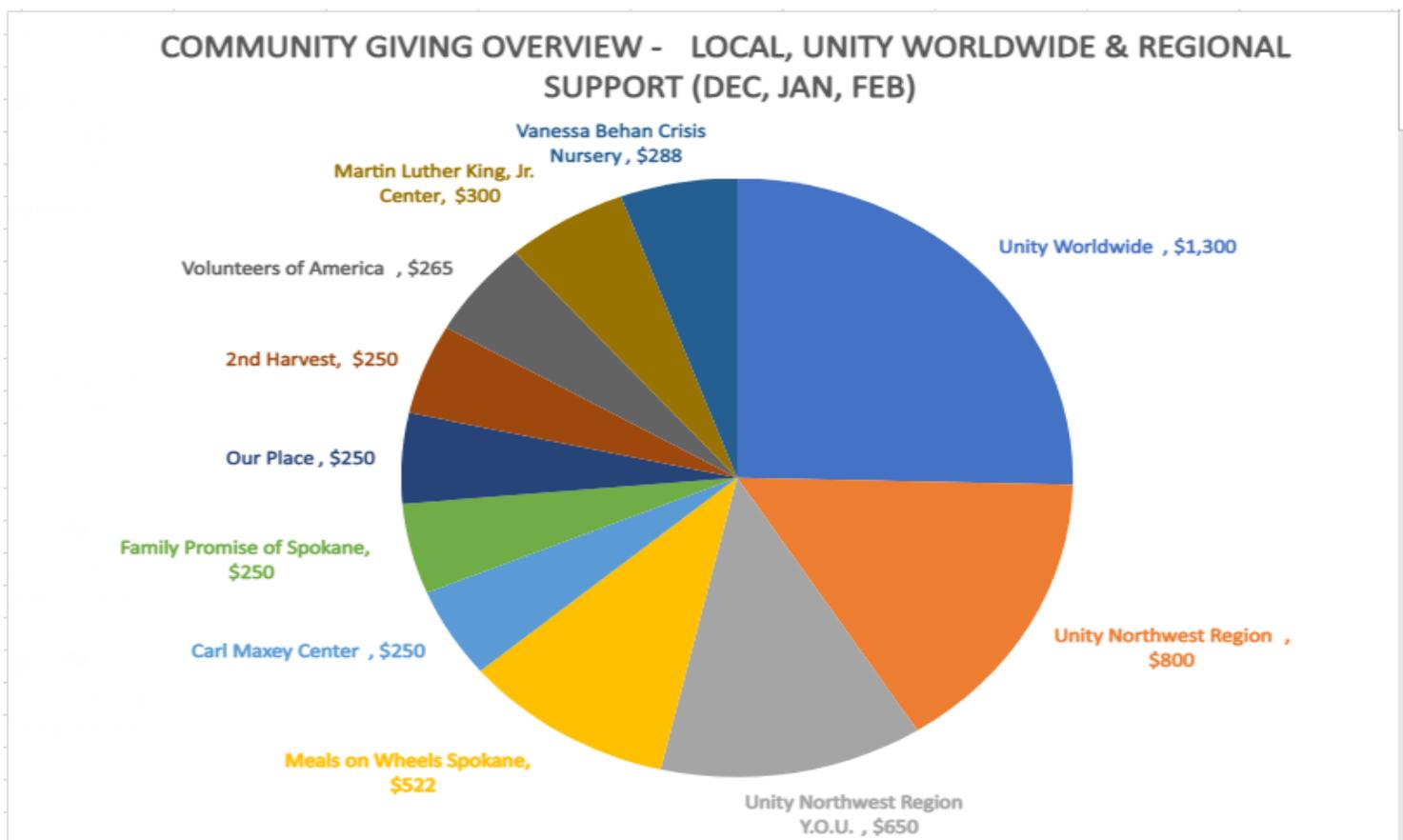


Through your generosity, we are transforming lives and inspiring people to make a positive difference in our world! The following are excerpts from local organizations we have contributed to in the past:

"You've kept the shelves stocked at our partner food pantries. Many pantries reported a 20% to 50% increase in visits since the beginning of March 2020. Your gift kept food flowing to our partner network to ensure pantries can stay open and provide critical food supplies to people who need it. You've helped keep kids fed. Thanks to you, schoolchildren in need can still receive their Bit2Go kits while schools are closed due to the pandemic. The food provided in the kits not only keep kids healthy but also help families stretch their grocery budgets as they navigate changes in their financial situations." - *2nd Harvest* - [learn more](#)

"Because of your generosity, our volunteers will be able to deliver over 180,000 meals this year to homebound seniors in Spokane." - *Meals on Wheels Spokane* - [learn more](#)

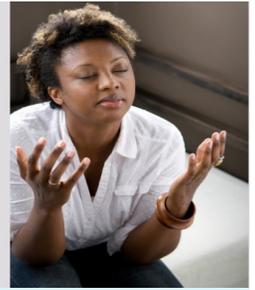
"One thing has remained unwavering: our commitment to equipping families and communities to end the cycle of homelessness in our city. In the last year alone, your generosity empowered 534 kids and their parents." - *Family Promise of Spokane* - [learn more](#)





Chaplain & Prayer Team

UPDATE



If there's one thing that transforms lives and inspires people to make a positive difference in our world, it's prayer! Just ask our amazing prayer ministry, made up of 9 Chaplains and 47 active "pray-ers." On average, our Unity Prayer Team along with Silent Unity prays for 15-45 people each week for 30 consecutive days! In addition, they receive multiple prayer requests for groups, organizations, communities and nonprofits in need of extra support - check out the list below and consider adding them to your prayer practice.

Chaplain Q & A

In what ways are Chaplains transformed by the prayer work they do for Unity Spiritual Center Spokane? Actively praying for others creates a deepening in one's own personal prayer practice, a feeling of greater closeness with Spirit (and the peace and joy that brings), and greater compassion for those in distress.

What would you MOST like people in our ministry to know about this group of chaplains and the work they are doing? We are here to serve them. If times get tough, we are here. If there is a cause to celebrate, we are here as well. Also, if they have questions about affirmative prayer, we would love to talk to them individually or hold classes for small groups.

Is there anything our community can do to support you and your team further? We would love to increase our 47 "pray-ers" to more in our community willing to pray with us regularly. We would also like to encourage more members to join us as we hold our yearly vigil for the World Day of Prayer in September. Stay tuned for more details about that!

Do you have a Prayer Request? Let our Chaplains know by submitting a [prayer request online](#). Interested in becoming a Chaplain, being added to the Prayer Team, or learning more about World Day of Prayer? Contact Al at DreamWalkersCoaching@hotmail.com or Tim at TimRyburn@comcast.net for more information.

Add the following to your prayer practice: VOA's Crosswalk, Meals on Wheels, Healthcare Workers, First Responders, Educators, World Leaders, Those Affected by COVID-19, LGBTQ+ Communities, States and Countries in Crisis, Unity Ministers and our Ministerial Search Team.



VOLUNTEER

UPDATE &
OPPORTUNITIES



This year's Mobile **Blood Drives** have been cancelled due to COVID, but blood is still needed. Visit Vitalant locations downtown, in north Spokane, in the Valley, or online at Vialant.org to give blood.

Landscape Crew resumes Thursday, April 8. All are welcome! Join them between 9 am -12 pm. Email Steve Bortfeld or call with questions: sbort3989@gmail.com 509-951-0640

Youth Volunteer, perhaps an educator who has worked or volunteered in a school setting, to coach us on how to arrange the physical set-up of the room, to dispense supplies, to determine how many of what age can come, to schedule participation, etc. Contact Rev. Jackie, jackienwyou@comcast.net

Spring Cleaning?? Donate your clothing and linens to Unity Spiritual Center's **Clothing Drive**. Donate Today! Just leave your bags of clothing in the foyer (Bernard entrance) and we will store and transport donations in early May.

For Those Feeling Divinely Called to Support Our Mission of
***Transforming Lives and Inspiring People to Make a Positive
Difference in Our World!***



text

GIVE

to 253-528-7416

Or Visit UnitySpokane.org



Literary Corner

Reading. Writing. Musings.

LIBRARY UPDATE by Ann Howard

Over 100 books have been set aside for parents and youth educators in a new lending library. Many of these books were donated to our center by Rev. Jane Simmons from her personal library when she retired. There are some very interesting titles. ..

What Kids Need to Succeed, Habits of Highly Effective Teens, Principles for Spiritual Parenting, How to Raise a Peaceful Child in a Violent World, Middle School Confidential

The books are on a special shelf just inside the door to the youth center and can be checked out by anyone who has an interest in childhood development and education. We hope that many of our adults will find this section of books helpful. Check them out!

The Finger or the Source: The Meaning behind Idolatry

by Tim Ryburn

I like it when rules and laws make sense. I like to believe that when someone initially introduces a law it is because it makes good sense at the time. In the Laws of Moses, we have an interesting law that begins them all, “You shall place no idol before me.” Quite often, this has been interpreted in a rather mundane sense that for some reason God does not like statues. Why is my angel paperweight, my Buddha statue, or my lawn gnome so offensive? This has created a lot of fear-based thinking in the past, where different Abrahamic faiths have banned even pictures because if God does not like statues, maybe pictures are bad, too. However, I like to think that rather than a neurotic deity that has a strange distaste for knick-knacks and sculptures, maybe there was a different reason someone wrote this law. Perhaps there is a reason that makes more sense.

We can name great spiritual teachers from every walk of life through every time on earth. Each one has had a simple common teaching. There is nothing between you and Source. These great way showers point us towards Source, but inevitably, humanity continues to stare at their fingers, rather than where they are pointing. We create religions to Idolize the teacher as “the only way” to Source. We create “holy books” and Idolize those books as if they are Source. Perhaps, this is the true meaning of the law, “You shall place no idol before me.” It is a simple wisdom teaching. The same teaching that each one of those great way showers keeps telling us. Stop staring at the finger, seek only Source. We already know where Source is. We already know that there is nothing between ourselves and Source. We are always part of it, and it is always a part of us. Simply, connect to Source and receive everything you need, everything that you want, and everything that you yearn for—no in-between mediators, texts, posting, or shipping required!





Our Mission in Action By Amber McKenzie

Let me just start by saying: “I love this job!” Being the Interim Administrator for our beloved spiritual center over the past three months has been exactly what I imagined - divinely timed and guided. As Spirit knows, I am a big fan of change, ambiguity and our mission of transforming lives, which is why this temporary position energizes my soul. I find excitement and inspiration in team-building, collaborating, discovering new and exciting possibilities, as well as celebrating existing practices that keep this Center thriving! With that in mind, I want to share with you the most spectacular part of this work - our outstanding staff!

Rev. Jackie Green has been working with children and their families at Unity since 1973. We’re thankful for the wholehearted-service and endless energy that define **Rev. Jackie’s tenure**. Read her Youth & Family Ministry Update on page 4.

Bee has been our Custodian for over **20 years** and like many, I am inspired by her love and commitment to the Center. She explains her job goes far beyond ‘cleaning’ because for her *“it’s all about making Unity an inviting and welcoming place for everyone who enters the doors!”*

Bee also shares that her life was transformed by Unity during the first service she attended over 20 years ago. *“The message that all people are inherently good was a spark of light in the darkness I felt myself to be in. I gradually learned to see the world in a positive way and that I have the power within to choose to make a difference in my own life as well as others around me.”* Join me in thanking Bee for her service to our ministry for the past two decades. **Thank you, Bee!**

Liza has been with Unity for **7 years** and serves as our fabulous Communications Coordinator. She shares her transformational, ‘a-ha’ moment occurred when she took a class at Unity many years ago on, *Don’t Bite the Hook* by Pema Chodron. *“We listened to Chodron’s CD in our group and discussed the effects of anger, how to burn up the seeds of aggression, etc.”* says Liza. *“Anger was an issue in my family, but we never talked about the emotion or how to deal with it. Chodron’s CD gave me an awareness of my own anger and inspired me to learn better ways of dealing with it. I still listen to the CD from time to time and recommend it to others.”*

When asked what inspires her, she shares her experiences as a child being outside, making art and enjoying time in a quiet space away from the loud, reactive emotions in her house. (Continued next page.)



We Hold You in Love & Divine Light...



Our thoughts and prayers are with

- David Leinweber and family on the passing of his wife, Bonnie Leinweber.
- Carol Waldenberg and family on the passing of her father, Vern Waldenberg.
- Joy Gruenwald and her family, on the passing of her mother, Connie Hedrick.



Here's What's COMING UP!



March 28—Youth Zoom Gathering

April 2—Good Friday Service

April 4—Easter Sunday Service with Rev. Deidre Ashmore

April 5—Spring Clothing Drive begins

April 9—Landscape Crew Resumes

April 11—Sunday Service, Jeff Tawney

April 18—Sunday Service, Amber McKenzie

April 25—Sunday Service with Karen Dunmore

May 2—Sunday Service with Julia Hayes

May 9—Sunday Service with Jeff Tawney

Unity Spiritual Center
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Spokane, WA 99203

509-838-6518

unityspokane.org

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*Transforming Lives &
Inspiring People
to Make a Positive Difference
in our World.*