



**BUUF ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM
FALL 2008**

**Life-long Learning
Spiritual Growth
Building Community**

Building Your Own Theology

Unitarian Universalists are accustomed to speaking out and sharing their diverse views, but sometimes we find it difficult to say just what our individual theologies are. This class will explore participants' evolving individual and collective theological perspectives by reflecting on personal religious experiences, creating individual credos, raising questions of ultimate reality, ethics, religious meaning, human nature, the sacred or holy, good and evil, suffering, community, authority, death, immortality and UU's Seven Principles. The aim of the course is to come to a deeper understand of "where we stand" as individuals and as a community of seekers.

Participants will engage in writing their insights and views.

Week 1: Religious Experiences and Credo Creation—Clarity

Week 2: What is a Theology?—Human nature and Ultimate Reality

Week 3: Individual and Community—Religious Meaning, Truth and Authority

Week 4: The Great Questions—The Holy, Justice, Suffering, Death and Immortality

Week 5: The Seven Principles and Our Theologies—Connections

Leaders: The Rev. Elizabeth Greene and Prof. Elton Hall

Schedule and Location: 5 sessions, Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., October 7, 14, 28; November 4, 11, (class will not meet October 21), junior high room.

Registration Fee: \$10

Christianity Revisited—Westar Institute Seminars

The Westar Institute is an organization of scholars, dedicated to improving Christian religious literacy. The work of the Institute is performed in Seminars. First was the Jesus Seminar, which Steve Scanlin described at a BUUF worship service in the fall of 2007.

The study goal is to better understand the time lines and historicity of the New Testament. Fundamental requirements are that debate be open to the public and that results be published. To evaluate their product, it is important to understand the methods and criteria that are used.

Session 1: The first class will examine the 23 year history of the effort, fellows and associates, base materials, criteria of historicity, voting and voting grades, meetings, general publications, and suggested readings.

Session 2: The second class will examine four individual seminars, on Jesus, Paul, Acts and Christian Origins. It will consider their basic criteria, organization, working methods, and the published products. It also will touch on criticisms of the work, and on the very active and related writing activity of the participating fellows.

Leader: Don Clarke

Schedule and location: 2 Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., October 29; November 5; junior high room.

Registration fee: \$10

Immigration/Guest Worker Issues and Solutions: A Treasure Valley Symposium

The Treasure Valley is a microcosm of migrant worker issues affecting jobs, border security, and economic and social justice. Immigration policy reform is complex and raises many questions regarding guest worker programs, alien registration, workplace enforcement, identification and driver's licenses, minimum wage laws, health care and worker benefits, and rights to U.S. citizenship. Of overwhelming importance to our economic and demographic future, what we do about the immigration problem will greatly affect our standing as a free and self-governing democracy.

This symposium will feature a panel of distinguished speakers directly engaged in immigration and migrant worker affairs. The thrust of the symposium will be to explore both the issues and the most practical and workable solutions that address the economic and social well being of all Americans.

Panel: Leo Morales, Executive Director of Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN), Maria Andrade, Boise attorney specializing in immigration and migrant worker issues, and several others to be determined.

Moderator: to be determined

Schedule and location: Sunday, October 5, 7-9 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Registration fee: \$15 (net proceeds after expenses to benefit Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN)).

Create Your Personal Safety Net

In recent decades, economic globalization and the growing wealth disparity have disrupted the community networks people once relied on. Extended families are dispersed and communities are constantly in flux, making it difficult to build a network of friends and neighbors for mutual support during times of personal crisis. Our longer work hours and commutes make it even harder for people to offer support.

Dr. John Gibson, co-author of the book, *Personal Safety Nets: Getting Ready for Life's Inevitable Changes and Challenges*, will show you how to intentionally create a personal safety net made up of those plans, systems, resources and especially people who strengthen your life. Enjoying this community of people in good times and having them there in hard times brings pleasure, security and control. Given life's inevitable changes and challenges, everyone needs to be part of a strong team!

Leader: Dr. John Gibson, professional counselor, coach, speaker, and author (<http://www.SafetyNetsUnlimited.com>)

Schedule and location: Friday, November 7, 7-9 p.m. (includes refreshments and book signing), north wing classrooms.

Registration fee: \$15

The Essence of Reality

Spiritual trailblazer Thomas Nehrer will speak about his perceptive and exacting look at the flow of Reality. His book, *The Essence of Reality*, illustrates that all of one's life—health, success, authority, abundance—reflect one's inner nature. He gives us explicit tools for delving into our inner journey to accomplish real positive change in our outer lives.

This presentation with Q&A and discussion is co-sponsored by BUUF and the Boise chapter of the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS). A book signing with refreshments will be included.

Leader: Thomas Nehrer (<http://www.nehrer.net>)

Schedule and location: Sunday, September 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m., north wing classrooms.

Registration fee: \$10

Travels in Borneo: Tropical Timber, Palm Oil, Native Rights

Borneo, the world's third largest island, is a mosaic of ancient rainforests, exotic plants and animals, myriad ethnic groups and languages, coastal cities with modern shopping arcades featuring KFC and Starbucks, and, unfortunately, widespread ecological degradation due to logging and explosive growth of the palm oil industry. Borneo's political elites and corporate interests are well aligned to exploit the global economy's burgeoning appetite for wood, pulp and paper products, food additives, cosmetics, and bio-fuels.

Mike Philley returned earlier this year from five weeks as a volunteer with the Borneo Project, a Berkeley-based non-profit that works with local partners to protect the rights of indigenous people to their ancestral lands. Mike will speak about his experiences in Borneo as a Peace Corps volunteer in the early 1970s and describe the present efforts of the Borneo Project and its partners to empower rural communities through legal aid and preschool programs for native children.

Leader: Mike Philley

Schedule and location: Friday evening, 7-9 p.m., November 14, north wing classrooms (refreshments will be served).

Registration fee: \$10

Donations to the Borneo Project (<http://www.borneoproject.org>), a non-profit affiliate of the Earth Island Institute, will be gratefully accepted.

Make and Take Q-UU-ilting Workshop

Calling all BUUF quilters and wanna-be's to learn basic quilting techniques while making a beautiful table runner to take home. Quilting materials and lunch are provided. Bring a portable sewing machine if you can, but don't worry if you don't have one – we'll have plenty to share.

Leaders: Barbara Alexander and Sandy Cruise (with assistance from the other BUUF Q-UU-ilters – makers of the Sudoku quilt that sold at the last BUUF service auction).

Schedule and Location: Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., junior & senior high rooms.

Registration fee: \$20 (quilting materials and lunch will be provided)

Menu for the Future

Join a new six-week discussion course offered by the Idaho Earth Institute (IEI). Based on the most current information about sustainable agriculture and food security, this course has the following goals:

- ❖ To explore food systems and their impacts on culture, society and ecological systems
- ❖ To gain insight into agricultural and individual practices that promote personal and ecological well-being
- ❖ To consider one's role in creating or supporting sustainable food systems

Participants will use a course book of readings and discussion questions created by the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) based in Portland, Oregon.

Leader: An IEI-trained mentor will facilitate the first session and join a celebration at the final session.

Schedule and location: 6 sessions, Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m., October 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17; junior high room.

Registration fee: \$18 (covers the cost of the NWEI course book)