



Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2009

Nintendo® Wii Continues to be popular at Soul Café



As we see the numbers of participants at Soul Café increase, the Nintendo® Wii continues to be a popular activity here. Presently we own two games that can be played and we are in need of

additional software to provide a variety of Wii activities.

With the original Wii hardware came the Sports games which include bowling, baseball, tennis, golf and boxing. In addition the Lego Indiana Jones game was donated last fall.

There are many additional sports games available that are fun to play. One example is the Deca Sports which includes Badminton, Beach Volleyball, Supercross, Snowboard Cross, Archery and Figure Skating. This would be an example of the type of game/activity that would meet the goal and purpose of Soul Café.

Recently we had games which were brought from home that the kids wanted to play, but were not allowed as they depicted violence. We want to provide fun-filled wholesome games and activities that will challenge the youth for good behaviors and not the status quo that is found in various other life encounters.

If you would like to help purchase additional games for the Wii, please contact our manager, Perry Cole, to discuss appropriate games which can be added to our library.

Soul Café

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Website: www.soulcafe.org

(Note: You can find a calendar on our website of the activities at Soul Café)

Deborah Chenoweth, Board Chairperson
Perry C Cole, Manager/Volunteer Coordinator
To Be Announced, Mission Developer

Copies of the monthly newsletter are e-mailed to our list of contacts. Please let us know if you would like to be included or whether you would like your name removed. You also may request a copy be mailed to you.

COMMUNITY CENTER HOURS

Sunday 4-7:30 PM
Sunday Supper 5-6:30 PM
Sunday Discussion Group 6:30-7:30 PM
Monday 12-6 PM
Tuesday 12-6 PM
Wednesday 12-6 PM
Thursday 12-6 PM
Friday 12-9 PM
Friday Night Youth 6-9 PM

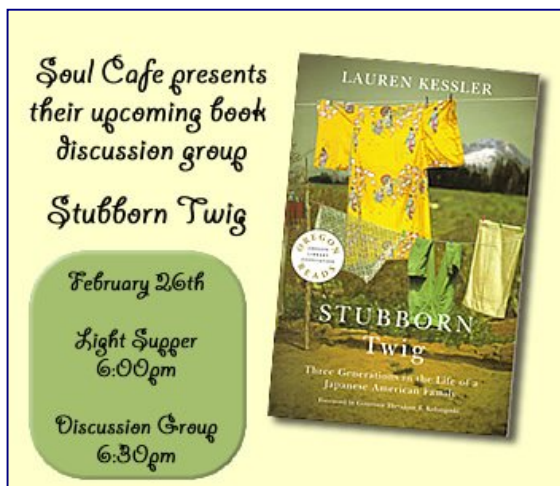
As Seen in Readers Digest

A teenager brought home her new boyfriend to meet her parents, and they were appalled by his appearance: leather jacket, motorcycle boots, tatoos and a pierced nose. Later, the parents pulled their daughter aside and said "He doesn't seem very nice." "Mom," replied the daughter, "if he wasn't so nice, why would he be doing 5000 hours of community service?"

Wish List

- Monthly financial partners
- Dry Erase Board
- Crock Pot (7-8 qt.) – “Thank you to the Riverside Community Church Friendship Guild who has helped us purchase a crock pot.”
- 4 Desk Chairs with rollers for computer desks
- Weather proof banner/sign for Sunday Supper advertisement
- Wii Exercise Deca Sports and other Software
- Print cartridges (call for models)
- Art supplies for youth activities
- Grant writing assistance

STUBBORN TWIG DISCUSSION GROUP AT SOUL CAFÉ



Soul Café began a weekly book discussion group on the Oregon Reads book Stubborn Twig on February 26, 2009. The group will gather each week at 6:00 PM for a light supper and then the discussion begins at 6:30 PM. Books are available at the Hood River Library and can be purchased in local bookstores.

Stubborn Twig is a factual account of three generations of a Japanese-American family living in the Pacific Northwest. It begins in 1903, when Masuo Yasui arrived in Hood River, Oregon, to seek his fortune.

Debby Chenoweth, Board Chairperson, says, “We are excited to restart our weekly discussion group at Soul Café. Future months we will be focusing on titles such as, The Shack and Three Cups of Tea.”

From the Manager...

The old adage, “many hands make light work” is so true.

I so appreciate the many hands that help to keep Soul Café open and working. This group includes various people from various walks of life with various talents and includes, board members, volunteers, monthly financial partners and groups and organizations that provide a free weekly meal on Sundays. Yet there is still room for groups and individuals to step up and become a vibrant part of Soul Café.

As we see our after school youth numbers increase, we need volunteers to help with seeing that they are monitored and mentored. It is so exciting to see the young people come and more exciting to get to know them on a personal basis, interacting with them and playing a game of ping pong or bowling on the Nintendo® Wii. Some days there are snacks for the kids, but unfortunately too often we don't have anything to offer these “hungry” young people. Do you bake? Could you help supply healthy snacks?

Sunday evenings are a special time at Soul Café. On the first and third Sundays the Leos (Lions Club) meet in our conference room and with 37 in attendance last Sunday, they overflowed into the hall. Tom Schaefer, the group's advisor, is doing a great job with these young people. Also, from 5-6:30 PM a free community meal is served. We appreciate all who continue to help provide this meal, but we urgently need more groups and organizations to help us feed this growing number. Just last Sunday we fed 47 who sought the opportunity to get a hot meal and spend time in discussion with one another. For many of those who come to be fed, this is a very important part of their week.

In these fiscally difficult times, we see more and more people who are in need of our help. It might be a safe place where there kids can

come after school to be safe. It might be a hot meal on Sunday. It could be that they need a kind word of encouragement to help them face the big world out there. This is where our monthly financial partners come in. We are so thankful for those who each month make Soul Café part of their benevolent giving plan but again, "many hands make light work." Can you help us financially to keep providing this very much need community center open?

Remember...Noah's Ark was built by volunteers...the Titanic was built by professionals!

Perry C Cole, Manager/volunteer Coordinator

News from the Leos

Help support the HRV Leos Club by bringing all your deposit cans and bottles to Rosauers from 9 am to 1 pm on the first Saturday of every month. The Leos will be by the newspaper recycling trailer collecting deposit bottles and cans.

A reminder, since January 1st, all water bottles and bottles with water on the label, like vitamin water and flavored water, have a deposit, too. The Hood River Leos is a club consisting of high school and middle school students and is affiliated with the Hood River Lions Club. The Leos do service projects throughout the year and all money raised is donated to nonprofit groups in the community. For more information, contact Tom Schaefer at 354-2095 or at leos@gorge.net.

Present's Day Celebration at Soul Café

On February 16 & 17, the kids were out of school for the President's Day Holiday and a Professional Education Day for teachers. This gave us the opportunity to provide some special activities for youth during the long afternoons. Each day at 1:00 PM, kids could enjoy some craft activities, making Café Pets (aka Chia Pets), coloring on special designs and making special decorative pencils. At 2:30 PM the kids

were then treated to a special movie. On Monday, "Radio" was shown.

It is inspired by a true story, and is a movie about hometown heroes. A football coach (Ed Harris) in a small town starts to notice a man who walks around with a shopping cart (Cuba Gooding Jr.). When he finds him being ridiculed and abused by some of his players, he decides to teach everyone a lesson and gives the man a job on the team. He soon becomes known as "Radio."

This relationship has a transforming effect on Radio. But as the coach says in the movie, "Truth is, we're not the ones who have been teaching Radio. Radio's the one been teachin' us." The coach, the team, the school, and the town end up changed as a result of bringing this one person into the community.

On Tuesday, "Pay it Forward" was shown. The film starts with a young reporter being rebuffed by the police for a story. He then watches his car get demolished, after which the surprising part happens—a stranger stops to give the reporter his Jaguar. The whole film is about one boy's homework, and how that assignment changes the world.

The assignment in question is extra credit, an assignment that Social Studies teacher Eugene Simonet (Kevin Spacey) gives every year. **THINK OF AN IDEA TO CHANGE OUR WORLD— AND PUT IT INTO ACTION.** When Mr. Simonet asks for their responses, they tell him the assignment's 'weird' and 'hard.' Mr. Simonet suggests another word: *Possible*. It is from this simple but potentially complex assignment that many different lives are affected.

Following the movie each day, we had our first Nintendo® Wii Bowling Tournament. Participants in two age categories, pre-teen and teen, bowled up to three games each. The winners of the highest average score was rewarded with a free pizza from Dominos. Dylan Maden was our pre-teen winner and River Thompson was our teen winner. Congratulations to everyone who participated...it was a lot of fun!

Monthly Calendar

- Every Friday Night – Friday Night Youth
- Every Tuesday @ 3:30 PM – Lectionary Group Meets
- Every Thursday @ 6:00 PM – Light Supper and Book Discussion Group Meets
- First & Third Sundays – Leos Meet

- 1st – Sunday Supper ~ Cole Family
- 6th 3:30 PM ~ Youth Advisory Meets
- 8th – Sunday Supper ~ Rebehka Lodge
- 15th – Sunday Supper ~ Sponsor Needed
- 22nd – Sunday Supper ~ Sponsor Needed
- 23rd-27th Spring Break ~ SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR YOUTH
- 29th – Sunday Supper ~ Sponsor Needed

Soul Café is actively seeking volunteers for our youth programs and after school activities.

Would you be willing to spend 3 hours a week mentoring kids at Soul Café? We are in desperate need of volunteers to help cover afternoons during the after school hours. Also, we are looking for responsible volunteers who would be willing to rotate on Saturdays to expand our hours.

All volunteers must fill out an application and agree to a background check. New volunteers will then work with seasoned volunteers for training until their background check is approved, at which time they can work independently.

Please contact Perry Cole, Manager/Volunteer Coordinator at 541.386.6164 or by e-mail at soulcafe01@gmail.com.