

CONVERSATION WITH EVA

Let me tell you an old teaching story that I learned from a Muslim friend of mine from Sudan. So once, a man was praying, and at first he saw great darkness. And into his thoughts came a brilliant, beautiful beam of light. It said "Follow me, follow me!" The man thought about it. At first he thought it was God, and he was very tempted to follow. But after some time, he remembered that God is everywhere, in all things, and so he told the light, "No, I won't follow you. I am with God, right where I am."

In these times, many are feeling like the light at the end of the tunnel they've been following has been snuffed out; and they are uncertain where to find hope. Spring and Easter and Oeaster, No Ruz, and even Passover are all times in our traditions to remember when people somehow found hope when they were in darkness. So, get out your storybooks—the best ones ever written, the sacred scriptures and the unfolding scripture of nature—and study, search, hunt, for some small signs of just how to find hope, how to be okay and know that you are with God, even if you aren't following a dancing sunbeam.

It would be very easy to let ourselves get swayed in these times, which many would call dark times. And yet, it is our job, our task, to boldly and fiercely cling to the confidence that we can endure, and even thrive. . .and we do so best, when we take care of each other. This is the best of Humanism, the most Christian of Christianity, the highest compassionate acts of Buddhism, the living prayer of this faith I have called my own all my life. . .Unitarian Universalism. Let us be our own beacons, following the way of the heart, into these pathways unknown, knowing that we are safe in the arms of love.

See you in church!



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Music at the UUSBHC is growing! This past month we debuted the UU Children's Choir. This group of children of various ages practices on Wednesdays from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. and we have a lot of fun together—dancing, playing drums, and singing, of course. If you have children who wish to join us, there are rides available, as well as the Wednesday night dinner following rehearsal for those who want to stay and eat. Please contact me at <musicman@cfu.net> for more information.

For those of you who are a just a bit older, please join us for the Adult Choir or the Theoretical String Band. Both groups meet Wednesday nights and perform music of a variety of styles and levels of difficulty.

We will finish the year with the second annual *Prairie Home Companion Potluck and Variety Show* on Sunday, May 31st. If you would like to share a musical or other interesting talent, please email me.

Also, we are looking for *Brass* players for *Easter Sunday* so if you are interested in playing, please let me know.

Tim Purdum,
Director of Music



Margaret Marian McPartland, born March 21, 1918, is an English jazz pianist, composer, writer, and since April 1979 has hosted *Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz* on National Public Radio.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There are snowdrops blooming by the northeast corner of the church. With the snow melted, and the rest of the world brown, they are a cheerful patch of color in an otherwise drab landscape. We don't always get to see them. Sometimes they come up and bloom under the snow itself. Bulbs are like that. They grow with the season, drawing on their strength. They grow when the sunlight tells them to. Grow, bloom, replenish themselves and die down. When I plant them in my yard, I do it by the hundreds. Nothing subtle. There is a delightful arrogance about a tulip. Tall and proud and brightly colored. It dares the weather to knock it down and stands up to whatever comes. "I am the spring hear me roar!"

Okay, so where am I going with this line of thought?

Plants grow in nature because that's just what they do. A seed that doesn't grow rots back into the earth. A bulb that doesn't grow has no way to replenish itself. Of course, they aren't sentient. They can't say to themselves "Boy, the long term weather forecast really looks bad, think I'll skip this year and try my luck later." Doesn't work that way.

People, on the other hand, get to make decisions. This year we have some important ones to make at our annual meeting. Mid year, we added an interim position of Music Director through a special fundraising effort. At the time I'm writing this, the pledge drive looks like it's going to be flat, which is doing pretty well given the economy, but that doesn't provide enough to absorb this new position. So, if we want to keep it, we'll need to find some other money. And we started fundraising for siding and got enough pledges to make the project viable, although there would be a need for additional funds a few years from now to come from "somewhere else". And we are trying to do both these things at once. Now there are people who say we are trying to do too much. And they may be right. And there are others who say we are simply trying to do what we really need to do. And they also may be right. And there are many of us who are shoving numbers around on a spreadsheet trying to get things to balance, since we don't have the option to run a deficit. So, lots of decisions to make and I urge you to read the rest of this newsletter, come to the various information sessions, and participate in the annual meeting that will make them.

See you in church.

Jan Gallagher



EASTER POTLUCK BRUNCH

Please join us right after the Easter worship service for a potluck brunch, sponsored by the Religious Services Committee. Bring your guests along with your favorite egg dish, fruit, bread, or whatever sounds good; we'll provide beverages.

There will be no Adult RE (see DRE and REAP articles for children's activities), but plenty of food and good fellowship. *Bill Chene* will help with setup and *Mimi Kuester* with cleanup, but we'd be grateful for a few volunteers to help so e-mail Mimi at <mhkuester@gmail.com> if you're willing.

NOTES FROM THE DRE

Can it really be April already? We have a lot happening this month with Passover, Palm Sunday, Easter and Earth Day. We will again celebrate Passover for our April First Friday. On Palm Sunday, Tim has planned some great music and we have ordered palms for the children to wave. On Easter Sunday the youth will hide eggs for their little church friends. We are hoping that activity will be outside this year, so sun come out and shine on us! Earth Sunday we will have a service for all ages and if it is nice we will go outside. The last Sunday is our annual meeting for the adults. While the adults are meeting, the children and the youth will hopefully be outside—playing, picnicking and planting.

We do still need some helpers and substitute teachers; you do not have to be a parent to volunteer.

Classes this year are~

- ◆ Early Childhood Class: 3, 4, 5 year-olds and Kindergarten (meets at 9:45 a.m.)

The following classes meet at 11:15 a.m.

- ◆ Primary Class: Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades
- ◆ Intermediate Class: 3rd and 4th grades
- ◆ Middle School: 5th, 6th and 7th grades
- ◆ High School: 8th through 12th grades

Please remember that we are flexible with the grade levels.

Nursery News~

We have quite a few toddlers this year, so you may notice new potty chairs in the upstairs bathrooms. Parents, please feel free to have your children use these.

The Youth programs~

Middle School – *Keri* is leading the middle school youth this year and they are working hard on being a group. They are starting a new program called Popcorn Theology: Exploring Issues of Theology and Ethics Through Film.

High School – Last month the UU Youth hosted the Youth Unity Group* (including youth from the UCC, Mennonite, and Methodist churches in town) in the Fellowship Hall. They served a chili lunch, gave the guests a tour, and talked to them briefly about UUism. On April 19th the youth are invited to visit the Cedar Falls Mennonite Church around noon for a potluck, discussion about Mennonites, and games. Also in April during Sunday School, the youth will be preparing for the Easter egg hunt, learning more about meditation, and preparing for questions about UUism they might be asked by others in the Youth Unity Group. ~*Joyce* and *Amy*

*Youth Unity Group: this is for the 7th – 12th graders.

Children's Chapel~

Meets in the Alternative Activities room at 11:00 a.m. *Tim Purdum* has been joining us to teach us some songs.

Thank you for sharing your children, youth, and yourself with our leaders and myself.

Kathy Klink-Zeitz, DRE



YOUNG CHILD PLAY GROUP

The YoUUnG Child Play Group has come to end. We had a successful year of playing together and getting to know others on the first and third Fridays of every month! I have personally enjoyed meeting others through the play group. I can safely speak for my daughter, *Izzy*, who has also enjoyed playing with everyone. It has been a lot of fun!

Thank you to everyone who has shown up! *Angie Stafsholt*

The first conference of the *Khasi Unitarians* was held April 13, 1895 at Jowai, India; seven villages were represented.



CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

Thank UU for March

A big Thank UU to *Mica Lorenz* for all that she does for our congregation. Mica has been a member of the UUSBHC since 1980 and during that time she has become a person who “makes things happen” around here.

Quite a leader, Mica has been the chair of many groups within our congregation including the Board, Social Action Committee, Committee on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Welcoming Congregation program, and the UU Involvement Fair.

Presently, Mica is the chair for the Outreach Committee and the Lay Leader for the Small Group Ministry. She is Secretary for the UU Executive Board as well as the person who posts the sermon recordings each week as podcasts.

Our UU Small Group Ministry has grown with Mica as lay leader. This involves small groups of people (five to twelve members) who meet once a month for one to two hours to discuss a common topic. So far, these groups' themes have included: Nature Appreciation, Gathering of Women, Waverly, Last Sunday, Facilitators of Small Groups, Couples – Marriage Enrichment, Integral Life Practice, and a Men's group. The small group ministry is making a difference in the dynamics of the congregation and will continue to do so in the future.

As the Outreach Committee Chair, Mica has worked hard to make this a welcoming environment. Mica says that she has emphasized welcoming visitors when they are greeted and developing a system that integrates them into the congregation.

Mica Lorenz cares about our congregation and she is making a difference with her on-going investment of time and effort in support of what we offer. *Thank UU, Mica!*

Members of the Committee on Ministry are: *Christine Carpenter, Judy Harrington, Jim Paprocki, Bob Robinson, Leigh Zeitz and Eva Cameron.*

(Ed. Note: in addition to the above many hats that Mica wears, each month she prepares the calendar page (page two) for that month's newsletter and, she's *always* right on time in sending it to me. Thanks, Mica!)



Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz

April 2009 marks *thirty years* that legendary pianist *Marian McPartland* has welcomed a stellar line-up of jazz artists for one hour of conversation and improvisation on her Peabody Award-winning program. Each week, *McPartland*, with her engaging personality and improvisational savvy, hosts a variety of performers in her radio living room.

CONSCIOUS LIVING CORNER

Here are some actions local people are taking to improve our environment. You can, too!

Water Use: Reuse your 'gray water' (the water already used in the sink) to nourish your plants. (Did you know? Dishwater is highly recommended to deter garden pests.) In our neighborhood, some people are harvesting rainwater in barrels at the base of downspouts. The water bill will go down, too. (By the way, making those systems and selling them is a popular business in drought-stricken areas, but could help our watershed, too.)



Find a spray bottle or an old dish-washing liquid bottle and keep it filled with a small amount of dish soap diluted with plenty of water. Use it to spray an individual cup or plate, for a quick wash up. A separate bottle with gray water works well for spraying bugs on plants outdoors.

Paper and Cardboard Recycling Right at Home: If you must print an item from your computer, use "fast draft print". If you don't need it to look professional, print on the back of an already-used sheet of paper.

Reduce the amount of paper and cardboard to a recycling center: Crumple up your paper and/or cardboard to make up to six inches of "brown layer" for your compost heap. Good for the bottom layer, followed by a "green" (veggies/grass) layer of same depth. Follow with a garden dirt layer. Repeat series of layers. No turning is needed! The compost can later become mulch or soil-enhancing nourishment for your garden seeds and plants (from Ken Thompson's book, "Compost: the Natural Way to Make Food for Your Garden").

On Your Camper or House: Put solar panels on the roof! (Federal thirty percent tax credit, kilowatts returned to grid are reimbursed, and there are interest-free loans up to \$10K through CFU for homes in Cedar Falls—varies elsewhere, check with your utility company.)

Light: Use natural light as much as possible. Open blinds, shades, curtains. Skip the electric ones as much as possible. Spend time outside as much as possible – you need the Vitamin D (for prevention of cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, and to improve your immune system strength).

LED lights: although more expensive than incandescent or CFL lights at a current catalog price of \$15 each (CFLs used to cost that much), with longer lives (60,000 hours for a bulb that has the lumens of a 100 watt incandescent bulb) and lower power usage (only 1.3 watts), LEDs are more cost-effective if they perform as advertised. (In a few years the cost will come down, so do not overstock CFLs.)

Travel: Walk or ride a bike whenever the weather allows.

Meet new people! Use the local bus system.

For long trips, take the train instead of a plane to reduce your carbon footprint (the food is better and people are more friendly). Go to <amtrak.com>.

Plants: Swap with neighbors and friends; go to the Annual Green Scene sale (Saturday, May 9th, Cattle Congress grounds – 9:00 a.m. to Noon). Ask questions! People love to talk about their plants and you'll learn a lot. (That's how our family purchased our Liberty apple tree start – no spraying needed, and great flavor.)

Native prairie plants can reduce your lawn mowing, water use, and need for yard maintenance. Deep roots of prairie plants can reduce water runoff and prevent flooding. That's a "rain garden"!

~~Donna Davis, with ideas from Juanita Williams, Jeff Cash, Russ Campbell, Julie Fischer, Jack and Carole Yates, Hartman Reserve, Mike Miller, Kay Stone and friends.

Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz

Piano Jazz is a forum for jazz legends and influential performers as well as up-and-coming talents. Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock, Dave Brubeck, Diana Krall, Max Roach, Cassandra Wilson and Tony Bennett are among the *over five hundred guests* who have joined McPartland to create dynamic duets and discuss their lives and music.



RELIGIOUS SERVICES COMMITTEE NEWS and NOTES

Communications Updates: spearheaded by Rev. Eva's efforts, Committee members now have access to several GoogleDocs, where they can check for the latest on Sunday service plans; music suggestions and scheduling; commentary and suggestions on service content and pacing; a service template on which to build; and suggested text for service components such as joys and sorrows. Having these details available for reference frees worship leaders to focus on the theme of the morning and how best to present it. These references, discussed and modified by Committee members, help to provide a continuing underlying structure to our services, which feature many worship leaders and leadership styles.

Reflection: Representing the Committee on Ministry, Jim Paprocki met with the RSC recently to help us step back and look at what we do. So instead of the usual procedure of this column, which highlights the varied groups under the RSC umbrella, we look at our functioning as a whole. You see Committee members, and the people they draw into leadership, in the front and back of the sanctuary each Sunday—as service leaders, worship associates, lay ministers, creative visual artists, dancers, actors, story-tellers, musicians, and tech wizards. Together with Rev. Eva and Bill Chene, Board liaison, we—Del Carpenter, Brittany Flokstra, Al Hays, Karen Impola (committee co-chair), Esther Kieffer, Lisa Kratz, Lara Martinsen-Burrell, John Miller, Deblyn Russell, Tim Purdum (Music Director) and Mimi Kuester (committee co-chair)—share with you our passion for this congregation and for the ministry of this committee. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve.



FVUUM

The Friendship Village UU Ministry continues with its monthly chapel and luncheon at Lakeview Landing every second Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 8th. Please R.S.V.P. to Brian Forster (291-8427). You don't need to be a resident to attend.



On April 27, 1882 **Ralph Waldo Emerson**,
a Unitarian minister and Transcendentalist,
died at age seventy-nine at Concord, Massachusetts.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNAL MEAL

We shall again gather at 6:00 p.m. this Maundy Thursday (April 9th) to share food items (i.e., a potluck) and reflect upon the role of food in ritual celebration, why there have been festivals at this time of year, and what they celebrate.

Participants will be invited to comment on why the dish they bring has significance to them in particular, or for the world in general (if they wish).

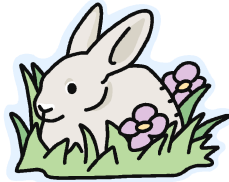
Contact *Russ Campbell* at 266-0394 (H); 273-2447 (W); or <campbell@cedarnet.org> for further information.



Child's letter to God:

Dear God,

If we come back as something, please don't let me be Jennifer Horton because I hate her. Denise



Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz

A production of South Carolina Educational Radio and distributed nationally by NPR, *Piano Jazz* is the **longest-running national performance program on public radio** and has been called "an oasis of intelligence and grace and probably the best hour of jazz on the airwaves" by *The Washington Post*.



FY10 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are now in the fourth week of our FY10 Stewardship Campaign (July 2009 – June 2010). To date, sixty-seven pledges totaling \$100,280.00 have been received, representing a 60.4% response rate from the pledge pool solicited for financial support for next year. It is crucial that those of you who have yet to turn in your pledges do so as quickly as possible so that we have an accurate pledge total on which to build next year's budget.

While we have enjoyed double digit increases in giving over the past several years of Stewardship Campaigns, we can not make any realistic projections on our income with 40% of our pledge units still out. Please keep in mind that we need approximately \$118,000 in pledge commitments just to maintain staff and programming at their current levels.

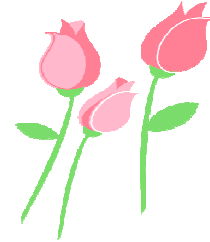
Please send your pledge in today if you haven't done so already.



Clara Harlowe Barton, a Universalist and the founder of the American Red Cross, died at age ninety on April 12, 1912.

BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION

The Finance Committee will be holding a Budget Information Session at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 19th. The purpose of this session will be to present the budget being proposed to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting the following week, and to answer questions that you may have regarding the funding recommendations for the July 2009 - June 2010 program year. Please plan to attend this session to learn what will be proposed in the FY09-10 operating budget.



WANTED

We are looking for people to help with the Wednesday Dinners. Do you like to cook or would you be willing to just organize a dinner? The dinners are simple: a main dish, soup, salad and a dessert. Your supplies are reimbursed and your dinner is free. You can cook from scratch, buy the food ready to cook, or already cooked. Set up and clean-up are also part of it. The perfect solution is if people would sign up to do one or more weeks, but we also can have people who want to cook a main dish or a dessert.

The open dates are: April 22nd, 29th
May 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th.

Thank you to *Henry, Eric, Kendra, Staci, Adele, Nate and Deblyn* for dinners recently. Contact *Kathy Klink-Zeitz* to sign-up or for more information.

*** and another chance to help out ***

Would you like to be part of a Sunday Service but don't like to be up front? Then volunteer to help with the Sound System or to run a PowerPoint presentation. Contact *Leigh Zeitz* for more information.



UU CARD CLUB

Due to the Easter holiday, the UU Card Club normally scheduled for the second Saturday of the month will be moved to Saturday, April 18th. Plan to join us at 6:30 p.m. on the third Saturday for an evening of cards and fun.



COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE Good Friday, April 10th at 7:30 p.m.

A Drum Circle is a fun experience. Drum Circle participants express themselves collectively by using a chorus of drums, percussion, and vocals to create music together. Every drum circle is different; it's a free family friendly event. Bring a drum or use one provided by *Deblyn Russell*.

On April 30, 1771 *Hosea Ballou* was born in New Hampshire. Known as the "father of American Universalism", he was reared Baptist and became a Universalist at nineteen. He and John Murray are the most famous early organizers of American Universalism. He wrote *A Treatise on Atonement* (1805) which recast universal salvation in terms of Unitarian divine benevolence rather than as a modification of Calvinist Trinitarianism.



Our caring thoughts are with members and friends of this congregation and their families who are dealing with health issues—specifically: *Eleanore Stark, Bob and Shirley Robinson, and Kathy Klink-Zeitz.*

Mary Olson is recovering well from knee surgery and she and *Frank* will be taking a trip to Ireland.

Long-time member *Ed Jamosky* has moved to the Lutheran Home and would enjoy visitors.

The members of the Caring Committee are *Esther Kieffer* (Chair), *Betsy Brant, Sally Browne, Bob Robinson, Cathy Ryan, Virginia Mahn, Donna Davis, and Eva Cameron.*



APRIL SERVICES

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. unless stated otherwise

April 5th

Palm Sunday ~ Tim Purdum, Deblyn Russell (WA)

Join *Tim* as he offers stories of meaning and purpose on this Christian holiday. Don't miss the children's procession with Palms! We will celebrate communion together.

April 12th

Easter Angel ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, John Miller (WA)

For some of us, this powerful story of resurrection gives us hope, and for others of us, we turn to other stories of resurrection—but we all find hope in life restored, in goodness and joy restored. What "Easter Angels" have been in our lives, coaxing us, encouraging us to indeed see the moment for what it is—a moment of great joy?

April 19th

What's Wrong With Atheism? ~ Lynn Brant, Del Carpenter (WA)

That question can be asked (and answered) in the same way as "what's wrong with my eating an ice cream cone?" either from the point of view of a vegan or from the point of view on a hot July afternoon while standing in front of a Dairy Queen. Lynn's talk is in response to several best-selling books on atheism and another defending "the faith". His personal views will be revealed during the talk.

April 26th

Earth Day: Blind To Your Bounty ~ A Service For All Ages

Join *Rev. Eva, the Service For All Ages Team, and Lisa Kratz* (WA) for this celebration in story, song, and play. We honor our home, our mother: Earth.



See the REAP article for details on First Friday, April 3rd



CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

Thank UU for April

This month's Thank UU goes to a couple who are relatively new to the congregation. *Robyn and Jeff Heiden* began coming to UUSBHC in November of 2007 and became members a little over a year ago in January 2008.

Living in Marshalltown, the Heidens have over an hour drive to and from Cedar Falls each Sunday but they are actively involved in making our church a welcoming place for new comers and regular members alike. Officially, they belong to the Outreach committee, but they also volunteer with the Hospitality committee. They often provide treats for coffee hour and are just "downright hospitable".

Jeff particularly enjoys the role of "unofficial greeter". He takes it upon himself to identify visitors each Sunday and invite them to the coffee area. He says that he especially tries to show them the poster showing all of the famous UUs. (If Superman was a UU, what else is there to say?) He wants people to know about the UU message and carries the UU mini-brochures with him as he travels so that he can pass them out when he meets people who are interested. It's all about making connections. Robyn tells of a time when they were wearing their UUSBHC purple shirts in Marshalltown and were stopped by three couples who attend the Ames UU church.

When asked why they are so active in welcoming people to church, Robyn said "We just like all of the people, especially *Eva*, and want people to share in this. We always look forward to coming here because it is so peaceful. We have great discussions with lots of intelligent people."

Thank UU Robyn and Jeff for all that you do and we hope that you continue to help us make this a welcoming and peaceful place.

Members of the Committee on Ministry are: *Christine Carpenter, Judy Harrington, Jim Paprocki, Bob Robinson, Leigh Zeitz and Eva Cameron.*



CUP OF JOE'S ON FRIDAYS. . .

Join *Eva* and others who drop in at Cup of Joe's from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on two April Fridays (10th and 24th) for conversation and to celebrate Friday! (Remember, *Eva* will be at the First Friday *Passover* at the church on the 3rd.)



Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz

In 2000, McPartland was named an NEA American Jazz Master and received the ASCAP Lifetime Achievement Award and the Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Award for her contributions to jazz.

SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTION "WALKIN' THE TALK"

Happy Spring to all!

Due to the Stewardship Campaign there was no Social Action Plate Collection in February; therefore, no report this month. The March focus was the UUSC with the Adult Sunday School presentation held on the 22nd. I showed the *Heroes of the Spirit* DVD about the founders of the UUSC. There was discussion afterward. The plate collection was on March 29th. The total is not known as of this writing. The service that day was also on the UUSC.

April's focus is the Cedar Valley Hospice. According to their website, <www.cvhospice.org>:

"Cedar Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit multi-service agency that provides home care services to those with a life-threatening illness, hospice services to those with a six month or less prognosis, grief support services to anyone struggling with the death of a loved one, and case management services for those living with HIV or AIDS and their families. Services are available to anyone regardless of where they reside, their age or diagnosis, or their ability to pay."

On April 19th during Adult Sunday School, there will be a speaker from Hospice about the services they offer and how you can help. The plate collection for Hospice will be April 26th.

Thanks once more for *Walkin' the Talk*.

Namaste,

Sheri Huber-Otting
UUSBHC Social Action Chair



UUSBHC EXPERIENCING GROWTH

Have you noticed lots of new faces around the church? We have been delighted to welcome over one hundred visitors to our Sunday services since July. During the same time, we have welcomed fourteen new members to our Congregation. The Outreach Committee wants to thank all of you who have reached out to our visitors to make them feel welcome. We also want to thank you for encouraging your friends and family to check us out, as a friend's recommendation is still the top reason that brings visitors and potential members through our door.

The past year has found lots of new activity at the church too. During 2008 we averaged ninety-five people in our building each Sunday. We are also experiencing increased use of our building during the week days, with members and friends participating in a wide variety of events that provide them with both social networking and activities for growth.

There are many more people out there looking for what Unitarian Universalism offers. We encourage you to continue to welcome all who take the risk to "check us out". Invite your friends too.

The Outreach Committee



Charles Darwin, the Unitarian naturalist who formulated the theory of evolution, died at age seventy-three on April 19, 1882.

UU SPOTLIGHT



This month we are pleased to have longtime members *Ray* and *Yvette Berner* in the Spotlight. Many years ago when I began attending the UUSBHC, I was included in an event called Circle Supper. I was invited to the Berner's home. I drove to their lovely house in the woods. *Mildred Pierce* was with me and we got very lost trying to find their home. We did finally get there—late. We were wandering around on country roads for several hours. It is funny now, but at the time it was stressful. That was my first meeting with the Berners. It is always a joy to see them at church. Yvette will tell us their story.
Esther Kieffer

Ray and I have been members of the UUSBHC for many years. I think since 1966 or when the current building was brand new.

We had been Missouri Synod Lutherans previously and had come to making a decision when our children were reaching the age for confirmation class and we realized we couldn't agree with what they would be taught there. I had learned of the existence of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, the mail order UU group for isolated UUs and we started using the RE and other materials from them for a time. . . until daughter Sue had her corrective heart surgery in June 1966, freeing us for easier travelling. *Louise Schwarting*, a UUSBHC member living in Reinbeck, where Ray had his dental practice and we were living at that time, invited us to visit *Dorothy* and *Martin Grant's* home in Cedar Falls to see the Iranian artifacts they had brought back. Many UUs were there that day.

The next step was to attend UUSBHC meetings in Cedar Falls and we have never looked back. We have enjoyed the intellectual freedom. We have appreciated the warmth of our reception and the many people we have met in the group over these forty-two years. We can be ourselves here. The Society has experienced ups and downs, struggling at times—surviving without paid leadership. In those early days it was great hearing the self-produced programs. . . but so demanding on the membership. Then we came to calling ministers, and as might be expected in such an independent thinking group, some ministers have been better received than others. But through it all, the spirit has remained.

We moved to a woods south of Reinbeck in 1972 where we have enjoyed the experiences of the natural world—bird watching, wildflowers, trees, animals—all of which Ray photographed. We have done many slide shows in years past. In 1990 we established a prairie reconstruction in a park in Traer and in 2007 moved to live in a condo just south of it—with a great view over "our" prairie.

Our five children live far away now.

Paul, our jazz musician, lives in Haarlem, The Netherlands, with wife *Monique* and daughter *Caitlin* (15);
Ted, our scientist, works at the EPA and lives in Arlington, VA with wife *Beth*, daughters *Madelyn* (17), *Alaina* (14) and son *Ian* (11);
Sue, a substitute teacher, lives in Burt, IA with husband *Mike Chihak*, daughter *Allison* (19), a freshman at the U. of I., and son *Ray* (13);
Ellen, a professional organizer, lives in Minneapolis with husband *Steve Mikunda*, and daughter *Eliza* (10);
Andy, publications, web designer at the UNC College of Medicine, lives in Carrboro, NC with wife *Maureen*, son *Will* (11), daughter *Yvette* (7), and sons *Max* (6), and *Leo* (2 months).

Contact information for Ray and Yvette:

800 Wilson Street, Apt. A
Traer, IA 50675
319-478-2007
email: <cyberner@traer.net>

BUDDHIST PATH

Join *Eva* each week on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the balcony for meditation, walking meditation and discussion of Buddhist topics. All are welcome.

This is a great group to invite a friend or neighbor to, someone who might enjoy having a place to come meditate.

If Thursday evenings don't work for you, we also meet the third Sunday of each month at 11:15 a.m. Come explore the living dharma with us.



GARDEN DREAMS AND SEED SWAPPING

It's February. As snow melts in mud-speckled mounds outside, *Nita* and I sit beside the wood stove, trading seeds, talking of what was and what might be, dreaming large, luscious tomatoes, bold, purple-flecked beans, lemony peppers, and beets red as bulls' blood. "Why have only green", writes Rosalind Creasy, "when you can have a rainbow garden!"

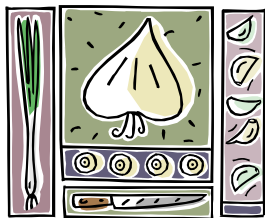
Magic parcels, each seed we finger for memories of worlds within. She brags her stocks; I tout mine. We sip tea and swap. Some seeds are so tiny they escape; others so toughly sculpted, how can they ever open? The earth is rising from wetness to breathe again. By firelight, we conjure the sun. *We are ready.* Broccoli, cabbage, tomato, and leek starts are up.

How can you help? Clean out your storage! We seek to reuse and recycle as much as possible. Some things we will need for the garden season you may be tripping over and eager to share; however, please let me know before you bring something to be sure we can use it.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 2x6 and 2x4 lumber | Trellis |
| Pieces of chicken wire | Sack crete |
| Flat landscaping stones | Tomato cages |
| Large pots or barrels cut in half | A little red wagon |
| Sections of re-mesh or hog panels | Metal garden posts |
| Garden tools: <i>small</i> —like clippers, and <i>large</i> —like shovels, rakes, loppers | |
| Stiff wires from old political campaign signs—rusty is okay | |
| Large pieces of plastic sheeting, as from mattresses (please cut along edges for reuse) | |
| Anything else you don't know what to do with, ask us! | |

The Grace Garden Movement is growing. Look for news on that in the next edition!

Julie Fischer



On April 28, 1579 *Faustus Socinus* went to reside at Krakow, Poland where he eventually became the leader of the Unitarian movement, formally called the Minor Reformed Church.

On April 19, 1813 *Benjamin Rush*, a physician, devout Universalist, and signer of the Declaration of Independence, died in Philadelphia at age sixty-seven.



2009 PRAIRIE STAR DISTRICT AND CONGREGATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

It has become a tradition for some years for our Committee on Ministry, on behalf of the congregation, to nominate members for annual Prairie Star District (PSD) awards. This year we are so pleased that once again one of our members has been chosen by the district to receive an award. The 2009 *Keeping the Faith Award* for mid-size congregations (which recognizes an individual who has provided ongoing service to one's congregation and community) was won by our *Carolyn Hildebrandt*. Among her many achievements: (1) service to our congregation, including: development of an extraordinary music program; establishing Sunday service children's programming many years ago; and organizing mid-week programs, among others; (2) service at the community level, including: bringing us a choir from Waterloo's Methodist African Episcopal Church; voices from the UNI George Walker Society (whose members of this national organization are committed to educating others about classical spiritual music composed by African-Americans); and arranging for vocalists and instrumentalists from St. Luke's Episcopal Church to join our choir and musicians for a Hurricane Katrina benefit concert to aid displaced families from Louisiana and Mississippi who had recently been relocated to our community. Carolyn was presented with the award at the annual Prairie Star District conference in Duluth, MN, at the beginning of this month.

Besides nominating Carolyn for the Keeping the Faith Award, we also nominated *Dennis Harbaugh* and *Juanita Williams* for the PSD *Social Justice Award*, which pays tribute to those who are witness to the ideals of social justice and responsibility so important to our UU heritage. Dennis and Juanita epitomize the virtues of generosity and community spirit. A number of years ago, they saw a problem in our community that desperately called for solutions. Even though they knew that resolving the dilemma of providing educational opportunity and success for African-American students was far beyond the means of any one or two individuals, they decided to meet the challenge head on by doing what they could. With two sons of their own to educate, Juanita and Dennis decided to invest a significant part of their financial resources to re-finance some property and use those funds as seed money to establish the Harbaugh-Williams Education Promise Fund. With the cooperation of the Waterloo School District, a second grade class of seventeen African American boys was selected to participate in an ongoing academic endeavor, which includes parental support and volunteer mentoring by an adult male. If the students succeed through high school, with an academic record that enables them to be accepted by post-secondary institutions in Iowa, the Education Promise Fund will guarantee their tuition for the first two years. The students are now in 5th grade; and thanks to the initiative of Dennis and Juanita, contributions from the public continue to enlarge the scholarship fund.

Congratulations to Carolyn, Juanita, and Dennis!

Committee on Ministry



On April 21, 1562 *The Synod of Pinczow*, Poland, consisting of twenty-eight ministers and twelve lay people, passed a resolution abandoning the Trinity.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Black Hawk County will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 11:15 a.m. A regular Sunday Service will precede this meeting.

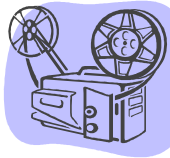
Agenda items include:

- 1) Vote on taking out a mortgage to complete the funding of the siding project.
- 2) Bylaw changes that codify the council organization that we have been experimenting with this year and that add an additional director position to the board. Also a bylaw change to handle mid-year adjustments to budget items.
- 3) Adoption of the Fiscal 2010 budget.
- 4) Election of officers for the upcoming fiscal year.

Full details of these items will be posted no later than April 19th on <www.uusbhc.org> and will be available during the April 19th budget review session at 11:15 a.m. Comments on the same may be made by contacting Board President, *Jan Gallagher* or any board member.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COUNCIL Multi-Generation Programs



What's Up Doc?umentaries

New time and back to Sundays.

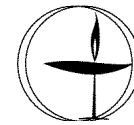
Dinner and a Movie—join us for pizza at 6:00 p.m.

April 5th – *Burning the Future: Coal in America*; 89 minutes
Every eleven and a half days, the explosive equivalent of the Hiroshima atomic bomb is unleashed upon the mountains of southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky—for coal. Faced with toxic ground water, dangerous sludge dams, the obliteration of 1.4 million acres of mountains and a government that appeases industry, heroic local activists fight to arouse the nation's help in protecting their mountains, saving their families, and preserving their way of life.

April 19th – Join us to listen to *General Assembly's 2008 Ware Lecturer, Van Jones*. In his lecture—though “lecture” doesn't do justice to the inspirational tone and spirit of the presentation—Van Jones began by acknowledging the “shadow” of homeland security over the event, and added that “there could not be any more important time to get together under any circumstance.”

A few of the things he talks about are:

He spoke about the role and responsibilities of Unitarian Universalists now that “it looks like change is about to break out.”



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE UUSBHC BYLAWS

The Executive Board has adopted some proposed amendments to our UUSBHC Bylaws. These proposals will be discussed and voted on April 26, 2009 by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The proposals do the following:

- § Increase the number of Trustees from four to five on the Executive Board, having staggered two-year terms.
- § Clarify that the Financial Director has responsibility as chair of the *Finance Council*
- § Clarify that each of the Trustees has responsibility as liaison to one of the councils: *Ministry Council, Religious Services Council, Education and Programs Council, Social Action Council*, and the *Building and Operations Council*.
- § Establish an Executive Committee composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Financial Director.
- § Authorize the Executive Board to reallocate funds within the operating budget when it is needed.

These proposals are included as an insert in this newsletter for your review and consideration. Members will have an opportunity to review the proposed Bylaws changes at the Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, April 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the church. If you are unable to attend this meeting or would like additional information, contact *Jim Paprocki* at <jpaprocki@mchsi.com> or 296-3737.

Jones reminded of the danger of stagflation, where rising energy prices raise other prices, while purchasing falls and job loss increases, causing tremendous social upheaval. Will the U.S. have leadership that is addicted to oil and carbon-based fuels, or will we “invent and invest our way out?”

It is possible, he stressed, to fight pollution and poverty at the same time.

A “green wave”, he pointed out, can “lift all boats.” “Ecopopulism” can “save the polar bear, Pookie, and the president.”

It's time, he said, to “reconnect with love and enthusiasm.” We need beautiful dreams; the country isn't looking for critique but inspiration to be our best self.

Homophobes have had their turn. “We have family values; everyone in the family has value.”

In closing, Jones stressed that we “insist on a green economy”, adding that we need to do more than take America back—we need to take America forward.

From the response of the audience, that charge was received and taken to heart. (by Jone Johnson Lewis, one hour)

For more info on Van Jones or the Ware lecture:

<<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2008/commonthreads/115749.shtml>>.

WOW! WORKSHOPS ON WEDNESDAYS WOW!

Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday, reservations needed—sign up at church or online. Cost is \$5 per person, \$2 children under five years, with a maximum of \$10 per family.

Children's Choir at 5:00 p.m. every Wednesday (see article)

Choir at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday (see article)

WORKSHOPS are at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1st

Self Realization with *Crystal King*

Artistic Fun: Chalice Art with *Kathy Klink-Zeitz*

Join Kathy to make a piece of chalice art for your home. We will look at different chalices and pick one to make. Choices will be using modeling clay, making some magnets, window clings, Perler beads, napkins, stationery and more. We will also explore chalice lightings. The next week come back and do a different chalice art.

Wednesday, April 8th

Small Group with *Lara and Neil Martinsen-Burrell* working with the book, *Integral Life Practice*.

Self Realization with *Crystal King*

Artistic Fun: Chalice Art with *Kathy Klink-Zeitz*

Join Kathy again this week to make a different piece of chalice art for your home. See previous week's details for more info.

Wednesday, April 15th

Self Realization with *Crystal King*

Artistic Fun: Prayer Flags with *Deblyn Russell*

Join Deblyn as you create your own "prayer flags". Prayer flags are inscribed with symbols, words, invocation, mantras, etc. Tibetan Buddhists have planted flags outside their homes and places of spiritual practice for centuries for the wind to carry the beneficent vibration across the countryside. Prayer flags are said to bring happiness, long life and prosperity to the flag planter and those in the vicinity.

Wednesday, April 22nd

Self Realization with *Crystal King*

Artistic Fun: Chalice Banner with *Kathy Klink-Zeitz*

We will be making a chalice banner out of material. We will use a mostly non-sew technique. There is a \$5 materials fee so please sign up. You can make the banner to hang in your home or take it to UU functions. Committees can also make one for their committee for our annual Involvement Fair.

Wednesday, April 29th

Self Realization with *Crystal King*

Artistic Fun: Soul Collage with *Deblyn Russell*

Join Deblyn and rediscover your creativity and intuition using the simple process of making a Soul Collage. We will use images from magazines to create your personal Soul Collage, effortlessly, creating a work of Art that taps into your "inner genius". Bring magazines that you'd like to cut images from or use ones Deblyn brings. Come and enjoy this simple, creative, joyous mystical process. (Note: if you have great magazines you're ready to discard or pass on, we'll be glad to take them.)

Theoretical String Band – every week at 7:30 p.m. (see article)

Small Group Facilitators Meeting – April 1st at 7:30 p.m.

Other Programs

(Some events have related articles elsewhere in this newsletter.)

First Friday – Passover Seder

Buddhist Path

FVUUM

A Gathering of Women

Waverly Small Group

Last Sunday Small Groups

Nature Lovers Group

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. unless stated otherwise

April 5th

Conscious Living – Down With Coal, Up With. . .What? (in the Cedar Valley) Now that LS Power has withdrawn their interest in building a Waterloo coal-fired power plant (and Marshalltown's is "postponed" as well) how can we work with others to create a community that is more in line with our Seventh UU Principle?

Join the Conscious Living Group this Sunday as Don and Linda Shatzer, from Community Energy Solutions, share ways we can put our efforts together to make the Cedar Valley a healthier and greener place to live and work.

Garden Meditation – Let's clean our corner of the planet, one bag at a time. The first weekend in April we will have an opportunity to participate in Cedar Falls Spring Litter Clean Up. Citizens are asked to clean small debris out of their yards, easements and alleys. Groups can tackle public use areas. Any group that wants to help, please call *Julie Fischer*, at 266-5483. Group leaders who sign up for designated areas can obtain blue collection bags from Public Works and information on special dumpsters for deposition. It's hoped that some of us UUs might take on the easement along Cedar Heights Drive from the church to Greenhill and our own grounds. Anyone who wishes to help, Julie will be leaving after the morning service to clean this strip. It will also be good exercise!

New Member Meeting – If you're new to us then this would be a good time to sit down with *Rev. Eva Cameron* and *Mica Lorenz* in a relaxed atmosphere and learn more about being a UU member.

Book Group – Meet with *Patrick Malloy* and others to discuss a book written by Loyal Rue, member of the Religion and Philosophy department at Luther College. The book is *Religion Is Not About God: How Spiritual Traditions Nurture Our Biological Nature and What to Expect When They Fail*.

April 12th (No Adult Sunday School)

Easter Egg Hunt for the children hosted by the Youth.

Easter Brunch sponsored by the Religious Services Committee.

April 19th

Buddhist Path – Join *Rev. Eva* and others in exploring Buddhist spiritual practices.

Walking The Talk – We will learn about the Cedar Valley Hospice from one of their speakers and how we can help.

Garden Meditation – Help *Julie Fischer's* wish come true: "If Earth Day is fair, my wish would be for some of us to be in the yard, cleaning up, planting the garden (cabbages and broccolis will be ready to put in by then) and just looking at how our greenery has fared through the winter—Spring inventory and planting. In my mind, Earth Day is for action. If it's nice, people won't want to sit. If possible I'll be outside for sure as there will be lots to do."

Finance Committee – Presenting the proposed FY09-10 budget.

April 26th (No Adult Sunday School)

Annual Meeting



First Friday Potluck ~ Passover

Join us on April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. to go through our own Passover Seder. We will learn more about the religion of our friends and neighbors. Please RSVP as we will have special seating, and special placemats for the children.

Passover recipes are in the Fellowship Hall or you can find them at the following websites: <<http://www.jewishrecipes.org/>>, <<http://www.kashrut.com/Passover/recipes/>>.

Remember you can also always bring your favorite dish. See you there!