



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
OF BLACK HAWK COUNTY**

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\*\*\*\*\* 2009 \*\*\*\*\*

- MAY 3**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“LOVE A LICHEN”** – The Rev. Eva Cameron  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: Conscious Living / Garden Meditation**  
**New Member Meeting / Circle Way**
- MAY 10**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“FLOWER COMMUNION”** – The Rev. Eva Cameron  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: Stories / Garden Meditation / Book Group**
- MAY 17**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“BUTTERFLIES UNDER OUR HATS”** – Religious Education Sunday  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: Buddhist Path / Walking The Talk / Garden Meditation**
- MAY 24**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“MEMORIAL DAY CHAPEL”** ~ The Rev. Eva Cameron  
**10:30 A.M. / Noon**    **All Church Clean-up / Potluck Picnic**
- MAY 31**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“QUESTION BOX SUNDAY”** – The Rev. Eva Cameron  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: The Questions and Answers Continue / Garden Meditation**

\* ~ denotes *Worship Associate*

**REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**

- 9:30 A.M.**    **Services ~~ UU and Quaker**  
**10:45 A.M.**    **Coffee/Fellowship/Announcements**  
**11:00 A.M.**    **Children’s Chapel**  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Sunday School for Children, Youth, and Adults**



*The mission of this organization is to be an accepting and supportive community that nurtures spiritual, emotional, and intellectual explorations, articulates ethical values, and encourages actions based on personal beliefs. This community is a voice for religious diversity, human tolerance, improvement of the human condition, and preservation of our environment.*

## CONVERSATION WITH EVA

As I write this, I am thinking about our dear, sweet, little *Ella* who was just born this week. We've all been watching *Jason* and *Jen* come each week all winter, each week one moment closer to when she would arrive. And now she is here.

It is an amazing and important reminder that life keeps on, and we have so much to do to grow a healthy wonderful place for her to live and grow in her life—her and all the 375,000-plus people born each day around the globe. Sometimes these large numbers are just so overwhelming, it's easy to get disheartened and just feel like there is nothing you can do. But one small child reminds us, by her preciousness, a glorious small being, that we do have reason to work and quest for things beyond our own small needs.

Getting to work can mean many different things to different people. A beautiful and harmonious world needs calm centered people, who meditate and take care of themselves enough that they are beautiful to others around them. It needs people of righteousness, who struggle to create laws and ways that lead us into treating each beautiful person as the precious being they are. It needs poets, artists, musicians to invite imagination and joy into our lives. It needs good healthy food, in ample supply—including some of those other elements which nourish our physical bodies, but which we have been ignoring—like fresh air and water. Some of us will have this work to do. There are many things to do to bring us closer to the Promised Land. Think about your life, and where you fit in. You may not be so good at X, but may do a great job at Y. So celebrate what you are good at! However, you may do a lot of Y, but it is making you miserable. Perhaps now is a time to spread your wings and learn other things, explore other ways. In either case, it is important to feel that you have a sense of purpose. That you can help make this place just a bit better for our dear sweet *Ella*—and all those who are joining her on this adventure of life.

See you in church!

*Eva*



*Charles Lindbergh* finished the first non-stop transatlantic flight from New York to Paris in a single engine plane called the Spirit of St. Louis on May 21, 1927.



## MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY AT CHURCH

### Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for a Chapel Service as we honor those who have died in service of our country.

### All Church Cleanup at 10:30 a.m.

Bring your work gloves, dust rags, polish, window cleaner, vacuums and gardening gear for our semi-annual indoor/outdoor all-member clean up! *Roger Hahn* and *Julie Fischer* will have projects inside and outside for us. Dress for work, and bring a fun heart—as we *do* have a lot of fun working together to spruce up the place.

### Potluck Picnic at 12:00 p.m.

For our Year-end Potluck Picnic and barbeque bring a dish to share, your own beverage, and meat to grill. We will provide grills, hot dogs and table service. *Eva* has requested root beer floats again this year. . . which just might magically appear.



## NOTES FROM THE DRE

As I write this I think about the disasters we had last May and hope that this is a much better May. While I was at church today I saw *Peter* and his family in the church garden.

Our sad news is that *Randy* (one of our Alternative Activity Leaders) will not be returning in the fall. She is off to do student teaching; the good news is that it is closer to her home and family. We will all miss her.

We are starting registration for next year (2009-2010) so look for the registration forms during May. We are doing it now so that we will have more balanced classrooms in the new year.

We always need helpers and substitute teachers, you do not have to be a parent to volunteer.

### Classes next year will be~

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

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

- ◆ Primary Class: Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades
- ◆ Intermediate Class: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- ◆ Middle School: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- ◆ High School: 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Please remember that we are flexible with the grade levels.

### Nursery News~

The majority of our Nursery children will be moving up next year to the Early Childhood Education Class, so we will need helpers with that class. Welcome to the Nursery "*Ella*" *Elleanor Louise Marie Zeck* and welcome back to *Francis Bryan*.

### 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 visited the Mennonite Church as part of the Youth Unity Group\* (including youth from the UCC, Mennonite, and Methodist churches in town). In April during Sunday School, the youth did a great job with the Easter egg hunt.

~*Joyce* and *Amy*

\*Youth Unity Group: this is for the 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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*



### NEW MEMBER IN-GATHERING and RECOGNITION

During the service on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> we will have a short ceremony recognizing those new UUs who have joined our congregation and signed the membership book. After the service the Outreach Committee will be offering special treats in the fellowship hall to honor all of the new members who have joined during this program year. We hope that all the new members will be able to join us to celebrate.

If you are interested in becoming a member, join us for new member information meetings the first Sunday of each month in the minister's office at 11:15 a.m. If you have any questions contact *Mica Lorenz* at <mikemica@gmail.com> or 291-6509.

## CONSCIOUS LIVING CORNER

From [www.greenmuze.com](http://www.greenmuze.com)

*Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves* is a good read. In fact, it just might turn more than a few self-proclaimed greenies upside down.

It is common knowledge that many of us are worried about toxins in our food, chlorine in our drinking water, pesticides in our soil, hormones and antibiotics in meat, and the increasingly polluted air. “Food, water, air, sun. We cannot do without them. Sadly, we now also fear them,” writes author and sociologist Andrew Szasz. And indeed we do.

But he points out that rather than lobby the government for better regulations—we have responded by shopping. We buy bottled water, air filters, natural rubber mattresses, organic food, green household cleaners and pure fiber clothing to protect ourselves from environmental threats.

What we have done is create a form of individualized quarantine, where we shut the healthy individual in and the threatening world out, explains Szasz. This is a strange form of environmentalism, where our efforts are focused on preserving personal well being and ignoring the common good or collective well being of our society.

Szasz asks us to consider that if climate change means death for the planet then the only sane response is to do everything in our power to stop it—write letters, call our government officials, protest and lobby until the threat is stopped. Our irrational response to the threat is to buy biodegradable garbage bags, hemp underwear, recycled toilet paper and think our self-imposed quarantine is going to protect us. “We will be able to undertake that conversation in earnest, though, only after we have thoroughly disabused ourselves of the seductive promise of inverted quarantine and are no longer partially anesthetized by the false sense of security it offers us,” he writes.

*Shopping Our Way to Safety* is an important must-read for anyone who thinks that by buying green products they are changing the world for the better.

*Christine Carpenter*



### PRAIRIE HOME POTLUCK and CONCERT / FUNDRAISER ~ MAY 31st

Save the date! Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> is our second annual potluck and concert (broadly speaking, the acts could, just maybe, go beyond music. . .). In the spirit of Powder Milk Biscuits, 1950's-themed foods would be especially welcome for the potluck right after RE—think Jell-O molds, tuna noodle casseroles, Grandma's hot dish, Tootsie Pops. Entertainment starts at 1:30 p.m.

Impresario *Tim Purdum*, <musicman@cfu.net> invites you to contact him with your performance specialties and/or wacky ideas, and start practicing so you'll be ready for the big day!

We request \$10 individual donations for the concert, and more is certainly welcome. The Music Committee's hope is to raise enough \$dollars\$ to send Tim to the UU Musicians' Network annual summer conference in Portland, OR. The UUMN provided valuable services in helping our congregation transition from *Carolyn Hildebrandt's* long and valued tenure as unpaid music director to Music Committee coordination to Tim's current position as paid Music Director.



The *Humanist Manifesto* was published May 1, 1933. Signed by thirty-six prominent thinkers—among them scientists, philosophers, and academics, including seven Unitarian ministers and one Universalist minister—the Manifesto affirmed fourteen points of religious humanism and became a rallying cry for liberal religious thinkers.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES COUNCIL NEWS and NOTES

The RSC is busy setting the schedule for June and July, when Sunday services will be lay-led. We already have much of the schedule set, but are always open to service topic and service leader suggestions.

As in past years, we're looking at a Poetry Sunday for August 2<sup>nd</sup>, so do let one of us (*Mimi Kuester*, <mhkuester@gmail.com> or *Karen Impola*, <impola@uni.edu>) know if you're interested in participating. A UUSBHC team led by *Lara Martinsen-Burrell* will travel to Ames on July 19<sup>th</sup> to present a service, and we're working on an Ames-led service here sometime this summer.

Two RSC groups have committed to conducting fund-raisers during FY2010 upon request from the Board; this will help ensure availability of funds to meet the Society's By-Laws stipulations.

We hope you'll read our annual report if you haven't already; we've been busy! Our committees and teams—Music, Creative Visual Artz, Worship Associates, Lay Ministers, Drama Team, Tech Team, Ushers, and Friendship Village UU Ministry—invite you to join us. Any of the folk you see up front on Sunday morning can refer you to the committee or team which interests you.



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, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Please R.S.V.P. to *Brian Forster* (291-8427). You don't need to be a resident to attend.



## UU SUMMER GARAGE SALE

Mark your calendar for August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>! Here's your chance to clean house and get rid of all those unneeded items that are collecting dust and space in your basement, garage or attic. Donate them to the UU Summer Garage Sale being sponsored by the Outreach Committee as part of their commitment to help out with next year's budget. We will begin collecting items in June for an August garage sale at the UUSBHC.

Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters about how you can donate items for our sale. Clean house, help next year's budget, and get a tax donation for your donated items – it's a WIN-WIN proposition!



## MAY SERVICES

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

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Love A Lichen** ~ Rev. Eva Cameron

Lichen are those small grayish green things that grow on rocks (mostly). They just kind of sit there, minding their own business. We mostly ignore them. I think they offer us a unique spiritual message. Come and learn what!

**May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Flower Communion: A Service For All Ages** ~ Rev. Eva Cameron

On this Mother's Day we will honor the marvelous human potential to find hope, even when times are difficult. Please bring a flower to share with someone. Families should bring a flower for each person in their family. They can be from your garden, purchased, or just a branch or something else that represents hope to you. We will welcome New Members to the church on this day! Both the Children's Choir and the Choir will sing.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Butterflies Under Our Hats** ~ RE Sunday

Rev. Eva Cameron and Kathy Klink-Zeitz, our Director of Religious Education, join together to acknowledge and celebrate the power of religious education. Knowledge is power and our children and adults go forth from our doors with strength from the many lessons they learn here together.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Memorial Day Chapel Service** ~ Rev. Eva Cameron

A Chapel service in honor of those who have died in service of our Country. Those who have experienced a personal loss are invited to bring an item or photo to place on our altar. The All-Church Clean-up and Potluck Picnic to follow.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Question Box Sunday** ~ Rev. Eva Cameron

Join Rev. Eva in this annual event. Send her a question or leave it in the "Question Box" in the Fellowship Hall. (Please include your name, as she won't answer anonymous questions.) In a religion where we like to say "Even to question truly is an answer" it's fun to pause and think about what leaves us puzzled; and hear what Eva thinks!



### Child's letter to God:

Dear God,

If you give me a genie lamp like Aladdin I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set.

Raphael



## BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

I have started a Birthday Calendar. It is in the Fellowship Hall. If you wish to be included, please put your 'name only' on the calendar on the date of your birth.

Happy Birthday to those with May Birthdays:

Jeff Zeitz	Juanita Williams	Adele Queiroz
Diane House	Elliot Purdum	Wes Zeitz
Bryn Sumner	Sheri Huber-Otting	Livia Chamberlin
Andy Rubly	Matthew Bancroft-Smithe	



Esther Kieffer

## HELP WANTED

We are looking for people to help with the Wednesday Dinners. The dates are: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

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.

\*\*\* and yet another chance where you can help \*\*\*

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.



Our caring thoughts are with members and friends of this congregation—specifically: Eleanore Stark and Glynce Butschy.

Mildred Pierce is recovering well from the recent fall she had.

Congratulations to Jen and Jason Zeck on the April birth of

Elleanor Louise Marie. Her parents and big brother, Tristan, brought her to a Sunday service when she was four days old!



Congratulations to Leigh Zeitz whose website is credited and he is quoted in the recently released book, *Script & Scribble* by Kitty Burns Florey.

Congratulations to Ben Kieffer of Iowa City, son of Esther Kieffer, whose daily talk show on Iowa Public Radio, *The Exchange*, won the first place award for Best Talk/Public Affairs Program! What an honor to be judged the best in a six-state area.

(Ed. Note: We are all aware of Esther's kind heart, warm smile, positive personality, and how hard she works on behalf of our church. When I heard about the award, I contacted Ben asking for more details; he had this to add just for his mother. "Mom, I've always looked to you for inspiration and a positive outlook on life. Thanks for these gifts and so many others. I love you, Ben.")

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.



Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford was born in Massachusetts on May 6, 1829. A Quaker and descendent of the pilot of the Mayflower, she became a teacher and successful author. She was introduced to Universalism in Reading, Massachusetts and joined the Reading Universalist Association of Liberal Ladies for Benevolent and Useful Work in 1866.

Her friend, Olympia Brown, encouraged her to preach and she became a licensed Universalist preacher—the first woman ordained to the Universalist ministry in New England. She also worked for temperance, woman's suffrage and the abolition of slavery.

On May 12, 1820 *Florence Nightingale* was born in Florence, Italy to a distinguished Unitarian family in England.



See the REAP article for details on First Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>



### CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

This month we are recognizing a group of creative individuals who bring beauty and inspiration to our sanctuary. Each month we delight as we discover kites or fans or dragons or flags or streamers or rainbows or flowers dancing across our walls. The Creative Spiritz Group has been working to nurture our congregational environment since February 2007. This group meets the last Tuesday night of each month (or somewhere near then) to merge their creative spirits with artistic talents to compose the artful creations that adorn our sanctuary. Enjoy photos of their work at <http://sites.google.com/site/creativespiritz/>.

The Creative Spiritz Group includes *Deblyn Russell, Kathy Klink-Zeitz, Gerry Chamberlin, Jan Gallagher* and an ever-changing cast of characters. *Hanna Gibson, Leo Gibson, Charlotte Brandenburg, Mathilde Brandenburg, and Miriam Queiroz* compose the junior Creative Spiritz Group who join in the collaboration from time to time.

Why do they do this? Because they want to create an environment where the decorations reflect the monthly themes. Deblyn explains, "Art is an important part of the spiritual journey. It puts you in a different place. Changing with the season and theme of the month brings joy to the celebration of life. The congregation's response is what keeps us going. It rocks when people come up to us and tell us how excited they are about the new decorations."

We want to extend a big Thank UU to the Creative Spiritz Group as you brighten up our Sundays and enhance our spiritual journey through your work. YOU ROCK our worlds!

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



### CUP OF JOE'S IN MAY...

For the month of May, Friday's at 'The Cup' will be suspended due to extra wedding activity! Remember you can always call, email, or Facebook *Eva* to set up an appointment to meet (610-6605, <[minister@uusbc.org](mailto:minister@uusbc.org)>).



*Paul Revere*, an American patriot and Unitarian, died at age eighty-three on May 10, 1818.

## SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTION "WALKIN' THE TALK"

The March plate collection for the UUSC totaled over \$350. April's focus was the *Cedar Valley Hospice* and *Laura Edler* gave a talk on April 19<sup>th</sup> about Hospice and how we can help. The plate collection was taken on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The amount is unknown as of this writing.

The focus for May is *Habitat for Humanity* with the plate collection Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. A Habitat speaker (or myself) will speak on May 17<sup>th</sup> about the program and how we can participate. That will conclude the formal year.

In June and July we will be focusing on *The Cedar River Festival Group*. Since summer attendance varies, we will combine the plate collections from the last Sundays in both months for this group. I will send email updates on events pertaining to this as they come to light.

Thanks to all who gave this past year. Keep on Walkin' the Talk.

*Sheri Huber-Otting*  
UUSBHC Social Action Chair



On May 5, 1829 *William Ellery Channing* preached the sermon "Unitarian Christianity" known as the Baltimore Sermon. The sermon was translated into seven languages and circulated in many countries. One of the most influential sermons ever preached in America, the Baltimore Sermon served to unite religious liberals under the name Unitarian, which they had previously avoided.



### Some Miscellaneous Thoughts About Giving From Your Endowment Fund Committee

- Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need. ~*Kahlil Gibran*
- If we have the opportunity to be generous with our hearts, ourselves, we have no idea of the depth and breadth of love's reach. ~*Margaret Cho*
- Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can. ~*John Wesley*
- Do give books—religious or otherwise—for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal. ~*Lenore Hershey*
- I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint—and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you. ~*Oprah Winfrey*
- Life engenders life. Energy creates energy. It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich. ~*Sarah Bernhardt*

The Endowment Fund Committee (*Dennis Harbaugh, Sean McNally, Pam Hays*) will be happy to speak with you about being generous, giving all you can, and spending yourself. You're on your own for gift book selection, however.

## UU SPOTLIGHT



This month's *Spotlight* is on long-time member *Vicki Edelnant*. A fine, creative educator, Vicki will be long-remembered by parents and students alike for running our RE program for several years. Our own daughter, *Livia*, was always particularly enthused with what Vicki brought to the classroom. Although she doesn't mention it below, I'm aware that after much hard work, diligence, and while working full-time, Vicki received her Ed.D from UNI in May of 2006. Let's listen to her story. *Gerry Chamberlin, Editor*

I was raised in the Baptist church; attended regularly with my mom and siblings. Left that church when I was in high school when the Director of Religious Education told me (a prospective theatre major) that it was a sin to dance because, "it does something to boys!" Went to various churches that let me sing in their choirs, then no church while I was in college and rehearsing for life upon the wicked stage until late at night. Fell in love with a Jewish man, converted to Judaism, and was married in a synagogue in Marshalltown, IA. Came looking for the UU when I had children and didn't feel I really belonged at temple, but didn't feel I could go back to a Christian church either. For the last nineteen-plus years, I have taught and worked at a Lutheran (ELCA) college, so have had lots of opportunities for religious discussions.

Through friends, *Mary Lou Page* and *Moria Brown*, I learned about the UU Society. It attracted me because it seemed to fit exactly what I thought—when I was exploring churches in high school, it seemed to me that each had something valuable to offer and that often they were not in conflict so much as semantic disagreement.

I joined in 1986 when my daughter was one and my son was five and his little neighborhood friend said, "Your dad's a Jew and he's going to hell." I decided it was time to give my kids some religious education!

I have loved the people I have met, the challenging ideas shared, the education my children (now adults) received, and the acceptance and support I felt. I disliked some of the growing pains and politics that seem unavoidable in any group.

Most enjoyable for me have been leading Sunday services, singing, and our women's group.

I am an educator—specifically, the Director of the Pathways Center which is the academic advising and support services center at Wartburg College in Waverly. We try in a wide variety of ways (career and mental health counseling, mentoring, tutoring, writing center, etc.) to help students be successful in college. I love reading, attending the theatre, gardening, and recently scrap-booking.

My husband, *Jay*, a professor of theatre at UNI, and I have two children: *Noah*, age twenty-nine, a Luther College grad who lives in Portland, OR and is interested in graphic novels, author book signings, and the Portland music scene. Our daughter, *Julia*, a St. Olaf grad (let's hear it for Lutheran Colleges tuition exchange programs!) will be twenty-four years old in April. She has worked for Cedar Valley Community Support Services since college, but she has been accepted and will begin Allen College's accelerated nurses training program in May.

We purchased our home at 2517 Rainbow Drive in Cedar Falls from my dad in 1990. I lived there from the time I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade until I went to college—and now again for the last nearly twenty years. Our phone is 277-6607 and my email addresses are: <edelnantv@hotmail.com>, <vicki.edelnant@wartburg.edu>.

*William Dean Howells*, a Unitarian and longtime editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, died at age eighty-three on May 12, 1920.



## 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.



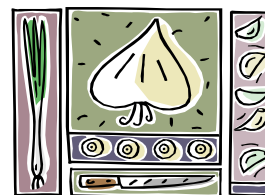
## APRIL'S GREEN HAPPENINGS

Our garden season is off to the races: garlic and winter onions were pushing through the leaf mulch even before the broccolis and cabbages were set in place. Last Sunday *Bennett, Charlotte, Mathilde, Leo* and *Hanna* helped plant the beets. On Friday I changed clothes three times before I got to where I really wanted to be—in the garden planting potatoes! Just as I got them in, I noticed another bag of seed potatoes, donated by *Nate*! They will go in another day. *Cindy Bancroft* stopped by to help plant and water, and we noticed the first snow pea arching its stem beneath the burlap blanket.

Next week we need to get the trellises set in place, so when the tomatoes are ready to put out in mid-May, we can also poke in the climber beans, cukes and squash. At home, the marigolds—for insect deterrence and Gandhi's birthday—are already strong enough to transplant to bigger pots. Carefully as I planned on paper where to put each veggie crop, I now find that I have to put them where they fit, hoping some will grow quickly, and be harvested to make room for later maturing crops. Meanwhile, lots of perennial flowers are emerging along the south wall: bleeding hearts, mint, spiderwort, phlox. Do check that area often as it evolves.

We need to clean all the flower beds, rearrange the mulch, and turn the compost pile. I could use help setting up the trellises as well. These next weeks I will be in the garden Wednesday and Friday mornings and some afternoons. If you want to help, please call to let me know. We now have tools on hand, so we don't need to bring any. If you would like to come on your own any time, you can even get your own key to the garden shed. And *JOY*: by the time this newsletter is published, the rhubarb will be ready to harvest!

*Julie Fischer*



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COUNCIL

## Multi-Generation Programs

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

#### May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Conscious Living** – Come join us as we share what we learned from lecturer, *Sandra Steingraber*, and how choices we make and actions we take can have an impact on ourselves, our community and the health of the planet. \*see article next page

**Garden Meditation** – Join *Julie Fischer* in the garden for meditating in a meaningful way to you: working the garden, sitting quietly, soaking in the beauty of nature, or sketching a leaf or flower that inspires you.

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

**Circle Way** – Celebrate *Beltane* with Maypole dancing and our men in kilts!

#### May 10<sup>th</sup>

**Stories** – To be announced!

**Garden Meditation** – Join *Julie Fischer* in the garden. See above for more information.

**Book Group** – *Religion Is Not About God* with *Pat Malloy*. \*see article next page

#### May 17<sup>th</sup>

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

**Walking The Talk** – The focus for May is *Habitat for Humanity*. *Sheri Huber-Otting* or someone from Habitat will talk about the program and how we can participate.

**Garden Meditation** – Join *Julie Fischer* in the garden. See above for more information.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>** (related article with details is elsewhere in this issue)

**All Church Clean-up** – Join us after the chapel service in cleaning the church (inside and out); each room will have a list of what needs to be done.

**Potluck Picnic** – Join us right after the cleaning at this annual event for good food and company.

#### May 31<sup>st</sup>

**The Questions and Answers Continue** – with *Rev. Eva* in the balcony.

**Garden Meditation** – Join *Julie Fischer* in the garden. See above for more information.

### SUNDAYS AFTER TWO

#### May 3<sup>rd</sup>

6:00 p.m. **What's Up Doc?umentaries** (join us for pizza)

**Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home** 73 minutes, \*see article next page



7:00 - 8:30 p.m. **A Gathering of Women** ~ Small Group (open)

*Kirby Sherman and Carolyn Hildebrandt*

#### May 17<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. **What's Up Doc?umentaries** (join us for pizza)

**The Future Of Food** 88 minutes, \*see article next page



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### Small Group Ministries

Some topics have related articles in this newsletter.

**FVUUM** – 11:00 a.m. UU Ministry at Friendship Village

**Waverly Small Group** – 6:30 p.m. at *Scott and Beth Fullwiller's* house. For more information contact *Chris Rediske* at 352-3444.

**Nature Lovers Group** – meets on Saturdays; closed.

### WOW! WORKSHOPS ON WEDNESDAYS WOW!

#### Every Wednesday

**Dinner** is at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday, \$5/person, \$2/child<5, \$10/family – sign up at church or on-line at <<http://snipurl.com/3w0i8>>.

**Children's Choir** at 5:00 p.m.

**Choir** at 6:15 p.m.

#### Workshops

**Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with Crystal King

**Artistic Fun:** Join *Kathy Klink-Zeitz* to make a piece of art; choose from the computer, modeling clay, crayons, colored pencils. They will be put on magnets, window clings, stationery and iron-ons (bring your own napkins or t-shirt).

7:30 p.m. **Small Group Facilitators Meeting** ~ *Mica Lorenz*

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with Crystal King

**Artistic Fun:** *Carole Fishback* will help us express our creativity through watercolors/pastels. No need for previous experience—we'll just enjoy ourselves with the materials.

**Small Group** with *Lara and Neil Martinsen-Burrell* using the *Integral Life Practice* book (open)

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with Crystal King

**Exploring Sufism:** *Marlin Nissen* will lead an initial discussion about all things "Sufi". \*see article next page

**Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with Crystal King

**Artistic Fun:** – *Pam Hays* will help us explore our many facets of self through painting and decorating full face paper maché masks. Do you have a hidden inner self? (Jung wants to know.) Do you identify with a tiger, a kitten, an owl? The blank masks and some decorative material will be provided, but please bring a glue gun and other miscellaneous decorations (feathers, beads, glitter, etc.) if you happen to have them.

#### Every Wednesday

**Theoretical String Band** at 7:30 p.m.

#### Every Thursday

**Buddhist Path** at 7:00 p.m. – Join *Rev. Eva* and others in exploring Buddhist spiritual practices; open.



### First Friday Potluck: Beltane May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Come learn about Beltane and dance around the Maypole (brought back by popular demand). This is an ancient Gaelic holiday celebrated around May 1<sup>st</sup>, the date also known as May Day. Historically this festival was celebrated in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man.

If you need appropriate recipes, some can be found at: <<http://www.fortunecity.com/greenfield/tigris/567/id71.htm>> and <<http://www.ireland-information.com/irishrecipes/>>. Please join us to learn more about the holidays of our friends and neighbors.

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

### Fourth Friday Movies

**Buddhist Path** sponsors movies at 6:30 p.m.





## Related Articles from REAP Council page

### What's Up Doc?umentaries

Dinner and a Movie ~- join us for pizza at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Sundays

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 p.m.

**GARBAGE! The Revolution Starts at Home**, Andrew Nisker "What if the garbage man never came?" Now that's a scary thought. Jolted awake by a garbage strike in Toronto and the mountains of trash accumulating in his neighborhood park, Canadian filmmaker *Andrew Nisker* set out to investigate the waste we produce. To quantify average consumption patterns, he asked his friends Glen, Michele and their three children to keep all their garbage for three months—even used diapers! They were game for the challenge, and the result is an engaging and enlightening film that expertly balances its light-hearted moments with its serious intent, its wry humor with startling facts. As we learn the pollution costs of the 'stuff' we buy, where it goes, and how it adversely impacts the environment and our own bodies, it's clear that the green revolution truly begins at home.



May 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.

**The Future Of Food**, Deborah Koons Garcia, 2004 This quietly inflammatory film skillfully illuminates the alarming issues surrounding genetically engineered crops and the rapidly increasing corporate domination of our food supply.

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:15 a.m.

**Conscious Living** – Several of us UUs had the privilege of hearing ecologist and author Sandra Steingraber at UNI in early April. As she wove her personal story of cancer with her scholarly analysis of the status of our planet (especially regarding land and water), we were moved and inspired. In addition to conveying the critical nature of the issues, she gave us many practical ideas for action.

May 10<sup>th</sup> 11:15 a.m.

**Book Group** – The book being used is: *Religion Is Not About God: How Spiritual Traditions Nurture Our Biological Nature And What to Expect When They Fail*, Rutgers University Press, 2006, ISBN-10: 0813539552

### **WOW!** WORKSHOPS ON WEDNESDAYS **WOW!**

A **big thank you** to Pam Hays for coordinating these workshops this year. Unfortunately for us, Pam has decided not to return in this position next year, but she will do some occasional workshops for us in the coming years.

May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.

**Exploring Sufism** – Many people have heard the term bandied about and have read writings of famous Sufi writers such as Rumi, Hafiz, and others, or have seen the Whirling Dervishes that travel the country. Here's a chance to discuss/explore/learn about the various spiritual practices called Sufism, find out what inspires such devotion, and to meet others interested in further explorations that could lead to some form of "practice/focus" groups right [here in the Cedar Valley](#).



On May 15, 1961 the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America consolidated to form the *Unitarian Universalist Association*. The two denominations had worked jointly on the publication of curricula for their religious education programs since the 1920's.

## THE FY10 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The UUSBHC operates under a fiscal calendar. This means our operational year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Our annual Stewardship Campaign is held in February or March of each year to raise pledges of financial support for the next year's operating budget. The budget presented at this year's Annual Meeting is for the FY10 fiscal year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) and is supported by the pledges raised by the Stewardship Campaign that we have just completed.

This year's Stewardship Campaign pool was composed of 117 pledge units. A pledge unit may be either a couple or a single individual. They are usually members, but can be Associates or Friends who also choose to give financial support to the UUSBHC. Of the 117 pledge units canvassed, 93 units (79.5%) have responded to date resulting in a total of \$110,895.00 being raised to support next year's budget. Of the 24 pledge units yet to respond we are projecting another \$1,000 in pledges will still be received. A shortfall of 1% is deducted from the total dollars raised for budgeting purposes, with the remainder being shown as income available for next year's budget.

What an individual gives varies widely, as pledges are generally based upon the individual's financial ability. The UUA has also developed a recommendation for pledge distribution within a congregation that acknowledges the diversity in giving levels based upon each individual's finances and their commitment to Unitarian Universalism. The chart below shows how our congregation's giving compares to the UUA recommended giving levels based upon the dollars raised in this year's Stewardship Campaign. Each quartile represents the number of pledge units making up approximately 25% of the total funds pledged in the campaign.

For example, the chart shows that 86 pledge units have pledged a total of \$27,084 (approximately 25% of the estimated final pledge total); 73.5% of our pledge units altogether have pledged to give 25% of our total pledge income. This is in variance with UUA recommendations—that the "bottom quartile" be made up of no more than 40% of the pledge units in the congregation. As more individuals give closer to a Fair Share amount we will move these percentages to within the UUA's recommendations for a financially healthy congregation.

Quartile of Giving	Number of Pledge Units (N-117)	Percent of Pledge Units	UUA Recommended Percent
First	5	4.3%	10%
Second	9	7.7%	15%
Third	17	14.5%	35%
Fourth	86	73.5%	40%

This year's campaign raised \$110,895 as compared to last year's campaign total of \$110,853. While this year's campaign result is essentially a flat campaign in giving, it is noteworthy that we essentially "held our own" during economic times where many churches are reporting significant losses in giving levels by their congregations. This is a cause for celebration as you have "dared to give" during a time of personal economic uncertainty, as many of you work in public and private sectors experiencing budget cutbacks and layoffs.

We thank the members of this year's Stewardship Campaign for all their work in conducting the all-member canvass. This year's committee was composed of *Karen Kitchen, Mary Kay Madsen, Kevin Stafsholt, Brittany Flokstra, Robyn Heiden, Pam Hays, Mica Lorenz, and Mike Knapp*. We would also like to thank all of you who have made a financial pledge of support to the UUSBHC. Your generosity ensures that a liberal religious light continues to shine in our community.