



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

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

- OCT. 4**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“GANDHI JAYANTI”** – Bill Chene, Lisa Kratz\*  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Conscious Living / New Member / Garden Meditation**
- OCT. 11**    **9:30 A.M.**    **ASSOCIATION SUNDAY: “GROW OUR SPIRIT”** – The Rev. Eva Cameron, Karen Impola\*  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Circle Way / Garden Meditation**
- OCT. 18**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“MISSED LINCOLN’S CABIN BY FIVE MILES”** – The Rev. Eva Cameron, Deblyn Russell\*  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Buddhist Path / Walkin’ The Talk / Garden Meditation**
- OCT. 25**    **9:30 A.M.**    **“CHIEF BLACK HAWK’S STORY”** – The Rev. Eva Cameron, Al Hays\*  
**11:15 A.M.**    **Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Doc Shorts**

\* ~ 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.**    **RE for Children, Youth, 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

When I began this year with our “*Standing on the Side of Love*” theme, I imagined I would be starting with a big push for us to become engaged outside ourselves, with the larger world. But sometimes the universe makes other plans! Just as we started the year, it seemed I was contacted by a number of people who were going through some really rough personal times. When I counsel people through such times, my own religious reflections turn inward and towards being able to attune myself to all that is right and good, to the divine love that suffuses our world. Empirical evidence tells us it is there all the time, offering us food, drink, air, and a human society that, although it has its areas of injustice, does provide much in the way of sustenance: physical, emotional, artistic and spiritual. Our job becomes to listen better, with more carefully attuned ears!

So, how can we stand on the side of love, help the world, if we are focused inward? Think about this, the inward concentration does alter our understanding of who we are—nurtured and loved, and who/what the universe/god is—loving and sustaining. If we go about our days with these ideas clearly in our mind, then when circumstances present themselves that are counter to this understanding, I think we cannot fail to be moved. Standing on the side of love asks of us to turn that inward feeling (being moved) into movement!

So stretch yourselves, limber up. . . we have a year of movement ahead of us! Start looking with your heart at what moves you, and how you can act. Not sure what to do? Come use your handy-dandy congregation full of people wanting to Stand on the Side of Love to help you find your way to action.

Keep on living and loving!  
See you in church!



We send caring thoughts to *Laura Walter, Glenyce Butschy and Mildred Pierce.*

Sympathy to *Lara, Neil and Rose Martinesen-Burrell* on the death of Lara's father in late August. They traveled to Colorado for the funeral.

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



## BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

The *Birthday Calendar* is in the Fellowship Hall. If you wish to be included, please put your name on the calendar on the date of your birth so you can be remembered.

*Happy Birthday* to those with **October** birthdays:

Nathan Callahan	Diana Harwood	Harold Kuester
Linnea Sumner	Irene Cameron	Patrick Malloy
Brittany Flokstra	Amanda Harwood	John Miller
Jason Zeck	Lynn Brant	Anna McNally

## CHILDREN and YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is the middle of September as I write this, a beautiful warm fall day. All week I have been hearing comments from children, youth and parents about how much fun they had last week on the first day of Sunday School. The new look in the rooms and new energy in the teachers and helpers is making this year look very exciting.

If you haven't turned in your Registration form, PLEASE do so. We have extras on the pink and blue REAP table in the Fellowship Hall. This year the fee is \$25 for each child or youth up to a maximum of \$65 per family. We do have payment plans and scholarships, see the Parent Letter and Registration Form for more information. A BIG THANK YOU to those who turned theirs in already!!!

One of our major changes is that we plan to have Sunday School each and every Sunday during the 11:15 a.m. time slot. The Halloween Party and Haunted House will be at 12:30 p.m. Another change is we will be asking the children to sanitize their hands when they first arrive in their rooms. Hopefully this will help keep the germs down this year.

### Classes this year are~

at 9:45 a.m.

- ◆ Chalice Children (new name): 3, 4, 5 year-olds
- ◆ Alternative Activities: Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- ◆ Nursery: 0 to 3 year-olds

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 try to be flexible. We do plan to continue the Youth Unity program with the other churches in the Cedar Valley.

### Children's Chapel~

Our Children's Chapel will meet in the balcony this month; don't forget to bring your change to feed the Pink Buddha for our social action project!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Kathy Klink-Zeitz, DRE*



Join us for our next UU Card Club on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with a light meal. Bring a snack to share. Cost for the evening's entertainment is \$10.

Remember, we play for bragging rights and the traveling trophy. All donations go to special projects at the church. You don't need to know how to play – we'll show you how and you'll be saying, “Shuffle Up and Deal” in no time. For more information contact *Mike Knapp*, <mikeknapp@mchsi.com> or 291-6509.



*John Albion Andrew*, a Unitarian prison reformer, abolitionist, and governor of Massachusetts, died on October 30, 1867 at age forty-nine.



### THANK UU AWARD

Esther Kieffer is one of those people in the congregation whose omni-present efforts are not always noticed, but if she wasn't here, we would certainly notice the difference, so the October Thank UU Award goes to Esther.

As a Worship Associate she is a member of the Religious Services Committee, however the first place Eva encountered Esther was as a member of the Ministerial Search Committee in 2005. Esther frequently assists Eva at the monthly Friendship Village UU Ministry and luncheon, another example of Esther's outreach and caring.

In Eva's absence, Esther facilitates the Buddhist Path meetings and meals.

Esther is the ever-present force in the kitchen, and nudges us to sign up for Hospitality on Sundays. Not only does Esther keep hospitality flowing on Sundays, she is also there on Wednesday evenings making sure everything is taken care of for the WOW dinners. She is involved in just about every other church event that involves serving food—and she comes back to church the next day after an event to empty the dishwasher and tidy up.

As Chair of the Caring Committee, every week at church and every month via the newsletter, she and several others keep us informed about members who are in need of our thoughts, cards and other assistance.

What would winter be without the annual Chili Cook-off organized by Esther and the Caring Committee?

As a musician, she contributes her musical talents to the church and the UNI New Horizons Band which started in 1999 and is composed primarily of the over-fifty crowd who used to play band instruments, and those who would like to learn. They present multiple performances throughout the year at the Gallagher-Bluedorn and other venues.

She has assisted with the Green Sanctuary movement by helping re-do the kitchen, getting Energy Star appliances installed, and maintaining recycling bins.

For all of her activities she has other committee and church members helping her, but her example of consistency and quiet leadership is inspiring.

*Committee on Ministry*



### BUDDHIST PATH

Join with Eva and others 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. Come explore the living dharma with us.

### CARING COMMITTEE

As we grow, our Caring Committee needs to grow too! We have served many people well in the last year, and want to be able to continue that proud tradition. Our fearless leader, *Esther Kieffer*, is wanting to slow down a bit, so we need your help. I need a few people willing to help organize teams, and many people willing to do a task, like cook a meal or drive someone somewhere. We need one more person to help organize the whole thing (*Lisa Kratz* is willing to bring her organizational skills to help a chair.)

I would like to create these teams:

- *Meals*
- *Driving*
- *New Arrivals* (support for new parents)
- *Senior Buddies* (monthly one-on-one fun and support for our elders)
- *Spiritual Presence* (people willing to keep others in their thoughts, prayers, or to send cards)

So you can sign up quickly and easily to help, I will be sending out an email with a form to fill out. Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall. Think about this, and if you would be willing to help, please do let me know. ~ Eva



### OCTOBER SERVICES

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

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Gandhi Jayanti** ~ Bill Chene, Lisa Kratz (WA)

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Association Sunday: Grow Our Spirit** ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Karen Impola (WA)

One Sunday a year, we join with UUs all over the country to celebrate our common movement and raise money to help fund the growth of Unitarian Universalism. In fact, some of the money raised has helped us join with our churches in Iowa to create all those "sponsored by" spots you can hear on IPR.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Missed Lincoln's Cabin By Five Miles** ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Deblyn Russell (WA)

Every summer as Eva travels, there are things she gets so close to, and yet misses. This year, it was Lincoln's cabin! This got her to thinking about the nature of life, choices, and what we give up as we go along life's journey.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Chief Black Hawk's Story** ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Al Hays (WA)  
Many of us live in Black Hawk County, and most of us have seen his famous picture standing next to his son. . .but *Rev. Eva* wants us to pause before we enter the month of "thanksgiving and pilgrims" to honor a man whose story is not so well known as that of the "founding fathers".



*Charles Frances Potter* was born October 28, 1858 in Marlboro, Massachusetts. Although he began his career as a Baptist minister, Potter converted to Unitarianism in 1914. He served on the defense team with Clarence Darrow in the Scopes trial concerning evolution in 1929. Potter founded the Euthanasia Society of America. He died on October 4, 1962.

On October 6, 1883 the *Orient Express*, a luxury passenger train, completed its first journey from Paris to Constantinople (now Istanbul.) It took less than seventy-eight hours. It was made famous in part thanks to two novels: Graham Greene's *Stamboul Train* (1932) and Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* (1934). *The Writer's Almanac*



## CONSCIOUS LIVING CORNER

We live in a yurt. Y-U-R-T. A yurt. It's a circular, portable shelter originally used by the nomadic herders of Central Asia and eventually adapted to modern materials and made popular in this country as an inexpensive and easy to erect shelter. (More information is available at <www.yurtinfo.org>.) Our family moved into the yurt in the fall of 2008 in the early part of a process of buying a parcel of land north of Waverly and living there "close to nature" as we call it. In addition to learning how to respond to questions such as "A what? In Iowa? In the winter?" there have been a lot of surprising benefits of such a living arrangement.

At the yurt, we get our water from a well two hundred yards up the hill. It comes to us via a long collection of hoses and we store it in five gallon containers inside. Rather than a flush toilet and a septic system, we have a composting toilet that uses sawdust. A surprising benefit of living in a yurt is learning the value of fresh, clean water. It's almost hard to flush when we do use a regular toilet: all that water rushing away!

At the yurt, we experience a tranquil, vibrant, luscious, stormy world more directly than when we lived in a conventional house in town. We know the phases of the moon because we don't have outside lights. We know the sweep of the sun through the sky as the seasons change because the shady spots to stay cool in the afternoon shift a little bit every day. In the evening, a barred owl calls to us and in the morning, the birds presciently announce the dawn. This experience of the natural world is more than an indulgence or a treat. For our family, it is the ground, the source of our energy and stability to do our work in the world.

Though the yurt was inspired by necessity it also became the obvious choice as we considered how to consciously live on this land. We often think of healing, protecting and caring for Earth, but engaging this concept is what teaches us even more deeply about the healing, protecting and care that Earth offers us. In return we also learn about Earth's powerful abilities to change, adapt, and survive. Our yurt is a great classroom for conscious living. Stop by and see what there is for you. We imagine it to have something different, and just as perfect, for everyone.

Neil and Lara Martinsen-Burrell



## 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, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please R.S.V.P. to Brian Forster (291-8427). You don't need to be a resident to attend.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?



On October 19, 1945 *Newell Converts Wyeth*, a famous Unitarian illustrator and muralist, died in Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania, at age sixty-three. He was born October 22, 1882. His work appeared in dozens of books, including *Treasure Island*. Wyeth's historical and allegorical murals are in the Boston Public Library, Missouri State Capital, and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.



## SEPTEMBER GARDEN REPORT

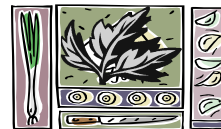
On Labor Day we proved that "standing on the side of love" is good, but working on the side of love is even better! We showed KWM Power—kids, women, and men all pitched in to accomplish more grounds work in two hours than one full time gardener could do in a month. You all know who you are and I know, too. Thank you, thank you for the boost and the esprit d'corps. Special thanks to *Nate* and *Leigh*, who in thirty minutes, finally finished the east entry rock edging which I started two years ago!

I keep thinking the garden has finished producing, so today, allowing one hour to pick and clean for this Sunday, oh my, it took me two. Even though the tomatoes are done, long red beans galore hung from the arches like dangling snakes, rutabagas were ready, beets, cukes, and kale were still abundant alongside a few peppers, eggplant and broccoli.

Thus far the garden has contributed \$200 to our general coffer and \$387.50 to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Not bad for a year that had a slow take-off.

The entry arch is covered with morning glories in deep blue and magenta. Flanked by giant sunflowers on both sides it makes a gorgeous frame. What a time to have your picture taken, surrounded by our "Green Sanctuary". Please do!

Julie Fischer



## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fall greetings to you all!

Don't forget that every Sunday from 11:15-12:15 p.m. there will be an Adult Religious Education class called "Sixty for Six: sixty minutes of a topic for six weeks". Our own *Bill Harwood*, chemistry professor at UNI, has led us in two weeks of discussion on the UU interpretation of current events, and he continues with that theme in October. Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> I will coordinate the second "Sixty for Six" with the theme "What's Good About Religion?"—only the positive aspects of a variety of religions will be studied. Our first Sunday talk will be headed by Brian Jones, a religion professor at Wartburg College; he will lead us on an exploration of the positive things about Christianity. More details will follow in the November newsletter. Please come!

Johanna Foster

## SEEDS OF HOPE

### October Social Action Plate Collection

Our Social Action offering on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> will be donated to *Seeds of Hope*, a local agency working to create a community free from violence by providing quality education and services related to domestic violence and sexual assault. *Seeds of Hope* is the primary provider of these services for Black Hawk, Hardin and Grundy counties. Everyone is invited to join us on October 18<sup>th</sup> during the Adult Religious Education hour, when *Seeds of Hope* Executive Director, *Beth Jackley*, will share details about the breadth and scope of their various programs and services. Come and learn more about how a twenty-four hour Hotline and other vital services are being delivered in our local community.

As part of our support for *Seeds of Hope* and also in support of this year's theme, "*Standing on the Side of Love*", during the month of October we are collecting materials to create Comfort Kits for local rape victims. *Seeds of Hope* provides these kits to women at the emergency rooms of local hospitals, since as part of forensic examinations rape victims are often required to leave all their clothing—and sometimes even shoes—at the hospital. Please bring the following items to the Society building during the month of October and help members of our community when they need it most. (Prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, we'll announce where to place the items.)

- \* underwear
- \* lotion
- \* flip-flops
- \* deodorant
- \* toothbrush and toothpaste
- \* t-shirts
- \* sweatpants
- \* socks (for winter)
- \* phone card

...along with a bag to hold the items together. We'll put the kits together and deliver them to *Seeds of Hope* at the end of the month.

*Dennis Harbaugh*



## UU ROAD TRIPS

I am forming a Small Group Ministry for individuals who would like to know more about the Unitarian Universalist Association and would be willing to travel to other UU churches within the Prairie Star District over the coming year. This could include a Sunday morning road trip to Cedar Rapids, Mason City, Iowa City, or a weekend trip to Madison, Minneapolis or Kansas City. The year's program would end with our going to the General Assembly in Minneapolis. The group would be open to ten other individuals.



What we do will be determined by the group formed, as would the frequency and destination of the UU road trips. Some immediate thoughts include:

- Visiting other congregations to see what they are like. We could bring back positive ideas that might be replicated at the UUSBHC,
- For overnight trips, arranging for UUs to host us overnight so that we make personal connections with other UUs on a one to one basis, and as a small group over dinner,
- Provide feedback to the visited church (if they would request it) on our observations,
- Volunteer at the General Assembly in exchange for free or reduced registration.

If you would be interested in participating in such a Small Group Ministry, please meet with me on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour after the service. I will be at a table at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

*Mike Knapp*

"A poem is words that fit together in a special way so it's easy to remember and it sounds like magic." ~Annie Finch



## UIIOWA.ORG IS ONLINE

What would happen if the UU churches/fellowships/societies of Iowa joined together to create an advertising campaign that would cover the state of Iowa? Would it make an impact on our acknowledged presence in the state? Could it be a campaign to increase public awareness of our movement?

These are questions originally posed by the *Reverend Eva Cameron* a few years ago. She mentioned this to me and a few friends in some Iowa churches. Together, *Mary Schmidt* of the Cedar Rapids Peoples Church and I applied for a Prairie Star District cooperative grant to kick off this project in August of 2007. We were awarded the grant and the campaign was on. . .we began running joint messages on KUNI radio for <UIIowa.org>.

Our strategy was for Iowa UU churches to collaboratively support a series of messages that would intrigue listeners and direct them towards our <UIIowa.org> website. This site would contain contact information for all of the included churches.

Our messages can be heard ten times per week; morning, noon and evening, "Unitarian Universalism: where reason and spirituality meet" is only one of the phrases followed by the growing list of UU churches that have joined us in funding this publicity drive. Presently, we have six partner organizations including Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Ames, Davenport, Des Moines, and most recently, Clinton.

UIIowa.org now includes the six UU churches in the KUNI broadcasting area. We hope to expand the project so that it will include all eleven of the Iowa UU organizations. This will involve broadcasting throughout the Iowa Public Radio network. It will also triple our costs for the program but our goal is achievable.

This program is designed to be supported by UU congregation members. Donating to the <UIIowa.org> program provides a double benefit. It supports Iowa Public Radio while paying for messages promoting Unitarian Universalism. Instead of writing your next donation check to Iowa Public Radio, write it to UUSBHC and we will enable your money to do "double duty".

You're sitting near a computer. Shimmy on over to the keyboard and tap in <uiiowa.org> to see who we are and what this program promotes.

*Leigh Zeitz*



*Sylvia Plath* was born in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts on October 27, 1932. She was a poet, literary critic, novelist, diarist, and social activist. A member of the Unitarian church in Wellesley, Massachusetts, she attended conferences at Star Island in New Hampshire as a youth.

## UU IOWA RADIO PROJECT

Heard UUs on KUNI lately? Iowa Public Radio's Fall Fundraiser is coming up in October.

If you have been waiting to donate to IPR through UUSBHC, now is the time to do so. You will not only be supporting public radio but will also be buying valuable publicity for our church as an underwriter. Make your checks payable to UUSBHC, put a note in the memo line "Iowa Public Radio", and either drop your check in the collection plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you for your support and check us out at <www.uuiowa.org>.



### A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

Recent years have resulted in a growing congregation with a growing budget and also a growing source of income, namely all of you. These three things are tied together, but they are not automatically proportional to one another. Just because we have more members and more staff doesn't guarantee that we will have more income. This year we have managed to make a budget that satisfied all of our needs and some of our wants and on paper keeps us in the black. Of this budget, 87% comes from individual pledges from our congregation. This is something that I often find astounding; that all of this can be done with free-will donations. I want to extend our gratitude to all of you for being so gracious and dependable.

That being said, most of the costs of running this church and its ministry are accrued on a monthly basis while there is nothing that guarantees that our income happens in the same manner. While bills and staff get paid on a monthly basis, many of us pay our pledges in a much more sporadic manner. Long story short: we are in danger of falling behind.

As of the end of September we will have completed one-fourth of our fiscal year and we are looking at only having received between 10% and 15% of our pledges. I would like to encourage those of you who are able to pay on your pledges in monthly, or at least quarterly, installments to please do so. If we have to draw on our savings or even take loans to pay staff until funds are liquid, we will lose the interest-earning value of our assets or lose money as we pay interest ourselves.

We have also begun making payments for the siding work that is ongoing and we will need you all to make your pledge payments as you offered them. If you have any questions about the amount or timing of your siding pledge, please ask me. If you have questions about stewardship pledges, please ask *Mike Knapp* or me.

This is also a good time for those committees that committed to raise funds in order to assist with the budget to think about what they are going to do and when. The Music Committee and Outreach Committees have already contributed wonderfully. Thank you.

Thank you all for doing what you do. *Kevin Stafsholt*  
Finance Chair and Co-Collector  
<Stafsholt@mchsi.com>, 319-215-4400



## "A Knight To Remember" The 2009 Treats and Talents Auction



Join us Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> for our annual Treats and Talents Auction. This year's event will feature a Renaissance Faire theme. Everyone is invited to come in costume as the royal court convenes for an evening of merriment, refreshments and spirited bidding! The Renaissance Faire will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end by 9:00 p.m. Light refreshments and beverages to be served. Child care will be available.

For those of you new to the UUSBHC, our annual Treats and Talents Auction is a major fundraising event for the Society. Each year, members and friends offer services and goods to be auctioned off to those attending. Auction items range from special dinners, art, textiles, trips and vacations, to services like babysitting or gardening. More information will be forthcoming about how you can participate by donating an item for the auction.

The evening is always a fun event, so mark it on your calendars and don't miss it. While costumes are not required, they are highly encouraged. Start working on your costume now! Past events like our Pirate-themed auctions saw the likes of as many as thirty pirates, wenches, and other assorted scallywags show up. Here's your chance to join the royal court for the evening. Come to "A Knight to Remember"!



### JOIN A SMALL GROUP THIS FALL SMALL GROUPS OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS

We have several small groups that are re-forming or on-going groups that are welcoming new members this fall. If you would like to join a small group of people in a structured setting to share and express your beliefs, views, and life experiences, try out a small group. Some small groups also include an activity such as the Nature Lovers Group and the Traveling UUs.

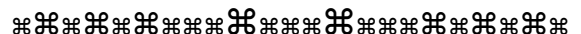
The Small Group format has a few common elements:

- \* Opening reading from a UU source
- \* A check-in period during which each person briefly states what's on their mind that day
- \* A time for the focus of the meeting. (Some topic consistent with the Purposes and Principles and the Mission of the congregation.) The focus is more on sharing, not debating.
- \* Check out
- \* Closing reading.

There is a Small Group brochure by the front door. There is a listing on the website under Religious Education and Program Council or contact *Mica Lorenz*, <micalorenz@gmail.com> or 291-6509 for more information.

Current Small Groups are:

A Gathering Of Women, first Sunday, 7:00 p.m. – *Kirby Sherman*  
Last Sunday Small Group, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – *Mica Lorenz*  
Friendship Village UU, second Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. – *Eva Cameron*  
Nature Lovers Small Group, first Saturday – *Sheri Huber-Otting*  
Waverly Small Group – *Chris Rediske*  
Traveling UUs – *Mike Knapp*



*The Diet of Leczfalva, Transylvania*, October 25, 1600, used the word Unitarian as an adjective. This is the first time that the term was recorded. Since the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, where the central issue was whether Jesus is the same as or different from God, an underground “Unitarian” movement existed until the mid-1500s, when separate churches were organized. It is clear that the earliest writers of the Christian movement viewed Jesus as a sacred being in a variety of ways but did not equate him with God. The influential book *A History of the Corruptions of Christianity* (1782) by Joseph Priestley elaborates that point.



## SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTION “WALKIN’ THE TALK”

Hello everyone!

I hope the school year is running smoothly for you all. The Social Action Plate collection for August was for Community Meals. The total was \$261.25. The Community Meal was held September 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who gave of their time and money.

September’s focus was to help fund the Sabeel Conference being held at UNI on October 9-10<sup>th</sup>. Tanis Diedrichs from *Iowans for a Free Palestine* discussed the importance of the Sabeel Conference at Adult RE on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to attend this conference if you can. The plate collection total is unknown as of this writing and will be reported in next month’s newsletter. Thanks to *Ruth Walker* for arranging the speaker and to all who donated.

This month’s focus is Seeds of Hope. See *Dennis Harbaugh’s* article in this newsletter for more details on how you can help. The Executive Director of Seeds of Hope, Beth Jackley, will be speaking on October 18<sup>th</sup> and the plate collection will be October 25<sup>th</sup>. Seeds of Hope advocates for victims of sexual assault. The website for more information is <[www.seedsofhopeiowa.com](http://www.seedsofhopeiowa.com)>. Thanks to all who are Walkin’ the Talk and standing on the side of love!

*Sheri Huber-Otting*,  
Social Action Chair

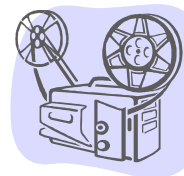


### Child’s letter to God:

Dear God,  
Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Bruce



**P. G. Wodehouse** was born Pelham Grenville Wodehouse in Guildford, England on October 15, 1881. He’s best known for his books about a butler named Jeeves and his employer, Bertie Wooster. Jeeves is constantly saving Wooster from all kinds of absurd situations. ~The Writer’s Almanac



## “DOC” SHORTS FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

*EARTHDANCE Short Attention Span Film Festival* by Zak Zide

Our environmental crisis is not a laughing matter. However, in curating the *Earthdance Short Attention Span Film Festival*, Zakary Zide has captured the gamut of perspectives from tackling the serious issues to having fun with how we playfully interact with nature.

For the next three months, Ironweed provides a departure from its feature documentary format, and brings you a DVD jam-packed with seventeen stunning short films, that call out to be seen by our members.

With subjects ranging from “petting bees” to the expose of what we find on our grocery store shelves, *Earthdance Short Attention Span Film Festival* brings us closer to the issues that we are all dealing with as our planet evolves. It’s rare when we can get a full two hours of media that help us navigate the complexities of our modern society while celebrating its beauty and magnificence.

This entertaining collection of environmental shorts covers a range of artistic styles, each with something special to offer. Some of the films tell true stories such as *Bee Petting*, a brief glimpse of someone brave enough to caress this feared insect; *Chickens in the City*, a depiction of urban farmers who get good eggs and sweet pets; *The Great Hopkins Rescue*, the re-discovered story of a parachutist who gets stuck on top of Devil’s Tower; *Nature’s Blueprints*, a trip to the edges of architectural imagination; *Tracking the Pacific Fisher*, an inspiring tale of Hoopa Valley native Americans working to ensure survival of an endangered forest mammal; and *Project Insect*, a visual feast - huge, fantastically detailed paintings of insects both astonishingly beautiful and strange.

Some of the films are comedic and playful in nature as in *The Lost People of Mountain Village*, a hilarious mockumentary on conspicuous over-consumption; *Zoltan*, the tongue-in-cheek story of a passionate river tuber; *Garpenfangle*, a look at what really happens when the dog is home alone; and *Grocery Store Wars*, in which veggie puppets take on the dark side of food production using Star Wars characters and music.

Other shorts are uniquely inspired and artistic: *The Last Race*, a touching story of good friends, lost parents and passionate horse-racing in a breathtaking Shangri-La landscape; *Zachary Zide: Environmental Artist*, a collection of stunning photos of environmental art with haunting music; *dining at the Dump*, a performance art satire about the bottomless pit of our appetites; and *Bug Girl*, a stylized ecological fable reminiscent of *Alice in Wonderland*.

A few films enter the magical world of animation, like *Alive*, a stunning psychedelic interplay of dragonflies and food; *Bees*, a light-hearted animation set to an irresistible tune; and *Wombat*, a funny, in-your-face character with an important message about interconnectedness.

No matter what the style, you are sure to find delight in all of these artful films, and may even discover a hidden message within.

## UU SPOTLIGHT



This month's Spotlight shines on *Gordon Harrington*, a name unknown to many readers unfortunately. Although Gordon was not one of our 'founding fathers,' his contributions to the faith and our congregation are important to note.

Gordon was born in Knoxville, Tennessee and spent his childhood and youth in St. Albans, Vermont; Toronto, Canada; and Marietta, Georgia. While at a university prep school in Toronto, he and classmates were automatically offered membership at the university's figure skating club, which happened to be the center for adult ice dancing in Canada. Gordon became intrigued by this, and all his spare time was spent on the ice or in the library!

Having moved to Marietta, GA with his mother, Gordon later entered Georgia Tech, taking night school classes while working to support himself during the day. Gordon's mother was entrenched in the historic views of the Old South about the races, which he accepted as part of his environment. However, with the advent of World War II, while serving in the U.S. Navy, Gordon had stunning experiences that changed him forever: (1) Because his ship had an outstanding library, Gordon turned to it when not on duty, in an effort to understand why we were at war. Among his readings: *Mein Kampf*, and *Communist Manifesto*. That confronted Gordon with racism. (2) When re-assigned to Corpus Christi, Texas, he volunteered his off-duty hours to provide service to the Gulf Coast Boy Scouts of America. Scout leaders noted Gordon's concern about race and *noblesse oblige* of the Old South, so they assigned him as 'Field Commissioner for the Negro troops.' Gordon's Executive Officer was horrified at the assignment; Gordon couldn't understand the officer's attitude. That volunteer experience gave Gordon a totally different reality to racism, creating a profound shift in his thinking.

Once discharged from the Navy, Gordon returned to Georgia, setting about to engage racism on a personal, rather than abstract level. He picked up his studies at Georgia Tech, where he earned the Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering but also sought out those who could teach him more about racism. Following graduation, while teaching mathematics in 1946 at Georgia Tech, Gordon's search for enlightenment brought him to a friendship with George Kelsey, a young African American professor at Morehouse University, Atlanta. Gordon attended Kelsey's seminar on race relations (Martin Luther King, Jr. was a classmate in that seminar!). As the friendship grew, one day Gordon, his wife, and Kelsey and wife went to an event in Atlanta, then rode a bus together back to the Harringtons for dinner. To repeat: they rode a bus *together*. Not in the back of the bus; together in the front. Gordon recalls that the bus driver was noticeably disturbed but didn't know what to do in the presence of the two women. As Gordon's passion to address racism became better known to Kelsey, he dissuaded Gordon from considering a graduate degree in mathematics at Yale. Rather, he persuaded Gordon to apply to Yale for the study of ministry, as he believed that the great hope for changing southern white views of racism lay in the church. (Aside: a year or so afterward, Kelsey similarly persuaded King to study for the ministry.) Gordon says, "In retrospect, it's a marvel that an old school Southern White was recommended to Yale University by a Southern Black!"

Gordon's mother was a virtuous Episcopalian, and Gordon had served as an altar boy. Keeping in mind that Unitarians and Universalists were separate faiths in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, it's important to note that when Gordon sought a more comfortable faith as an adult, he began attending a historic UU church in Atlanta, one of only three merged UU churches in existence in the country at that time (the other two: New London, Connecticut; Watertown, Massachusetts). Thus,

when applying to Yale Divinity School and told to designate whether he was Unitarian or Universalist, he was unable to select one or the other, as he had known only the combined faith. While a student at Yale, Gordon was asked to become minister at that New London UU church. There was a national organization for each faith at the time: American Universalist Association and American Unitarian Association. Each association viewed the New London church as one of its own. Gordon's insistence on serving as a UU minister was tolerable to the Universalist organization, but not to the Unitarians. Fortunately, the New London church had congregational polity, which made him a recognized Unitarian minister, although he wasn't endorsed by the American Unitarian Association's Department of Ministry. Continuing as a student at the Divinity School while serving as the New London minister, he became a licensed Universalist minister in 1948. At that time, Gordon simultaneously was one of only two ministers of the Unitarian faith and one of eight Universalist ministers in Connecticut.

Gordon's spiritual and professional paths took another turn after one year, leaving both New London and the Divinity School. He had decided that rather than study for a Bachelor of Divinity degree, he would study for a Ph.D. in religion. His rationale: "I was *not* interested in the Divinity School's curriculum on how to sing gospels and how to preach. To me, UUs were more interested in the intellectual background of their ministers!" Fortunately, his major professor then encouraged Gordon to shift from religion to Child Development in the departments of Education, Psychology, and Child Psychiatry, where he earned a Ph.D. in Child Development. With degree in hand, for the next five years, Gordon became a research consultant for the State of Connecticut Board of Regents, and co-chair of the Connecticut Regional Citizens Conferences on Education.

In 1957, he moved to Ohio to establish a Psychology Department at a self-help Quaker college (where students were of little financial means but worked their way through school). In 1960, Gordon moved to Coe College, Cedar Rapids, as Professor of Child Psychology, becoming very active at the UU People's Church, and as Gordon notes, "chaplain to the Coe football team!" During his time at Coe, Gordon's research itch was developmental experimentation. However, since he couldn't readily do such research with humans, he turned to a study of the genetics of rats. In 1963, he joined the UNI (then State College of Iowa) faculty as a research psychologist, bringing his pure strain rat colonies with him, which enabled him to conduct experimental studies of racial bias in testing. His research was lengthy and difficult. The eventual publication many years later in the international journal *Nature* was the pinnacle study of his career. He retired from UNI as Professor Emeritus in 1991.

Gordon joined the Cedar Falls Unitarian Fellowship (later the UUSBHC) upon arrival in Cedar Falls and became the second chair of our Executive Board. He was faithful to church, attending until health no longer permitted. When asked if he recalls a peak achievement during his term on the Board, Gordon replied, "I was responsible for the land acquisition to expand our parking lot and oversaw paving of the entire lot for the first time. One should always be remembered for parking!" Gordon was married to *Judy* from 1966 to 1988; their children, Dana and Marc, are now middle-aged. In 2002, Gordon married *Dottie Forsberg*, a long-time member of this congregation, who was spotlighted in the September 2009 newsletter. They traveled throughout the world when health permitted, have resided at Friendship Village for some years, and participate in the Friendship Village UU Ministry. Their latest "child" is a sweet cat named Pumpkin.





Religious Education and Programs

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COUNCIL

### Multi-Generation Programs

#### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

##### October 4<sup>th</sup>

**Sixty for Six – UU Perspectives on Current Events:** Led by *Bill Harwood*, we'll discuss the "hot" topics of the day and consider how we, as Unitarian Universalists, are called to respond.

**Conscious Living** – Norman Borlaug was called the "Father of the Green Revolution", awarded a Nobel Peace Prize and credited with saving millions of lives with his high-yield wheat development. However, current versions of genetically-modified seeds, controlled by a few large corporations, have raised concerns from environmentalists as well as some indigenous farmers around the world. Come explore and discuss these issues.

**New Member** – People interested in becoming new members are invited to meet with *Rev. Eva* and *Mica Lorenz* in *Eva's* office.

**Garden Meditation** – Join *Julie Fischer* to work in the garden, sit quietly outside soaking in the beauty, or . . .

##### October 11<sup>th</sup>

**Sixty for Six** – see above.

**Circle Way** - The Four-Fold Way—Cycles of Life

Join *Deblyn Russell* and *Staci Chananie-Hill*, as we start our new season of honoring the "web of all life". We will be honoring the Four-Fold Way—the elements, the directions and the cycles of life through this experiential, ritual based celebration.

**Garden Meditation** – see above.

##### October 18<sup>th</sup>

**Sixty for Six** – see above.

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

**Walkin' The Talk** – Seeds of Hope Executive Director, *Beth Jackley*, will share details about the breadth and scope of their various programs and services. See articles this issue for more information.

**Garden Meditation** – see above.

##### October 25<sup>th</sup>

**Sixty for Six** – see above.

**"Doc" Shorts** – We will watch part of *Earthdance Short Attention Span Environmental Film Festival*. *Earthdance* has seventeen stunning short films that we will watch over the next three months. Each viewing will be followed by discussion. See article in this issue for more information on the films.

#### SUNDAYS AFTER TWO

October 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

"A Gathering of Women", open ~ *Kirby Sherman* and *Lisa Kratz*

October 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

"Last Sunday Small Group", open ~ *Mica Lorenz*

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#### Other Small Group Ministries

Some topics have related articles elsewhere in this newsletter.

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

**Waverly Small Group** – contact *Chris Rediske* at 352-3444.

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

**Traveling UUs** – *Mike Knapp*; open. October 4<sup>th</sup>, Fellowship Hour

#### 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.

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

##### Workshops

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with *Crystal King*

**Artistic Fun** with *Kathy* and friends for all ages. Join us to make a piece of art and/or play a game.

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

Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with *Crystal King*

**Artistic Fun** with *Kathy* and friends for all ages. Join us to make a piece of art and/or play a game.

**Integral Life Practice Small Group** ~ *Lara* and *Neil Martinsen-Burrell*; closed.

Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with *Crystal King*

**Artistic Fun** with *Kathy* and friends for all ages. Join us to make a piece of art and/or play a game.

Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Self Realization** with *Crystal King*

**Artistic Fun** with *Kathy* and friends for all ages. Join us to make a piece of art and/or play a game.

##### Every Thursday

**Buddhist Path** at 7:30 p.m. Join *Rev. Eva* and others in exploring Buddhist spiritual practices; open.

##### First Friday Potluck

October 2<sup>nd</sup> **Eid al Fitr** 6:00 p.m. at the church

Eid al Fitr, an Islamic celebration following Ramadan, is the festival of fast-breaking and is the biggest Muslim festival. Join us to learn about the holidays of our friends and neighbors.

Remember: you may bring your favorite dish as well as your friends. We'll see you there! Need recipe ideas? Find some at: <<http://www.indobase.com/recipes/category/eid-ul-fitr.php>>.

#### What's Up Documentaries

We are looking for someone to host the Documentaries this year. Contact *Michaela Rich* or *Kathy Klink-Zeitz* if you are interested.



#### Halloween Pizza Lunch, Party and Haunted House

Join us on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate Halloween. Bring a costume to wear if you like. We will have pizza, salad, fruit, and dessert to eat, games to play, and the haunted house to visit. For all ages. \$5/person, \$2/child<5, \$10/family; RSVP at church related articles or on the Google form that will arrive via email. (We do have a few costumes to borrow if you need one.)