



UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF BLACK HAWK COUNTY

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***** 2009 *****

- NOV. 1 9:30 A.M. **DAY OF THE DEAD: FESTIVAL SUNDAY**
 10:45 A.M. Alternative Gift Fair (details inside)
 11:15 A.M. Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / New Member
- NOV. 8 9:30 A.M. **AUCTION SERMON: EXCLUDED** – The Rev. Eva Cameron, Al Hays*
 11:15 A.M. Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Circle Way
- NOV. 15 9:30 A.M. **STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE: GAY MARRIAGE**
 – Al Hays, Staci Chananie-Hill, Mica Lorenz, Lara Martinsen-Burrell*
 11:15 A.M. Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Buddhist Path / Walkin’ The Talk
- NOV. 22 9:30 A.M. **THANKSGIVING: FESTIVAL SUNDAY**
 11:15 A.M. Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Doc Shorts
- NOV. 29 9:30 A.M. **THE DAWN OF HOPE RETURNING** – The Bittersweet Christmas Band, Karen Impola*
 11:15 A.M. Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six

* ~ 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

Fall is always a crazy, hectic time for me. How about for you? The church schedule is full with lots of planning and preparation for the coming year. For many years I was waiting for the kids' schedules to get settled: when will piano lesson be?, when will soccer be?, what night will be scout night? Somehow, though, through all the craziness I hang on to the knowledge that this is just the normal part of starting up the year. The crisp fall days will be upon us. The schedules will be settled. The church will be rolling along, full steam—and life will be busy but good.

This year I've tried really hard to take a few minutes here and there throughout this crazy season to sit really still and think about nothing. It's almost like heaven, if you don't have to remember anything for a few minutes. (I find it helps if you make a list of things not to forget, right before you try this. Then whenever they come up, I can remind myself, "it's on the list, I'll tend to it soon!") Somehow, these moments of calm have been like a little oasis in my season of start-up. When you are trudging through the desert. . . even if you are going somewhere really important, really urgent. . . you aren't going to survive to get there if you don't take the time to stop at the oasis you encounter on the way. Sometimes it may be out of your way, yet head there you must; and drink deeply; and be still and calm and rest; that you may head out knowing you are prepared for the desert that awaits you.

Besides this quiet sitting, another thing that serves as an oasis for me is eating deliberately. I love grabbing up a handful of walnuts and eating them up slowly one by one. I especially love eating them in the fall. As they sit on my tongue, their musky, bitter taste seems to resonate with the smells of fall, with the crispness of the fall air, the taste of apples, pumpkins and squash, even with my distant inklings of peoples long since gone. I can imagine the gathering of these large nuts that fall so heartily from the trees, and the gift of stored food they represented.

We live in such a world of plenty, we rarely want for anything tangible. Yet many of us lead dissatisfied lives. In the rush of the pace, in the 'need' to get so many things done day after day, we savor very little. I know that I can easily fall into this trap. So I am always pleased when a handful of walnuts invites me to slow down for a minute, invites me to think with gratitude for what it really represents. Its worth, not in this over-inflated world of plenty, but for my people, our people really, over time: the joy of the coming of fall, the fear of the coming of fall, the satisfaction of the wealth these simple nuts mean.

Have you ever husked a walnut? They are covered in gooey black tar. Once you figure that out, you have to convince the shell to open up and give you its well-protected treat. I eat them by the handful out of a bag. Often we don't realize how lucky we are. This is until something reaches out and stops us for a moment. I invite you to eat a walnut and listen to the song it sings to you in its dark, lusty voice.

I had a little extra time last week. I could have gone into my office and done work. . . . Is your desk like mine, always with extra papers to attend to, e-mails to answer? But instead, the warm air and delightful fall colors enticed me outside. It was great going out for a walk on the land by the river. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful reserve of wild space. So much of the world is so populated that wild lands are not something they know. I saw many birds and squirrels and heard a deer go crashing off into the brush. I sat for a while and just watched the clouds in the sky. The openness seemed to offer me a chance to drink in the delightful colors of the sky. I hope that you will get

a chance to go out for a walk in wild land some time. Our land is a beautiful treasure, and a great place for spiritual nourishment.

Each year as Thanksgiving approaches, I try to take some time and think of people who I never got around to saying "thank you" to over the course of the year. Sometimes it's people who gave me a little gift that I never got around to thank, despite my best intentions. Sometimes it's someone who has been extra special in my life over the past year. This is a good time to catch up on those thankful thoughts that never got beyond thoughts. Who have you been thankful for in the past year? Remembering these good gestures of others is a delightful oasis for me!

Think about this: what serves as your oasis? I'd be interested to know.

Keep on living and loving!

Eva



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

Join us Saturday, November 14th 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 will 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. See the attached flyer at the end of this newsletter for information 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"!



Samuel Hoar died at age seventy-eight on November 2, 1856 in Concord, Massachusetts. He was a Unitarian religious educator and vehement abolitionist.



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, November 11th. Please R.S.V.P. to **Brian Forster** (291-8427). You don't need to be a resident to attend.

CHILDREN and YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is such a cold October morning as I write this, many leaves have already fallen. There are many concerned about the H1N1 flu going around. The best that we can ask is that if you feel sick, please don't bring it to our children. Call *Kathy* or someone to sub for you if you are a teacher or a helper. Keep your children home if they are sick. Wash your hands, use sanitizer and cough into the crook of your arm. If we all work together we can get through this. Also if you are sick and need some help PLEASE call *Esther* or *Eva* and they will arrange for some help for you.

Are you a "hurry, hurry, now wait" parent? When you hurry your children out of their classrooms, please be ready to leave with them. It is very confusing to the children to be taken out early from their rooms to just wait around while you talk with your adult friends. (I am guilty of this myself!) Speaking of taking the children out early, that is okay, but if you can let them stay until 12:15 p.m. they will get so much more out of their lessons. Please feel free to arrange for another parent to give them a ride home (just let *Kathy* or the teacher know). And for the older children and youth, why not arrange a place to meet at 12:15 p.m. so that you don't have to search the church for them?

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. Another 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: 3, 4, 5 year-olds
- ◆ Alternative Activities: Kindergarten to 5th grade
- ◆ Nursery: 0 to 3 year-olds

at 11:15 a.m.

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



On November 4, 1562 *The Synod at Pinszow*, Poland granted all preachers the right to interpret the Helvetic Confession, the statement of faith of the Reformed (Calvinist) Churches, as their consciences dictated, paving the way for the spread of Unitarianism for several decades.

Thanksgiving

RELIGIOUS SERVICES COUNCIL NEWS

The Religious Services Council is like an enormous fish—oops, excuse me. I've been watching too much Monty Python. The Religious Services Council is like an enormous umbrella, which shelters under it various committees and teams, all of which help to make Sunday morning services (and the occasional wedding, funeral, child dedication, etc.) smooth-running and meaningful experiences.

Some noteworthy things happening lately under the RSC umbrella: *Stacie Chananie-Hill* has been putting her audio skills to work, tweaking our sound system and training people to run it; *Rev. Eva* held a training session for Worship Associates, at which even "old hands" learned something new; and each month, the Creative Spiritz group finds a new way to dazzle our eyes by transforming the sanctuary once again. The music program is thriving under our Director of Music, *Tim Purdum*, who came on board last January (see article elsewhere in the newsletter).

The RSC meets monthly at 7:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, and always welcomes new members. Join us!

Karen Impola, RSC Chair



We send caring thoughts to *Laura Walter*, *Glenyce Butschy* and *Mildred Pierce* as well as best wishes for a very speedy recovery to *Mary Olson* who, on November 3rd, is having her other knee replaced.

Some in our congregation are experiencing flu or colds, so we wish each of you well and—just like mom told us—hand washing is encouraged often for everyone!

Our best to *Don* and *Dorothy Wendt* as they adjust to a new living situation; *Don* is now at the Lakeview complex in Friendship Village. Keep them in your thoughts. Cards and calls would be appreciated.

The members of the Caring Committee are *Esther Kieffer* (Chair), *Lisa Kratz*, *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 **November** birthdays:

Bill Harwood Shanlee McNally Michael Hays
Randall Gann Eric Giddens Kathy Klink-Zeitz
Dennis Smithe Matthew Swarbrick
Al Hays Steve Chamberlin Eva Cameron



PEACE GARDEN REPORT

Grace asked me to go with her to look through the garden. Outside under the garden archway Kendra was posing the preschool class for a group picture under the arbor of morning glories. Then the children looked about and I heard Grace say, "Can I tell them about the beans?" Of course we were glad to see her take charge. She stood beneath the red yard-long beans that have become not just long but very fat with mature seeds and explained to the children about this type of bean and how the very fat ones were no longer tender to eat. Some of the children opened the beans and were surprised to find the plump, pink seeds inside, so smooth and shiny. On the way back to the main garden I overheard Grace ask one of the younger children if they might want to help in the garden when they were older. The younger child said, "Yes". How could anyone say "no" to Grace! Then each child picked a carrot to take home.

Working together the last clement day of fall, Staci, Maureen, and I put the garden to bed. The cool air acted like an elixir as we cleared wilted foliage and vines and heaped finished compost over all the beds. Now they receive their tonic of sprinkled bone meal and granite dust and a fluffy quilt of leaves, ready for winter rest and a glorious spring. We also established a separate bed for herbs (just north of the prairie swath) which Staci has staked out as her territory. If anyone has some cherished ideas they would like to realize in flowers, the circle garden could use a new look.

Our income from the produce sales totaled \$746.90, thanks to everyone who contributed. We had fun at the booth sharing recipes and gardening tips as well. Some of our congregation have been inspired to start gardens at home. Danny reports, though he had just a small space, he was surprised how much it produced. Carolyn tried the lasagna technique, and I believe it worked.

In one of our Sunday bulletins to come, we plan to have a survey questionnaire about the garden to help us with our planning.

Julie Fischer



On November 8, 1674 John Milton, the author of *Paradise Lost*, died at age sixty-five. His posthumously-published papers declared his Unitarian beliefs.



UU CARD CLUB

Join us for the UU Card Club on Saturday, November 7th. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.; light supper and beverages provided. Bring a snack to share. Cost for the evening's entertainment is \$10.

Remember, we play for bragging rights and the traveling trophy. Bridge and Texas Hold'em Poker games offered. 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 at <mikeknapp@mchsi.com> or 291-6509.



THANK UU AWARD

The "Thank UU" Award this month goes in part to Ute Brandenburg and Karen Kitchen, whose terms on the Executive Board were completed last June. Ute served for two years as a Trustee, where she was liaison to the Religious Education and Program Council. She also has been active as a musician, performing on Christmas Eve and at other times during the year. Ute has been a strong advocate for the needs of children, youth, and families in our congregation. Karen, longtime Treasurer, served on the Executive Board for two years from July 2007 to June 2009 as Financial Director. She has devoted many hours to paying bills, gathering receipts and compiling a monthly financial report for the Executive Board. Karen has worked with the Finance Council to prepare our annual budget, and counseled the Board to follow acceptable accounting practices. She has been diligent in advocating fiscal policies to ensure UUSBHC is consistent with IRS guidelines.

Christine Carpenter and Leigh Zeitz completed their three-year terms on the Committee on Ministry. Christine served as committee Chair providing steady leadership during this past church year. She has been active on a number of projects and committees over more than twenty years. Leigh is a past President of our congregation and provided keen insights during his time on the Committee on Ministry. Bob Robinson decided to step down from the Committee with a year left on his term. He also is a long time member who was a mainstay of the Building and Grounds Committee for a number of years.

Christine, Leigh, and Bob were instrumental in undertaking these initiatives that benefit the overall ministry of our congregation:

- To proactively become involved in Prairie Star District Award nominations, and establishing congregational awards;
- To establish ad hoc committees leading to the acquisition of new furnaces and siding the church building;
- To restructure how the congregation is governed and enhance communication by forming councils and modifying the Executive Board;
- To develop and implement yearly reviews with councils, leading to a goal-setting retreat with the Executive Board last spring.

When you see Karen Kitchen, Ute Brandenburg, Christine Carpenter, Leigh Zeitz, and Bob Robinson, take a moment to thank them for their vision, leadership, and dedication to maintaining our spiritual community as a healthy congregation.

Committee on Ministry

Members of the Committee on Ministry are: Jim Paprocki (chair), Judith Harrington, Sue Campbell, Gerry Chamberlin, Curt Hanson and Rev. Cameron.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND NEW MEMBER IN-GATHERING

Are you interested in learning more about membership in our Unitarian Universalist Society? Join us in *Rev. Eva's* office on the first Sunday of each month during Adult RE time (11:15 a.m.). *Eva's* office is at the east end of the Fellowship Hall. If you decide to join, you may sign the membership book at that time. We will be having a New Member In-Gathering during the service on November 8th to recognize all who have joined our church since the last In-Gathering in May. Join us after the service to welcome the new members and share some treats .



BUDDHIST PATH

Join with *Eva* and others each week at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays (except Thanksgiving!) 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.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY - OPEN GROUPS

Many of our Small Groups are open to new members this fall. If you have not yet tried a Small Group, now might be the time to check them out. Have you filled out a Small Group survey yet? If you didn't get your survey by email ask *Mica* about the survey on Small Group Ministry.

Small Group Ministry is a great way to get to know and connect with other UUs in a less formal setting outside of Sunday services. The groups meet for about two hours at least once a month. The groups ask you to attend on a regular basis so that the members can get to know each other and make a commitment to the group. Each group has a different focus but in general there is a structured setting, and an opportunity to share your thoughts; with an emphasis on listening rather than on debate and advising. For more information on groups and times see the REAP article or contact *Mica Lorenz* at <micalorenz@gmail.com> or 291-6509.



First Church and Parish in Dedham, Massachusetts. was organized on November 8, 1638. This church was the focus of the Dedham decision, a decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 1820 that gave property rights to parishes rather than churches and, in the process, influenced every Congregational church in Massachusetts. The decision arose from a division within the Dedham church between the more conservative Trinitarian church members (those who had assented to the church covenant) and the more liberal parish churchgoers. The Trinitarian members withdrew from the church, taking some of the church property with them, and the parish sued for the return of the property. The resulting decision in favor of the parish changed a long-standing tradition whereby church members held the right to church property. This cleared the way for the new liberal Unitarianism that was emerging in America in the 1820s, and within twenty years one quarter of the Congregational churches in Massachusetts were Unitarian.

ATTENTION CAMPERS!!

This year's First Annual Camping Event was a huge success! So much so, that we are planning next year's to be on the same weekend. Next year the Group Campout—open to all UUs, friends and family—will be September 24th to 26th. Mark your calendars now!

Next year we will ask that you reserve your own site for camping at Six Pines Campground at Backbone State Park. The Nature Small Group will plan and prepare Friday night supper, Saturday lunch, and Saturday supper plus s'mores. The cost will be determined closer to the event and payment is requested one week before the event. Keep this fun weekend in mind while we go through another winter, spring and summer season. Thanks to all who helped and attended this year!

Sheri Huber-Otting
Nature Small Group Facilitator

Standing on the

Side of Love

NOVEMBER SERVICES

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

November 1st

Day Of The Dead: Festival Sunday

As Christian churches celebrate All Souls Day, and in Mexico ancient traditions mix with the holiday to create a poignant time of stories and remembering. . .we join together to share stories of our loved ones who have departed. Please bring a picture or an item from a loved one to place on the front altar.

November 8th

Auction Sermon: Excluded ~ *Rev. Eva Cameron, Al Hays (WA)*

Each year at the Treats and Talents Auction, *Eva* offers a sermon based on a book of the winning bidder's choice. The lucky winner at the 2008 auction was *Russ Campbell*, who chose the book entitled *Excluded* by Robert Cummins. It tells the story of the Council of Churches and the Universalists. Come and learn this story which has shaped who we are.

November 15th

Standing On The Side Of Love: Gay Marriage

Join members *Al Hays, Staci Chananie-Hill, Mica Lorenz, Lara Martinsen-Burrell (WA)*, and others who will share what equal marriage rights means to them and explore the role a congregation such as ours can have as we stand on the side of love.

November 22nd

Thanksgiving: Festival Sunday

Join our drama team, choir and others as we celebrate the ample bounty of our lives. Please bring a canned good or other item for the Food Bank—we will have a "parade of food" during the service where the children will bring the offerings up to the altar.

November 29th

The Dawn Of Hope Returning ~ Bittersweet Christmas Band

With *Karen Impola (WA)*, the band will present a service on getting through tough times at the holidays and managing to survive with renewed hope. Two to four-part harmonies and masterful instrumentation on guitar, banjo, mountain dulcimer, hand drum and other percussion instruments, plus a wealth of experience with UU congregations across the Midwest, make this a service not to be missed!





MUSIC NOTES

Much joyful noise is being made these days at UUSBHC. On Wednesday nights, the sanctuary is full of music, with Childrens Choir rehearsing at 5:00 p.m., Adult (and Youth) Choir at 6:15 p.m. and the Theoretical String Band at 7:30 p.m. All of these ensembles are expertly led by our Director of Music, *Tim Purdum*. Tim's energy never flags, even though he's already put in a full day teaching elementary school students. If you've been to a Sunday service lately, you've heard the results! As a member of the Adult Choir, I have to say it's been wonderful to see this group growing. At the beginning of the church year, it seemed like twenty copies of each piece of music would be plenty; now we find that we're running short and have to share! Tim is also open to having soloists and small ensembles provide special music for services; contact him at <musicman@cfu.net> if you'd like to volunteer.

Note: we're taking a rehearsal break on the 25th to give families time to prepare for the holiday on Thursday!

Many people in our congregation perform; a smaller group—the Music Committee—works behind the scenes to help organize things and support the Director of Music. When the church budget for this fiscal year came up a bit short, the Music Committee accepted the Board's challenge to find creative ways to raise money. To this end, we held the first-ever *Comedy Cafe* back in September. A good time was had by all who attended, several hundred dollars were raised, and we've vowed to make this an annual event.

Mark your calendar now, and make plans to join us for our *Winter Music Festival/Variety Show* at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 6th (following a potluck lunch). And look for another annual event, the *UU Home Companion Show*, coming in May.

Karen Impola, RSC Chair

As noted Unitarian *Ralph Waldo Emerson* said, "Music takes us out of the actual and whispers to us dim secrets that startle our wonder as to who we are, and for what, whence, and whereto."



JUST BE

Just sitting means just that. That "just" endlessly goes against the grain of our need to fix, transform, and improve ourselves. The paradox of our practice is that the most effective way of transformation is to leave ourselves alone. The more we let everything be just what it is, the more we relax into an open, attentive awareness of one moment after another. Just sitting leaves everything just as it is.

~*Barry Magid*, from "Leave yourself alone!"
Tricycle, Summer 2005



William Cullen Bryant, one of the literary greats of America, was born on November 3, 1794 in Cummington, Massachusetts. He never graduated from college but was admitted to the bar in 1815. A scholar in English law and physical science, he was also fluent in several languages. For nearly fifty years, Bryant edited the *New York Evening Post*. He was a member of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City and advocated women's rights and abolition of slavery. He died on June 12, 1878.

SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTION "WALKIN' THE TALK"

Greetings UUs and Friends!

I hope you are all staying healthy and happy in this cold and flu season. September's focus was to help fund the Sabeel Conference that was held at UNI on October 9-10th. The plate collection total was \$83.00. This and the overflow amount from September's collection went in support of the conference. Thanks to *Ruth Walker* for setting up the speaker and to all who donated.

October's focus was Seeds of Hope during which time we collected items for comfort kits. Our very own *Jen Zeck* who is interning with SOH, spoke on Sunday, October 25th, same day as the plate collection. The total will be reported in next month's newsletter.

The month of November will once again be dedicated to raising money for Christmas dinner boxes to be given to families in need as identified by the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. There will be a chance to volunteer to give these boxes out to the families during the week of Christmas at the Food Bank. There will be a speaker from the Food Bank on November 15th to discuss what they do to feed the hungry in their sixteen county coverage area. The plate collection will be on November 29th. The amount we give determines the number of families we can help, so please give generously.

Thanks to all who are Walkin' the Talk and Standing On the Side of Love!

Sheri Huber-Otting,
UUSBHC Social Action Chair



Child's letter to God:

Dear God,
Why is Sunday school on Sunday? I thought it was supposed to be our day of rest. Tom L.



NEW NAME: FESTIVAL SUNDAYS

After some discussion, we have a *new name* for our "Services For All Ages," which was very descriptive but loooooong, and a bit hard for new people to remember! The new name is *FESTIVAL SUNDAYS*.

When looking back at the times of year we have been doing these services, we realized that they have settled into a pattern of celebrating major holidays in our church life—and they do so with pizzazz! During our *Festival Sundays*, the children do remain with their families the whole time. We have skits and do activities, we dance and the children's choir sings. . .we mark the major occasions of our lives together.

If you would like to serve on the Festival Sunday team, please let *Eva* know. Members of the team currently are: *Lara Martinsen-Burrell*, *Karen Impola*, *Kathy Klink-Zeit*, and *Rev. Eva*.

MINISTER'S CONVOCATION

The Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association gathers briefly every year before GA for a day of programming, and an annual meeting. Since 1974 the UUMA has also been gathering about every seven years for friendship, spiritual nourishment, intellectual exploration, and for thinking about the future of our faith.

The gatherings have taken place in the Poconos, PA (1974), Newport, RI (1980), Well Springs, Bethesda, MD (1983), Hot Springs, AR (1995) and Birmingham, AL (2002).

This year we will gather November 11th through the 16th in Ottawa, Ontario. For me, this is the first time I will be able to attend and I am very excited. I'll tell you all about it when I return!

~Eva



NATURE SMALL GROUP PLANNING MEETING

If you are interested in being in the Nature Small Group, we have opened it up again. The planning meeting for next year's events will be November 7th at the UUSBHC from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (or wherever we can meet). We meet once a month from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and go on nature outings and teach each other what we know about the world in which we live. I hope to see you there!

Sheri Huber-Otting
Nature Small Group Facilitator



Antoinette Louisa Brown Blackwell, a women's rights activist and Unitarian minister, died on November 5, 1921 at age ninety-six.



CONSCIOUS LIVING CORNER

On Sunday, November 1st from 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. the Conscious Living Group and the Green Sanctuary Committee will once again host an Alternative Gift Fair in our Fellowship Hall.

Hosting this so early in the fall allows us to not only get a peaceful, head start on our holiday gift-buying, but also to make purchases that are in line with our values, to boot! We will have an opportunity to learn about and purchase holiday gifts that are fairly traded, benefit others locally and/or internationally, all while using our purchasing power for good. A sampling of participating organizations this year includes Quota International (dried fruits and nuts), Heifer International (animals for sustainable living), Church World Service (tools and blankets for refugees), World's Window (fairly traded jewelry, notecards, scarves, journals, etc.), Equal Exchange (fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts and dried fruits) and NISCUA (Guatemalan calendars and crafts).

Come support organizations doing valuable work locally and internationally and expand your awareness of the many ways to be a conscious holiday shopper. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!

UU SPOTLIGHT



This month we will meet *Linda McLaury* and *Jennifer Heckmann* as told by Linda. *Esther Kieffer*

"I grew up attending a small Methodist church in Dunkerton, Iowa. I always thought they did a pretty good job of exploring other traditions until I went to college. In college I took many religious studies courses and was fascinated by all I didn't know. I was drawn to many different aspects of other theologies and belief systems, but none really encompassed all of my thoughts, so I stopped going to church altogether.

"Jen grew up attending a Lutheran church in Postville and then Waukon, Iowa. During Sunday School classes, small groups were invited to visit other churches in the area. This meant that they could explore other Christian services, but no great deviation from Lutheran traditions. Jen tried out some Lutheran churches in Cedar Falls while attending college, but nothing was a good fit.

"We met while working at a resident camp in Northeast Iowa in 1991. The rest, as they say, is history.

"A few years ago, we began to discuss whether we should attend church again. We didn't have any good idea where to begin, so we created a short list of churches we were interested in. We decided we would attend three services and then try the next place on the list. Our friend Marcy worked with *Lynn Brant* at the Iowa Academy of Science. Upon his recommendation, we started with the UUSBHC. After three services we decided it was pointless to continue our search. We had found a home. We became members in May of 2005.

"It's impossible to describe what we most enjoy about the UUSBHC without mentioning the overwhelming support, warmth, and humor of the people. We have met great people and made amazing friends. The services always provide thoughtful reflection, challenges, and support in our spiritual search. Since becoming members, we have particularly enjoyed playing with the UU Card Club, articulating our faith with *Mike* and *Mica*, attending the Treats and Talents auctions, and gathering with unofficial UU small groups.

"On August 1, 2009 we were honored to hold our wedding ceremony at the UUSBHC. Thank you all for your overwhelming outpouring of support.

"When Jen isn't imparting wisdom to kids in Vinton and I'm not working at the UNI Library, we spend as much time as possible camping, playing games and cards, attending niece and nephew events, reading, and biking (although we don't have the stamina of Team Flamingo). Jen is also much craftier than I. She knits, crochets, gardens, and enjoys basket weaving.

"Our family consists of three rotund cats; Dexter, Gordon and Elliott. They will be enrolling in Overeaters Anonymous any day now.

"Each Sunday that we are able to attend, we are amazed by all of the new faces we see. As we continue our journeys with this community, we hope to get to know each of you along the way."

Contact information is: 363 Joy Drive, Waterloo, IA 50701, 319-234-9287, <mclaury@uni.edu>, <jlheckmann@gmail.com>.





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

November 1st

Sixty for Six – “What is Good About Religion”: Christianity with Dr. Brian Jones from Wartburg College.

Conscious Living – Alternative Gift Fair, 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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

November 8th

Sixty for Six – “What is Good About Religion”: Judaism with our own Judy Harrington.

Circle Way – Native American Spirituality

November 15th

Sixty for Six – “What is Good About Religion”: Islam with Dr. Pecem from UNI.

Buddhist Path – Join Ralph and others in exploring Buddhist spiritual practices.

Walkin’ The Talk – We will be raising money for Christmas dinner boxes to be given to families in need. A speaker from the Food Bank will share information with us.

November 22nd

Sixty for Six – “What is Good About Religion”: Shintoism with our own Dr. Joyce Boss (also from Wartburg).

“Doc” Shorts – We will watch the second part of *Earthdance* a 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.

November 29th

Sixty for Six – “What is Good About Religion”: Buddhism, the presenter to be announced.

SUNDAYS AFTER TWO

November 1st 7:00 p.m.

“A Gathering of Women”, Kirby Sherman and Lisa Kratz ~ open

November 15th 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

“Sunday Afternoon Small Group”, Mica Lorenz ~ open

Other Small Group Ministries

Some topics have related articles elsewhere in this newsletter.

FVUUM – contact Brian Forster, November 11th, 11:00 a.m.

UU Ministry at Friendship Village

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

Nature Lovers Group – contact Sheri Huber-Otting

November 7th; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ~ open

Traveling UUs – contact Mike Knapp, facilitator ~ open

WOW! WORKSHOPS ON WEDNESDAYS WOW!

Every Wednesday *except the 25th!*

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, November 4th 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, November 11th 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, November 18th 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, November 25th

Note: Usual schedule is suspended so families have time to prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday on the 26th.

Every Thursday

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

First Friday Potluck

November 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the church

Please join us in welcoming our special guest, George ‘Spotted Horse’ Leduc. George is a Native American flutist, traditional storyteller, performer, dancer, motivational speaker and recording artist (perhaps he will bring some of his albums for us to purchase). He will be joined by jewelry artist Shauna Zeck (hopefully she will bring her original jewelry for us to purchase as these all make wonderful holiday gifts). They graced us with wonderful music and stories three years ago and we are honored to have them return. This is a great event, consider inviting your friends and family.

More information about George can be found at his websites: <<http://snipurl.com/4yaj1>> and <<http://cdbaby.com/cd/Leduc>>.

If you are in need of Native American food ideas and recipes check out <<http://www.kstrom.net/isk/food/recipes.html>> and <<http://www.ewebtribe.com/NACulture/food.htm>>.

First Fridays provide Unitarian Universalists and the community with knowledge, understanding, and respect for all people.

On the First Friday of every month from September to May at 6:00 p.m., family, friends and the community are invited to a potluck dinner and an information session about different religions or groups. Bring a dish that goes with the holiday or just your favorite dish (no dish required if this is your first time).

Remember, you are welcome to bring friends. See you there!

What’s Up Doc?umentaries

We are looking for someone to host the documentaries this year. Contact Michaela Rich or Kathy Klink-Zeitz if you have an interest in this.



SIXTY FOR SIX

Welcome all to another month of Adult RE. Our first set of *Sixty for Six*, moderated by *Bill Harwood*, ended October 25th, and we move to the next installment: “What is Good About Religion?” During this six week session we’ll study the positive aspects of six religions, one each Sunday. Each week will be hosted by someone who is well-versed in the practice of that religion. Our class begins November 1st, and runs each Sunday through December 6th. The order of religions will be Christianity with Dr. Brian Jones from Wartburg College, Judaism with our own *Judy Harrington*, Islam with Dr. Pecen from UNI, Shintoism with our own *Dr. Joyce Boss* (also from Wartburg), Buddhism, and we end with nature-based religions with our own *Deblyn Russell*. Deblyn will present more than one religion; for example, Wiccan and Native American viewpoints.

The highlights each week will be that we will learn what the good qualities are of each religion because UUs state that there is something good to be learned from all religions. So, let’s see what those good things are. We meet in the balcony every week at 11:15 a.m. except for the third Sunday when we are meeting under the balcony.

See you soon! *Johanna Foster* and *Bob Robinson*, co-chairs

CIRCLE WAY

Native American religions are many. Because of the local focus of these traditions, each brings the unique experience and knowledge of that group of people. The nomadic practices of many Indian groups means no buildings and few artifacts can be used today to study the past. Natural sites offer the greatest insight in Native spirituality. We will exam some Native American tribes and their spiritual habits.

OUR UU YOUTH

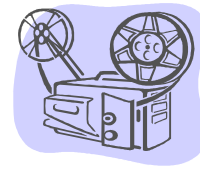
Kevin and I are lucky to be able to lead the youth this year. I use the word “lead” loosely because I think they will be teaching and leading us more than we may be leading them. We took on this challenge because it is something we have never done and would be, as referring to *Eva’s* past theme, “Daring to Grow”. We are excited for this year and would like you to be too! If you are a UU Youth and haven’t been attending RE lately, come!! You won’t regret it!

This year we will be learning how to Articulate Our Faith. Our regular events included the Haunted House in October, and upcoming will be the Youth Sunday service and Easter Egg Hunt. The Youth are continuing to fund-raise towards a trip to Chicago. You may see us selling baked goods during the coffee hour. (Trust me, the treats will be good—buy, buy, buy!!) The youth will also be volunteering at the Food Bank in the spring. Along with possible CONS, we have a full RE year planned! We will be meeting weekly.

Mike Knapp and *Eva* have offered to help regularly too. We have a great group to support our astonishing Youth. They are really a wonderful bunch of young adults! I have viewed this from a distance for five years now and am excited to get to know them personally this year.

As you may have seen, the youth room is looking for a “new” donated couch. The chairs that were an addition last year have been opening unexpectedly during meditations. Yes, imagine—you’re sitting there meditating and suddenly you are hit with the leg rest of a chair. If you are willing to donate your used couch, please contact Kevin or me at <stafsholt@mchsi.com>.

Peace, *Angie Stafsholt*



“DOC” SHORTS FOR 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.

Ironweed provides a departure from its feature documentary format, and brings us 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 exposé 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; *Garpenfargle*, 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.

