



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF BLACK HAWK COUNTY**
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***** 2009 *****

- DEC. 6** **9:30 A.M.** SUNSET IN SABULA – The Rev. Eva Cameron, Deblyn Russell*
11:15 A.M. **Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Conscious Living / New Member**
- DEC. 13** **9:30 A.M.** A UU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – The Rev. Eva Cameron, The Festival Team
11:15 A.M. **Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Circle Way**
- DEC. 20** **9:30 A.M.** WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND – The Rev. Eva Cameron, Staci Chananie-Hill*
11:15 A.M. **Adult Sunday School: Sixty for Six / Buddhist Path / Walkin' the Talk**
- DEC. 24** **5:30 / 8:00 P.M.** CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
- DEC. 27** **9:30 A.M.** CHAPEL SERVICE: NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTIONS – Al Hays, Stephen Orsborn*
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

We enter the season of waning light, heightened expectations, family commitments, rituals both sustained and broken, memories of years and loved ones past, hopes for years to come, makers of powerful magic—so much held in this one month, this one season, even just one day.

As Unitarian Universalists, many of us wrestle with how to make spiritual sense of this season. Some happily celebrate Yule or Winter Solstice, turning to the wisdom offered in this season—a simple and profound message: in the darkest hour, the light does return. It is a good message, and rich in meaning for our spirit. Some of us light the lights of Chanukah, and remember a proud moment of religious freedom: the people got to return to their temple, re-light their sacred flame. May we all cherish the light of religious freedom, and the soul-nourishing hope it provides. Some of us just turn to the people-moments of this holiday, and revel in creating surprises for children, opening their hearts to those who have so little, connecting with family and friends. This act of human compassion is a beautiful element of this 'holiday season'. And some of us ponder the birth of Christ. Not so much the man Jesus, who we know so little about historically, but the birth of how we humans see and experience the Holy/God within other people. The magical story of Christ's birth as a baby of lowly birth speaks to our hearts, it is easy to see the precious potential of life, its sacred core, in a vulnerable infant.

And so we wait, pondering just how and when this happens in each of us, as we anticipate with joy this birth. However, and in whatever way you find meaning in this season, my wish for you is that you take the time to nourish your soul—do the rituals, whether they are Christian, Pagan, Humanist or Jewish. . .and consider celebrating Chalica, our own UU Holiday that helps us remember our values in this season. (The details are in this newsletter.) Don't do so much that you don't know which way is up! Take a moment now. Chart a course, a manageable course (not too much), and weave your way through this month-long marathon of all the possibilities with the goal being a satisfied soul.

Keep on living and loving! See you in church!

Eva



WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL / VARIETY SHOW

Please join us on Sunday, December 6th for the Winter Music Festival/Variety Show!

The fun will begin with a potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m. followed by a delightful mix of musical, holiday, and comedy acts at 1:30 p.m. There will be a freewill donation (suggested: \$10) to help the music committee support the general budget of the church.

If you would like to perform, or would be willing to help with the organization of the dinner or concert, please contact *Tim* at <musicman@cfu.net>.



The North American Youth movements of Unitarianism and Universalism combined on December 16, 1953 to form **Liberal Religious Youth**. The development of religious education curricula for both denominations began two decades earlier. The youth thus merged eight years before their denomination.

CHILDREN and YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is the middle of November as I write this and most of the leaves have fallen. The weather is between cold and chilly. Please remember coats, hats and gloves as sometimes it is fun to go outside to collect ideas for an art project. Have you noticed all the new young children in the building? We are growing. With this in mind, the REAP Council has decided to change the place for snack time for all the children to downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. There will be some help from our childcare workers but the children at this time will be the responsibility of their parents. We have also had a small problem with Adult Classes running late, thus children do not get picked up on time. So now the children will all be escorted to the Fellowship Hall where two teachers or childcare workers will watch them while the rest of the teachers double check their rooms and then they are free to leave. We still want you to pick up your child by 12:15 p.m., but now in the Fellowship Hall.

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

P.S. 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.



Huzzah!

It certainly was a “*Knight to Remember*” as our 2009 Treats and Talents Auction found the Fellowship Hall bustling with knights, lords, ladies, wenches and wizards gathered for the night’s festivities. The room was awash with silks and velvet, bagpipes, swords and sorcerer wands—and a successful night it was, with \$3,954 raised for the UUSBHC!



Special thanks go out to our Renaissance crew: *Frank Olson*, our auctioneer for the night; *Danny Lee*, *Pam Hays* and *Norm Kitchen* for their work in decorating the “castle” for the night; *Mary Kay Madsen* and *Karen Kitchen* for working the kitchen; *Robyn Heiden*, *Norm Kitchen* and *Pam Hays* for tracking bids; *Sue Hill*, *Jenny Morton*, *Bob Robinson*, *Heather Flory*, *Angie Stafsholt*, *Frank Olson*, *Karen Kitchen*, *Judy Harrington*, *Robyn Heiden*, *Mary Kay Madsen*, and *Lara Martinsen-Burrell* for filling the table with pies, breads, cakes and tarts; *Robyn* and *Jeff Heiden*, *Norm* and *Karen Kitchen*, *Mica Lorenz*, *Mary Kay Madsen*, and *Al* and *Pam Hays* for helping with clean up and setting the hall aright after the night’s festivities.

A special thank you to *Mimi Kuester* and the *Cedar Valley Singers* for entertaining us during the evening with Renaissance music. Of course, a great big round of applause and thanks to all of *you* who made the event a success by your donations and your bidding.

Sorry you missed the coronation of *Al Hays* and *Mica Lorenz* as the King and Queen of the night’s revelry? Well, plan to attend next year’s Renaissance Faire to see who will wear the crowns in 2010. Who knows, it might even be you. Huzzah!

Mike Knapp



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, December 9th. Please R.S.V.P. to *Brian Forster* (291-8427). You don’t need to be a resident to attend.



Frederick Henry Hedge was born on December 12, 1805 in Cambridge, MA. One of the foremost intellectuals of his day, he served Unitarian Churches in Arlington, Massachusetts; Maine and Rhode Island. Hedge’s influence extended far beyond the denomination; a professor at Harvard, he also edited the *Christian Examiner* and published a hymnal. He was a friend of Thomas Carlyle, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Hedge was one of the original leaders of the transcendentalists. The Transcendental Club was commonly called “the Hedge Club” because it met when Hedge visited Boston. He served as President of the Unitarian Association and received many honors from Harvard College.

CONTINUING THE WELCOMING CONGREGATION NEW WORKSHOPS BEGINNING IN JANUARY

The UUA office of LGBT concerns has put together a new program for congregations that have already completed the Welcoming Congregations Program called Continuing the Welcoming Congregations. We officially became a Welcoming Congregation in April of 2004.

I plan to offer this series of workshops on Wednesday evenings starting January 13th, and running on all but the first Wednesday night of each month. The work sessions will be from 6:30–8:00 p.m. from January through April. Childcare will be available. Pre-registration will be required and there will be a very small fee to cover the cost of materials.

More information will follow in the January newsletter. These workshops have a stated objective, “We begin by discovering what we know, what we do not know and exploring what we will do. Participants can decide if the next stages of their work are for personal growth, congregation life, or working within the larger community.”

Mica Lorenz

Standing on the

Side of Love

DECEMBER SERVICES

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

December 6th

Sunset in Sabula ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Deblyn Russell (WA)
Sometimes we really anticipate things in life, which leads to a lot of waiting. Advent is the time of year where we honor the spiritual practice of waiting, watching, and being open to the moment.

December 13th

A UU Christmas Pageant ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, The Festival Team
Join us on Festival Sunday for our annual production of the story of the birth of Christ, with lots of commentary along the way, giving us different ideas about ways that UUs can make meaning of this story, as we share some laughter.

December 20th

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Staci Chananie-Hill (WA)
Sometimes the more natural elements of this season get lost in the all the shopping and hectic Christmas plans and parties. But on this solstice day, we pause and reflect on what nature has to tell us about how to be better humans. We’ll sing lots of the songs of the season that celebrate our joy at this time of year.

December 24th

Candlelight Christmas Eve ~ 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Come and bring family and friends to our festival of carols and lights, as we share the traditional Christmas stories and a modern one. Our “Walking the Talk” collection will be taken to support the orphaned girl who attends our school in the Khasi Hills of India. (Please note we have gone to two service times so there will be seats for all—with a party in between the two services.)

December 27th

Chapel Service: New Year’s Revolutions

~ Al Hays and Stephen Orsborn (WA)
Join us for a reflection on the relationship between personal, spiritual change and social change. A partial inspiration for this is the Beatles’ song, “Revolution” in which they criticize those who want political change without spiritual change.

Inside some of us is a thin person struggling to get out, but they can usually be sedated with a few pieces of chocolate cake.



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 **December** birthdays:

Jaxyn Orsborn Mildred Pierce Donna Kroeger
 Esther Kieffer Dick Shane Jackson McNally Margie Miller
 MaryKay Madsen Betsy Brant Arthur Queiroz
 Bob Robinson Mica Lorenz Sue Hill



Rodman Edward Serling (**Rod Serling**) was born in Syracuse, NY on December 25, 1924. He was a prolific writer for TV, best know for "*The Twilight Zone*". In that series he addressed such social issues as prejudice, loss of identity, capital punishment, and censorship. He and his wife were members of the Community Church (Unitarian) of Santa Monica, CA.



Caring thoughts and best wishes to *Laura Walter, Glenyce Butschy, Mildred Pierce, Mary Olson, and Don Wendt.*

As we head into the holidays and lots of time spent indoors with family and friends, remember hand washing is encouraged often—just like mom told us!

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



**UUSBHC FORMALLY ACCREDITED BY UUA
 AS A GREEN SANCTUARY CONGREGATION!**

Wear green on Sunday, December 13th and come help celebrate our official certification as a Green Sanctuary Congregation during coffee hour.

We particularly want to honor *Mildred Pierce*, the "founding foremother" of our Green Sanctuary Program and the Conscious Living Group.

This designation represents an accomplishment of the entire congregation, based on activities woven throughout our church-life.

Come enjoy special refreshments as we acknowledge this important milestone.

On December 10, 1952 *Caroline Veatch* signed the legal instrument that granted half the royalties of the North European Oil Corporation and full royalties to the North Shore Unitarian Society after her death. Successor arrangements by this congregation have made this bequest a major source of funding for the Unitarian Universalist Association.

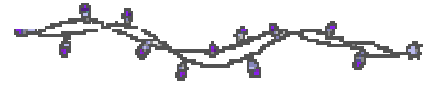


POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Once again Creative Spiritz will be selling poinsettias from Harmony House for the holiday season. Cost this year is \$12 per plant. You may choose from red, white, pink or speckled.

The poinsettias you purchase can be dedicated to someone, or in memory of someone, or for a special anniversary. They will be displayed in the front of the sanctuary during December and should be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

Please contact *Deblyn Russell* at 939-2789, *Pam Hays* at 266-8406, or sign up after the Sunday service until December 13th. Payment is appreciated at the time of order.



PAGEANT CASTING

We will need LOTS of people for this year's pageant! We need both actors and commentators from various theological perspectives. Please contact *Eva* if you are able to help. Also, if you've seen it and want a specific part, let her know.



CHRISTMAS EVE

We will have two services this year, at 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Our annual Christmas Eve party will take place between the services, from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. Please plan on attending it either after the first service or before the second service.

Bring a snack or holiday treat to share. We will need a few hosts for the party since the *Miller/McNally* families who have hosted in the past, will be away this year. Please let *Eva* or *Esther* know if you are willing to host the party.



Try this to sweeten your holidays!

EGGNOG MUFFINS

2¼ cups flour	2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup sugar	2 cups eggnog
2 tsp. baking powder	1½ tsp. vanilla extract
½ tsp. nutmeg	½ cup butter, melted/cooled

Nutmeg-Streusel Topping:

1/3 cup flour	½ tsp. nutmeg
1/3 cup sugar	2 Tbsp. butter

Combine dry muffin ingredients. Make a well in the center and set aside. In another bowl, combine eggs, eggnog, butter and extract. Add to dry ingredients; stir just until moistened. Spoon into muffin cups.

Combine dry topping ingredients and cut in butter. Sprinkle on top of each muffin mixture. Bake at 375° for 18-20 minutes or until golden and a toothpick comes out clean.

THANK UU AWARD

The "Thank UU" Award this month goes to *Cindy Bancroft* who has been active in the Religious Education program. Even though her older son is in college and her younger son is now in the Youth program, Cindy still tirelessly and quietly works with the younger children, having been a teacher or a helper in grades 1 through 6. When she is not teaching, Cindy keeps herself busy organizing the classrooms and has served on the Children's RE Committee for two years. In addition to her RE related activities, Cindy has helped organize some First Friday events and works to keep the church clean and in order by volunteering to take on tasks that would make other members wilt.

Cindy's recent project, with much help from the entire *Harwood* family, was painting the Intermediate RE classroom and making it a refreshing new space! During the past three years, she has been organizing a database of books in the RE classrooms. Cindy did the research on the appropriate library program and has been entering information into the computer database. This project will soon be available to members who would like to do a search to find a book.

Cindy often travels from Waverly to help with the children and other activities in our church. We all are very lucky to have her in our congregation. She is such an asset to our church community and more importantly to our RE program. Please join us in thanking Cindy Bancroft for all she does, has done and hopefully will continue to do.

Committee on Ministry

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



TIRED OLD DOG

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard; I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep.

An hour later, he went to the door and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: "I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful, sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: "He lives in a home with six children, two are under the age of three—he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

~~ Author Unknown



Iwan Tyszkiewicz, a Socinian, was executed in Warsaw, Poland for heresy on December 16, 1611. His tongue was cut out, and one hand and one foot cut off before he was beheaded. Tyszkiewicz's life would have been spared had he renounced his faith. He is considered the first martyr of Unitarianism as an organized movement.

BUDDHIST PATH

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



SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are coming and scrip is selling fast! Remember, we have a great selection of gift cards for everyone on your list.



Scrip will be available for purchase Sundays December 6th, 13th and 20th during coffee hour. If you have any requests or special orders, please contact *Shanlee McNally*, scrip coordinator, at 296-2780 or <shanlee.mcnally@dybb.com>.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

This has been another great year for growing our Society! As I write this article *fifteen* new members have joined our UU family and two more have inquired about the process. For those who are interested in joining our UU Society, or learning more about becoming a member, please join *Rev. Eva* and one of the Outreach Committee members on the first Sunday of each month at 11:15 a.m. in Eva's office for a New Member session.

The names of those who have joined during 2009 are: *Tyler Vincent (Max)*, *Staci Chananie-Hill*, *Jason* and *Jen Zeck (Tristan and Ella)*, *Carole Fishback (Michaela)*, *Ron Roberts*, *Stephen* and *Elizabeth Hughes (Ethan and Andrew)*, *Jennie Morton* and *Mike Wood*, *Ruth Ellen Kimball*, *Ron* and *Gretchen Koinzan (Genavieve & Michaela)*, *Ryan Haynes (Mila and Ruthie)* and *Maureen Murphy*. Please extend a welcome to these great additions to our UU family. Many of these new members have already become active members of our congregation and we appreciate all they contribute to our community.

We must continue to add to our congregation as we, like most churches, lose six to ten percent of our membership every year. We will end our year with about the same or perhaps one or two more members than last year—152. We are right on the edge of what defines a mid-size church. There are many more people out there who need this community, who could grow and thrive in this wonderful family. Think about how much this place has meant to you and invite your friends and family to visit. The number one reason our visitors gave for coming to visit was a recommendation from a friend.

Stand on the Side of Love – Share the Joy – Share your UU Church.

Mica Lorenz, Outreach Committee

CHALICA!

Chalica is seven days long and runs from the first Monday in December through the following Sunday. Each day represents a different Unitarian Principle: a chalice is lit each day and actions, gifts, or volunteering that expresses the day's Principle are given and received. One can have seven different chalices or one common chalice.

Monday: We light our chalice for the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Tuesday: We light our chalice for justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Wednesday: We light our chalice for acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth.

Thursday: We light our chalice for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Friday: We light our chalice for the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in society at large.

Saturday: We light our chalice for the goal of world peace, liberty and justice for all.

Sunday: We light our chalice for respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



CONSCIOUS LIVING CORNER

Personal Care Products and Cancer Risk?

The Environmental Working Group's database, Skin Deep, pairs ingredients in more than 37,000 products against fifty definite toxicity and regulatory databases, making it the largest integrated data resource of its kind. Why did a small nonprofit take on such a big project? **Because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) doesn't require companies to test their own products.**

An estimated 100,000 synthetic chemicals are currently registered for use in the U.S. Fewer than ten percent of them were tested for their effects on human health. The use of chemicals in cosmetics and beauty products is NOT regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has no authority to recall products with questionable ingredients. It does not require manufacturers to disclose them as ingredients or list product ingredients. Skin care companies do their own testing and no independent testing is required to ensure safety before a product is brought to market.



"Natural" implies ingredients are extracted instead of being produced synthetically. A product with even one "natural" ingredient may use the word. A "Certified Organic" product must contain ninety-five percent organic ingredients—herbs or plants grown without conventional fertilizers and pesticides. The other five percent may include either synthetic or natural ingredients—but only if they are not readily available in organic form.

Find out what chemicals are lurking in your cosmetics and body care products by checking out the Environmental Working Group's Skin Deep cosmetic database at <www.costmeticsdatabase.com>.

Christine Carpenter

Note: Christine will share more about how to be a conscious consumer of cosmetics and enlighten us about the risks of and alternatives to commercial cosmetics. Come be a part of the discussion on *Sunday, December 6th at 11:15 a.m.*

Mary Augusta Safford was born on December 23, 1851 in Quincy, IL. She was the founder and minister of the Unitarian Church in Hamilton, IL and four other churches in IL and IA. She was president of the Iowa Unitarian Association and served as director of the Women's Unitarian Conference. The affection with which people held her is noted in a joke making the rounds around 1900: "What do the Catholics and the Unitarians have in common?" Answer: "They both worship the virgin Mary".



WE WANT YOUR BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR 2010!

Board, Staff, Cluster and Committee Chairs—it's not too early to begin planning for next year's budget requests. Please start discussions regarding your funding needs for the program year of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.



Budget requests will be due to the Finance Committee by Sunday, March 21, 2010. Begin your planning now so that your request accurately reflects your funding needs. Thank you.



SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTION "WALKIN' THE TALK"

Greetings UUs and Friends!

November's focus was Christmas food baskets for clients with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. The plate collection total is unknown as of this writing but will be reported next month.

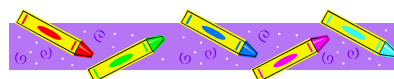
In October the plate collection was for Seeds of Hope and the total was \$278. Thanks to all who gave.

This month we will focus on the Khasi Hills in India, where we sponsor an orphan girl, Iahunlang. On December 20th during Adult RE, *Reverend Eva* will be giving a talk about our efforts there. The December plate collection for Iahunlang will be at the Christmas Eve services on Thursday the 24th, not on the last Sunday of the month. Please make a note of this.

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

Sheri Huber-Otting,
UUSBHC Social Action Chair

Ed. Note: On Saturday morning, November 14th, *Sheri* gave a thorough tour of the Food Bank for UUs; six adults and three children attended. It was a very busy place with *lots* of volunteers that day, so we witnessed first hand what goes on behind the scenes. *Sheri* was peppered with numerous questions from the adults *and* kids. Thanks *Sheri* for taking the time on your day off to enlighten us!



We could learn a lot from Crayons.
Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull.
Some have weird names and all are different colors,
but they all have to live in the same box.

UU SPOTLIGHT



This month's Spotlight shines on our long-time members, *Don and Dorothy Wendt*. Dorothy shares the important role music has played in their lives including how they met. For many decades they have made music throughout the Cedar Valley improving our quality of life. Music has definitely "made their world go 'round".

Esther Kieffer

"I grew up in Cedar Falls and have a long history at ISTC (Iowa State Teachers College). I attended preschool by age three which was in a little white wooden building at the middle of the campus. My father taught in the Ed. Psych. Department at that time and would bring his classes in and out of this building to observe. My brother, Don, was three years older and very advanced for his age. When I got a little older we would walk up the hill (Merner Ave.) together. I would take two steps for every one of his.

"Our father's death (suicide), when I was nine years old was devastating. My mother decided to move to Cresco where we could live with her mother while she got some library training. Then she took work at the University of Minnesota one summer to complete her library training. We were in the habit of walking with mother to work at the library in the evening. Brother Don and I would sit and read until it was time to lock up for the night. I have always had a fondness for libraries and loved to read.

"When we returned to Cedar Falls after my brother Don's high school graduation we lived in our family home on 20th Street and he went to college. That was 1943 and the war had started, so like so many others at that time, he had to put college on hold and entered the army. He was a fine pianist and off to a good start at college, but that wasn't finished until three years later after the war ended.

"I had studied oboe, my main instrument with Myron Russell, who years later became head of the Music Department. I enjoyed those years immensely. I had a full tuition scholarship and was able to have a double major of oboe and violin while I was studying and practicing or working in the art building.

"After graduating from college I taught my first year in Charles City after which I accepted a position in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I enjoyed this and began saving money to go on to graduate school. After two years I went to Northwestern University in Evanston, IL to get my Master's degree. There were a lot of good things that came out of that, but I would agree that it is better to stay in one spot a little longer. I liked teaching in Kalamazoo and had good encouragement, but I was too eager to get another degree. As it happened, *Don Wendt* and I met when I was at Evanston. He was teaching instrumental music in the schools there and also playing in the Chamber Orchestra at Northwestern as I was. Our friendship soon turned into a romance and we were married in March 1951.

"We moved to Atlanta, Georgia after being accepted to play with the Atlanta Symphony; Don was also hired by the school system. Since I was expecting our first baby "any day", Don moved ahead of me and baby Sandra and I flew down to Atlanta when she was a week old! That was a momentous trip. When our second daughter was born two years later, I spoke with the conductor about my need to be home with my little ones and he arranged for me to come to rehearsals only when the music called for English Horn, finding a replacement for me on oboe which made me very happy.

"Although Atlanta has changed vastly since we were there in the '50s, racial intolerance brought us back north. We had a very nice young, dependable black woman who worked for us helping with the girls when I had to play with the Symphony, but we were dismayed by our neighbors racial slurs. The last straw was when the principal asked Don to sign a paper saying he would refuse to teach in an integrated school.

"Our first winter back here couldn't have been more exciting for our two little girls seeing snow for the first time. Our third daughter, Kathryn was born here at Allen Hospital.

"I taught in Cedar Falls, while Don took work at ISTC to get his Masters. When he finished they offered him a position on the Music staff where he spent the next thirty-one years teaching clarinet and bassoon, plus required music courses. I taught until the 1960s when I decided to quit and have more time for our three daughters. I did some private teaching at home and was happy to have more time at home.

"Our oldest daughter, Olive (Sandra) has lived in California a long time. Carol, our second oldest daughter, lives and teaches autistic children in Richmond, VA, where her dad grew up. She has a son, our only grandson, Zeb. Kathryn and her husband have worked for the government for some time. They are finally going to have enough time off to go on a cruise next month. We are happy for them.

"Don grew up in a musical family in Richmond, VA. He and his youngest brother (of four boys) are the only ones who pursued music as a career. His father was a violinist and teacher in the schools.

"We both grew up Methodists, but after marriage did a lot of searching and questioning. Finally, we joined the UU Fellowship here in Cedar Falls—probably forty years ago. Then we took a detour, searching for a period of time, after a change of ministers. Ultimately, we came back to UU; it is very important to us. Don had enjoyed playing with the New Horizons Band but due to health problems he has discontinued that. He attends church when he can. We have enjoyed our retirement years together and currently live at Friendship Village in Waterloo."



COMMUNITY MEALS

Many thanks to those who have helped during the year with Community Meals. Even though December has five Tuesdays, due to the holidays there won't be a meal on the fifth Tuesday this month.

The next Community Meal will be March 30, 2010. Mark your calendar now; we hope to see you!

Child's letter to God:

Dear God,
I read the Bible. What does 'begat' mean?
Nobody will tell me. Love, Alison





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COUNCIL

Multi-Generation Programs

Religious Education and Programs

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

December 6th

Sixty for Six – “What is Good About Religion?” *Deblyn Russell* will teach us about the positive aspects of Wiccan and Native American spiritual beliefs. If there is time, she will present other nature-based beliefs too.

Conscious Living – “Health and Beauty Products: Are They Worth the Risk?” *Christine Carpenter* will enlighten us.

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

December 13th

Sixty for Six – Mr. George Gregory, a Christian Science practitioner and other members of the local Christian Science congregation, will be our guests.

Circle Way – Join *Deblyn* for **Winter Solstice**.

December 20th

Sixty for Six – We will host Bishop Dysert and other members of the local Mormon Temple.

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

Walkin’ The Talk – *Reverend Eva* will be giving a talk about our efforts in the Khasi Hills in India where we sponsor an orphan girl, *Iahunlang*.

December 27th

Sixty for Six – *Bob Robinson* will lead a discussion of the Jehovah’s Witness denomination. (They declined to send a representative to address us, but agreed to a one-on-one meeting with Bob to answer questions and provide more information.)

“Doc” Shorts – We will watch the first 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.

SUNDAYS AFTER TWO

December 6th

4:00 p.m. - Beginning Yoga, *Krystal Hamilton* ~ open

7:00 p.m. - “A Gathering of Women”, *Kirby Sherman, Lisa Kratz*
No meeting this month (see article) ~ open

December 13th

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. - Sunday Afternoon Small Group, *Mica Lorenz*

December 20th

4:00 p.m. - Beginning Yoga, *Krystal Hamilton* ~ open



Other Small Group Ministries

Some topics have related articles elsewhere in this newsletter.

FVUUM – December 9th, 11:00 a.m., contact *Brian Forster*
UU Ministry at Friendship Village

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

Nature Lovers Group – contact *Sheri Huber-Otting*

Traveling UUs – December 13th, 12:15 p.m.
contact *Mike Knapp*, facilitator ~ open

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, December 2nd 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, December 9th 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, December 16th 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, December 23rd

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, December 30th

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. Note: *except* Christmas Eve!

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK

December 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the church

Join us to hear about Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will learn about the celebration of the miracle of the appearance of “the lady on a cloth”.

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 (this time it would be Mexican) or just your favorite dish. No dish required if this is your first time.



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND OTHER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

SIXTY FOR SIX

Welcome to another month of Adult RE. The current installment—*What is Good About Religion?*—will end on December 6th. The next installment—*Those Christian Denominations Having their Origins in the United States, and the Bible their Founders Used*—will commence on December 13th.

There are four Christian Denominations—the Christian Scientists, the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Seventh Day Adventists—that originated here in the United States in the nineteenth century. The Bible they most likely consulted—the King James Version—reached the peak of its popularity in the mid-nineteenth century.

Each of four weeks we will host someone who will inform us of the origins, history, and tenets of their denomination (see REAP article). The fifth week *Bob Robinson* will lead a discussion of the events leading up to the writing of the King James Version (The Reformation, the Tudors, the rise of the English language, the demand for Bibles in everyday languages, etc.). The sixth week we will discuss the planning, the actual writing, the process, the Stewarts, and the long-term consequences for the Dynasty and the Bible that James I ordered written.

We will meet in the balcony every week except the third Sunday when we will meet under the balcony.

On a recent Sunday, a car in our parking lot bore the bumper sticker: "God is Too Big for One Religion". A corollary to this might be "Christianity is Too Big for One Denomination".

Bob Robinson and Johanna Foster, co-chairs

CIRCLE WAY ~ WINTER SOLSTICE

Winter Solstice—also known as Yule, Christmas, and Saturnalia—occurs in mid-December and is a festival of inner renewal. It celebrates the birth of the new Solar year and the beginning of Winter. The Goddess manifests as the Great Mother and the God as the Sun Child. The God also appears as Santa Claus and Old Man Winter. Colors are red, green, and white. Join *Deblyn Russell* for this ritual celebration of renewal on the second Sunday this month, December 13th!

"DOC" SHORTS

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.

TRIBE: A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

Team Rhythm Instrument and Body Ensemble is coming to Sunday School starting in the New Year! This playful learning adventure will inspire, educate, and coax you into your creative side through the use of improvisation, game play, and theory.

Class will meet the fourth Sunday of the month at 11:15 a.m. beginning January 24th. Classes will build upon each other, no prior music or movement training necessary. This class is designed with adults in mind and is appropriate for the mature young adult.

If there is interest, performing is a possibility. If you have any questions, please contact *Tim*. For more details, also check out: <<http://timpurdum.com>>. Come! Bring your friends! Join the Fun!

CONSCIOUS LIVING

"Health and Beauty Products": Are They Worth the Risk?"

On Sunday, December 6th come to the Conscious Living Group and find out what chemicals are lurking in your cosmetics and body care products. An estimated 100,000 synthetic chemicals are currently registered for use in the U.S., yet fewer than ten percent of them were tested for their effects on human health. *Christine Carpenter* will help us be more informed about the choices we make regarding these products.

SMALL GROUP

"A GATHERING OF WOMEN"

Hi All! Hope you are enjoying our respite from snow! I know it can't be avoided, but I give thanks every day we don't have icy roads, school closings and slippery walks. Since our gathering time will conflict with the Winter Music Festival, we will not meet this month.

I know we seem to be straying from our original covenant to meet on a monthly basis, but we will begin anew with the new year on January 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

Welcome back, Jaime! We will rejoice to see your chair filled again. Welcome, Carol, we look forward to your input! Hope you all share in the joys of the season with family, friends (and pets, of course!).

Stay warm and healthy!!

Blessings, Kirby

What's Up Doc?umentaries

Contact *Michaela Rich* or *Kathy Klink-Zeit* if you are interested in hosting the Documentaries this year.

DOCUMENTARIES IN THE SPRING

In anticipation of the Dalai Lama's visit to UNI on May 18, 2010, we will be viewing some Buddhist movies from the Tibet House in New York, which has graciously given us permission to show them in our building. Here are the titles; more information on each will follow in the coming months:

God and Buddha - A Dialogue (1988);

The Life of Buddha;

Yatra Trilogy;

Dharma River: Journey of a Thousand Buddhas (2006)

(The Spiritual Wonders of Laos, Thailand and Burma);

Prajna Earth: Journey into Sacred Nature

(The Spiritual Wonders of Bali, Cambodia, and Java);

Vajra Sky over Tibet.

All films will be shown in the Sanctuary.