



**CEDAR VALLEY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

3912 CEDAR HEIGHTS DRIVE, CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

319-266-5640

WWW.CEDARVALLEYUU.ORG



***** 2015 *****

- AUGUST 2 10:00 A.M. LAMMAS – Karen Impola, Del Carpenter*
- AUGUST 9 10:00 A.M. POETRY SUNDAY – Bill Chene
- AUGUST 16 10:00 A.M. TRANSFORMATION VS. ACCEPTANCE – Del Carpenter, Karen Impola*
- AUGUST 23 10:00 A.M. EXPANDING THE MIND—EXPANDING SELF – Diane Winkey, Maureen Murphy*
- AUGUST 30 10:00 A.M. FESTIVAL SUNDAY: WATER COMMUNION
– Rev. Eva Cameron, Festival Sunday Team

* ~ denotes *Worship Associate*

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M. Services

Following the services ~~ Coffee and Fellowship

Childcare During the Services



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

Well, it was during the summer of 2005 that I was arriving here from Tulsa. On a hot summer day, I had a lot of help unloading the truck and filling up my house. It's hard to believe time goes so swiftly. At that time, my kids were still in school and lived with me. My mother was in New Hampshire, juggling working full time and her aging parents. A lot has shifted over these ten years. We have seen a lot of our kids grow up and lost some precious souls to the mystery of death, as well as had all sorts of new families and little babies join us on our adventure of living, loving and learning together.

As I write this I am just back from being gone for six weeks in New Hampshire sorting and packing family treasures. I read a lot of old letters and sorted through old pictures, items, clothes, and such. My grandpa's mother, (my great-grandma Myra, who died in the 1940's—so not a person I knew) left a note in a sprawling old lady's hand explaining that some of the "old-fashioned" items in the house belonged to her grandparents and great-grandparents. I went through the over-stuffed house hunting and searching for these things. There were also a few things that my Grandpa had labeled as belonging to family. All this looking through old things, finding a picture of my baby Grandpa sitting on a little chair that was up in the attic, and reading that it was on the list of things that my great-grandma considered old. . . these type of things happened over and over. So I spent these weeks with my ancestors. It was only a short walk up the hill to the cemetery, where I could visit them all and think about their lives—the little bits I knew about them, the bits I could fill in, and the stories that I knew would be rich and fascinating, but now they are gone forever. I am very thankful that I took this time to sort through things, and take a sample of things, collect the letters and notes and pictures and family bibles. I hope my kids or grandkids might find some of these treasures of interest too.

One of the most significant moments of the whole trip was a chance encounter with a stranger while I was out walking the dogs in the woods. She and her husband stopped to pet the dogs, and we talked for a little while. I was sharing how tired I was from the long drive from Iowa, and how overwhelming it is to consider all these generations of stuff from a family that was mostly generation after generation of single children. She smiled, and she said "It's definitely a rite of passage." Those simple words were something I so needed to hear. It shaped my whole time there. I had a lot of hard work to do, for long hours, both physical and emotional, but it helped me frame it as something most all of us go through. And like women's birth stories that I remembered as I was giving birth, I started to remember others' stories of cleaning out their parents' or grandparents' house. I joined a long line of people who faced this daunting task, and over and over was so thankful for that stranger's simple framing of the whole experience. Kindness and wise words from a chance meeting. I love it when life works out that way! When has someone turned your understanding of something around with a simple re-framing?

I hope you are having a good summer! I will be taking a few extra weeks off in August, since the church year is following the school calendar (which is very late this year). I'll see you back for Water Communion on August 30th.

If you've never joined us for Water Communion, please collect a sample of water from somewhere sacred or special to you. It can be as simple as the tap from your garden or as remote as a mountain stream. We will mingle our sacred waters in this annual ritual.

See you in church (but not just yet)!

Enjoy your summer!!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I am writing this, I am getting ready to leave for RAGBRAI—#6 for me. A number of other UUs share the Team Flamingo Madness with me. Of course, *Mike Knapp* (aka Big Bird) is our fearless leader. Other UU riders include *Mica Lorenz*, *Carolyn Hildebrandt*, *Julie Husband*, *Jim O'Loughlin*, *Michaela Rich*, *Kurt Hanson*, *Juanita Williams* and *Leigh Zeitz*. Our support crew includes *Roger* and *Cindy Hahn* and *Kathy Klink-Zeitz*. Former members *Ute* and *Charlotte Brandenburg* also ride, and *Bill* and *Moria Brown* and *Heather Flory* have ridden in past years. (If I've left anyone out, I apologize!)

It occurs to me that there are a number of important parallels between having a successful RAGBRAI experience and running a successful congregation. Consider the following:

🚲 RAGBRAI requires a lot of organization before you can start having fun. Our team leader, Big Bird, spends hours arranging lodging and transportation for everyone so that we will all have a good experience. This is also true of congregational life—there is a lot of hard organizing work that needs to be done so that people can have a positive experience with us.

🚲 RAGBRAI requires a lot of patience with other people. Everyone on the ride has a slightly different pace and different needs. They have different personal habits, which are a potential source of friction when two dozen people are sharing close living quarters. Similarly, a congregation is made up of many different people with different needs and ideas. We all need to be very patient with each other's quirks and foibles if we are going to have a strong community.

🚲 RAGBRAI requires tolerance for occasional miscommunication. When you've just ridden sixty miles and your support van isn't where you expected it to be, it's easy to get cranky. However, it's just not possible for everything to go smoothly all the time. Similarly, in our congregation, there are inevitable communication breakdowns, and we can't let these distract us from our purpose as a religious community.

🚲 RAGBRAI requires that you relax, have fun, and not take yourself too seriously. I mean, how seriously can you take yourself when you are wearing pink feathers? Similarly, we need plenty of opportunities to laugh and have fun together as a congregation.

🚲 RAGBRAI requires persistence and determination. It is easy to get discouraged when the temperature hits 96 degrees, and the hills just keep coming. However, if you just take it a few miles at a time, and support yourself with plenty of rest and water, you can generally make it through. Similarly, we, as members, need commitment in order to keep our congregation strong. We can't just bail out when difficulties arise or when certain things displease us. We need to believe strongly that what Unitarian Universalism represents is worthwhile and be willing to be in it for the long haul.

By the time you read this, I will have, hopefully, completed another successful ride. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year to make our congregation strong.

Al Hays
President of the Board



UU historical facts in our newsletters are contributed
by *Mica Lorenz* and taken from
This Day in Unitarian Universalist History
by Frank Schulman – Skinner House Books.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RE?

Summer is still in full swing, which means Children's RE is still in the planning process. This year, with the late start to school (yippee!), we have a later RE start date than in years past. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 20th for the first Sunday of RE!

Prior to the start of RE, we will have our Annual Retreat and I will be providing a teacher information session if it is so needed. As of now, I have wonderful well-seasoned teachers who may not need "training", but please do not hesitate to volunteer to teach if you have never done it before! I will make it very easy for you and will help you along the way! It's a piece of cake, trust me!

So, what did you think of the RE Sunday this past May? Pretty awesome, right? How about all that music by the older kids and their poise and confidence at the mic! It was so great to see the "alumni" YoUUth come back to help *Jack* bridge, and I only cried a little. . .ok, it was a lot. We have such awesome kids and I love to see their individuality but also how they come together to make one beautiful thing, like RE Sunday.

The same thing is true for RE. It takes all of us individually to come together to make one wonderful thing—RE. With all these individuals, RE is the one awesome thing that helps our kids answer big questions, feel accepted, feel safe, explore different thoughts and ideas, ask questions about themselves, and talk about God not as something you have to believe in but as something that can be a person, a thing, a thought, nonexistent or a creator. RE gives our kids power—power to feel part of a group, power to have an opinion (even though they are "just a kid"), power to learn not only about religion but about themselves as they grow and change. The CVUU provides our kids a home away from home and it's all thanks to the individuals who make IT happen.

Thank you to our kids again for putting on an awesome RE Sunday and to the parents for getting them there, helping and, above all, providing such spectacular kids to our congregation. Thank you to the rest of our congregation for filling the house that Sunday. It always makes my heart full when I see our seats full year after year on this special Sunday. It really shows me, and most importantly the kids, how we love them. Thank you to all the teachers who helped throughout the year and on that Sunday, and thank you to the helpers who filled in in the nursery. With full seats comes a full nursery! You are all WONDERFUL!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing all of you in September!

Angie Stafsholt
dcre@cedarvalleyuu.org



- Q. Why don't acrobats work in the winter?
A. They only do summer-saults.

On August 5, 1873 the British Parliament passed the *Statute Law Revision Act*, replacing the Trinity Act of 1813 with more tolerant laws. The 1813 act repealed the penalties for denying the Trinity but left it a crime punishable under the common law. The act passed on this day removed all penalties and gave Unitarians equal rights with all Dissenters from the Church of England.

Pope Paul IV denounced Unitarians in Italy on August 7, 1555, indicating that there were significant numbers of Unitarians in Italy at that early date.



SAVE THE DATE!

CVUU FALL RETREAT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

HARTMAN RESERVE NATURE CENTER

10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Come and help our congregation renew its commitment to achieving its goals at our annual fall retreat.

We set some important goals last year. If accomplished, they will truly transform our congregation. Now, we need further discussion and reflection on how best to achieve them, as well as commitments from everyone to help. Your input is greatly needed!

This year, we will be led by Rev. Ian Evison, Congregational Life Consultant for the MidAmerica Region of the UUA. There will be a service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a Potluck Brunch at 11:00 a.m. At 12:00 Noon, we will convene for our retreat planning and reflection session, which will last until 2:00 p.m.

As was the case last year, there will be plenty of nature-related activities for kids, six years and up, as well as child care for those under six.



CARING CONNECTIONS

Caring Connections is a great way to help others in need. We are here to help you, whether it's a ride to the doctor or a friendly phone call. We are your shoulder to lean on. We will be available throughout the summer. The contact person for the month of August will be *Cindy Hahn*, who can be reached at (319) 266-9685 or <clhahn@cfu.net>.

Caring Connections now has a card table in the Fellowship Hall located near *Eva's* office. So if you would like to send a card for any reason or occasion, place your request in the clear box. The Caring Connections committee is also looking for more people to join us. We hold meetings the first Sunday of every month; they start at 11:30 a.m. and will be held in the sanctuary. The meetings are open to anyone who wants to join.

I also want to say thank you to everyone who has helped build this committee from the ground up. It would not have been possible to do without the help of some very loving and generous individuals. Thank you.

Sam Saylor
Caring Committee Chair



SUMMER MUSIC

Any musicians interested in playing music at a summer Sunday service should contact *Jessica Lieb* via email at <musicdirector@cedarvalleyuu.org>. Music doesn't need to be service-specific and all talents are welcomed and encouraged! Now is the time to give it a try!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CRE!

We Need Help! Children's RE is still in need of a lot of volunteers! Please let me know if you are interested in helping out in an RE class this fall. You have zero prep and can choose the Sundays you'd like to volunteer.

I still need volunteers for the following:

6th/7th-10th grades (The *Saylor*s have graciously offered to share this responsibility with someone.),

4th-5th/6th grades, and
1st-3rd grades.

Without volunteers to help in Children's RE, RE doesn't happen! Please help me make it happen!

Thank you,

Angie Stafsholt
dcre@cedarvalleyuu.org



GREAT OUTDOORS

The "Cedar Valley Saver" has a weekly article by Andy Sommerfelt related to the great outdoors. In the July 16th issue, he wrote about some home remedies he uses. They are inexpensive and easy to pack up for that next picnic, fishing trip or walk in the woods. Since there are still several weeks of summer left, here are Andy's suggestions.

Fishing: he carries a tube of the Anglers super glue by Berkley with him every time he goes fishing. Other brands work but the Berkley comes in a hard plastic tube with a clog-free tip. Besides having many fishing applications, he finds it seals small cuts and puncture wounds caused by fish hooks and other mishaps; band aids just don't work well when one is out fishing.

Mosquitoes, gnats, ticks: laundry dryer sheets under your hat/in your pockets can help to keep *mosquitoes* away (he uses Bounce). From mid-July until fall, *gnats* are on the attack, so he uses good old Absorbine Jr. It comes in a bottle with a sponge applicator so he can put a few dabs on his hat and clothes without getting any on his hands. According to Andy, it works better than any repellent on the market. He's not found anything to repel *ticks* but to remove ticks he states—put some liquid soap on a cotton ball, cover the tick with the soap soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (it usually takes 15 to 20 seconds), the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball.

These are his simple and effective ways to stop fighting bugs and enjoy the outdoors more.

(Ed. Note: these are meant to be handy, inexpensive, suggestions. As with many items used near the skin, thoroughly read labels and/or test a small area for any sensitivity.)



On August 6, 1965 President Lyndon Johnson signed the **Voting Rights Act**. Many Unitarian Universalist ministers had participated in the protest march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, which paved the way for this historic change in civil rights for African-Americans.

Mary Austin Holley, a Unitarian, died in New Orleans, Louisiana, at age sixty-one on August 2, 1846. She wrote about the history and geography of Texas' independence from Mexico and statehood.



AUGUST SERVICES

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. unless stated otherwise

August 2nd

Lammas ~ ~ Karen Impola, Del Carpenter (WA)

In Celtic and neo-pagan traditions, Lammas, or Lughnasadh, is the holiday that falls midway between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox, and celebrates the first harvest of grain. This service looks at Lammas traditions old and new.

August 9th

Poetry Sunday ~ ~ Bill Chene

Yes, it's that time again so dust off your poetry books and your own favorite poems and come to our poetry Sunday service to share them with us. The rules are very simple:

📖 Limit your poem to about three minutes. This is to assure that everyone who wants to read gets a chance. We're always considerate of other readers. After everyone has had a chance to read their poems we will give the readers another chance to read more of their poems.

📖 General rules of taste apply due to the mixed audience. No bad potty words or distasteful topics, etc.

📖 Credit your poetry sources.

📖 *Have lots of fun!!!*

August 16th

Transformation vs. Acceptance

~ ~ Del Carpenter, Karen Impola (WA)

"Maybe the call to transformation is a call to continue to grow, not because who you are now is not good enough, but rather because who you yet can be is still more amazing." *Del* will present this sermon written by the Rev. Douglas Taylor.

August 23rd

Expanding the Mind—Expanding Self

~ ~ Diane Winkey, Maureen Murphy (WA)

Expanding the mind is the essence of growth. When growth is present it's beneficial to self, family and community. What are you doing to enhance your personal growth? Researching Mayan culture? Building a treehouse? Reading the entire works of Shakespeare? Let's share what path you are taking for a more expansive, fulfilling growth experience.

August 30th

Festival Sunday: Water Communion

~ ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Festival Sunday Team

Join us for this popular service, as we celebrate the connection we share with Mother Earth and with each other. Please bring a small vial of water from some place special to you to add to our common waters. Most of us have visited some place, in person or in our minds, that refreshes us and nourishes our souls. Let's gather back after so many of us traveled and enjoy being together in community.

SCRIP SALES

Scrip will be sold most Sundays during coffee hour this summer. For alternate sales, contact *Shanlee McNally* by phone or email at 319-296-2780 or <scrip@cedarvalleyuu.org>.

GREEN LIVING CORNER

HOW TO LOWER YOUR AIR CONDITIONING COSTS

For Renters and Home Owners

Keep sunlight low by using blinds, shades, room-darkening drapes, low-E window film. Homeowners: consider installing awnings on the south and west windows.

Fans cool the body by evaporating perspiration. Use fans instead of AC where you can, as they cost much less to operate.



When outside air is cooler than inside, use fans to draw in cool air and exhaust warm air. If you have more than one floor, draw in the cool air on the ground floor and push out the warm air on the floor above it ("the chimney effect").

Window air-conditioning units should be on the shady side of the building to save up to 10%. Energy Star models are the most efficient.

Whatever kind of AC you have, set your air conditioner at medium when first turning it on, not at the coolest level. Once you're comfortable, move the level up to a warmer number to save money.

Clean AC filters monthly by vacuuming and washing; some types need to be replaced. Dirty ones can raise your usage 10-20%.

Clean air vents.

Light bulbs: Use the most efficient and lowest wattage bulbs possible.



Go where it's cool. If you have a basement/cellar, use it! Amish people use the cellar for summer living and cooking.

For Home / Building Owners

Home/ building owners can keep sunlight low in the summer by: planting deciduous trees to the south and west of the building (check Iowa State Extension Service on "windbreaks" for details). This can reduce cooling costs up to 20%, according to the EPA.



Awnings help, too. Also, homeowners can do what the people of the Amana Colonies have done for centuries—place trellises about a foot out from the south and west sides of buildings to grow vines, supply grapes, and provide shade for the building.

Attract less heat: white or pale tan roofs keep buildings cooler in the summer. Tree-shaded parking lots prevent the "heat island effect."

— Donna Davis with help from the EPA and ISU

Many Thanks to the Pollinator Garden Volunteers!

They have planted, learned to distinguish weeds from native plants, and are committed to watering and maintaining our new Native Prairie Pollinator Garden. Watch it grow! This is the first year, so not all the plants will flower yet. Next year we expect most to fully flower.

The volunteers are: *Sally Browne, Diane Winkey, Betsy Brant, Vivien Neves, Donna Davis, Dawn Martin, Carollyn Hartsfield, Cathy Ryan, Christine Carpenter, Dylan Pieper, Ruth Walker, Grace Rathert, Sue Rinkleff, Jeff Cash, Krista Saylor, Sam Saylor, Erin Buchanan, Jo Foster, Sheri Gross, and Ditte Kass.* Garden Fence Builders are: *Terry Stewart, Al Browne, and Jeff Cash.*



Edna Pearl Bruner, a field worker for the Universalist Church in America, died on August 3, 1997 at age ninety-three.



Summer activities continue with folks on vacation, enjoying outside events, and preparing for visitors. Stay safe everyone!

Our sympathy to members *Frank and Mary Olson* on the June 24th death of Frank's mother, *Ida Mae Olson* in West Union.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to *Janet Sanders*, our Administrative Assistant, who is healing from knee surgery.

Remember our senior members and friends with thoughts, prayers, calls or a visit. *Gordon Harrington, Brian Forster, and Lewis Lynch* are at Friendship Village; *Earl Van Fleet* is at Rosewood.

Contact *Rev. Eva* with pastoral concerns or if you are in need of assistance.



"GOOD LAUGHS GIVE BACK" – A Benefit Improv Performance for "Healing Moments"

August 7th at 7:30 p.m.

Whipple Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Public Library
450 5th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

Please join us for laughter as well as this opportunity to deepen our appreciation for the craft of improvisation. "Good Laughs", a group of young improvisers who perform for charitable causes, has this to say about choosing Healing Moments as the beneficiary of their generosity:

"Good Laughs Give Back" is happy to announce "Healing Moments" as the new beneficiary for our upcoming comedy event. Healing Moments' mission is, ". . .to improve the quality of life for persons with Alzheimers and dementia, reduce caregiver stress, and inspire a hopeful attitude." What makes Healing Moments significant is their unique adoption of the basic principles of improvisational theatre within their programming. Familiar concepts such as, "Yes, and. . .", "Living in the moment", and "Scene partner support" are all used when educating their workshop participants about caring for persons with Alzheimers. It's no surprise why this unique and experiential approach to caregiving is especially compelling for all of us at Good Laughs Give Back. Whether it's during rehearsals, shows, or throughout our day-to-day lives, these methods are fundamental to why we do what we do! On behalf of myself, Good Laughs, and our worthy beneficiary, we would all love to see you there!"

~~Andrew Hanzelka

The cast includes: Tanner David Boyle, Lucas Gibbs, Jackson Green, Andrew J. Hanzelka, Henna McCoy, and Shane Nielsen. A donation of \$5 for performance tickets is appreciated; sponsorship donations are also welcome, so if you know of any businesses or individuals who might want to sponsor the event, please ask them to call the Good Laughs "hotline" at 319-535-3542.

For more information or to inquire about sponsorship, please contact Andrew J. Hanzelka at <ajhanz13@smumn.edu> or call 319-721-9397.



Stephen Dolet, a book printer, was burned at the stake in Lyons, France on August 3, 1546 for denying the Trinity. He was a friend and disciple of Michael Servetus, and like Servetus, he increased the danger against himself by using insensitive language when speaking to his accusers.

IMPORTANT CHILDREN'S RE DATE

RE begins on September 20th.



Come join us for our annual post-RAGBRAI—end-of-summer—backyard party on Sunday, August 9th. Party begins at 1:00 p.m. and will go to 6:00 p.m. (or so). We'll provide the beverages. Please bring a snack, dessert, or some other type of food to share.

Our address is 1141 Independence Ave., Waterloo, Iowa. Street parking is on the north side of Independence (in front of our house). It's a light green two-story house in the middle of the block; go to the left when you come up into the yard and take the side of the house path to the back yard.

Mike Knapp and Mica Lorenz



SOCIAL ACTION "WALKIN' THE TALK"

Volunteers Needed for PrideFest 2015

Cedar Valley PrideFest is coming up on Saturday, August 22nd. Join your CVUU friends at our booth, hand out free cookies, and enjoy visiting with the crowd. Sign up by emailing me at <socialjustice@cedarvalleyuu.org> or look for the schedule of two-hour shifts on the main bulletin board downstairs at the church and write your name in. If you can't attend, a donation of cookies would be appreciated.

2016-2017 Social Action Ballot Outcome

The Social Action Committee has counted the ballots and is ready to announce the eight organizations chosen by ballot to receive one of the monthly plate collections this coming year: *Beyond Pink TEAM*, *Cedar Valley Hospice*, *Family and Children's Council*, *Northeast Iowa Food Bank Garden*, *Project High Hopes at Grin and Grow Child Care*, *Healthy Cedar Valley Coalition*, *National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)*, and *Iowa Pride Network*. Thank you all for suggesting organizations to appear on the ballot, and for your support of this charitable-giving program.



Pollinator Garden News

Dave Williams of UNI presented a session on identifying prairie pollinators on Saturday morning, July 11th. Fourteen of our garden volunteers attended. Dave also donated two excellent books, one on common weeds and one on identifying desirable pollinator plants, to the garden project. According to Dave, the garden looks great!

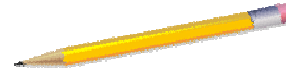
Also, when you go out to the garden to admire the plants, take a moment to admire the new fence installed by *Jeff Cash*, *Terry Stewart*, and *Albert Browne*.

Sally Browne,
Social Justice Chair

BUDDHIST PATH

During the summer, join us each week at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays in the balcony for meditation, walking meditation and discussion of Buddhist topics. Come at any time and give it a try; all are welcome.

This is a great group to which to invite a friend or neighbor, someone who might enjoy having a place to meditate. Come explore the living dharma with us.



IMPORTANT~~AUGUST DEADLINES FOR THE CALENDAR AND NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the September issue. The calendar deadline for that issue will be Wednesday, August 19th (info goes to *Janet* in the office) and the newsletter deadline will be Friday, August 21st (articles get sent to me).

Since we'll be heading into the new church year with its programming and events, it is important to get information to *Janet* and me so we can get it out to the CVUU members and friends.

Please mark your calendars now for August 19th and 21st—the September deadlines. Have a safe remainder of the summer.

Gerry Chamberlin, Editor



During the summer months *Angie's* office hours will vary. If you wish to meet with her, contact her directly at <dcre@cedarvalleyuu.org>.



On August 6, 1616 *Nicholas Cumler*, a student and strenuous advocate of Unitarianism in Germany, was called to appear before the Senate of the University of Altorf on the charge of holding Unitarian beliefs. However, he had fled several months earlier and was banished from the university.



OUR WHOLE LIVES

We will be offering OWL this RE year for grades 4 and 5 or 5 and 6. Before our OWL leaders commit to dates and times, I would like to know which families are interested in their son or daughter participating in this offering which is approximately eight weeks long.

Please email me so we can gather the number of participants and determine what time of year is best to hold these classes. If you are wondering what OWL is, please check out <www.uua.org/re/owl> and do let me know if you have any questions!

OWL cannot happen with too few participants, so please let me know if your son or daughter would like to participate!

Angie Stafsholt
dcre@cedarvalleyuu.org

How First Unitarian of South Bend Rose from the Ashes

History and Heritage Committee Editor's Note: The First Unitarian Church of South Bend, Indiana, began as a fellowship in 1949 and was accepted as a member congregation of the American Unitarian Association in 1952. Member Dale Gibson wrote the following account of what happened when the congregation suffered retaliation for publicly opposing the Vietnam war.

When Rev. Joseph Schneiders was called to the ministry of the First Unitarian Church of South Bend in the spring of 1965, his record as a progressive had already been established in other UU churches. Upon his arrival in South Bend, his social justice work immediately resumed. He began by aligning himself with striking teachers and then followed Dr. King's call for clergymen of all faiths to come to Selma.

Despite some rumblings in the congregation that Rev. Schneiders wasn't spending enough time on church affairs, his work for peace and social justice continued. He became well known as a critic of the war in Vietnam and encouraged young men to resist the draft. He also worked tirelessly on programs to ease the effects of poverty. But with these many days and evenings of meetings and rallies, he would tire (he was not a young man), and often had to take several days off to recuperate from sheer exhaustion.

Then, in August of 1968, reactionary forces in the community responded. The church, an old wood-framed mansion with an addition, was fire-bombed. The old mansion was destroyed beyond repair, and the fire marshal would not permit any remaining part of the church to be occupied. Members were stunned and at a loss for how to continue.

To their credit, several churches in the area offered to let us use their facilities for our Sunday services, as long as it wouldn't interfere with their own services. We began meeting on Sunday evenings at a nearby Methodist church. It was not an easy adjustment. Church programs, such as religious education, began to diminish. It was at about this time that the congregation got a big shot in the arm.

As a show of support, the Central Midwest District called on Unitarian Universalists from throughout the district to come to South Bend, and come they did. Unitarian Universalists showed up from throughout the district. A special service was held on that Sunday evening in October, and the church was packed. Members of the South Bend congregation were deeply impressed with this huge turnout, and especially grateful.

Following this tremendous show of support, the fire marshal decided to permit us to return to the portion of the church (the addition) that had not been gutted by the fire. With insurance money the church was able to build a new entryway and some attractive landscaping. By the early 1970s we were able to hire a new minister, Joel Schoefield. Rev. Schneiders had resigned in order to take a job with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

The First Unitarian Church of South Bend grew sporadically throughout the last decades of the 20th century. With the dawning of the new century, and without the space that had been available in the old mansion, it became clear that more space was needed. We finally moved into our new church home (pictured) in August of



2014. Yes, just forty-six years to the month after that shattering fire of 1968. Under the leadership of Rev. Chip Roush, our congregation is flourishing. Instilled in our institutional memory is the tremendous show of support that we received from UUs from throughout the district back in the fall of 1968. While no one can say that this turnout of Unitarian Universalists was a decisive factor in our recovery, we can say that we were all deeply moved and filled with added motivation to carry on.

CVUU Editor's note: this is the sixth newsletter in which we have been following the stories of UU churches sent to the MidAmerica Region's History and Heritage Committee.



SOME OBSERVANCES FOR AUGUST

- National Catfish month National Water Quality month
National Breastfeeding month National Parks month
National Traffic Awareness month
National Goat Cheese month National Sandwich month



SAVE THE DATE AND RE REGISTRATION

The start of Children's RE will be Sunday, September 20th.

Please register for RE with the form included with this newsletter by either emailing me, mailing it, or bringing it to church sometime between now and September 1st.

Please let me know if you are in need of a scholarship and/or if you have any questions!

Angie
dcre@cedarvalleyuu.org

Q: What do you call a French guy in sandals?

A: Phillipe Phloppe.



James Walker was born on August 16, 1794 in Woburn, Massachusetts. He received his A.B. from Harvard University in 1814 and graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1817. He was the Unitarian minister at Harvard Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts from 1818 to 1839 and taught religion, philosophy, and civil polity at Harvard from 1839 to 1853. In 1853, he took over as president of Harvard and remained in that post until his retirement in 1860. Although Walker did not agree with the Transcendentalists, he let them publish their works in the 'Christian Examiner'. He continued his contributions to the 'Examiner' throughout his life and was a highly regarded public figure and a noted scholar. Walker died on December 23, 1874.

