



**CEDAR VALLEY  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

319-266-5640

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\*\*\*\*\* 2017 \*\*\*\*\*

- FEBRUARY 5 10:00 A.M. ATHEISTS AND AN ANCIENT IMAGE OF GOD**  
 – Lynn Brant, Maureen Murphy\*  
 11:30 A.M. **Adult Forum**
- FEBRUARY 12 10:00 A.M. LOVE SUNDAY: A FESTIVAL SUNDAY FOR ALL AGES**  
 – Festival Sunday Team with Rev. Eva Cameron, Del Carpenter\*  
 11:30 A.M. **Adult Forum**
- FEBRUARY 19 10:00 A.M. THE ALPHABET SOUP OF SEX AND GENDER IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**  
 – Rev. Eva Cameron, Karen Impola\*  
 11:30 A.M. **Adult Forum**  
 12:15 P.M. **POTLUCK LUNCH** (see related article)
- FEBRUARY 26 10:00 A.M. STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: PROFITS AND PROPHETS**  
 – Rev. Eva Cameron, Bill Chene\*  
 11:30 A.M. **Adult Forum**

\* ~ denotes *Celebration Associate*

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 10:00 A.M. **UU Service**  
 10:15 A.M. **Children's RE** (except the 12<sup>th</sup>)  
 11:00 A.M. **Coffee / Announcements**  
 11:30 A.M. **Adult Forum**



*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

I write this on Inauguration Day, and it seems so impossible to look forward two or three weeks until you will be reading it. Usually, it's easy to look ahead, and anticipate the changing weather, the upcoming holidays, or the shifting of family schedules as school classes stop and start. And yet this feels like completely uncharted territory, with a man chosen to be our president who brings such an air of the unknown with him. Some of us wonder with much unease. Some I know wonder with eager anticipation. Some are trying to hold open space. Some wonder if they should pray for success or failure, and what either of those would portend for our nation, for our world. We are poised on the edge of much that is unknown and at first this left me rather unsure of what to say.

But the more I have thought about this, the more it strikes me that this is always, always the case. We like to think that we know what lies ahead. We come home each night to a family for several years, and our minds begin to think this is something eternal. Yet, a car accident can shake that routine in a heartbeat, or kids doing something as benign as going off to college can shift it just as well. We are more comfortable pretending we know what will happen, making places, dreaming of our evenings as we go through our day, dreaming of our summers as we go through our winters, dreaming of our retirement as we work. Yet things rarely work out the way we anticipate but, in my experience, quite often they turn out surprisingly good. Perhaps that is because I like to look for the good in things. I like to pet a dog and feel the soft fur in my fingers, the warmth of their bodies, the eager shine in their eyes. . .and know for a moment, that moment, that all is well. And slowly, I knit together moment after moment like this: the sunshine that falls on the table and sends its light through these flower petals filling me with joy; the heartfelt story someone wants to share with me, and the chance for me to let them know they are not alone; the smell of the fresh cooking chapatti in the pan as it puffs up, I can't help but smile with joy; the passage I read that makes me eager to share it with others because it so aptly catches a heart-moment with aching clarity; the pattern of the dust mop across the floor, matching what my grandmother taught me when I was almost seven and deemed old enough to use that coveted tiny dust mop that matched her big one. Moment by moment, day by day, my present is captured and held by what I choose to see, how I choose to react.

At this time I am choosing several things to hold in my mind, to give me a framework for how I live in these moments.

- I intend to live with a spirit of inquiry. When things seem wrong, bad, out of place, or even just different. . .I will question before I judge. I will hope to understand underlying thoughts and decisions.

- I also choose to be light on my feet. I understand that one doesn't ask a whole lot of questions when a child is about to be swept under a moving train. Perhaps, in the days ahead, I will need quick reaction time—and I intend to be mentally ready.

- I intend to cultivate metta, loving-kindness, for all those who share this planet we call home. Some, in these reactionary times will need more love. Some, in order for me to understand them, will need more compassion. Some, just because they are nervous about the unsettled time, will need help creating a mental landscape of metta. If we work on it together, it can happen more easily for all of us.

- And lastly, I intend to hold closely as a lens something my friend Frank Wells so aptly describes as “our core American values, our constitutional framework, our democracy, our land and all those around this beautiful creation on which we live, and above all to the many, many beloved, beauty-full people who make these United States and this Planet Earth such a miracle.” I feel it is important we not forget who we are.

My wish is that if I hold fast to these intentions, I will be ready to knit together, moment by moment, a future that keeps me seeing much beauty and joy as we work together. Together. A powerful word. Much more powerful than any future we thought we knew we were seeing. Together we will live, moment by moment, in loving compassion.

See you in church,





## MYSTERY FRIENDS 2017

If you are reading this February newsletter in the last full week of January, and prior to Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>, you could still sign up for Mystery Friends!

This year Mystery Friends will be held from February 12<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>. On March 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a cake reception during coffee time from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Please bring a small gift to exchange during this time.

*Remember, you MUST have signed up by the deadline on January 29<sup>th</sup> or you will not be matched up. Contact Angie for more information.*



UU related 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.



## IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES FOR CHILDREN'S RE

- February 5<sup>th</sup>: RE as normal
- February 12<sup>th</sup>: No RE, Festival Sunday
- February 19<sup>th</sup>: RE as normal
- February 26<sup>th</sup>: RE as normal



***Fannie Barrier Williams*** was born on February 12, 1855 in Brockport, New York. She was an African-American whose parents and grandparents were free people educated in northern public schools. After teaching briefly in the south and studying music in Boston, she married and moved to Chicago. Her family joined All Souls Church (Unitarian) in Chicago, where Jenkin Lloyd Jones was minister. Williams helped establish the club movement for African-Americans to meet socially, discuss politics, lift their self-esteem, develop their talents, and pool practical information. She was founder of the Provident Hospital and Training School for Nurses in Chicago and co-founder of the Frederick Douglass Center, a predecessor of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Urban League. Fannie Barrier Williams died on March 14, 1944.

# Be My Valentine

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RE?

February is the month of love, and I'm sure we can all use some love due to all the hate and politics happening now. This is a time when we think about who we love and let them know it, but we can also think about what we love and what we are passionate about.

*Kevin* and I are truly passionate about teaching *Our Whole Lives* to kids. This month we are wrapping up the third time we have taught this curriculum. Every single time we teach OWL, it starts out awkward and gradually moves into comfort and then confidence. It's always so cool to see the kids come into their own during this class and to see each teen or pre-teen gain the confidence and knowledge about their own sexuality. Then, to see these kids grow into young adults who are even more confident in how they carry themselves, how they treat others and how they are treated gives Kevin and me such pride and love—feelings that I really can't even communicate because these kids have been taught such important tools, tools that the majority of kids do not receive. They are lucky, and at the point when they are young adults, they realize just how lucky they were to have this education. They may not have forgotten how awkward it felt to come to the first few classes and how much they would beg their parents to not attend, but they now realize why their parents signed them up; why it was so important for them to attend each week and what tools they were provided that they may not have even thought they would ever use (even if we told them over and over again that they would).

Really, all I can say is thank you. Thank you to the parents throughout the years who have allowed their children to be in our OWL class. Thank you to the kids who reluctantly came and then had fun. Thank you to Allen Health Services, Together for Youth, who helped us teach two of the three classes. Thank you to the UUA for allowing such a wonderful curriculum to be placed in our hands.

This was never ever (EVER) something that Kevin and I would have expected to teach. If you would have asked me fifteen years ago, I would have said there was a better chance of me becoming a Republican than that I'd teach a sexuality course. Thank you to *Linnea Sumner* for introducing us to OWL and asking us to teach it, we love you.

In a couple of weeks, the third class of OWL will conclude and the kids in the class will walk away thankful that it is done. Really, that's all they will think, it is done. In a couple of weeks, when the class concludes, I will be thankful we got through it, that we were able to teach all twenty-eight lessons to the kids and that their parents love them so much that they signed them up to participate. These kids are surrounded by love within their families and the CVUU.

Have a happy, loving February,

*Angie Stafsholt*  
DCRE@CVUU

If you are unfamiliar with Our Whole Lives curriculum, you can learn more at [www.uua.org/re/owl](http://www.uua.org/re/owl).



## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists will be held on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:15 a.m. A regular Sunday service will precede this meeting.



The industrialist, inventor, and philanthropist *Peter Cooper* was born in New York City on February 12, 1791. His ironworks in Baltimore, Maryland produced “Tom Thumb”, the first steam locomotive built in the United States. He owned iron mines, blast furnaces, foundries, a rolling mill, and a wire factory and was the first in America to use the Bessemer process to refine iron from ore. He often worked beside his employees. Cooper was also the president of two telegraph companies that together connected communication across the Atlantic Ocean and North America. In 1859, he founded the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. Cooper was a leading member of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City. He died on April 4, 1883.



**ENJOY MEETING NEW PEOPLE?  
WANT TO MAKE CVUU MORE WELCOMING?  
...BECOME A NEW MEMBER MENTOR!**

Being a mentor to new members is fun. All you need to do is:

- \* \* Make a special effort to hang out with a new member during coffee hour.
- \* \* Get to know a new member.
- \* \* Connect a new member with others you think they might like.
- \* \* Connect them with CVUU committees/groups they might like.
- \* \* If comfortable, invite a new member to do something with you outside of CVUU.

If you are interested in being a Mentor, please contact *Mica Lorenz* at <mikemica@gmail.com>.



**DOOR LATCHES AND LOCKS**

Recently, on a couple of occasions, the rear door to the building has been found unlatched. We are asking for your help to be sure the doors are locked and latched.

If you are the last one out of the building, just give the door a pull from the outside to be sure it is locked and latched. If you notice an issue with locking the doors, contact someone from the Building & Grounds Committee. Thanks for your help.

*Building & Grounds Committee*

*Samuel Gilman* was born on February 16, 1791 in Gloucester, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College in 1811, taught school in Boston and mathematics at Harvard College from 1817 to 1819, and was ordained to the Unitarian ministry in Archdale Unitarian Church in Charleston, South Carolina, where he received many honors. His song “Fair Harvard” is still sung at every Harvard University commencement. Harvard awarded Gilman a D.D. degree. Samuel died on February 9, 1858.



## FEBRUARY SERVICES

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

### February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Atheists and an Ancient Image of God** ~~ Lynn Brant, Maureen Murphy (CA)

At last fall’s Treats & Talents auction *Ruth Walker* outbid everyone to have a book of her choosing become the subject of one of *Rev. Eva’s* sermons. When *Lynn Brant* saw the book, he asked if he could deliver that sermon. Both *Eva* and *Ruth* have agreed. Although well within the ideas of UUism, *Lynn’s* approach to the book will not find everyone in agreement (so what’s new?) and he has scheduled a “talk back” for the second hour, so others may point out the errors of his thinking. It ought to be an interesting morning.

### February 12<sup>th</sup>

**Love Sunday: A Festival Sunday for All Ages**

~~ Festival Team with *Rev. Eva Cameron, Del Carpenter* (CA)

Join us for a fun adventure of love and life with this celebration of one of the central tenets of most any faith tradition: *LOVE*.

### February 19<sup>th</sup>

**The Alphabet Soup of Sex and Gender in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

~~ *Rev. Eva Cameron, Karen Impola* (CA)

We will explore some of the rich diversity of language and history that has developed around sexuality and gender as we humans have come to understand and listen to the longings of our heart—and ponder what this all has to do with religion.

### February 26<sup>th</sup>

**Stewardship Sunday: Profits and Prophets** ~~ *Rev. Eva Cameron, Bill Chene* (CA)

Money doesn’t grow on trees. . .but actually, neither do churches. Join *Rev. Eva* as we playfully explore our relationship to prophets and our own precious place, CVUU.



## CVUU PROGRESSIVE PARENTS

Interested in the CVUU Progressive Parenting group?  
Stay in touch and keep up with what they do and when they will meet via  
<<https://www.facebook.com/groups/569299679747285/>>.



## ***DIRECT ACTION CEDAR VALLEY***

Direct Action Cedar Valley (formerly Pantsuit Nation) is a group of people ready to step up, speak out, and take action in support of each other and our community.

Please join us on Thursdays in February in the Fellowship Hall from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. as we identify opportunities for advocacy and take direct action to make our community better.



### ***ADULT FORUMS***

#### **February 5<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Discussion of Atheism**

*Lynn Brant's* sermon today entitled "Atheists and an Ancient Image of God" will, no doubt, raise a number of issues for further discussion and dialog. UUs will have the opportunity to participate in this discussion during the Adult Forum on this day.

#### **February 12<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Meditation Practice**

Whether you are an experienced meditator or new to it and would like to learn, you will find something worthwhile in Dylan Piper's presentation on meditation practice. Dylan is a member of the Buddhist Path group that meets on Thursday evenings, and he is quite knowledgeable about various meditation traditions.

#### **February 19<sup>th</sup>**

##### **A Trans-gendered Person's Journey of Faith**

Ms. Stephanie Mott is a trans-gendered person who went through her transformation at the age of forty-six, after many struggles in her earlier life. A resident of Topeka, KS, where she is active in the community, she now travels to many congregations around the Midwest to share her experiences and discuss the issues surrounding trans-gendered persons.

The Adult Forum will be followed by a potluck at 12:15 p.m. to give members of the congregation an opportunity to interact further with the speaker. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

#### **February 26<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Medicare Fraud – An Issue that Affects All of Us**

Whether you are over sixty-five and currently receiving Medicare, or whether you are a taxpayer of any age who supports the program, you should be concerned that the dollars are being used for legitimate medical needs. Unfortunately, Medicare fraud is a multi-billion dollar "industry." Learn how all of us, as citizens, can work to prevent these illegal activities.

*Al Hays*



*Angie's* office hours are:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings.

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF EVENT

Join us for this year's Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off Event on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the CVUU. We plan to gather at 6:00 p.m. for a Wine & Cheese Social Hour, followed by a live musical performance by Lyudmila Lebedeva (Baroque cello) and Oleg Timofeyev (guitar, lute and theory).

After their performance we will have a presentation about this year's Stewardship goals and how you can show your financial support for our ongoing presence in this community as a liberal religious home.

Child care will be available. Join us the next morning for the Sunday service as it will be "Stewardship Sunday".

*Stewardship Committee*



### **BLUE VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT**

If you're without a special someone to celebrate Valentine's Day, celebrate blue with *Eva Cameron* and me. We're holding a reading of empowering poetry around heartbreak and heart discovery, and invite others to dig out their journals on all things love and loss, and share something at the open mike. We'll have an ongoing social bar set up; free-form discussion to follow.

Leave your red and pink at home—wear blue to honor feeling your heart even when it's hard—and find community of the heart here. Join us at CVUU on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.; event is free.

*Mary McInnis Meyer.*



### **BUDDHIST PATH**

The Buddhist Path group meets each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. with 'tea and cookies in the kitchen'. They then adjourn upstairs to check in with their stories of the week, chanting, meditation, and then have dharma discussion. Feel free to join in any Thursday.



### **CARING CONNECTIONS**

The Caring Connections committee meets most months on the first Sunday at 11:30 a.m. The contact person for February is *Cindy Hahn* who can be reached at <clhahn@cfu.net> or 266-9685.



### **"a.m. UU"**

"a.m. UU" will meet on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The group is open to anyone who enjoys morning coffee, tea and conversation. We meet from 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. at the Cedar Falls Caribou Coffee on University Avenue on the third Monday of every month.

Stop by for a great way to start your day. Don't forget the scrip table on Sundays to purchase your Caribou scrip!

*Bill Brown*



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> POTLUCK LUNCH

There will be a potluck lunch on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at church from 12:15 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. Its purpose is to honor our transgender speaker, Stephanie Mott, who will be presenting at the Adult Forum on that day and also to give members more time to interact with her.

Please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. For questions about the potluck, contact *Mica Lorenz*.



Here we are in the month of 'love' – a happy Valentine's Day to all.

*Donna Kroeger* is on the mend and has returned to her apartment at Windcove.

Keep *Marilyn Desmond* in your thoughts and prayers; she'll be having neck surgery on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Her contact information is: 1225 Havendale Blvd. #230, Winter Haven, FL 33881 or <desmma15@gmail.com>.

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

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



### SOCIAL ACTION "WALKIN' THE TALK"

#### Social Action Plate Collections

Thank you for your continued support of Social Action Plate Collections. Recent contribution totals are:

IUUWAN – \$211.96  
NAMI – \$259.50  
Grin and Grow Childcare – \$261  
Iowa Pride Network – \$93  
Meadville Lombard – \$53.

There will be no plate collection in February due to the stewardship campaign.



On February 13, 1739 *Josiah Wedgwood*, the founder of Wedgwood Pottery, was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England. Along with the simple designs and pure colors of his art, he invented the manufacturing process for his famous pottery and designed production systems to promote workplace safety and cleanliness. He was a devoted Unitarian, philanthropist, friend of Joseph Priestley, and frequenter of the English royal court, where he was appointed potter to the Queen. He died on January 3, 1795.

**Henry Wilder Foote, Jr.** was born on February 2, 1875 in Boston, Massachusetts. Foote, a Unitarian minister, was chairman of the Unitarian Commission on Hymns and Services which, in a cooperative effort with the Universalist Commission on Hymns and Services, chaired by L. Griswold Williams, produced “Hymns of the Spirit” in 1937. This hymnal was an important early milestone on the road to consolidation of the Unitarians and Universalists in 1961, designed as it was to appeal to both denominations. Many of the resources were non-scriptural and included material for humanists.



We are seeking people to run the sound equipment on Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. Contact me at 319-429-1068 or <techteam@cedarvalleyuu.org> if you are interested in helping.

*Bill Brown*



## **GREEN LIVING CORNER**

*“To survive, we must both feed our people and the health of our soil and water at the same time.”*  
~~M. Belay, Alliance for Food Sovereignty

Good news from the natural world to share with you!

An article in *Science*, cited Garibaldi et al., saying their research “now show[s] that wild pollinators are also a vital part of our crop systems.” The researchers note: in more than forty important crops grown worldwide, wild pollinators improved pollination efficiency, increasing fruit set by twice that facilitated by honeybees. <<http://science.science.org>>

Yea, pollinator advocates! Keep up the good work!

You can help locally both by:

(1) continuing your support both at home and in the community of substantial decreases of the use of pesticides and herbicides, and increases in the planting of native pollinator host and nectar plants (these support wild pollinators).

(2) influencing policy (details below)

### Policy

(1) Thanks to *Lynn and Betsy Brant*, who shared another *Science* article, from the November 25, 2016 issue, “Ten Policies for Pollinators”. A striking, locally-applicable highlight relates to helping our communities, urging us to: conserve and restore 'green infrastructure' (a network of [flower and nesting] habitat that pollinators can move between) in [both] agricultural and urban landscapes.

This point refers to the fact that most pollinators don't fly over large distances; therefore, we must help link together pollinator-supporting habitats. The more that modest-sized native pollinator gardens in our yards can be augmented by others in neighboring yards, the better for wild pollinators. So, chat up the neighbors who admire your native plantings; they can really help by starting some of their own (you could even donate a plant or two, to get them started).

And watch out for local attempts in Planning/Zoning or at the City Council to reduce pollinator-friendly yards and increase wasteful, CO<sub>2</sub>-raising, pollinator-damaging lawns.

**Green Living Corner cont'd. next page**

(2) Encourage ISU Extension Services to recognize pollination as an agricultural input. That should move protection of pollinators along at a quicker pace.

(3) Support and encourage UNI-Center for Energy and Environmental Education's new effort to get congregations, schools, businesses, parks, and other public places to Pledge to be Pesticide-Free.

~~Donna Davis

### Pledge to be Pesticide-Free

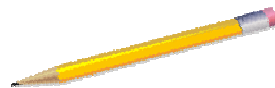
Pesticides & Childhood Health Harms		Childhood Health Harms					
		Brain & nervous system impacts	Childhood cancers	Birth defects	Reproductive & developmental harms	Metabolic effects (e.g., obesity, diabetes)	Immune disorders, asthma
<b>Pesticides</b>	<b>Herbicides</b> 442 million lbs † <i>e.g., atrazine, glyphosate, 2,4-D</i>	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓		✓
	<b>Insecticides</b> 65 million lbs <i>e.g., chlorpyrifos, malathion, permethrin</i>	✓✓	✓✓		✓✓	✓	✓
	<b>Fungicides</b> 44 million lbs <i>e.g., mancozeb, chlorothalonil</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	<b>Fumigants</b> 108 million lbs <i>e.g., metam sodium, methyl bromide, chloropicrin</i>	✓	✓		✓		

Researchers have linked exposure to various pesticides with a range of childhood health harms. A ✓✓ indicates that links to the health harm are particularly well supported by scientific evidence.

Schaefer, K.S. & Marquez, E.C. (2012, October). A Generation in Jeopardy. Oakland, California: Pesticide Action Network North America. Retrieved from <<https://www.panna.org>>.



**Joseph Hume**, a member of English Parliament who adopted Universalist views, died on February 20, 1855. He was the leader of the Radical Party for thirty years, taking special interest in financial oversight of both public and private enterprises.



### IMPORTANT~~FEBRUARY DEADLINES FOR THE CALENDAR AND NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the **March 2017** issue. The calendar deadline for this issue will be Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> (info goes to *Janet* in the office) and the newsletter deadline will be Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> (articles get sent to me).

If you are unsure as to which of the two of us needs your information, send it to both of us and we'll sort it out. An important reminder, Janet is not in the office on Fridays, so come deadline week it's very important that she receives your information by Wednesday!

Please mark your calendars now for February 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>—the March newsletter deadlines.

Gerry Chamberlin, Editor

On February 14, 1813 *John Eliot*, a Unitarian in Colonial Boston and co-founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society, died at age fifty-eight.



## WHALECOAST ALASKA 2017

WOW! Four Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in Alaska invite you to our awe-inspiring, 24<sup>th</sup> annual Alaska tour program.

TOUR #1: National Park Tour, June 10 to 20 -- \$3,156

TOUR #2: All-Alaska Tour, July 7 to 19 -- \$3,758

WHERE: From the coastal waters to the sunny Interior, from wilderness to modern cities. We experience the best of Alaska: Fairbanks, Denali Park, Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Seward.

SEE: Wildlife: whales, seals, bears, moose, caribou, and more.

Glaciers, islands, fjords, and mountain ranges.

Native American artists and dancers.

Alaska's finest museums.

Spectacular travel by train, plane, and boat.

STAY: Real Alaska! UU homestays, meals, and dinner parties with Alaska UUs who treat you like friends.

Director: Dave Frey, longtime Fairbanks UU

More information: <[www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org)>

Email: <[dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org](mailto:dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org)>

Address: 675 Gold Vein Road, Fairbanks, AK 99712

Telephone: 907-322-4966

Hurry! Each tour sells out when forty guests register.



## *SOME OBSERVANCES FOR FEBRUARY*

National Bird Feeding month

National Cherry month      National Black History month

National African-American History month

National Women Inventors month

National Parent Leadership month

National Hot Breakfast month      National Haiku Writing month



**FROM THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
OF THE MIDAMERICA REGION, UUA**

HISTORY VIGNETTE #13

*The UU Society of Geneva, Geneva, Illinois*

by David Conradi-Jones, who is a member of the MidAmerica Region  
History and Heritage Committee

This church was a transplant of the staunchly liberal Christianity from New England Unitarianism. Their first minister, Augustus Conant, served from the very beginning in 1842 until 1857. He, his wife Betsy, and nineteen others wrote the church covenant in 1842, which is still used at every morning service:

“Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world, and of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement, we have associated ourselves together—not in agreeing in opinion, not as having attained universal truth in belief or perfection in character, but as seekers after truth and goodness.”

Conant was followed by fourteen more ministers, including four women, between 1857 and 1926. During these years, the congregation experienced conflict when movements like Transcendentalism and later humanism caused some Unitarians to change their beliefs—and others to resist change. By and large the members honored their original covenant, but doing so at times required an effort. An example is in the ministry of Dr. Charles Lyttle, a humanist who was called in 1926 and remained minister until 1964. He wrote the song and Doxology, still used, to unite the theists and the Humanists among the members.

Doxology:

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let faith and hope with love arise  
Let beauty, truth, and good be sung  
Through every land by every tongue

Song of Praise:

Praise God, the Love we all may share;  
Praise God, the Beauty everywhere;  
Praise God, the Hope of Good to be;  
Praise God, the Truth that makes us Free.

Lyttle was followed by Rev. Donald B. King from 1964 to 1978, and Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, who was called in 1978 and is senior minister today. The original church building was expanded in 1855, and a vestibule was added in 1874. This is the church of today. Pews and stained glass windows were acquired in 1879 from a church burned in the Great Chicago Fire. A parsonage, now called Pioneer House, was built in 1893 and construction in 1989 connected Pioneer House with the church.

CVUU Editor’s note: after a hiatus, we are now finding more vignettes available from the MidAmerica Region History and Heritage Committee. We’re picking this up where we left off last spring; this is the thirteenth story of UU churches sent to the committee.

