

CONVERSATION WITH EVA

To my CVUU Community,

I sent this letter out by email on April 3rd, and it is possible that some of you may not have seen it yet. I'll post some updates below.

~~~~~  
A wonderful opportunity has come my way, and after some deliberation, I have decided to take it. So it is with real mixed feelings that I write to tell you that I am resigning from my position with CVUU. I have accepted an offer to be the candidate for minister at First Universalist Church of Essex, MA and will be leaving to pursue this new ministry.

I wish I could be telling you this in person. E-mail seems rather impersonal, but I wanted everyone to hear all at once.

So, what happens next? In the immediate future I will spend my time working to bring closure to my ministry with you. This will include taking time to say our goodbyes and working with the staff and leadership to ensure a smooth transition. I will be here through the end of the church year, and will move over the summer.

Ministerial transitions can be times of anxiety, but they do happen. The Unitarian Universalist Association is particularly good at helping churches through periods of ministerial transition. It is typical for a congregation to hire an Interim Minister. This person has special training in assisting congregations as they work through their grief, build on their strengths, and move towards the future with energy and zest.

I will miss standing before you on a Sunday morning, and reminding us all to put our feet firmly on the ground, and breathe deeply together, or telling a joke in the sermon, waiting for everyone to laugh. I will miss the quiet reflective time of Buddhist Path. I will miss our children, watching and listening as they grow from babies to adults. I will miss our creative Festival Sundays. I will miss the wild energy of coffee hour—so many hugs, and good stories, mixed with fragments of pain and sorrow offered to me. I will miss so many things, but most of all, I will miss each of you, because we each have come to have our own story together.

Please feel free to ask me anything about this ministerial transition. May we be blessed as we do the hard work of good goodbyes over the next three months!

With love and gratitude,

*Eva*

~~~~~  
Updates:

In consultation with the Religious Services Committee, my final sermon has been set for June 3rd. Stay tuned for details!

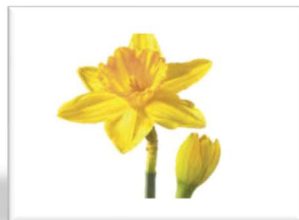
I will be gone to visit with the Essex Church April 26th through May 8th. I will be meeting all the church members there and looking for a house.

I want to say a special thanks to *Callie Amiday* for stepping up to preach in my absence, and to *Dennis Harbaugh* for graciously trading places with me in April.

I have really enjoyed sitting down with some of you for a meal or cup of coffee or tea. Thank you, and I hope I can have many more such experiences like that before I depart. One of the beauties of life is gracefulness in times of parting.

See you in church,

Eva



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RE?

As the RE year comes to a close, it's time for me to reflect and say a great big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made RE happen.

Children's RE Teachers:

Kelly and John Fischer
Mary and Bryce Watson
Mica Lorenz
Michaela Rich
Kevin Stafsholt
Juanita Williams
Mike Knapp
Erin Buchanan

Children's RE Helpers:

Carollyn Hartsfield
Betsy Brant
Karen Impola
Joan Taylor
Moria Brown
Callie Amiday
Lily Watson

Our church could not have RE each week without these lovely people and their willingness to help out. I sincerely thank you for everything you do.

I also want to thank the parents, who week after week get their child(ren) to RE. I know it can be really easy to just skip church. I want you to know that I noticed and appreciated all of you who had your kids in RE and not only was I one who appreciated it, but the volunteers did too. It's a lot easier and a lot more fun to teach a class with six kids than it is to teach a class with one. So, thank you to all!!

Please mark your calendars for one of our favorite services of the year, RE Sunday on May 20th. Our YoUUth and Middle School classes will take over the pulpit and share their talents with us. The other children of our congregation will take part too, and share part of their RE year. RE Sunday is always a Sunday filled with joy and is a great way to end our RE year.

During RE Sunday, we will also be celebrating *Parker McNally's* Bridging Ceremony. Plan on attending to be part of this special moment for Parker and his family. I can guarantee you that it will be a very special ceremony.

Finally, thank you to all of you for allowing me to be the DCRE of our congregation. I have appreciated all the years you have allowed me to learn with your kids. It has impacted my life in ways that I cannot explain. Thank you for all your kindness and love. Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you next "year"!

With much love,

Angie Stafsholt
DCRE@CVUU



BOARD NEWS

I have resigned as president of the congregation. *Desiree Cunningham* has assumed the responsibilities of the president until the next president's term begins on July 1st. I want to thank the congregation for their trust and support over the past two years.

Sincerely,
John Fischer



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.

Ezra Ripley was born in Woodstock, Connecticut on May 1, 1751. He studied at Harvard University and was known as “holy Ripley”. He succeeded William Emerson as minister of First Parish in Concord and married Phebe Bliss Emerson, William’s widow. Throughout his sixty-three year tenure at First Parish, Ripley was assiduous in his parish work. His preaching was pastoral and he did not engage in controversy. He persuaded the town to set up a school committee, on which he served. He also helped to found the Concord Lyceum and wrote “History of the Fight at Concord” (1827). Active to the end, Ripley was composing a sermon on the day he died, September 21, 1841.



MAY SERVICES

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

May 6th

Living Boldly With Limits ~~ Dennis Harbaugh, John Miller (CA)

As humans we encounter limits all the time. Some are placed upon us by others, some are self-imposed, and some—well, we may just be born with. How do you deal with your limitations? Do you struggle with them? Try to overcome them? What insights do various religions bring to this universal challenge? Join us for an interactive service where we’ll explore our limitations—and beyond.

May 13th ~ A Service For All Ages

Flower Communion Sunday ~~ The Rev. Eva Cameron, Karen Impola (CA)

We join together small and tall, young and old, to celebrate the hope that flowers bring. We ask each person to bring a flower, or sprig of flowers from a tree, to share with one another on this day. We will also welcome New Members.

May 20th

RE and Bridging Sunday ~~ Angie Stafsholt, DCRE; The Rev. Eva Cameron,
RE YoUuth, John Miller (CA)

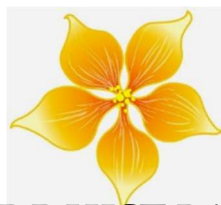
Please join us for a very special Sunday service where the children of our congregation share their experiences from the year. Our YoUuth will lead this service and we will take time to recognize all the volunteers who help make Children’s RE a success. This is also a very special service as we will be participating in *Parker McNally’s* bridging ceremony!

***Note that this service will be followed at 11:30 a.m. by the Annual Meeting.*

May 27th

Memorial Day Chapel ~~ The Rev. Eva Cameron, Bill Chene (CA)

Join *Eva* and *Bill* on this day of remembrance. Our Social Action collection this day will be for *Retrieving Freedom*.



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.

TOUCHSTONES THEME: *BELOVED COMMUNITY*

Community does not descend down from heaven. We have to shape it right here on Earth. We all crave belonging and a sense of community. We are not meant to be alone. We deserve both solitude and connection. These are not opposites as much as they are rhythms of our soul. I find myself thinking a lot about community—what it means, what it does to our hearts, and what happens to us when we live without it. I look around me and wonder how community is shaped, and missed. Religion at its best has always been about linking together [the] individual quest and communal fellowship. ...We need each other. ~Omid Safi



I have found deep meaning in the Hebrew phrase Tikkun ha' olam, [which means] 'repair of the world,' for surely the world, wonderful as it is, is broken. In [one of] his essays, Emerson said there is "a crack in everything God has made." I submit that one of the central missions of the Unitarian Universalist movement is trying to fix these cracks, repairing the world and creating the Beloved Community of Love and Justice.

~Rev. Richard Gilbert

*Even, and especially,
the hidden cracks
within people who
hurt as we hurt, who
hope as we hope.*



Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford was born May 6, 1829 on Nantucket Island in Massachusetts. A Quaker and descendant of the pilot of the "Mayflower", she became a teacher and successful author of fiction, children's books, and biographies. She was introduced to Universalism in Reading, Massachusetts, and joined the Reading Universalist Association of Liberal Ladies for Benevolent and Useful Work in 1866. Her friend Olympia Brown encouraged her to preach and she became a licensed Universalist preacher. Ordained by the Hingham Universalist Church in Massachusetts on February 19, 1868, Hanaford became the first woman ordained to the Universalist ministry in New England and served a number of Universalist churches, often amidst controversy. She also worked for temperance, women's suffrage, and the abolition of slavery. Hanaford put together a book of biographies of American women, which was first published as *Women of the Century* in 1876 and republished in 1882 as *Daughters of America*. Hanaford lived long enough to vote in the 1918 election in Basom, New York. She died on June 2, 1921.



If you need to speak with *Angie* at times other than Sunday mornings, contact her directly.



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.; childcare available.

May 6th

Black World, White World

April was Fair Housing Month, honoring the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968, just a few weeks after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Despite its promise of equal access to housing, whites and African Americans still live in very segregated areas. This session will explore the implications of ongoing segregation for many aspects of our lives, not just housing.

May 13th

CVUU Spending Decisions for 2018-19

The Finance Committee will discuss the proposed CVUU budget for 2018-19 and provide opportunities for input. The congregation as a whole will vote on the budget the following week at the Annual Meeting, so it is important for members to be informed about this critical decision for the coming year.

May 20th

Annual Congregational Meeting – *no forum this day*



May 27th

Torda 450

This year marks the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda which provided religious toleration for the kingdom of Hungary, including acceptance of Unitarianism, a rare decision for a ruler in that time of violent religious conflicts. Many UUs across the world are celebrating this anniversary with reflection on what this ancient decision means for us in the 21st century. We will see a recording of a Transylvanian Unitarian minister discussing the Edict and explore other issues related to it.

Al Hays

(Ed. Note: In the Winter 2017 issue of the *UU World*, there was an article on the Edict of Torda. If you no longer have your copy of the magazine, the article is available at the UU website: <www.uuworld.org/issues/winter-2017>.)



May typically has our calendars busy with activities such as gardening, graduations, weddings, and travel. Do try to remember our UU members and friends who might be experiencing health issues, or need a bit of company.

Our sympathy to *Brittany Flokstra* and family on the death of her father in April.

Belated birthday greetings and congratulations to longtime member, *Yvette Berner* on her 90th!

Keep these members and friends in your thoughts, or better yet, send a card, call, or plan a visit: *Donna Kroeger* at the Western Home and *Lewis Lynch* at Friendship Village.

Contact the *Caring Committee* with pastoral concerns, or if you are in need of assistance.



On May 18, 1954 *Toribio Sabandija Quimada* requested aid from the Universalist Church of America and thus began the process of founding the Universalist Church of the Philippines.



CARING CONNECTIONS

The Caring Connections committee typically meets on the first Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

The Caring Committee is looking for help with rides to church for *Kelsi Hansen* and her son. If you could assist, please let *Carollyn* know.

The contact person for May is *Jan Anderson*. Her contact information is 319-266-8210 or <w.j.anderson@cfu.net>.



CVUU AUDIO VISUAL TRAINING

We completed wiring on our new sanctuary video monitor. We now have three access points for HDMI hookup to the monitor. We ask that anyone using the equipment be trained in correct operation and care for the system.

If you would like to have training on either the video monitor or sound equipment operation, please contact *Bill Brown* at <techteam@cedarvalleyuu.org>. We are always looking for volunteer help to operate the system. Let us know if you are able and willing to help.



BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

Do you have children's books sitting around the house that your kids or grandkids have outgrown? Then please consider donating them to the Neighborhood Book Fair which the CVUU is organizing for Saturday, June 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon on the church grounds.

We will be inviting kids and parents who live within walking distance of the church to come by and pick up free books, and we will also make books available to our own UU kids. Books can range from those appropriate for toddlers to those appropriate for middle schoolers. There is a box for donated books in the Fellowship Hall.

We also need volunteers to help read to the kids and do crafts with them. Please contact *Al Hays*, *Moria Brown*, *Priscilla Neiman*, *Sheri Huber-Otting* or *Pam Hays* if you are interested in helping out.



ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE WORKSHOP

Volunteers and Participants Needed!

On Saturday, May 19th, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., the CVUU will be hosting a workshop entitled “Organizing for Change”, which is co-sponsored by the Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network, Cedar Valley Activate, Indivisible, and the Waterloo Neighborhood Services Office. Its purpose is to enhance our skills in building effective and sustainable organizations that can work for progressive social change. It will be conducted by A. J. Segneri, a professional community organizer from Clinton, Iowa. Topics include building power, group dynamics, leadership, conflict resolution, intersectionality and coalition building.

We would like for as many CVUU members as possible to participate, and we also need volunteers to provide potluck dishes for the lunch and to help welcome people to our congregation. Please contact *Al Hays* at <poverty-ridge@hotmail.com> if you would like to sign up or help out.



LABYRINTH SMALL GROUP

The Labyrinth Small Group met April 8th at the CVUU; the location was changed due to the weather. We discussed uses of the labyrinth and some history and information about labyrinths. We created a Classical Labyrinth on paper using a “seed pattern” method. We also discussed the difference between Medieval and classical labyrinths. If you are interested in joining this group, it is open to all.

The next gathering will be Saturday, May 5th at 1:00 p.m. at Mauer Eye Center/d’Vine Spa just off Ridgeway Ave. You may either meet there at the NW parking lot, or meet at the CVUU parking lot to carpool at 12:45 p.m. The first Saturday in May is the 10th annual World Labyrinth Day, which has been organized by The Labyrinth Society <<http://labyrinthsociety.org/world-labyrinth-day>>. We will take steps for world peace walking as one at 1:00 p.m. with over forty-five other countries globally as we experience a wave of peaceful energy around the world. This will involve an easy, meditative walk to the center and back out again. The Nature Lover’s Small Group will combine their usual meeting with the Labyrinth Group and will walk together in the Katoski Greenbelt after the labyrinth walk. Come and join us!

Following the May walk, the next Labyrinth gathering will be Sunday, June 10th at 2:00 p.m. We will meet at the CVUU to carpool to our destination, which will be here in town.

Namaste,

Floralyn Groff
319-575-0970

Florence Nightingale was born on May 12, 1820 in Florence, Italy. From a distinguished Unitarian family in England, she trained as a nurse and was superintendent of a hospital for invalid women in London. She volunteered for the Crimean War and took thirty-eight nurses with her to set up a barrack hospital. Nightingale was strict in discipline and cleanliness and reduced the hospital mortality rate drastically. After the war she became an invalid but continued her work by receiving visitors who could carry out reforms she suggested. In this way, she devoted many years to army sanitary reform and to improving nursing and public health in general. Her book, *Notes on Nursing* (1859), went through many editions. Nightingale died on August 13, 1910.



IMPORTANT~~MAY DEADLINES FOR THE CALENDAR AND NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the *June-July* issue or, as some refer to it, the summer issue.

The calendar deadline for this issue will be Wednesday, May 16th (send info to *Janet* in the office), and the newsletter deadline will be Friday, May 18th (send articles 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.*

Please mark your calendars now for **May 16th** and **18th**—the June-July calendar and newsletter deadlines.

Gerry Chamberlin, Editor
<newsletter@cedarvalleyuu.org>



BITS FROM BOSTON

The Legacy Challenge

Would your congregation like FREE money? The UUA has begun the Wake Now Our Vision Collaborative Campaign to raise money for the UUA, the UU Service Committee (UUSC), two UU seminaries (Meadville Lombard and Starr King), the UU Ministers Association (UUMA), and the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). All monies donated will receive a 10% match by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. But wait, there's more!!

In order to encourage new legacy gifts, the same 10% match will be given when members offer legacy gifts through a will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy to their own congregation! Yes, if you include your congregation in your estate planning from January 1, 2017-June 30, 2020, there will be a 10% matching gift to your congregation (up to \$10,000 per donor). This is free money.

For FAQs, pledge forms, a brochure, or specific questions, go to the website <<http://wakenowourvision.org/>> or contact Laura Randall, Legacy Campaign Director, at (617) 948-6511 or <lrandall@uua.org>. Keep an eye on the MidAmerica newsletter and website <www.midamericauua.org> for upcoming webinars on the topic.



GREEN LIVING CORNER

National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife

Garden Certification Walk-through Checklist

It's easier than you think to create your own wildlife garden! Use this walk-through checklist to confirm you have all the elements necessary to be certified.

(Note: this checklist is only a tool to prepare your garden, please certify online at <www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat>.)

Food ~ Your habitat needs three of the following types of plants or supplemental feeders:

- *Seeds from a plant
- *Berries
- *Nectar
- *Foliage/Twigs
- *Fruits
- *Sap
- *Pollen
- *Suet
- *Bird Feeder
- *Nuts
- *Squirrel Feeder
- *Hummingbird Feeder
- *Butterfly Feeder

Water ~ Your habitat needs one of the following sources to provide clean water for wildlife to drink and bathe:

- *Birdbath
- *Lake
- *Stream
- *Seasonal Pool
- *Ocean
- *Spring
- *River
- *Butterfly Puddling Area
- *Rain Garden
- *Water Garden/Pond

Cover ~ Wildlife needs at least two places to find shelter from the weather and predators:

- *Wooded Area
- *Bramble Patch
- *Ground Cover
- *Cave
- *Rock Pile or Wall
- *Roosting Box
- *Evergreens
- *Burrow
- *Brush or Log Pile
- *Meadow or Prairie
- *Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- *Water Garden or Pond

Places to Raise Young ~ You need at least two places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior, mate, and then bear and raise their young:

- *Mature Trees
- *Meadow or Prairie
- *Nesting Box
- *Burrow
- *Wetland
- *Dead Trees or Snags
- *Cave
- *Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- *Water Garden/Pond
- *Host Plants for Caterpillars

Sustainable Practices ~ You need to employ practices from at least two of the three categories below to help manage your habitat in a sustainable way—to better help wildlife, we advocate employing one or more practices from each category.

Soil and Water Conservation:

- *Riparian Buffer*
- *Capture Rain Water from Roof*
- *Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)*
- *Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation*
- *Limit Water Use*
- *Reduce Erosion*
- *Use Mulch*
- *Rain Garden*

Controlling Exotic Species:

- *Practice Integrated Pest Management*
- *Remove Non-Native Plants and Animals*
- *Use Native Plants*
- *Reduce Lawn Areas*

Organic Practices:

- *Eliminate Chemical Pesticides*
- *Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers*
- *Compost*



~~Donna Davis, for Green Living

On May 19, 1864 the great American author and Transcendentalist,
Nathaniel Hawthorne, died at age fifty-nine.



COMING IN SEPTEMBER! *CIRCLE SUPPERS*

Circle Suppers will once again be on the UU calendar! For those of you unfamiliar with these events, they are gatherings of small groups (“Circles”) of people, with willing UU folks hosting suppers in their homes. The purpose is strictly social—a way to get together on an informal, personal level. Hosts provide the place and the beverage, and assigned guests bring food to make the meal, as agreed on with the hosts.

Save the dates of **September 22nd**, **October 20th**, **January 19th**, and **February 16th**. Beginning in our earliest August gatherings, you will have opportunities to sign up for the September suppers. New members, visitors and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate. When you sign up, you will be asked how many want to come. You will also be asked if you are willing to host a group and, if so, how many guests you can accommodate. “Venues” can be as formal or casual as is comfortable for the hosts—that’s part of getting to know each other. Although these are generally adult affairs, hosts with children can open their homes to others with children if they choose to do so.

If you want more information about Circle Suppers, ask a long-time member about them. They will be able to explain further and will most likely share some of their favorite Circle Supper memories. We’re hoping to get everyone involved in these pleasant events, and to make them an addition to the UU calendar that we look forward to attending.



COMMUNITY MEALS

First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls is the location for Community Meals—the next one in which the CVUU participates will be *Tuesday, May 29th*. Thanks to all who helped in *January* and to those who can offer to help us again, including a special thanks to those who have joined the morning group to set up tables and chairs.

Volunteers are still needed to set up tables and chairs that morning, donate cupcakes, serve from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and clean up from 5:45 p.m. until approximately 6:30 p.m. We can always use new helpers, so if you’ve been thinking about this for a while, now is the time!

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact *Ruth Walker* at 277-7044 or <ruthdbwalker@yahoo.com>.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON THE MOVE

"Do your little bit of good wherever you are;
it's those little bits of good put together
that overwhelm the world." ~ *Desmund Tutu*

See the articles about the Book Fair and the Organizing for Change Workshop elsewhere in this newsletter for two great upcoming opportunities to "do a little bit of good wherever you are."

Also, the open group, CVUU in Action, is finding fun and interesting ways to volunteer as a group. April's service involved outdoor activity at the Arboretum and on the Cedar Valley Trails; May's opportunity will be indoors at a school library. In June, the Group will help out with the Book Fair. All CVUU members are invited to participate in one or many of these events.

Several CVUU members (*Floralyn Groff, Heather Flory, Juanita Williams, Priscilla Nieman, Al Hays, and Pam Hays*) attended a workshop at the new, "green" Iowa City UU church on the topic, "Speaking From Your Heart." This was sponsored by IUUWAN (Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network).

IUUWAN is also the originating sponsor of the Organizing for Change Workshop on May 19th. One of our social action offerings is dedicated to IUUWAN every year.



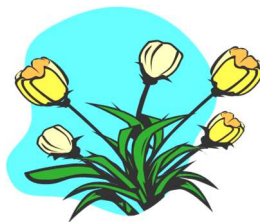
MLK 50 (commemorating the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination) activities have been well attended by CVUUs. We even had people marching across the bridge in the *cold*! Coming up is an increased emphasis on Voting Registration and Get Out the Vote. As part of the ongoing MLK project, *Al Hays* will be presenting a program on Open Housing on Thursday, May 3rd, time and place TBA. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.

Contact me, *Pam Hays*, Social Action Chair, at <pamelagene@hotmail.com> for information about any of these concerns/activities.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

IMPORTANT DATES IN CHILDREN'S RE

- May 6th – RE as normal
- May 13th – No RE, A Service For All Ages
- May 20th – RE Sunday!



SOME OBSERVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY INCLUDE:

- National Barbecue month
- National Recommitment month
- National Bike month National Salad month
- National Photograph month National Hamburger month
- National Lyme Disease Awareness month
- National Blood Pressure month

CVUU OPEN GROUPS 2018

A variety of CVUU groups are currently open to new group members, including both small groups and large groups. Small groups typically consist of five to ten members, and several new small groups are forming now. Large groups meet regularly at the CVUU and are open without an RSVP. If you're interested in any of the topics listed below, these groups could be a great opportunity for you to connect with other CVUUs! For more information, visit: <<http://cedarvalleyuu.org/Connection>> or look for a printed handout in the church foyer.

Book Discussion	Labyrinth
Buddhist Path	Movie Discussion
Card Club	Music Appreciation
Choir & Band	Nature Lovers
CUUPs (Covenant of UU Pagans)	Radical Small Group
Food Values	UU Parents



BOOK LOVERS!

Our new book discussion group, *Book Lovers*, has met twice now, and has had a rewarding time getting to know each other as well as becoming acquainted with some new books. We meet the first Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. unless otherwise designated.

So far we have read *The Grace of Silence* by Michelle Norris and *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen: 83¼ Years Old* by Hendrik Groen. Future books include *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver, *A Bigger Table* by John Pavlovitz, *The First Man-Made Man* by Pagan Kennedy, and *Killers of the Flower Moon*, by David Grann.



GRASS IS GROWING & WILL NEED MOWING!!

CVUU uses volunteers to mow our grounds. Our mowers are stored in the shed near the pollinator garden. We have a rider and a self-propelled walk behind. Some edging and trim work may also be needed.

The grounds require mowing once per week, with regular rain, during the season. The season generally runs from the middle of April through the end of October. We will provide training if you have not operated the equipment.

Please contact *Bill Brown* at <collector@cedarvalleyuu.org> if you are willing to help. We maintain a Google document to coordinate volunteers.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists will be held on Sunday, May 20th at 11:30 a.m. A regular Sunday service will precede this meeting.

CVUU DISCUSSION GROUP: Connect with UUs This Spring

Are you on Facebook and looking for something fun to do this spring? Want to connect with other UUs? Have something fun you want to do in the area, but you don't want to go alone? The CVUU Discussion Group is at <www.facebook.com/groups/cvuus/> so check us out (and JOIN).

Look for posts from other UUs, or add your own, to help UUs connect with each other as we participate in local events in the community. Make sure to provide the event name, date, time, and location. Here are a few examples that appeared on the CVUU Discussion Group in April. Let's see how many more events we can share with each other in May and beyond!

- The Cedar Valley Trails Clean-up is Saturday, April 21st. They could use your help if you are looking for a Spring outdoor activity. Our new community service group, CVUU in Action, will participate!
- Lunch at Jubilee Methodist, April 15th, 12:15 p.m. Thanks for suggesting we do this; the food was amazing!
- Would you like to do some fun volunteering with other CVUUers? Check out the CVUU group, CVUU in Action. Planning meeting this afternoon (Sunday, 4/15, 4:00) at the Hays' home. Join us!
- Neighborhood Book Fair: Saturday, June 2nd, 10:00 a.m. -- Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists, Cedar Falls.
- Enjoy meeting new people? We need a few new greeters. You will be asked to be at the greeter table about once a month with a partner and welcome any visitors and offer them a name tag. Contact *Mica* at <mikemica@gmail.com> or talk to me at church. It's fun!
- We're having fun with Facebook! (adult forum 4/15/18)
- Does anybody want to go to this event on Friday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.? It's billed as a "Pete Seeger Songfest" –lots of Pete's songs, as well as Jim Scott's own. Jim is the author of "Gather the Spirit", as well as several other songs that are in our hymnal.

Not connected with us on Facebook? Here's how!

- The CVUU Facebook Discussion Group is for in-church discussion, and is available at: <www.facebook.com/groups/cvuus/>. Make sure to request to "Join" our group and visit it at least once a month (or more) so that it will continue to show in your Facebook feed.
- The CVUU Facebook Page is like an online "flyer" for the public, and is available at: <www.facebook.com/cedarvalleyuu>. Make sure to "Like" our page and visit it at least once a month (or more) so that it will continue to show in your Facebook feed.

Not on Facebook or just looking for other ways to connect? Check out these options!

- Check out the "What's Happening" board in the Fellowship Hall! We hope to update it regularly with what's happening this month and this week.
- Read the Weekly Updates! To be added to the email list for CVUU Weekly Updates, or to add your own entry, email: <administrator@cedarvalleyuu.org>.
- Read the Newsletter! Printed copies are available in the Fellowship Hall, or view it at <<https://cedarvalleyuu.wordpress.com/>>.
- Check out the Calendar! Printed copies are available in the Fellowship Hall, or view it at <<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ahvba8sg02r5g58nnhhob3vc6c@grou p.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago>>.

Discussion Group article continued next page. . .

- Participate in CVUU Open Groups (small or large)! Handouts are available in the church entry and at <<http://cedarvalleyuu.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CVUUOpenGroupHandout2018.pdf>>.
- View the general CVUU schedule at <<http://cedarvalleyuu.org/blog/events/>> or grab a CVUU flyer from the church entry.
- Pick up the phone or send a personal email! See your CVUU Directory for contact information.



SAVE THE DATE!

CVUU Potluck Picnic on Saturday, July 7th

from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

George Wyth State Park, Fisher Lake Picnic Area

This lovely shelter has a large grassy area for fun and games—croquet? bocce ball? relay races?—and has a water view for spending relaxing time with friends. It is 1.2 miles from the George Wyth campground, for those wanting to camp. Reservations for camping space can be made online at <www.iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com>.

We hope you can join the CVUU for some summer food and fun!



LITTLE FREE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who has brought donations for our Little Free Food Pantry. You can bring food items or make a donation to CVUU with Food Pantry in notation. We always need more items so we appreciate your continued help with this project. Items that go fast: paper products, snack foods, easy to prepare items such as canned pasta and meat, pork and beans, mac & cheese, non-refrigerated meal packages, canned fruit, packages of instant potatoes, fruit juice. Food tends to go very fast. Also popular are crayons, pencils, notebooks, and small toys. Please no tomato products or dry pasta; it is not taken. Also, no liquid cleaning products. Thanks again for your help with this much used and needed project.

~~Mica Lorenz



When UUs Talk, the CVUU Listens!

Town Hall Meeting Update

Last fall, we had Focus Group meetings to collect congregational input about how to improve the CVUU. Follow-up Town Hall meetings in January and February took us to the next level in thinking of ways to take action. The three themes we discussed during the Town Hall meetings were: Sunday services, social interaction, and integration of children in our congregation.

Continued next page. . .

Now, exciting things are starting to happen at the CVUU! If any of the items listed below sound important to you, please reach out and sign up to help. It takes all of our energy to keep our congregation thriving! Here are a few examples:

- We are forming a brand new Religious Education and Programs (REAP) Council to ensure that children in our congregation are getting the attention they deserve.
 - To help out, contact *Joan Taylor*: <joan.taylor@uni.edu>.
- The Religious Services Council is starting to try some new things during Sunday Services, such as taking time for us to greet our neighbors.
 - To help out with Sunday Services, contact *Del Carpenter*: <delcarpenter@cfu.net>.
- A Neighborhood Book Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - To help out, contact *Al Hays*: <poverty-ridge@hotmail.com> or *Pam Hays*: <pamelagene@hotmail.com>.
- Planning for Circle Suppers is underway.
 - See the Circle Suppers article in the May newsletter for details.
 - To help out, contact *Rita Lynn*: <fletch07@cfu.net>.
- An all-church picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 7th! (See article in this May newsletter.)
 - To help out, contact *Moria Brown*: <moriam@cfu.net>.
- We are working on a plan to refresh each of the Religious Education classrooms on a rotating schedule.
 - To help out, contact *Bill Brown*: <wjbrown@cfu.net>.
- We are planning for “speed greeting” activities starting this summer.
 - To help out with this or other social interaction ideas, contact *Juanita Williams*: <juaniewill@gmail.com>.
- We’re working on improving our posted communications in the Fellowship Hall.
 - To help out, contact *Mike Knapp*: <lairdknapp@gmail.com>, *Mica Lorenz*: <mikemica@gmail.com>, or *Heather Flory*: <heather.flory@yahoo.com>.
- We’re discussing strategies for improving our spoken announcements on Sunday mornings.
 - To help out, contact *Del Carpenter*: <delcarpenter@cfu.net> or *Al Hays*: <poverty-ridge@hotmail.com>.
- We’ve started a number of new small groups.
 - To participate in a group, see the flyer in the Fellowship Hall, or at <<http://cedarvalleyuu.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CVUUOpenGroupHandout2018.pdf>>.

As a reminder, some of the top ideas/suggestions from the Town Hall meetings are listed below. These lists are suggestive of the types of actions that would benefit the CVUU. However, this does not mean that other ideas suggested during these sessions will be ignored or that new ideas cannot be put forward. Special attention will be paid to those activities where someone has volunteered to carry them out. So, if you want to see something happen, please reach out and offer to help!

Children

- Parent Planning Team/Progressive Parenting for RE
- Fun events/outdoor/shared experience
- Update classrooms and provide maintenance
- Assign responsibilities to older children in the service
- Continue as a place where kids can express themselves
- Rename Festival Sundays to Service For All Ages
- Careful selection of children’s stories

Continued from previous page. . .

Sunday Service

- Variety of music/special music performances
- Variety of services/room for variety
- Flexibility in structure/variety in sequencing order of service
- Quotes and information from all religious groups
- Greet your neighbor
- Something other than bell
- Services that are topical

Social Interaction

- Circle Suppers (potluck dinners hosted at individual members' homes)
- Group outing
- Find someone you don't know on Sunday and say hello
- Speed-dating evening/event
- Panel discussions
- Fellowship Greeters
- Greet your neighbor during service
- Outdoor games
- Open mic night
- Summer picnic
- Follow-up with visitors via postcard or call/increase participation in small groups

