



# THE OPEN DOOR

CHEQUAMEGAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
MARCH, 2009

## MARCH SERVICES:

**MARCH 8, 10:00 A.M. IN THE PONZIO CENTER, NORTHLAND COLLEGE;  
SPEAKER, DAVID SAETRE, "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS—WAR  
AND PEACE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY."**

The Unitarian Universalist Association has prepared a new position paper on the ethics of war and peace. The draft is titled, "Peacemaking: A Draft Unitarian Universalist Statement of Conscience." Following nearly eight years of war, with troops garrisoned around the world and active fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, our nation must continue serious moral consideration of the conditions for war. The Unitarian statement is an important milestone for new thinking about patriotism, the rights of nations to defend themselves while at the same time promoting justice and peace. This Sunday Service is dedicated to thoughtful consideration of these issues so vital to citizenship in this democracy. (continued inside)

**MARCH 22, 10:00 A.M. IN THE PONZIO CENTER, NORTHLAND COLLEGE;  
SPEAKER, MELISSA HELLMAN, "JOURNEY OF CONSCIENCE."**

In 2005 I stood alive, breathing in the most raw form of love, empathy, suffering, and growth while I listened to the Spanish translation of Deborah Barros Fince, an indigenous women of the Way'uu tribe of Bahia Portete, Columbia. While at a protest in Columbus, Georgia, I took in the great atrocities that occurred to her ancestors and tribal people on April 18, 2004. Early in the morning twelve women, men, and children were surrounded by over one hundred armed men and massacred by the Columbian military. From the moment I felt the injustice and pain of these people I was pulled into a deep spiritual drive to honor the people I have never met and release their story to all who were willing to listen. Drawn to walk on a path that has altered my existence and way of life; in November of 2006, I crossed over a barbed wire fence carrying a yellow flower to honor the tribal people who were assaulted by the military leader who were trained here in the U.S. at The School of The Americas in Georgia. Immediately I was arrested, sentenced, and placed into a woman's prison in Pekin, IL. My journey has become more spiritually deeper and connected to not just the Way'uu people of Northwestern Columbia, but to women all over our nation that are suffering with great injustice behind the bars and power of our prison systems. Please feel free to join me for my first time sharing publicly a walk through my heart, the events that led up to my arrest, and my passion and drive to work with women inmates locally, throughout our country, and all over the world.

**Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
**Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org>**

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**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED**

The yearly New Member Service was held as part of the regular service of February 22. Nine new members were welcomed and given a flower and a handbook on UU traditions in a service that included much joy and often laughter. Board President Karen Crowell kept forgetting to dispense the flowers to each new member, but was reminded by the congregation, at first quietly, then with increasing volume, to get the job done. New members spoke, often movingly, about their reasons for joining. It was, in short, a happy occasion in the best CUUF tradition. New Members were Tracey Ledder, Andrea Haugo, Mark and Brenda Brouder, Vicki Koval, Marilyn Einspanier, Stefania Strzalkowska, and Dick and Diana Granger.

**MEGAN PERRINE RECEIVES UNSUNG UU AWARD**

On Saturday, April 4, Megan Perrine will receive the *Unsung UU Award* from the Prairie Star District of the Unitarian Universalism Association conference in Duluth. The award is given to a person or group whose lifetime activities have made a significant contribution to the cause of Unitarian Universalism. The CUUF Board felt that Megan's accomplishments to our fellowship (even from the days *before* we were a fellowship) deserved recognition. Megan was one of the founders of our group, she was our religious education director for many years, she has served on numerous committees and the board of directors, and she is the brains and creativity behind the annual holiday play by the children. In our nomination, we wrote, "To describe her role with our fellowship, is like trying to describe the thread that holds a shirt together—often unseen, but vital to the integrity." We are proud to have a member of our fellowship win this award!

**CARING CORNER NEWS**

Congratulations go out to Patty Porter, Janet Bewley and David Saetre on the births of their new grandchildren and to Robert Quinlin on winning the regional spelling bee—good luck at state! Much Sympathy is Extended to: Beth Reed and family for the loss of her mother Gwen. Ashley Lokken and family for the loss of her grandfather. Janet Bewley and family for the loss of her mother. Please contact either Jacki (373-0347) or Beth (682-8385) if you have a need of help from our fellowship or would like to share some good news with everyone. You may also contact us if you need a ride to Sunday services, the UU book study group, UU women's group, or other activities.

**“FELLOWSHIP MEMORIES”**  
**BY JILL LORENZ**

The first UU service I attended was held at the Bayview Town Hall. It was late 1995 and the group was then called the Northwoods UU Fellowship, and met only once per month. The format of the service was much as it is today and was similarly informal and friendly, and we sat in a circle.

Speakers were usually members of the group and we passed a talking stick around the circle and everyone had a chance to comment on the topic. Because the group owned only two or three hymnals, words and music were photocopied. We attempted to sing unfamiliar hymns without accompaniment, though Tom Draughon or Ben Brehm often came with a guitar.

The candles of joy and concern were little tea lights in disposable aluminum holders and the chalice was a large, well-used cylindrical candle which was hard to light because the wick was so deep inside. Once lit, the flame was basically invisible.

The Town Hall was a very suitable facility for us, but the town's scheduling policy meant that we could be bumped on short notice, so we met at Mary Rehwald's home in Ashland for several months before we moved to the former Agricultural Station on Highway 2. The first new member service was held there on February 22, 1998. As I recall, it was a snowy day and there were only 9 people at the service, and every one of us signed the book and became members.

I had recently been to a UU service in Duluth where new members were signing their book. At the time, that group was 100 years old, and their book is a big old ledger. It was amazing to see it and to think about the people who had been the first to sign it, who were like us in starting a new church. I tried to imagine the impact of our fellowship in this place over the next 100 years. It was agreed that I should be the first to sign the book, since I was so moved by that.

So now we had some members. John and Kay Beguhn, Kristy Jensch, Marianne McGeehan, Henry Quinlan, Beth Reed, Mary Rehwald, Evan Sassman, and I signed the book that day.

The board was formed shortly after that and Mary Rehwald was the first president. The meetings were at board members' homes. We looked forward to meeting at the Videen home, because Geneva would serve us cookies and cake, and Clayton would tell us wonderful stories. I can't explain why Clayton and Geneva's names don't appear in our membership book. They were certainly important early participants. Both are now deceased.

Gail and Reed Hendershot moved to the area during this time with their three daughters. They brought music to our group. Gail played the hammer dulcimer and Reed played the guitar, and they really could sing. For awhile we had sing-along evenings at their house. Reed was the second board president.

The Ag station was a fun place to meet, with lots of room for activities outdoors, but the RE classes outgrew their space in the hall between the meeting room and the bathrooms, so we relocated to the Washburn Library, where we had access to two additional meeting rooms plus two stairwells for RE and childcare.

At the library, our circular seating arrangement morphed into concentric semi-circles, which the Hendershot twins named the UU seating plan. David Saetre was invited to speak and was such a hit that we asked if he would come back on a regular basis. We bought a piano and tried to keep it in tune. We bought lots of hymnals, since we could store them in the cabinet in the women's bathroom. We inserted our candles into kitty litter in a roasting pan. And under Megan Perrine's presidential leadership, we became official, by joining the Unitarian Universalist Association.

It was getting crowded in the library basement. We stopped passing the talking stick. David Saetre made a proposal that would allow us to use this large space at Northland College. Now we sit in efficient rows, and our closing circle sometimes hugs the walls.

We now have committees, a bookstore, a database, a sound system, and a website. Enough children that we have time to sing a song (twice!) as they leave the room for RE. The candles stand in Lake Superior beach sand in a bowl which was made and donated by the late Bob Eckels. Together we have celebrated and mourned; picnicked, danced, and sung; assisted and been assisted. One day we'll have been doing it for 100 years.

*Jill read this piece at the February 22 service. Ed.*

## **BOARD UPDATE**

The board met on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at Ruth Oppedahl's house. Henry reported on the Bylaws adhoc committee's recommendation to change board member terms to 3 years from 2 years to improve board leadership and continuity. There are three board positions open for next year. Karen Crowell, Henry Quinlan, and Scott Burchill are completing their terms. Ruth Oppedahl proposed to send in Megan Perrine's name for the PSD Unsung Hero award. Approved enthusiastically. Warren reported that Matt Wolter plans to resign as Treasurer this year. Warren indicated that he would be willing to do the Treasurer's job next year. Irene Blakely discussed scheduling a Child Dedication this year in conjunction with the Flower Ceremony on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Karen Crowell reported on the upcoming New Member recognition service. The new membership certification policy was approved. The board moved to pay early bird registration fees for PSD member attendee/delegates. We continued discussion of our meeting place at Northland College and the donation to the College for its use. We agreed to schedule the Ponzio Center for our Sunday services again next year. We also agreed to establish a ad hoc facilities exploration committee to being the process of reviewing our facility needs for the future. Irene Blakely will contact potential members for the committee.

## **SKIP JONES CONCERT AT RUTH'S**

You are invited to a house concert with [Skip Jones](#) on Saturday, March 7 at 7:00 pm at the Oppedahl home in Washburn. Skip's music is warm, personal and family friendly. Touching hearts and helping people feel good about themselves, he bridges generations with a style that makes folks want to participate! He plays old songs, with a freshness that has young folks singing along. The elders say, "He reminds me of Burl Ives". Gentle humor and wild stories embroider his performances with love and laughter.

Please RSVP (373-0973) to reserve a space and get directions to the house concert. Freewill donations to benefit the artist.

Skip will also be playing for the [Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's](#) March 8 service.

## **MORE ON DAVID'S MARCH 8 TALK**

War is abhorrent. Violence is reprehensible. Human history has been marked by both. Religion has been a catalyst for war and for peace, sanctioning behaviors individual and international. What is our religious response as Unitarian Universalists to the historic habits of war and the timeless challenges of peace? Should we reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war and affirm a commitment to seek just peace through non-violent means? Should we continue with the more conventional practice of seeking peace through application of "just war" criteria? Are these our only options as we seek to promote "a world community of peace, liberty, and justice for all?" This Statement of Conscience results from widespread deliberation and presents an approach arising out of our history, theology, and understanding of human nature for building a peaceful, just, and sustainable global future.

If you would like to read the entire document to prepare for the talk, the draft is available online at: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml>

Or, simply "google" UUA Just War draft and you should find a quick link to the web site.

Peace to you all as we approach the springtime following a hard winter.

David

## **UU YOUTH "CONservation" REPORT**

Three of our teens were fortunate to have attended the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis' recent youth con in January. If you're like we were, you may be wondering what a "youth con" is.

A youth con is an event sponsored by a UU church inviting other UU teens to a weekend of fun, learning, and sharing in our UU identity. The "con", which is a much cooler name than "conference", involved games, sessions about conservation (each con has a theme), great food, socializing, a dance, talent show, and worship.

As a sponsor, I was extremely impressed by the teens at this con. The con was run entirely by the teens of two Minneapolis UU churches. They planned and led all the activities. They even cooked the food! There was adult back-up, but the kids were clearly running the show, and they did a fantastic job! They made the "newbies" feel welcome. It was a real pleasure to spend a weekend with these teens and to see how much fun our teens had by participating. I am sure there will be more "cons" in our future!

*-submitted by Kristin Quinlan*

## **THANKS FROM A YOUTH CON PARTICIPANT**

Dear UU Fellowship:

Thank you so much for paying for me (and Hannah Hasart and Nicholas Oppedahl) to go to the youth con in Minneapolis. I had an amazing time there. It was so much fun! I met a lot of really cool kids that I became friends with, and there were amazing activities going that had a ton to do about teaching us that we need to take care of our earth. I also learned a lot about being a UU, and it means more to me now than it did before the trip.

Thanks again!

*-Maya Quinlan*

## CUUF Calendar

### March

- March 3 *Chosen Faith* Study Group, 6:30 p.m. Washburn Library  
March 4 Deadline \$75 conference scholarships from PSD  
March 6 Deadline PSD conference registration (\$130); \$150 after March 6.  
Deadline for CUUF registration reimbursement.  
Contact Jan Perkins, coordinator, [perkworks9@yahoo.com](mailto:perkworks9@yahoo.com).  
March 8 Sunday Worship Service  
March 10 UU Board meeting  
March 12 UU Women  
March 22 Sunday Worship Service  
TBA Sing-a-longs at Christensens contact [donann@hotmail.com](mailto:donann@hotmail.com)  
Or 373-5013.

### April Annual Meetings Month

- April 3 – 5 PSD Annual Conference Duluth, MN !!!!  
April 26 **Annual Membership Business Meeting** after service  
Election of New Board Members