

## *The Open Door Newsletter* December 2009

### ***Fellowship Service-December 6<sup>th</sup> Speaker: Jim Ramsdell***

#### ***“A Journey through Nature to Creativity”***

On Dec. 6th Jim Ramsdell will share his story and slides entitled “A Journey through Nature to Creativity”. Jim speaks about how a deep need for change in his life led him to Alaska. He will describe his journey along the Alaskan highway, through the Yukon Territory and into the wilds where he reconnected with nature. Through this experience he discovered his talent for wood sculpting. His love of carving and concern for the environment eventually led to the “Our Shared Planet” project which features a display of intricately carved endangered species. Through Jim’s story you will sense the importance of being good stewards of this amazing planet we all share. “In sharing my story with you, I hope to inspire you to discover your inner gift and share it with the world as well. Together we can change the world heart by heart.”

Jim Ramsdell is an award-winning self-taught artist. His wood sculptures have been featured in many art shows, magazines, and museum exhibits. His focus is the “Our Shared Planet” project which is a traveling environmental awareness exhibit with educational programs available for children and adults. Jim resides near Bayfield. More information is available on his website: [www.oursharedplanet.org](http://www.oursharedplanet.org)

This Fellowship Service is at 10am on the Second Floor commons of the Ponzio Student Center on the Northland College Campus.

### ***Fellowship Service-December 13<sup>th</sup>***

#### ***Evening Service: Alvord Theater, 6:30p.m.***

#### ***“Light the Torch of Welcome”***

On Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our annual holiday service. This special evening will have a theme of “Light the Torch of Welcome.” The Children’s Religious Education students and parents will present a play: “Amahl and the Night Visitors.”

David Saetre will speak about the importance of hospitality in winter solstice celebrations. We will enjoy congregational singing of carols and a special appearance by tenor Sam Gray. Music by pianist Joni Chapman and a string ensemble will set the holiday mood.

The traditional spiral of greens will decorate the auditorium. We will close this service with a candlelight song, followed by potluck refreshments. We hope you can all attend this special service.

There will be a shared hospitality food table – please bring a dish to pass.

### **Holiday Play Practice**

*submitted by Kristin Quinlan*

Time to practice! The holiday program is in a few short weeks, and we’ll be working feverishly to prepare for our annual holiday program. Children involved in the RE program will be rehearsing during RE time for the remaining services before the Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> performance.

We’ll also have a work/rehearsal day on Sat., Dec. 5. We’ll begin at 9 am at the Alvord Theater and should be done by early afternoon. We may schedule additional rehearsals on Wed. evenings for the bigger speaking parts, as well. It’s a very busy time of the year for families, but please be at as many rehearsals as possible! Also, we can use parent help on Dec. 5, if you are available.

## Assembling the Spiral of Greens

Collecting the boughs and assembling them for the holiday service will be handled a little differently this year. The greens will be gathered in advance. Beth Reed and friends will host an evening of assembling boughs. Watch for the date and location to be announced.

## Pledge Drive – December 6<sup>th</sup> Deadline

*submitted by Ruth Oppedahl*

By now, you have received your orange pledge card in the mail. To recap the pledge information found in the November newsletter and in the mail, pledges are a promise to make a financial contribution to the Fellowship. Pledge contributions may be paid in installments between now and June 2010. Contributions are tax-deductible.

The budget found on the next page lists the financial obligations of the 2009/2010 year (September '09 through June '10). We are midway through the 09/10 year. The UU board needs your pledge to predict the financial support available to meet the Fellowship goals for the year. Your contributions support a healthy fellowship.

Please return your pledge card through the mail **by December 6<sup>th</sup>**. Alternatively, bring the pledge card to the December 6<sup>th</sup> service and place it in the offering tray in an envelope labeled with your name.

If you have misplaced your pledge card please use the pledge card below. (Due to word processing difficulties, it is not exactly the same as the card you received in the mail. It has the same information though).

Thanks for your commitment and support of CUUF!

Feel free to call me if you have questions or concerns: Co-Chair, Ruth Oppedahl 373-0973

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### Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – annual pledge/contribution card

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to pledge\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the mission of the Fellowship.

Or, here is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- \*Pledge contributions may be paid over time, in installments, anytime. Our fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Mail in to: CUUF, PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806
- Or, place in the offering basket in an envelope labeled with your name.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

The CUUF is a qualified 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Thank you!

<b>CUUF Budget 2009--2010</b>		<b>Notes</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Budget</b>	
Contributions of Record	\$13,095	approx. \$2,500 increase (24%) over previous year
Fundraising	\$1,600	add a new fundraising event
Interest	\$5	☺
Offering	\$1,500	
Bookstore	\$200	
Other	\$180	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,580</b>	
Checking Balance		
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Fellowship Administrator (1/2 yr)	\$2,880	
Affiliation		
UUA	\$2,240	
Prairie Star District	\$900	
Bookstore	\$500	
Caring Committee	\$200	
Child Care	\$150	
Conferences & Workshops	\$800	
Donations to Northland College	\$1,000	
Equipment/Furniture	\$150	hard drive back-up
Office supplies	\$240	
Hospitality	\$150	does not include in-kind of ~\$150
Insurance	\$325	
Miscellaneous	\$300	
Newsletter	\$900	
PO Box	\$75	
Religious Education	\$525	
Social Action	\$100	
Membership	\$200	
Worship		
miscellaneous	\$375	
music	\$1,375	
speakers	\$1,200	
speakers-David Saetre	\$1,575	
screen	\$250	discretionary item
copier	\$50	discretionary item
Stewardship Pledge Supplies	\$120	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,580</b>	

**MISSION STATEMENT** - this fellowship exists to serve the human needs of its members and friends, to stimulate individual development of a positive and ethical philosophy of life, and to provide a common shelter for everyone's personal growth. -- Founded, February 22, 1998.

## **Guest at Your Table**

*Submitted by Kristen Quinlan*

We will again be participating in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee **Guest at Your Table** program this holiday season. The Guest at Your Table program serves two purposes. It is a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). In addition to fundraising, it is a way to educate and involve individuals from UU congregations in the work of the UUSC. The UUSC is an independent nonprofit human rights organization whose work is grounded in UU principles.

If you choose to participate in this enlightening Guest at Your Table program, you will be given a box to place at your meal table and keep there for several weeks. From the provided literature, your family will read about and imagine a different guest at your table each week. These factual stories are a good way for families to discuss human rights and UU values. As often as you are able, insert coins or bills in the box. When the program ends, please return the box to the fellowship with the cash or a check written to UUSC.

Boxes and fact sheets will be available at the December services. If you would like further information about Guest at Your Table and UUSC, you can check out [www.uusc.org/guest](http://www.uusc.org/guest), or call Kristin Quinlan at 685-0041.

For 30 years UU communities nationwide have participated in Guest at Your Table. It is a tradition for these communities to give thanks, celebrate UU values, and partner with UUSC to help change the world.

## **Faith in Action – Adopt a Senior’s Driveway**

*submitted by Megan Perrine*

Give a Gift to a Senior this Season!

Shovel for a Senior through Faith In Action

TOP 10 REASONS TO SIGN UP TODAY:

1. It 's free
2. You will get more out of it than the person you help
3. Everyone needs a reason to get up in the morning
4. Exercise is a good thing
5. Faith in Action has a great volunteer recognition dinner
6. You get to meet someone new
7. Life is short (If you are doing hard labor, do it for a good cause)
8. Nobody said it was easy living in Northern Wisconsin
9. You keep meaning to sign up to volunteer
10. You may need help someday-Pay it Forward!!

Faith In Action-Ashland County currently has a list of senior citizens in Ashland requesting help with their snow shoveling for the coming season.

Call Megan at 682-4414 ext. 3 or email: [fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org](mailto:fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org)

## **Caring Corner**

If you know of someone who is ill, needs help, or has a great joy to celebrate, we offer support to members and friends of our fellowship: Jacki Rae-Ledin 373-0347 ([antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com](mailto:antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com)), Jan Perkins 373-5585 ([perkworks@yahoo.com](mailto:perkworks@yahoo.com)), Patty Dufek 682-9015 ([pport57@charter.net](mailto:pport57@charter.net))

## **Newsletter Submissions:**

If you have submissions for the newsletter please send them to the following email address by **Tuesday**, December 22nd: [uunews@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uunews@chequamegonuuf.org). The preferred format is Microsoft Word, 10 pt Times New Roman Font. (It is not a problem if it is in a different format.) Thank you in advance for meeting the deadline – it is important in order to get the newsletter out on time. Current news is always important. It is also nice to have poems, quotes and reviews of books related to spirituality – nonfiction or fiction. I will try to work in what is submitted. ~Marilyn

**After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:** (Please note if you are on the list!)

December 6<sup>th</sup> service: Karla Hasart and Patty Dufek

December 13<sup>th</sup>: **Potluck – Bring a dish to pass!**

Contact Karla Hasart at 682-4012, or [kkhasart@yahoo.com](mailto:kkhasart@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

**Letters to the Fellowship:**

**THANKS TO COMING OF AGE COOKS!**

Faith In Action-Ashland County would like to thank the Chequamegon Unitarian Fellowship's Coming of Age Program for helping with the Mexican Fiesta Feast fundraiser. The crew was a big help in rolling the 400 enchiladas needed to feed the masses. The event was a great success, raising over \$7500 for the program. Thanks to all of you who donated, helped, or attended this event!!

Megan Perrine

**Sent to UUs near Fort Hood**

Our hearts and Unitarian Universalist prayers are with with you and yours and in all in the Bell County UU Fellowship, and with all in your community. As you and your community feel loss and grief, know that others, including we, grieve also. As your community turns in grief to prayer, know you, as Unitarian Universalists, can pray as well.

Here's a prayer, attributed to various sources, which you can use with anyone, anywhere:

*We Give Thanks for Being*

*We Give Thanks for Being Here*

*We Give Thanks for Being Here Together*

John Keohane

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas, [keohane@prodigy.net](mailto:keohane@prodigy.net), (512) 371-3853

**From HUUF Newsletter:**

*submitted by Karen Crowell*

Two thousand five hundred years ago a great spiritual leader described human enlightenment with the simile of a bird with two wings; the wing of wisdom and the wing of compassion. He implied that a life with only the one wing of wisdom or one wing of compassion will not fly well. This simple lesson in the form of an easily understood simile was a hallmark of his teaching method. Who was this great teacher?

- 1) Socrates
- 2) Lao Tsu
- 3) Jalaluddin Rumi
- 4) Buddha

**Join Anti-Stress Newsletter “Happy Train”**

*submitted by Carole Kjellander, PhD*

How would you like to be more efficient, at the top of your game? We all would! – so let's learn together!! A local writer and practicing psychologist, Carole Kjellander, Ph.D., has decided to satisfy your interest – and hers – in wellness topics by offering a free e-newsletter to the public!

The content is all about better ways of living, getting stuff done, and meeting your physical, emotional, family and social needs by learning from others.

To opt-in for monthly delivery via email: Send an email to [happytrainnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:happytrainnewsletter@gmail.com) with “subscribe” in the subject line. The newsletter will be mailed as a PDF attachment by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Carole can also be contacted by calling 715-685-9614 or visit [www.calmyourlife.com](http://www.calmyourlife.com).

## December UU Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1				Play Practice 5 9am Alvord Theater
Jim Ramsdell 6 "Journey to Creativity"  Please plan to turn in pledge cards.			9 Play Practice?			
Holiday Svc 13 6:30pm Alvord Theater  Bring a dish to share at the end of the service.						
20	Winter 21 Solstice	January 22 Newsletter submissions due			Christmas 25	
					Jan 1, 2010	

### Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuuf.org> Mailing address: PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

#### CUUF Board Members:

Ruth Oppedahl, co-chair 373-0973, [ruth@oppedahl.com](mailto:ruth@oppedahl.com)  
 Beth Reed, co-chair 682-8385, [lipreed@cheqnet.net](mailto:lipreed@cheqnet.net)  
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#### CUUF Committee Contacts:

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