

## ***The Open Door Newsletter*** February 2010

**Time and Location of Services:** Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Second Floor commons of the Ponzio Student Center on the Northland College Campus.

### ***Fellowship Service-February 14<sup>th</sup> Speaker: David Saetre*** ***“Valentine’s Day – Romance, Love and Marriage”***

What else?! Let’s talk about love - that maddening, fascinating, essential mystery of love. What do we mean by love? Are there different kinds of love or only different degrees? What rituals do we employ in attraction, courting (does anybody court?), uniting? Does marriage substantively change a relationship? Is love necessary for a successful and happy marriage? There’s enough here to celebrate and think about for a lifetime – but I’ll try to keep it a little shorter than that. There’s a valentine waiting for each of you as we celebrate the wonderful mystery of love on St. Valentine’s Day.

### ***Fellowship Service-February 28<sup>th</sup> Speaker: David Saetre*** ***“Being Good Citizens: Civil Religion and the Rituals of Democracy”***

February is President’s month, soon followed by the spring season of primaries and campaigns. Then, we will be in full swing for fall mid-term elections. Sociologist Robert Bellah coined the term “civil religion” to describe the necessary core beliefs, civic virtues and social rituals to sustain a secular democracy such as ours. An informed and morally engaged citizenry was the hallmark of Washington’s vision of democracy in the early years of the American experiment. Lincoln evoked a sacred calling to mark the course of the nation in his Second Inaugural Address.

What are the “sacred duties” citizens are called to in our time? Is there anything at all that we could call “sacred” about public life, or have we been overwhelmed by the cynicism of a bitterly partisan and divided nation?

UU principles encourage a heightened conscience and use of the democratic process, in society as well as in our congregation. In keeping with UU principles, civic values require a moral consciousness – to seek justice, equity and compassion. The UU pledge signifies the important place Unitarian ideals hold in our nation and society. I hope to use this talk to briefly explore these critical and profoundly moral questions that challenge us as citizens in a tired and angry land.

David W. Saetre  
Campus Minister/Assistant Professor of Religion

*“The prevailing wisdom of the day is that religion and spirituality are a way to feel good, but the search for religion is the search for truth”*

*“I began my work in ministry and religious education in a world that could no longer believe in anything. I find myself working now in a world that will believe in anything.” DS*

**UU Principles:** There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## **Board News:**

UU principles are central to David's Feb 28<sup>th</sup> service, in relation to our civic duties. UU principles are also central in the board's decision to draft and adopt a "Covenant of Right Relations", to guide board relations.

### **Walking the Talk: CUUF Board adopts Covenant of Right Relations** *submitted by Beth Reed*

The CUUF board has adopted a covenant of right relations. This covenant states our responsibilities and outlines how we will behave towards one another.

Covenants have long been a part of Unitarian Universalist practice, when the first congregations in New England chose not to use a creed in their communities. They adopted covenants to affirm and state how members would interact. A covenant is a way of walking the talk of our UU principles. It also provides a format to avoid hurtful conflict and help process conflicts when they arise. The board believes that this covenant will help board members to protect a healthy decision making process and to treat one another with even greater respect.

Please read over the Covenant of Right Relations adopted by our CUUF board on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

#### **Chequamegon UU Fellowship Board of Directors- Covenant of Right Relations**

The Board is responsible for leading our fellowship to carry out our congregation's mission. We supervise and accept responsibility for the Fellowship's financial and business operation, oversight of personnel, the use and maintenance of its property and the policies and procedures under which its programs operate. We strive to implement policies that are consistent with our Unitarian Universalist principles. We serve our congregation and strive to make decisions that will enable our organization to be a vital spiritual and social force today and in the future.

#### **Process Guidelines:**

We, the members of the Board of the Chequamegon UU Fellowship, agree to carry out our responsibilities using these process guidelines. We will:

- Treat each other with respect.
- Follow an intentional process of decision-making that allows everyone a chance to be heard: creating a safe environment where members can communicate freely, openly, and truthfully, agreeing to disagree when necessary.
- Accept our responsibility to seek and provide information necessary to make informed decisions.
- We will listen carefully to each other and assume that others have positive intent and the best interests of the Fellowship at heart.
- We will maintain confidentiality of board members and members of the fellowship at large.
- We will support the final decision of the board whether it reflects our view or not.
- We will be responsible for using our time together efficiently, but while intentionally allotting the time needed to explore multiple sides of an issue.
- We will use Martha's Rules of Order for decision making in our meetings.
- Members can request a process check to insure that the covenant is being followed at any point in a meeting.
- Be clear about the assignments, responsibilities, and expectations we have of each other.
- Recognize that disagreement is part of Board and fellowship life and resolve conflicts directly with the involved parties at the earliest possible time.

*This covenant was adopted by the board to guide **board** relations.*

#### **Potential Congregational Covenant:**

Many modern UU congregations are adopting covenants. Our plan is that the board will pilot this and introduce it to committee chairs in order to see if the congregation, as a whole, would like to consider a congregational covenant. Please read it and feel free to share our comments or questions with a board member! Thank you! *Beth Reed*

## **Opportunities to Get Involved in Unitarian Universalist Association Events:**

*Submitted by Beth Reed*

This year, the **UUA General Assembly** will be in Minneapolis, MN! It takes place from **June 23-27<sup>th</sup>**. There are opportunities for worship, keynote speakers, and learning about how to conduct congregational business. You can join with Unitarian Universalists from all over the U.S.! We would love to send members of our congregation to this gathering. There is money from the fellowship to help support your trip and it is not required to attend all 5 days. Consider going to the General Assembly this summer!

The **Mid West Leadership School** happens every July on the campus of Beloit College in southern Wisconsin. It is a great opportunity to develop your own "credo" by examining and deepening your spiritual beliefs while learning about worship planning and congregation stewardship. This summer it will happen between **July 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**. This could be a great part of your summer personal growth!

The **Prairie Star District Annual Conference** will be in Davenport, IA on **April 23-25<sup>th</sup>**. This is the regular meeting of our region of Unitarian Universalist congregations and offers a smaller more intimate version of the General Assembly. There is a description provided by PSD in the newsletter.

Finally, the next **meeting of the board** will be Tues, **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm**, at the Vaughn Library in Ashland.

Feel free to contact a board member if you have questions or concerns or want more information about any of the above events! You could also check out the **UUA website: [uua.org](http://uua.org)**

### **Prairie Star District 2010 Annual Conference**

Roots and Wings: Weaving Multigenerational Dreams! April 23-25, 2010, Davenport, Iowa

Speakers include Dr. Mark A. Hicks from Meadville-Lombard Theological School, PSD religious educators, and other experts on multigenerational worship.

John McCutcheon, a nationally known singer and hammered dulcimer player, will give a concert for all ages on Saturday night and will also lead a workshop for all ages.

For a full conference schedule of events: [www.psdoua.org/AnnualConference2010](http://www.psdoua.org/AnnualConference2010) or call 612-870-4823.

### **Have You Considered Including Making a Bequest to CUUF?**

*"Life is a gift, and if we agree to accept it, we must contribute in return. When we fail to contribute, we fail to adequately answer why we are here. I believe we are here to do good." -- Albert Einstein*

There are a variety of ways to make planned gifts and leave a legacy for the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please consider designating a specific sum or percentage of your estate or life insurance policy to CUUF.

Planned Giving is good stewardship. For more information contact Ruth Oppedahl at 715-373-0973.

### **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))

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

Our snack list is listed below. If you cannot bring snacks for that particular Sunday, please feel free to contact Karla Hasart at 682-4012 or [khasart@yahoo.com](mailto:khasart@yahoo.com). Thank you again. *Submitted by Karla Hasart*

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Tracey Ledder and Birgit Wolff

**February 28<sup>th</sup>:** Jill Lorenz and Vicki Koval

### **March Service Schedule:**

Notice that the service dates for March are the same as for February – late in the month.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Mike Crowell – UU History

**March 28<sup>th</sup>:** David Saetre

### **Creating Peace: art exhibit, artists' reception, concert and workshop**

An art exhibit, “*Creating Peace*”, will be featured at the Washburn Cultural Center - March 1 to 30.

The artists' reception will be on **March 6** from 2-4 p.m. A concert by "Ancestra" follows the reception at 4-6 p.m., also at the Cultural Center. Ancestra is a trio of women who sing heart-centered a cappella music, with an occasional instrument added here or there. Influential songwriters and singers include John and Paul, Copper Wimmin, Chris Williamson, Loreena McKennitt, Wailin' Jennys, Trio Mediaeval, The Roches, Ulali and more! Tickets for the concert are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, available at the Cultural Center or by calling Susan (715) 373-0645.

A workshop, *Living First Peace*, will be held on **March 21** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will learn the eight principles of the Discipline of Peace, which is a world-wide movement to bring people of all traditions together to explore bringing peace to the self, to other humans and to our nation. \$45

One possible outcome of these events is the development of “First Peace” circles – groups of approximately ten people who meet periodically to more deeply understand the Discipline of Peace.

Please contact Susan Amundson, (715) 373-0645 or [susan@evergreenspiritpress.com](mailto:susan@evergreenspiritpress.com) for further info. *While these events warrant space in the newsletter, it should be noted that these are not UU sponsored events.*

### **Newsletter Submissions:**

If you have submissions for the newsletter please send them to the following email address by Friday, March 5th. [uunews@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uunews@chequamegonuuf.org). Current news is always important. It is also nice to have poems, quotes and reviews of books related to spirituality – nonfiction or fiction.

### **Letters to the Fellowship:**

#### **Remembering Dick Green:**

Yesterday I said good bye to a very special man, Dick Green. Dick was the driving force behind this area's first chapter of the Special Olympics. Only seven years ago there were 5 or so athletes. Now there are 70+ actively participating athletes from our district.

I met Dick Green at Monk's bowling alley, during a Special Olympics outing. I watched as SO bowlers, one-by-one, stopped to greet Dick Green. It was obvious his relationship with this group of individuals was one of great mutual respect. Dick knew each by name and had something unique to say to each person.

Dick welcomed me on that day. “Hi my name is Dick Green, so good of you to help out.” Ya know how there are people who just glow with goodness? Well, Dick Green was a light house! Over the next couple years, in volunteering with SO, I had the privilege of traveling with Dick at the wheel. I remember one trip home from Wausau, during a doozy of a storm. We sang our way home while Jay Gurske played his harmonica and the other athletes snoozed after a full day of bowling and cheering.

Dick's history was a crazy quilt that lead him to SO. It turns out he had a full plate of his own health issues. He had to visit our local dialysis unit more and more because of his own failed kidneys. I've never heard this dear man squawk about his own hardships. When he could no longer drive the bus, he reconfigured his plan to help in other ways - always helping. He was a man of meager means but found a way to take in “orphans” for a thanksgiving meal and worked at the local food shelf. He will live on with me, as his giving nature is a true example of stewardship.

*Sincerely submitted by Patty Dufek*

### **The Banyan Project**

Former *UU World* editor Tom Stites has won the 2010 We Media Game Changer Community Choice award, which recognizes "people, projects, ideas, and organizations leading change and inspiring a better world through media." Stites was nominated for the Banyan Project, which "aims to strengthen democracy through high-quality, Web-based journalism that engages the civic energy of less-than-affluent everyday citizens".

Reverend **Peter Morales**, the current president of UUA, in an email to UU leaders regarding the Banyan Project and Tom Stites: "The Banyan Project lives out UU values." Please visit: [banyanproject.com](http://banyanproject.com)

**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

### **UU Calendar of upcoming events:**

#### **UU:**

- February 14<sup>th</sup> Fellowship service - David Saetre Romance, Love and Marriage
- February 28<sup>th</sup> Fellowship service - David Saetre Civil Religion/Democracy
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting at 7pm, at the Vaughn Library
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Newsletter articles due (preferably before the 5<sup>th</sup>).
- March 14<sup>th</sup> Fellowship service - Mike Crowell – UU History
- March 28<sup>th</sup> Fellowship service - David Saetre
- April 23-25<sup>th</sup> Prairie Star District Annual Conference Davenport, IA
- June 23-27<sup>th</sup> UUA General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN. CUUF will subsidize.
- July 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Mid West Leadership School, Beloit, WI

#### **Community:**

- March 6<sup>th</sup> Washburn Community Center – Artists' Reception 2-4 pm, free.  
Concert 4-6 "Ancestra" \$15 in advance, \$20 at door.
- March 21<sup>st</sup> Washburn Community Center, Workshop "*Living First Peace*"  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$45

### **Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.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)
- Diana Granger, secretary, 373-1133, [dianagranger@centurytel.net](mailto:dianagranger@centurytel.net)
- Warren Kehn, treasurer, 682-2256, [logkeh@ncis.net](mailto:logkeh@ncis.net)
- Irene Blakely, 373-2907, [blakely@centurytel.net](mailto:blakely@centurytel.net)
- Megan Perrine, 278-3386, [perrine@cheqnet.net](mailto:perrine@cheqnet.net)

#### **CUUF Committee Contacts:**

- Jan Perkins, Caring Committee, 373-5585, [perkworks9@yahoo.com](mailto:perkworks9@yahoo.com)
- Jacki Rae Ledin, Caring Committee, 373-0347
- Scott Burchill, Communications/Webmaster, 682-4681, [scott.burchill@gmail.com](mailto:scott.burchill@gmail.com)
- Karla Hasart, Hospitality, [kkhasart@yahoo.com](mailto:kkhasart@yahoo.com)
- Karen Ruedi Crowell, Membership, 373-2524, [dancingmoon01@centurytel.net](mailto:dancingmoon01@centurytel.net)
- Joni Chapman, Music Director, 685-0076, [jonibchapman@yahoo.com](mailto:jonibchapman@yahoo.com)
- Marilyn Einspanier, Newsletter Editor, 715-372-4299, [uunews@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uunews@chequamegonuuf.org)
- June Bavlnka, Publicity Coordinator, [aknlvab07@gmail.com](mailto:aknlvab07@gmail.com)
- Kristin Quinlan, Religious Education, 685-0041, [hkquinlan@centurytel.net](mailto:hkquinlan@centurytel.net)
- Birgit Wolff, Worship Planning, 765-4888, [birgithwolff@yahoo.com](mailto:birgithwolff@yahoo.com)