

The Open Door Newsletter March 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-March 14th Speaker: Mike Crowell

“American Beginnings of UU”

There have been Unitarians for as long as there has been a Christian religion. This talk will cover the part I know best—from the objections of New England Congregational ministers about the strict Calvinism of the early Puritans to the flowering of Unitarianism and Universalism in the nineteenth century. My hope would be to scratch the surface of a complex but interesting story. Unitarians were a very prestigious group by mid-century; Universalists were not so prominent but kindred spirits. Both rebelled against conservative theology; both developed a sense of social justice. The seeds of their merger a century or so later were already planted.

My approach will be a personal one which will avoid dates and names as much as possible in favor of trying to figure out what views emerged that led to what we have today.

Mike Crowell was on the Knox College teaching faculty for 35 years teaching American Literature and, as a sideline, linguistics. Mike and Karen moved up here in 2001 and became “UUers”. Mike is now teaching and being taught by his chickens, which he enjoys raising for pleasure...and an occasional egg.

March 14th is also New Member Recognition – Once a year we celebrate New Member Sunday to recognize all new members during the last year and to encourage our CUUF friends to become CUUF members. Please read the membership article which follows the fellowship service information.

If you wish to become a member please contact Karen Crowell, membership chair, 373-2524, dancingmoon01@centurytel.net.

Fellowship Service-March 28th Speaker: David Saetre

“Rite(s) of Spring”

The poet T.S. Eliot famously said that, “April is the cruelest month.” On the other hand, it’s hard to beat the warm breath of spring that washes over the weary plains these past days, which brings our thoughts to spring. In this talk I will explore some of the themes associated with the primal, awakening spirit of spring, and explore some of the myths and rituals associated with the season of birth and rebirth. The title for my talk refers to Igor Stravinsky’s epic ballet, *The Rite of Spring*. The ballet created quite a stir in its premiere year, 1913, for its wild rhythms, dissonant harmonies, and dances depicting fertility rituals and provocative pagan themes. Ah, those pagan themes of springtime. Let’s talk about that!

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.

New Member Recognition Sunday, March 14th

Submitted by Karen Ruedi Crowell

Once a year we celebrate New Member Sunday to recognize all new members during the last year and to encourage our CUUF friends to become CUUF members.

Who may become a member? Anyone 16 years old or older who wishes to make a covenant with our fellowship to affirm and promote the UU principles of faith, listed above.

Why become a member? Your reasons may include:

- To turn your beliefs and faith into spiritual practice and action.
- To engage in your search for truth and meaning within a community that supports critical inquiry.
- To examine our historical belief in “Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance” in religion.
- To enjoy the personal benefits of participation in Sunday services, in Religious Education and Coming of Age programs for your children, and in fellowship community support.
- To make friends.

Every individual member has her or his own reasons for making a commitment to becoming a member.

What are the responsibilities of membership? 1) Participation 2) Financial Pledge

It is expected that members will participate in Sunday services and contribute their time and talents at a level that works for them. Contribution of time/talents may include: reading at a Sunday service, coordinating a service, making coffee, coordinating hospitality, sending a get well card, coordinating a dinner for the homebound, singing a song, writing a song, serving on the board, serving in the Prairie Star District – participation/contribution is left up to the individual.

It is also expected that members will make an annual financial pledge of support to the fellowship.

How does one become a member? Sign the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship membership book. **If you have any questions and/or are interested in joining the fellowship at our March 14th service, please contact Karen Crowell, membership chair, 373-2524, dancingmoon01@centurytel.net.**

Speaking of possible contributions...

Sign-Up To Do Set-Up

Submitted by Megan Perrine

Setting up for Sunday services takes a few folks to go smoothly so a **Set-Up Committee** is being organized. One or two folks each service Sunday will arrive early to help with setting up chairs, piano, P.A. system, etc. and help with take down as well. Once several folks are on the committee, responsibilities will be rotated. If you would like to help (and want a bit of exercise before the service) please contact Megan: perrine@cheqnet.net or 278-3386. This is a great way to support the work of the fellowship!

Ode to a Vacuum

The UUs wish to leave no trace
Of nibbling and feeding their face

And don't want to leave any goo
On the carpet and under shoe

A sucker-upper is needed to clean
Because messes are best not seen

And we now have a secret spot
To keep a vacuum that we have not

So check your closet and attic too
And if you find you have a few

Give one as a gift to the church
So we are not left in the lurch

Submitted by Megan Perrine

A tax-deductible gift this would be
Then UUs would get it for free

An upright would be great
So backs we do not break

So give your Hoover away!
And do your good deed today.

And this will be your fate
Helping the UUs clean their slate

The janitors will always love us
Michelle, Frank, Susie, and Gus

(Contact 278-3386 if you have a
vacuum to donate)

CUUF Budget News:

Submitted by Warren Kehn, Treasurer

Your CUUF Board approved a budget of \$16,580.00 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. As of Feb 28, we have expended \$7,652 leaving \$8,928 for expected expenses for the rest of the fiscal year.

Although the budget did not include an addition to our reserve fund, there may be some funds remaining at the end of the year which may be added to the reserve fund. I believe that it is very important to build up the reserves for future contingencies.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of our fellowship.

Have You Considered Making a Planned Gift to CUUF?

Submitted by Ruth Oppedahl

"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 or bequeaths to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please consider designating a specific sum or percentage of your estate or life insurance policy to CUUF. Or, perhaps you are able to offer a planned gift while you are living. Contributions may be set aside for specific purposes, with recognition or anonymously. Please discuss any ideas you may have with a board member.

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

Meet our Prairie Star District Liaison – May 9th

submitted by Ruth Oppedahl

Ruthie Rosauer is our connection to the Prairie Star District, our regional resource base for training, curriculum and support from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Ruthie will be at our all-music service on **May 9th** to learn more about our fellowship and look for ways to support us. In addition, Ruthie is a talented musician and will lead a singing meditation. Ruthie has offered to visit with those of us who would like to explore some of our current issues after the service. Committee chairs and other interested members are invited to stay late and engage in dialog about where we are headed and how PSD can help.

Prairie Star District is one of nineteen districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It serves almost 70 congregations in the Upper Midwest. Three full-time staff people and three part-time program and support staff members work with many volunteers to assist congregations. To learn more about PSD, see our Web site: www.psduua.org.

Thanks to Brenda – CUUF Administrator

Brenda Brouder has been doing a great job as our administrator. Please note that Brenda prefers being contacted regarding CUUF business at the following email address: cuufad@gmail.com.

Caring Corner

Best wishes and continued speedy recovery go out to Mike Crowell from his hip replacement surgery and Tod Rothe from his broken arm in a skiing accident.

Condolences to Mark and Brenda Brouder. Mark's grandfather recently passed away.

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), Jan Perkins 373-5585 (perkworks@yahoo.com), Patty Dufek 682-9015 (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 kkhasart@yahoo.com. Thank you. *Submitted by Karla Hasart*

March 14th: Andrea Polrzywinski, Debra McRoberts, Craig Mealman and Roger & Patty Mergendahl

March 28th: Tom Mitchell, Ruth Oppedahl

April 4th: Jan Perkins, Mark Perrine & Megine Perrine

April 25th: Patty Porter, Henry and Kristen Quinlan

May 9th: Beth Reed & Doug Liphart, Mary Rehwald, Anni Schneider

May 23rd: Jacki Rae-Ledin and Terry Ledin, Jeff Silbert, Stefania Strazalkowska

June is the picnic pot luck – stay tuned. Thank you again!

Service Dates for the remainder of the year:

March 14 th	April 4 th	May 9 th	June Picnic - to be announced
March 28 th	April 25 th	May 23 rd	

Annual Garage Sale – May 15th

The great UU GARAGE SALE is scheduled for May 15th. Volunteers and sale items are needed. Please put the date on your calendar and start organizing your goodies. Contact: Birgit Wolff, 765-4888, birgithwolff@yahoo.com.

Unitarian Universalist Association Events:

Submitted by Beth Reed

This year, the UUA General Assembly will be in **Minneapolis, MN!** It takes place from **June 23-27th**. 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 19th and 25th**. This could be a great part of your summer personal growth!

The **Prairie Star District Annual Conference** will be in Davenport, IA on **April 23-25th**. Full description follows. **Register by March 16th to receive the early bird discount.**

Feel free to contact a board member for further info or check out the UUA website: UUA.org.

Prairie Star District 2010 Annual Conference

****Deadline for early bird registration discount is March 16th. ****

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.psduua.org/AnnualConference2010. phone: 612-870-4823
Scholarships may still be available: www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2010/scholarships.

UU websites:

National organization – UUA: UUA.org

Information regarding famous persons who were or are UUs: www.famousuus.com

Regional organization: Prairie Star District: www.psduua.org

Prairie Star District newsletter: www.psduua.org/newsletter

The PSD Newsletter includes:

- summer camp info
- camp Star Trail Aug 1-6 near Omaha, NE
- camp Unistar – week-long camps in northern Minnesota
- Midwest UU Summer Assembly – near St. Louis, MO
- annual conference registration
- manage difficult behavior – online workshop
- working on disability issues
- news of people and congregations
- GA in Minneapolis

Letters to the Fellowship:

Remembering Kathy Logan: a Woman of Many Talents

submitted by Jan Perkins

Last summer our congregation and our community lost a vital member, who touched the lives of a wide variety of people. I was so impressed with Kathy Logan's many activities that I recently met with her husband, Warren Kehn, to find out more about her in order to honor her life and her contributions.

Kathy was a member of the Northwoods Harness Club. She was responsible for the annual Sleigh and Cutter Rally held at the Great Lakes Visitor Center. In fact, the club has created a trophy in her honor, according to an article in the Ashland Daily Press. The trophy "will be awarded annually to a member who does the most to support the club and work with the community, upholding the values Logan held so dear."

Kathy had been a UU in the vicinity of Klio, Michigan, and moved here in 1972. A teacher and a musician, she is remembered by past students for rewarding the completion of their assignments by playing the banjo.

Warren noted, "one thing that always stood out about Kathy is that she was always into kids." She taught every grade, K-12, including "at risk" students, and he remembers many times when he and Kathy would be out somewhere, and a person would come up and tell her, "I graduated because of you!" She was very involved in 4-H, especially enjoying getting the kids involved with making parade floats. And, of course, there was her Bushwackers day camp, held on the property on the White River where she and Warren built their most recent home.

She and Warren were very involved with the Chequamegon Theatre Association in Ashland, and he says she was instrumental in the purchase of their current building, and also cleaning it up for use. She was also a Town Supervisor for Sanborn, and worked hard on helping develop their comprehensive plan.

Kathy thought softball was a hoot. One year in the Marengo Softball League, she batted “600”; Warren said she was a “slow runner, and always joked that she would have to hit a ‘triple’ just to get to first base.”

When I asked Warren how they got involved with our UU fellowship, he said that she convinced him to attend several of the services when they were offered in Washburn. He said that she liked the intellectual stimulation without the dogma that many other churches have. She and Warren went on to share a Board of Directors position in our Chequamegon UU Fellowship.

Last July, just prior to her passing, her family put on a Celebration of Life at their White River home during several days over a weekend. Her family came from out of town, and friends stopped by to see pictures of her life, play music, eat great food, and just honor this remarkable woman. She was too ill to join outside, but was resting in a room nearby, and could hear the gathering. It was very moving to be a part of that, and I hope that wherever she is right now, there are some horses and kids around.

Book:

Evidence of the Afterlife – The Science of Near-Death Experiences, Jeffrey Long, MD with Paul Perry. Dr. Long examines near-death experiences from a scientific perspective, breaking down the experience into nine categories and comparing reported NDEs from around the world. *Marilyn Einspanier*

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

Newsletter Submissions:

If you have submissions for the newsletter please send them to: 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. Please submit your articles now. The April service date is early in the month (the 4th) and *I plan to be gone at the end of the month (Grand Canyon)*, so **please submit articles ASAP!**

UU Calendar of upcoming events:

UU:	
March 14th	Fellowship service - Mike Crowell – UU History and New Member Recognition – Karen Crowell, membership chair
March 15 th	<i>Beware the Ides of March</i> – Please submit April newsletter articles by March 15 th .
March 28th	Fellowship service - David Saetre – Rite(s) of Spring
April 4th	Fellowship service – David Saetre
April 23-25 th	Prairie Star District Annual Conference Davenport, IA
April 25th	Fellowship service - Sara Thomsen – Singer/Songwriter/Gay Perspective
May 9th	Fellowship service – All-Music Service – meet PSD liaison Ruth Rosauer
May 15 th	Annual Garage Sale – Volunteers and Resale items needed – Birgit Wolff, 765-4888
May 23rd	Fellowship service – Flower Ceremony and Dedication
June	Picnic – to be announced
June 23-27 th	UA General Assembly, Minneapolis, MN. CUUF will subsidize.
July 19 th -25 th	Mid West Leadership School, Beloit, WI
	Note: Fellowship service dates are in bold.

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

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