



The Open Door Newsletter
December 2012
Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Northland
College Campus

Fellowship Service – December 9th – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center
Speaker – James E. Pete – “Native American Spirituality and the Changing Seasons”

James E. Pete, whose Anishinaabe name is Guyaushk (Seagull) is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, is from the Eagle Clan, has two sons, and seven grandchildren. He currently serves as the Director of the Native American and Indigenous Culture Center for Northland College.

Jim will share teachings he learned from Tribal Elders about the relationship between spirituality and the natural settings of the four seasons. Within a traditional sense of many Tribal Communities, the teachings from Tribal Elders has been such an importance aspect, to the survival from many challenges for thousands of years.

Jim has a Doctorate in Business Administration and his doctoral project utilized these teachings, in the concentration and encouragement on the integration of traditional beliefs and philosophies, into the modern day Tribal Organization.

Holiday Fellowship Service – December 16th – 6pm, Alvord Theater in the Ponzio Center

On the evening of December 16th we will celebrate our annual holiday service. The Religious Education program has prepared a holiday play of the folk-story "The Wolf and the Good Woodsman." Campus Minister David Saetre will share reflections of the season. In addition, there will be congregational singing of traditional carols and special music by pianist Joni Chapman. The CUUF string ensemble will accompany our traditional walk through the spiral of greenery. The service will close with a candlelight carol followed by fellowship and refreshments. We hope you will join us for this special service.

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck hospitality—savory or sweet!

Thank Yous All Around:

from Jill Lorenz

I would like to say thank you to the person who brought a bag of doilies to my house after I left them under my chair at the Day of the Dead ceremony. I don't know who it was and I consider it a very generous act. Thank you.

from Megan Perrine – Faith in Action – Ashland County Program Coordinator

Faith In Action – Ashland County would like to thank the Chequamegon Unitarian Unitarian Fellowship for raking for a senior this fall. The seniors who received help with their fall chores through FIA-AC were very grateful for the help. FIA-AC is appreciative of CUUF's tradition of volunteer service to seniors through FIA. Thanks for helping with this fall effort!



Our “Welcoming Congregation” – What's Next?

submitted by Mary Wichita

At its November meeting, the CUUF Board voted unanimously to support “an initiative by members to begin the process of becoming certified by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation.” The meaning of this is summarized in the October newsletter. You can also find out about it in great detail on the UUA website by typing in, “welcoming congregations.”

The discussion that led to this motion very possibly reflects questions and perspectives held in our larger fellowship. The first question was “are we being exclusive in our inclusion, by focusing on only one group of people for explicit outreach?” No and Yes. The specific welcoming language will include all groups of people who have been marginalized, so it will communicate broad inclusivity. But, this initiative purposely focuses on LGBTQ individuals and their families because historically, discrimination, condemnation and exclusion have been the norm in the vast majority of our religious institutions. Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of inclusion, but even today, only 64% of UU Fellowships have engaged in the process and are designated “Welcoming Congregations.” An explicitly “welcoming congregation” creates a safe place where everyone knows they will be accepted.



Another question was, “if by being welcoming specifically to LGBTQ people, are we excluding those who may not feel comfortable with what they perceive as a lifestyle choice?” One Board member pointed out that this initiative extends our current principles and foundational beliefs. Another clarified that this designation would reflect on the entire fellowship and that all would still be welcome, regardless of personal feelings about the issue. A third stressed that it is important to be proactive about our welcoming stance and to make a stand for our beliefs of equality. There are many things we could do better in terms of being inclusive—this is a great place to start, and it may help us to move forward in other arenas.

By participating in forums and discussions, attending worship services specifically devoted to this initiative, reading articles in the newsletter and participating in outreach to the community, we will deepen our understanding of what it means to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer in our society. We learn how far we have come and where we need to go to achieve full acceptance and equality.

Kristin Quinlan and I are gathering ideas for discussion groups, after-worship speakers, movies and any other activity that will increase this understanding and extend our work into the larger community. We are excited about this opportunity and welcome your participation. Please contact me with your ideas, resources, etc. at mary.wichita@yahoo.com or 715-765-4132.

In Our Community:

Snow Shovelers Needed for Faith in Action!

Winter is here and volunteers are urgently needed to fill all the Faith In Action – Ashland County requests from senior citizens for help with snow shoveling in the city of Ashland. Volunteer shovelers are matched up with one household in order to keep it free of snow for the winter. Some volunteers will be needed short-term as back-up shovelers to fill in for volunteers who are gone for the holidays or to fill in for Northland students over winter break. In addition to shoveling, Faith In Action has several seniors in need of a volunteer willing to help with light household chores every other week. Faith In Action takes requests from seniors in need of assistance with basic household chores, fix-it jobs, shopping, transportation, respite, lamp repair, Arts/Sports Buddy, Pets ‘N Pals visits, and companionship.

If you are a senior in need of assistance or you would like to sign up as a Faith In Action volunteer call the Ashland County Aging Unit [715- 682-4414, ext. 3](tel:715-682-4414) or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org

In Our Community, continued:

First Friday Dances

The First Friday dance for December will feature the old time string band “The Omega Threes” and will be held on December 7th at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the Northland College campus. This is an old time dance where everyone is welcome and no partner is necessary. All dances are taught and called so no experience is necessary. The dances include reels, contras, square dances, circle mixers and waltzes as well as dances especially for kids. Children’s dances start at 7pm and the dances for adults start around 8pm. For more information, call 715-373-5013. Sponsored by Northland College Student Association and Chequamegon Folk Collective.

PFLAG Washburn: Upcoming Meetings

December 4th, MONTHLY MEETING at the Washburn Cultural Center, 7-9 pm: *Dealing With Family and Friends During the Holiday*

PFLAG board members Heather and Kat will facilitate a talking circle about dealing with family and friends during the holidays, which can be a tricky endeavor for LGBTQ people and their supports. They will share stories, solutions that have worked for others, and how you can be more inclusive at your holiday celebration. They will also discuss how to handle discrimination in a family situation. This is a safe and open conversation—feel free to join in or just sit back and listen. We always have refreshments, so in December we will have holiday eats for treats!

January 22nd, MONTHLY MEETING at the Washburn Cultural Center, 7-9 pm: *How to Start and Sustain a Gay/Straight Alliance*

NOTE: Tentative place and time—check website closer to the date: pflagwashburn.org

February 26th, MONTHLY MEETING at the Washburn Cultural Center, 7-9 pm: *Two Spirit Movie and Discussion*

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) – Washburn reaches youth and adults throughout the Chequamegon Bay area. We now have a website that contains chapters, events, updates, news and links to other resources. The web address is <http://pflagwashburn.org>.

Caring Committee Corner:

submitted by Jacki Rae-Ledin,

Please keep Patty Dufek and Mike Crowell in your thoughts and prayers as they work out some health issues. Does anyone living in Bayfield have room for a passenger for Sunday services? Would you like to join me in working on caring for our fellowship? Please call or email me and let me know. And, as always, if you have any needs for help or other caring committee issues please contact me. I'm always happy to help organize.

You can reach Jacki at antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com or 715-373-0347

News From Prairie Star District:

Camp StarTrail Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary!

Join us July 28 to August 2 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of Camp StarTrail. Located on the Platte River, midway between Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska, Camp StarTrail is the premier summer event for Unitarian Universalists in the Midwest. Less camp and more retreat, Camp StarTrail is a refreshing and rejuvenating multi-generational experience. Theme speaker for 2013 will be Rev. Meg Riley, a Huffington Post Blogger and Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, a 3,500 member UU 'Church Without Walls.' Register for Camp StarTrail BEFORE January 1, 2013 and receive a \$20 per person discount. Online registration begins December 1, 2012 at <http://www.psduua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail2013> . Send questions about camp to



campstartrail@psduua.org .

Annual Conference 2013, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 5-7, 2013

"Inspire the Future We Envision" is the theme for the upcoming annual conference. Earlier you've learned about some of speakers, and now we've received word about the entertainment lineup and couldn't be more thrilled. The Deep Dish Divas will perform Friday night, three women with gorgeous harmonies and instruments to match. Search for Deep Dish Divas on Facebook to see photos and find links to some of their music.



Saturday night, following the Judy lecture, workshops, and youth-led service, UUs will be treated to the acoustic blues of guitarist Bryce Janey. A versatile musician who has played in nationally renowned festivals through the U.S., Janey is a master of both electric and slide guitar. His latest compilation is described as a blend of soulful vocals and haunting slide guitar, reminiscent of the old Delta blues men, yet with a Midwest style and blend distinctly his own. We don't know exactly what Bryce has in mind for us, but we know it's going to be good. Most likely your foot won't be able to stop moving unless you nail your shoe to the floor. You can find him online at www.thejaney.com.

Can you really think of any better company than 250 UUs? Join us! For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2013>

Central Midwest District of UUA Presents: Woman Spirit 2013 Conference, February 1st - 3rd
Hosted by Unitarian Universalist Church West

There Is Something About The Women: The Art of Activism, featuring: Holly Near

Holly Near is an entertainer, teacher and activist whose career as a singer has been defined by her passion for human dignity. She is a skilled performer and an outspoken ambassador for peace whose portrait hangs at the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Holly will present Saturday morning's keynote speech and will lead a workshop on the Art of Activism Saturday afternoon. Holly is the pulpit guest on Sunday morning. Conference Cost includes Friday Opening Services, Saturday Workshops & Lunch

Early Registration: 140.00 through 12/31/12

Late Registration: 155.00 through 01/31/13

At the Door: 175.00

Saturday Concert: 35.00

Register at <http://www.womenandreligion.org>

Lodging: Radisson / (414) 257-3400

2393 Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Use code Woman Spirit Conference when registering

\$94.00 / night – reduced rate through 12/31/12

Holiday Inn Express / (414) 778-0333

11111 W North Avenue / Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Use code WWS when registering

\$79 / night – reduced rate through 12/31/12

PSD Awards, Nomination Forms Available

Every spring, at the District Conference, Prairie Star District acknowledges those hard-working UUs who bring life and vitality to our congregations. Maybe this year somebody from YOUR congregation will be honored with an award.

If you believe that someone from your group qualifies for one of the PSD awards, nominate him/her.

Nomination forms are due by January 31 - <http://www.psduua.org/Awards/NominatingForms>.

Regionalization: Sharing to Grow to Serve You Better

There have been a number of messages that have gone out about the Regionalization Transition in the past few months. If you missed any, you can read them at: <http://www.midamericauua.org/regionalization>

UUA (National Organization):

To read more about the UUA, please visit <http://www.uua.org/news/index.php>

CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2012



FELLOWSHIP SERVICES:

- December 9th** Fellowship Service, 10am, *2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center*
Speaker – James E. Pete – “Native American Spirituality and the Changing Seasons”
- December 16th** Holiday Fellowship Service & Potluck, 6 pm, *Alvord Theater in the Ponzio Center*

OTHER CUUF & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- December 7th **First Friday Dance**, *Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, Children's Dances begin at 7pm, Adult Dances at 8pm*
- December 4th **PFLAG Washburn Monthly Meeting**, *Washburn Cultural Center, 7pm-9pm*

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE NEW YEAR

- January 22nd **PFLAG Washburn Monthly Meeting**, *Washburn Cultural Center, 7pm-9pm*
- February 1st - 3rd **Woman Spirit Conference 2013**
- February 26th **PFLAG Washburn Monthly Meeting**, *Washburn Cultural Center, 7pm-9pm*
- April 5th - 7th **Annual Conference 2013**
- July 28th – August 2nd **Camp StarTrail 5th Anniversary Celebration**

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

Contact Information:

Administrator and Board Members:

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Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Twitter: <http://twitter.com/chequuf>