

CONVERSATION WITH EVA

Are you planting a garden this year? Have you ever planted one? I've always thought there is a marvelous lesson to be learned about spiritual growth from gardening. You know, before you plant the seeds, you have to figure out what you want to plant. You stand at the seed packet rack, twirling it around and around. . .thinking, "hmm, last year planting two whole packets of green beans was kind of overwhelming. I think we are still eating them!" You stand there and select your favorites, the ones that are worth the time and effort of growing them to perfection—sweet peas, carrots, basil—these are a few of my favorites.

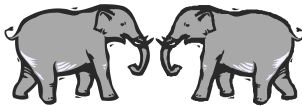
Most of us know that when we plant a garden, we have to think first and figure out what would be good for our space and us. You can't just take one of each, it would get all jumbled up and you wouldn't possibly have enough space. Your outcome may be kind of disastrous. You might find that your lack of decision and discernment led to chaos. No, you have to think about how much room you have, and how much light, along with what you really like to eat.

Now, spiritual growth is just like that. Please don't twirl the seed packet rack of spiritual choices and take one of everything. Think about what is good for you. Then tend that practice for a season. Try the choice out with several 'recipes' (different experiences in your life, and with different 'spices' (different mix of people and places). You will come to see if next year, when you stand at that 'seed rack', you want to pick up more of these 'seeds' or not!

But just remember, too much indecision, not taking the time to get to the store to buy the seeds, means that you don't get to try the succulent fruit of your labors. Growing a garden, real or spiritual, is hard work. There's lots of tilling, weeding, watering, hoeing, even harvesting. . .but nothing beats a home-grown tomato!

See you in church!

~Eva



OUR SPIRITUAL THEME FOR THE YEAR: "SHOUTING OVER THE BACK OF THE ELEPHANT"

This theme is based on the ancient Hindu story of the blind men and the elephant—with which, I am sure, you are familiar. Usually it is told to show how fallible/limited each person is, and how easy it is to be blind in our convictions. I am convinced that perhaps the primary duty as a religious person is to "shout over the back of the elephant"—to tell the other people what we are experiencing, and listening and honoring what others are telling us about their bit of the elephant.

I use the language of "shouting" not because I want to convey anger, but because I want to convey the energy and work it is to hold conversations about things that are deeply personal 'over the back of a very large elephant'. We have to choose to be about this process, and keep at it—even if it is tough going. We are a community that chooses to listen deeply, and honor what we hear.

~Eva



If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much.

~ Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

JUDY'S NOTES

In Yiddish, there is a word *kveln* [pronounced just as it's spelled], coming from the Middle High German *quellen*: "to gush, to swell"; more to the point, in Yiddish: "to beam with immense pride over an achievement." And pride did fill me on April 11th and 12th at the annual Prairie Star District conference in Omaha.

Friday evening, *Leigh Zeitz* carried our church banner during the opening ceremonies. At Saturday's Awards Luncheon, the first honor went to *Kamyar Enshayan*, who received a Keeping the Faith award; and the final honor was to *Mildred Pierce*, for the Unsung UU award. At the Business Meeting later that afternoon, as our church name was called, *Rev. Eva, Kathy Klink-Zeitz, Mica Lorenz, Mike Knapp, Leigh* and I stood tall as we were recognized among other congregations who received the Green Star award for membership growth in the year 2007-2008. So, I *kvelled*—yes, like a Jewish mother.

What did I do beside *kvell*, you're asking? Became inspired by keynote speakers, learned at workshops, and oh dear—networked! It's understandable that we are so engrossed in our own congregation that we may not think about the bigger picture, that we are part of a movement larger than ourselves. But indeed, we are. And seeing so many UUs at one site was a treat, renewing old friendships and making new ones. Hundreds of us laughed knowingly when a keynoter said that UUs always receive new ideas with an open mouth! And we were silent in our own thoughts as another keynoter challenged: How will we answer when our grandchildren ask what we did for Darfur. *How will we answer?*

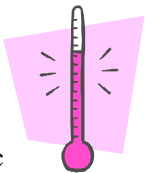
In my column next month, I'll be reflecting on my two years as your President. And since I will be returning to St. Petersburg, Russia for a third time in May, I anticipate that will be on my mind as well.

Judith Harrington, Executive Board President



FY2009 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN TOPS \$111,000!

This year's Stewardship Campaign has ended with great success! Thanks to all our members and friends who have made a financial commitment to the UUSBHC; we have raised \$111,973 for FY08-09! Your support will allow us to maintain all basic functions and expand activities for the coming year. Your generosity has resulted in an increased giving of \$13,600 over last year's total for an overall increase of 13.8%.



Besides our thanks to all of you for making this possible, our thanks to the following who helped to make this year's Stewardship Campaign happen; from committee members, Stewardship Dinner hosts, Stewardship Minute testimonials and Stewardship Sunday. Our thanks also to the following individuals: *Karen and Norm Kitchen, Mary Kay Madsen, Kevin Stafsholt, Dennis Harbaugh and Juanita Williams, Brittany Flokstra, Sue Hill, Colton Questra, Mica Lorenz, Pam Hays, Judith Harrington, Carolyn Hildebrandt and Thos Sumner, Mimi and Harold Kuester, Leigh Zeitz and Kathy Klink-Zeitz, Neil Martinsen-Burrell, Julie Fischer, Eva Cameron*, and all those wonderful musicians and members of the choir who made Stewardship Sunday zing!

Mike Knapp,
Stewardship Campaign

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Today as I write this and look out at the rain, I am hopeful that May will be a warm and sunny month. The Early Childhood Education Class will continue working on the *We Are Many, We Are One* curriculum. The Primary and Intermediate Classes will be working on their personal power. On May 4th the Alternative Activities classroom will be doing some planting in the garden so bring clothes that can get dirty. The UUYouth Class will be very busy – see their info below.

For more information on our programs, please take a moment to look at our table in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers Needed

Have you thought of volunteering? We are looking for people who can make a commitment to our young people. Check out our sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to see what is needed. We are also looking for teachers for next year!

- ◆ Early Childhood Education – *Shanlee McNally* and *Angie Stafsholt*
- ◆ Primary: 1st to 3rd graders – *Karen Impola*
- ◆ Intermediate: 4th to 6th graders – *Chris Rediske*
- ◆ UU Youth: 7th to 12th grade – *Amy Anderson* and *Mike Holtan*

SOME NOTES FOR PARENTS:

*Just a reminder that on the Second Sunday of each month we celebrate that month's birthdays. We get the birthday information from the registration forms, so if you haven't turned yours in, please do so.



*Remember that when your children are with you in the Fellowship Hall that *you* are responsible for them.

*There will be a picnic following the all-church clean-up on Sunday, May 25th.

Children's Chapel

Our Children's Chapel is at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday morning except May 25th. Adults are welcome to join.

Thank you for sharing your children and youth with our leaders and myself.

Kathy Klink-Zeitz, DRE



UUYOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The UUYouth have a lot of fun things planned for the end of the year. Please note these dates!

May 3rd—Volunteering at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank from Noon to 3:00 p.m. This will be followed by a screening of the documentary *"The Future of Food"* at the UUSBHC from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

May 4th—Final day with Peace & Social Justice curriculum.

May 11th—Youth encouraged to attend the Adult RE offering of *"The Moses Code"*.

May 18th—Clean the youth room!

May 25th—Help with the church clean-up and during lunch we'll have a wrap-up and planning session for a few summer get-togethers! PLEASE bring your summer calendars and dates you will be free!

Amy Anderson and Mike Holtan,
Youth Advisors



Time is the judge. If you manage to pass on what you have to the next generation, then what you did was right.

~ *Barbara Kingsolver*

Education commences at the mother's knee, and every word spoken within the hearing of little children tends towards the formation of character. ~ *Hosea Ballou*



CHILD DEDICATION

We dedicate our children in a church service to show to the world that we honor the growth of the spirit of the child, and we ask the congregation's support in helping us do this.

On Mother's Day, May 11th, we will again be dedicating children. If you would like to participate, register with *Eva* or *Kathy*. Don't hesitate to ask questions.



THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

This month the Committee on Ministry recognizes the child care workers of the UUSBHC. They are the individuals who take care of our dear young ones while we enjoy all that this church has to offer. In the nursery we find *Laura Hartmann*, *Erica Schroder* and occasionally *Crystal Buldhaupt* and *Chris Klink-Zeitz*. Conducting the Alternative Activities are *Amanda Burke* and *Randee Dewey*.

Our nursery and alternative activities workers provide a safe and fun environment for our children and babies to socialize, play, have a small worship time and center activities. They provide the base to what can become a wonderful religious education experience for the youngest among us. They have all also contributed to the stability and consistency of the child care at the UUSBHC. It is immeasurably important that the children be comfortable with the child care workers and the fact that the same wonderful people can be counted on to be there when they arrive makes bringing our children to church so much easier. Our workers have been very dependable, allowing for the children to become attached to our church and excited to attend with their parents.

Many of us are here in large part because of our children, and having children that are excited to go to church is wonderful. Thank you for your continued efforts and enthusiasm. I (*Kevin*) personally thank you all for being so pleasant even after you have been "leaked on".

The Committee on Ministry consists of *Leigh Zeitz*, *Christine Carpenter*, *Kevin Stafsholt*, *Shanlee McNally* and *Bob Robinson*.



CONVERSATION WITH EVA

Join *Eva* for relaxing conversation on Fridays in May from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. by stopping at *Cup of Joe's* on Main Street in Cedar Falls (across from the Regent Theatre). Enjoy this opportunity to celebrate Fridays with all who drop in.

Due to the First Friday *Beltane* celebration at the church on May 2nd, *Eva* won't be at the 'Cup' that Friday.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It's still not too late to sign up to attend our GA this year in Fort Lauderdale. Information is available on the UUA website which is <www.uua.org>. You'll meet UUs from all over the states, plus some visitors from all over the world. With lots of opportunities for discussion, learning, worship, singing, and fun (oh, and shopping!) You will find it an amazing experience.



MAY SERVICES

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. unless stated otherwise

May 4th

International Sunday: Transylvanian Unitarians (or "Wait, I didn't know we were related to VAMPIRES!") ~ Rev. Eva Cameron
You'll want to come, learn, and be inspired by the deep history of our Transylvanian Unitarian 'cousins'.

May 11th

Flower Communion ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Service For All Ages Team
A *Service for All Ages*, join us on this Mother's Day when we will honor the marvelous human potential to find hope, even when times are difficult. Please bring a flower to share. Families should bring a flower for each person in their family. They can be from your garden, purchased, or just a branch, or something else that represents hope to you. We will dedicate babies and children on this day.

May 18th

Religious Education Sunday ~ Rev. Eva Cameron, Kathy Klink-Zeitz
Eva and *Kathy* (our Director of Religious Education) join together to acknowledge and celebrate the power of religious education. Knowledge is power and our children and adults go forth from our doors with strength from the many lessons they learn here together. We will "bridge" High School seniors into our adult faith.

May 25th

Memorial Day Chapel ~ Rev. Eva Cameron
Join us for Chapel in honor of those who have died in service of our Country. Those who have experienced a personal loss are invited to bring an item or photo to place on our altar. (An All-Church Clean Up and Picnic to follow; see article for more details.)



CHECK THIS OUT!

A new book has been published by BlueBridge in New York titled *Revolutionary Spirits: The Enlightened Faith of America's Founding Fathers*, by the Rev. Gary Kowalski of the First UU Society of Burlington, VT.

It's a look at the core convictions of our nation's founders, examining the religious views of Franklin, Washington, Paine, Adams, Jefferson and Madison—men more inspired by the God of Nature than by the Bible. Fascinated by the scientific breakthroughs of the Eighteenth Century, they were experimenters and inventors whose greatest innovation was a legacy of free thought.

The book is of special interest to Unitarian Universalists. The framers stand at the fountainhead of our liberal faith in their commitment to religious liberty, sharing a vision of the blessings of diversity.

UU SPOTLIGHT



Kirby Sherman was fortunate to be raised in a questioning environment. When you meet her ask her about that moose collection and all those four-legged friends. They are an important part of her life. Listen to her UU journey.

"I was raised on a farm near Alden, Iowa. My family attended the United Church of Christ. Because the congregation was small, we had ministers fresh out of seminary. I was encouraged by them to question rather than learn Bible verses. I always enjoyed studying mythology and religion, which seem to me to be different aspects of the same coin.

"I attended college at UNI and graduated and married in 1972. My husband was a "fallen" Catholic and during our years of marriage I didn't attend any church. When we divorced in 1989, I started studying herbal medicine. With that came an interest in earth-based spirituality primarily focused on Native American traditions. In 1993 I attended Herb Fest, a gathering of herbal practitioners and students, and was introduced to *Jane Clow*. We developed a friendship and she invited me to attend the Deep Ecology rituals at the UU Society. I attended rituals for a couple years before finally attending a Sunday morning service. One of the first services I came to focused on Gnostic Christianity. My curiosity was piqued. I started attending regularly and decided to join in 1996. I felt I had found what I wanted—a group of spiritual seekers dedicated to a celebration of diversity.

"Lately I have had the wonderful opportunity to both attend and co-facilitate two small group ministry groups where I hope to have the opportunity to get to know other UUs better. I live with four dogs and five cats (yes, I do work part time for a veterinarian) and an overflowing moose collection at 609 Dundee in Waterloo. My contact info is 319-235-9249 or <moosetrekker@aol.com>."



ODE TO THE EMAIL SPELL CHECKER

Eye halve a spelling chequer.

I t came with my pea sea.

I t plainly marques four my revue

Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word

And weight four it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar write

I t shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid

I t nose bee fore two long

And Eye can put the error rite

I ts rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw

I am shore your pleased two no

I ts letter perfect awl the weigh

My chequer tolled me sew.

Dew not trussed yore spell chequer

two fined awl miss steaks!

Author Unknown

SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTION "WALKIN' THE TALK"

Last month's Social Action Plate Collection for the Eastside Ministerial Alliance netted \$290.25. Thanks to all who donated. April's collection was for the Feinstein Challenge to benefit the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. The total was not known as of this writing; I'll report that in the June/July Newsletter.

May's focus is on Habitat for Humanity. I attended an orientation meeting in April to learn more about HFH. They especially need volunteers to work on May 31st. I will have a sign up sheet at the Social Action table, or you can email me at <sherih@cfu.net> if you wish to volunteer or just want to know more. Someone from Habitat for Humanity will be speaking Second Hour on May 18th about their program and the plate collection will be May 25th.

The Social Action Committee is now working on who we will take up collections for in the next year. We welcome any suggestions for worthy causes about which you may feel passionate. **The deadline for submissions is May 14th.** It would be ideal if those who suggest a cause might help to oversee that cause for that month. For example, things like decorating the bulletin board, finding a speaker or other RE event, and setting up a volunteer opportunity if that applies, would be very much appreciated.

Please keep in mind the criteria for our consideration is as follows:

1. An activity option, that volunteering opportunities are available.
2. Of course the monetary donation is important too.
3. Availability for an RE option such as a speaker, movie showing, etc.

Send any suggestions to me at the email address above, call me at 277-7558, or talk to me at coffee hour.

Thanks for "Walkin' the Talk".

Sheri Huber-Otting
Social Action Chair



Child's letter to God:

Dear God,
We read Thomas Edison made light but in Sunday School they said you did it. So I bet he stole your idea.

Donna



FVUUM

The Friendship Village UU Ministry continues with its monthly meetings at Lakeview Lodge every second Wednesday from 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. (which includes lunch).

Please R.S.V.P. to *Brian Forster* (291-8427). You don't need to be a resident to attend. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 9th.



I told my mother-in-law that my house was her house, and she said, "Get the heck off my property." - *Joan Rivers*

*Life isn't about how to survive the storm,
but how to dance in the rain!*



FAMILY FOLK ENSEMBLE LIVES ON!

Family Folk Ensemble is continuing on all Wednesdays in May! Dinner is from 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and singing is from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to join us for dinner, even those who will not be rehearsing with us later. The charge is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, and \$10.00 for families. R.S.V.P. to *Carolyn Hildebrandt* at 235-9285 or <Carolyn.Hildebrandt@uni.edu> by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Everyone is invited to rehearse with us, even those who did not attend the dinner. We are looking for people of all ages who can sing and/or play guitar, violin, viola, cello, string bass, keyboard, hammer dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, flute, recorder, penny whistle, bagpipe, percussion, etc. Children and teenagers are welcome. Children under the age of twelve must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Childcare will be provided for children who will not be rehearsing with us.



We will be focusing on Celtic music (traditional, new age, and fusion), American folk music (especially songs of peace and justice), and whatever else people want to play!



Memorial Day was first observed in 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery where members of both the Union and Confederate Armies were buried. It was the idea of Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, who said he was creating Memorial Day, "For the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land."



Our thoughts go out to members dealing with health issues although, at the time of this writing, it seems most are healthy!

What a joy for *Esther Kieffer* and family on the good news they received regarding her son *Peter's* surgery.

Frank and *Mary Olson* are the proud grandparents of *Willow Katherine Olson*, born March 27th in Plainfield, IL to *Andy* and *Kristy Olson*. Grandma says four and a half year old *Jack* is being helpful as the older brother.

Our sympathy to the family of *Elizabeth Diestler* who died April 10th. There was a service at the church on April 16th conducted by Lay Minister, *John Miller*.

The members of the Caring Committee are *Esther Kieffer* (Chair), *Betsy Brant*, *Sally Browne*, *Jim Paprocki*, *Bob Robinson*, *Cathy Ryan*, *Virginia Mahn*, *Donna Davis*, and *Eva Cameron*.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays at 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. unless stated otherwise

May 4th

Conscious Living – Believe it or not, summer is around the corner—and with that in mind, *Julie Fischer* and *Juanita Williams* will share stories of their environmental adventures, from the Cedar River to Costa Rica, hoping to pique your interest in similar opportunities. We welcome participants to bring information about upcoming “eco-activities” to share with the group as we make plans for summer fun!

New Members’ Meeting – A chance to chat with *Eva* about what membership in the UUSBHC entails.

May 11th

Circle Way – *Deblyn Russell* and *Sue Wilson* will be showing the newly released documentary about which everyone is talking, “*The Moses Code*”. This is your chance to be *in the know* about this new film.

UU Stories That Changed My Life – New series, join fellow UUs as they relate interesting and informative stories about events that changed their lives. This Sunday *Esther Thomas* will tell her story.

May 18th

Buddhist Path – Individuals are invited to meet with others who are interested in exploring with *Rev. Eva Cameron* about Buddhist spiritual practices and their lives.

Walking the Talk – *Shalon Atwood* will give a talk on the excellent work being done at Habitat For Humanity, including some houses where we can help. This is another opportunity to do something that can really change some one’s life in a positive and meaningful way.

May 25th ~ 10:30 a.m. / Noon

UUSBHC Annual Spring Clean-up / Year-end Potluck Picnic

OTHER ADULT RE ACTIVITIES

Buddhist Path: every Thursday from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Join *Eva* in the balcony for meditation, walking meditation, and discussion of Buddhist topics. All are welcome.

First Friday: Beltane ~ May 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

This is an ancient Gaelic holiday celebrated around May 1st; the date is also known as May Day. Historically, this festival was celebrated in Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. There were similar festivals held at the same time in the other Celtic countries of Wales, Brittany and the county of Cornwall. Bealtaine and Samhain were the leading terminal dates of the civil year in Ireland though the later festival was the most important.

What to bring:

★ **A dish to pass**—If you can’t cook anything Irish then try one of the Irish recipes available; they are in a magazine rack in the fellowship hall of the church. If that doesn’t work for you, then prepare one of your favorite Mid-Western recipes or pizza! There’ll be plenty of electrical hook ups for crock pots.

★ **Beverage**—*we supply the water and juice*. You may bring your own beverages if you so desire.

★ **Place settings**—*we provide*. As for clean-up, we need a few volunteers to help with clean-up afterwards.

★ **Bring** your family, friends, or anyone who you think would enjoy an evening of fellowship and learning from knowledgeable people with different religious outlooks.



Just a few closing words from your Interim A.R.E. Chair:

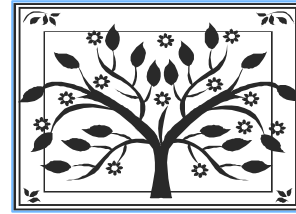
It’s been a privilege to fill in for *Pam Hays* these last several months, even though the shoes were pretty big to fill. I just wanted to say thank you for your patience and for the chance to serve you all in this capacity.

Peace and Love,

Bill Chene

CURIOUS ABOUT MEDITATION?

Wondering how Buddhism is different from other religions? Wishing for greater calmness, centeredness in your life? Join the Buddhist Path every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. for a chance to explore Buddha’s teachings and to meditate. Contact *Eva* with questions.



GREEN SANCTUARY: HOW ARE WE DOING?

About a year has passed since our congregation achieved acceptance with the UU Ministry for the Earth as a Green Sanctuary Congregation. That step meant we had proven ourselves committed to environmental action, to conservation by living consciously “carbon-light”, to composting and recycling both at church and in our homes, and to continuing education of each other and our children in these earth-centered values.

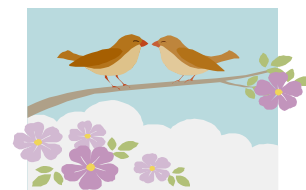
We have accomplished many of our start up goals. Our kitchen has a new Energy Star refrigerator and dishwasher. We are, for the most part, abiding by our vow to abjure use of throw away plastics and styrofoam for our refreshments and dinner events. Thanks to the consistent help of *Esther*, we are recycling paper, cardboard, glass, cans and plastics. *Roger* has begun research for the most efficient furnace replacement. *Lynn Brant*, *Ruth Walker*, *Kamyar Enshayan*, and others have continued to pursue the coal power plant issue and kept our congregation informed.

But there are other goals still to be addressed: caulking all the windows, setting up a more permanent composting bin, and erecting a garden shed for tools and storage. In addition, we need to tighten our communication with the Committee on Ministry and RE to make sure we are doing at least one chalice-lighting or service per month on topics related to the Seventh Principle. Also, the bulletin board needs to be refreshed more often. If you feel called to invest your talents in any of these areas, you will be welcomed with open arms.

As we move into the growing season, we will try a method called “lasagna gardening”, which involves planting into layers of various composting materials. We will also do some edible landscaping, interspersing vegetables with flowers. *Nita Stewart* has already delivered a load of healthy bedding plants to get us started.

So let’s all enjoy watching the Peace Garden develop and the native prairie patch (a.k.a. rain garden) expand. We are hoping to involve the children more this spring with planting, and we’ll need all hands on deck for the upcoming annual spring clean up day. Thanks to everyone for your continued enthusiasm, encouragement, and hands-on help in all these efforts.

Julie Fischer



Time is the only comforter for the loss of a mother.

~ *Jane Welsh Carlyle*

MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY AT CHURCH

Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for a Chapel Service as we honor those who have died in service of our country.

Work Party at 10:30 a.m.

Bring your work gloves, dust rags, polish, window cleaner, vacuums and gardening gear—for our semi-annual indoor/outdoor all-member clean up! Dress for work, and bring a fun heart—as we *do* have a lot of fun working together to spruce up the place.



Picnic at 12:00 p.m.

For our Year-end Potluck Picnic and barbeque: bring a dish to share, your own beverage, and meat to grill. We will provide grills, hot dogs and table service.

Eva has been thinking maybe root beer floats would be fun! Let's relax and welcome in summer together.



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING -- APRIL 20, 2008

Summary of Highlights

- *Rev. Cameron's* monthly report.

Received

- Monthly Finance Report, *Karen Kitchen*.
- Final Nominating Committee Report.

Discussion

- *Karen Kitchen* and *Judy Harrington* will review requests from two organizations for ongoing building rental, fee waived. Report will be given to Board for its consideration at the May meeting.
- Board provided its insights to *Judy* regarding Agenda for Annual Meeting.
- Committee restructuring item was removed from the table for discussion. Two conclusions:
 1. Board agreed to request representation from the Committee on Ministry (CoM) at the May Board meeting. Purpose: Board would like clarification from the CoM about its concerns regarding current Board and committee structure.
 2. Ad hoc Restructuring Committee will be asked to continue its service to the Board. The Board will 'recommission' the committee once it has conferred with the Committee on Ministry.
- Board is requesting that individuals who routinely make calendar decisions meet on May 21st for purpose of looking ahead to Fiscal Year '09 calendar.

Action Items

The following items received Executive Board approval:

- March Board Minutes.
- Proposed Fiscal Year 2009 congregational budget.
- Revised *Policies & Procedures Handbook*, as of March 2008, along with Finance Committee statement that has been added to Handbook since then regarding child care priority funding.
- One-year loan (with option to request extension) of *John Page's* "Composition in Blue and Black" (the golden rectangle) to *Chris Bubser*, *Rita Lynn's* son, who is a member of First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis. Chris is developing plans to display the work in various UU churches in his area, and will keep the work safely stored at other times.

Submitted by *Judith Harrington*,
Executive Board President

CONSCIOUS LIVING

"*Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.*"

~~ Steven Wright

"*Whoever plants trees loves others besides self.*"

~~ Greek and English proverb, adapted

As you welcome spring—with heightened appreciation this year!—commit to stretch your 'green muscles' in one or two new ways (or make a plan to do several, maybe one each week). A quick look around your home and yard will help you find some possibilities.



♻️ **'Energy vampires'** we don't need; all the equipment with tiny "on" lights we are not needing/using at the moment: TV set(s), sewing machine, computer (yeah, you use it, but not overnight!), cd player, paper shredder, and more. MAKE A GAME to see how many you can find at home or in your workplace by looking at the room when it is semi-dark. Put as many as you can on a POWER STRIP/SURGE PROTECTOR, so you can turn them off easily.

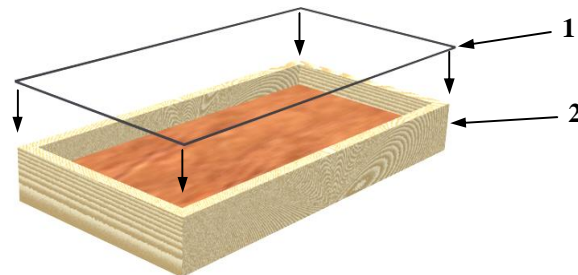
♻️ **Save 10+ gallons of water every morning** by turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, soaping up hands, and shaving. Remember "short showers"? Save water and fuel to heat that water. (Go one better: take a "Navy shower"—get wet, turn the shower off, soap up, get clean, and then turn water on to rinse off.)

♻️ **Turn off the lights** when you leave a room empty.

♻️ **Drive up less. Walk in more.** (And you'll get to greet your friends in the community more.) If you must drive up for that prescription or hot/cold drink, turn off the engine, because you know they'll take more than thirty seconds to serve you. If you have to drive, **combine errands**. MAKE A GAME of including as many errands as you can on that route.

♻️ **Je t'adore!** ('Enviro-French' for "**Shut the door.**") Remember your folks saying every winter, "Don't heat up the great outdoors"? (And in summer, "Don't cool the great outdoors"?)

♻️ **Grow something green** (and without pesticides). Even if you don't think of yourself as a gardener,* you can grow your own salads all spring-summer-fall with a little "Sun Box" which will protect your seedlings and plants in Iowa's odd seasons (also more portable, multi-level, and expandable as plants grow than the traditional 'cold frame'). Can even be made for an apartment balcony! Picture and instructions below are adapted from *Square Foot Gardening*, by Mel Bartholomew:



1. Cover - storm window or clear acrylic (hardware store will cut to size); movable for cool/warm weather, or screen for summer
2. Box frame(s) - made of 2x4s or 2x6s to match the cover size (and your space). Start with one frame and add one or two more if needed, set on top of the original as your plants grow.

* *The Basic Book of Organic Gardening* is a small paperback with all you need to know about planting.

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