

UUSBHC February Newsletter 2004

MITTEN TREE HELPS WARM LITTLE HANDS

Seventy-three pairs of mittens and gloves, five hats, and three scarves from our annual UU Mitten Tree were donated to the Freeburg School in Waterloo. They will be distributed by their family worker who also works with the various Head Start sites in the area. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause to warm the hands and hearts of these little ones.

Margie Miller

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Committee budgets are due by Saturday, January 31st to the Finance Committee. They can be sent to *Mary Kay Madsen* at <marykaym4@mchsi.com>.

PRAIRIE STAR DISTRICT CONFERENCE "GROWING SEASON"

This year's conference will be held April 23rd through 25th in Kansas City. Join with UUs from eight Midwestern states to discuss issues important to all of us. Mark your calendars now. More information on registration will be in next month's newsletter.

COME DREAM A DREAM WITH ME Our 2004-2005 Stewardship Campaign

This year we dream to be a little bit different than our prior approaches to our Annual Stewardship Campaign. Our goal will move us beyond merely raising the funds needed to keep our doors open, to our dream of calling a new full-time minister and restoring our full affiliation with both the UUA and the Prairie Star District. We invite you to come dream a dream with the Finance Committee through your participation in one of the many Canvass Circle Suppers occurring on February 27th, 28th or 29th. It is our dream to canvass all members and friends within one weekend.

How will this dream unfold? You will be asked to attend one of the many Canvass Circle Suppers being offered on the Stewardship Campaign weekend. The site host will coordinate with their guests as to what they will be asked to contribute to the pot-luck event similar to the old Circle Supper format.

Next you simply attend the event to eat, talk and get better acquainted with a small number of fellow UUs and friends. Highlighting the evening's fellowship will be the premier of our new DVD, which will tell our dream for the future. You will then be asked to make your financial commitment to the Society for the 2004-2005 pledge year.

Sounds simple, and it is. Simply sign up for the Canvass Circle Supper of your choice when they are posted in Fellowship Hall during the month of February!

If you are interested in joining our "Dream Team" of Canvass Circle Supper hosts, contact *Mary Kay Madsen* or *Mike Knapp*. Hosts will not be asked to solicit guests, only to show the DVD and distribute hand outs.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

It has been a couple of years and I would like to try a rummage sale again. If enough people are willing to help sell and (most important) if we have enough to offer, I will be organizing a Rummage Sale with profits to the church. The sale would be Wednesday, April 28th. Contact *Mica Lorenz* if you will have items to offer (no clothes please) and if you are willing to help with set up the evening before, or working the sale. If there is enough interest I will announce the sale in the March and April newsletters.



Contact *Mica Lorenz* at <Micalea@mchsi.com> or 291-6509.

NEWS FLASH: MUSIC AND CHILDCARE

As our music department is growing, needing extra practices and an increase in committee meetings, we have added more childcare. There will be childcare now every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. *Yulian* will continue with the 1st and 3rd Sundays and our new employee, *Jon*, will be working during the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays. Please take your child up to the nursery and sign them in there.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I know you all join me in the excitement of welcoming our Interim Minister, *Mark Allstrom*, and his wife, Louise, to our UU family. Mark is jumping right in with four services this month. The Board will be meeting with Mark and *Nancy Hegge*, Prairie Star District Executive, for a goal-setting retreat March 5th and 6th. We are all looking forward to having a full time Minister in the pulpit again and to his assistance as we prepare for our next ministry.

I know I am looking forward to getting his input on some of my goals. My two-year term as Board Chair will be ending at the end of June. One of my goals that I have not yet realized, and still hope to accomplish, is to facilitate a functioning and ongoing Growth Council. I know that to achieve the membership numbers we need (and to sustain them) we need to have an organized thoughtful plan. Now that we have elected a Ministerial Search Committee, the foyer remodeling planned, funded, and the contractor chosen, and an Interim Minister selected and hired, I hope we can focus on the steps we need to take to make sure we are a welcoming, inviting and growing congregation.

In addition, I hope to get the covenant ministry groups started. We have discussed both of these projects at congregational retreats and I appreciate all of the input and interest the congregation has shown.

Officially the Welcoming Congregation Workshops were finished in January. However, at the final meeting there was general agreement that there were a few areas that needed more discussion. I will be offering some additional workshops during Adult R.E. in March and April so, watch your newsletter for more information. We will be proposing some By-Law changes at the Annual meeting. These changes make it clear that we do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. We will be asking the congregation to vote to become an official Welcoming Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON ANNOUNCEMENTS

To shorten the time we take for Sunday service announcements and improve the quality of those announcements we ask that you:

- Please stand up and come forward with all other announcers when the facilitator calls for announcements. Then you'll be up front and ready to make your announcement as soon as the person before you is finished.
- Please read your announcement. A written announcement could be read two or three times in the same amount of time it can take us to think of all the details in front of the microphone.

Thank you for your efforts in improving our announcements.

RECOGNITION AND SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to say Thank You on behalf of the congregation to the Board and especially to the ad-hoc Interim Minister Search Committee: *Leigh Zeitz, Christine Carpenter, John Miller, Karen Impola, Sue Hill, Mary Kay Madsen* and *Mike Knapp* for their hard work and successful search. Our Interim Minister, *Mark Allstrom*, and his wife, *Louise*, will be joining us Sunday, February 8th.

Thank you also to the Sunday Service Committee: *Del Carpenter, John Miller, Brittany Flokstra, Karen Impola, Glenyce Butschy, Lynn Brant* and *Donna Davis* for doing such a great job during the interim period between Ministers. They were able to offer us a wonderful variety of Sunday services of the high quality we have come to expect every Sunday. I am sure they are especially glad to have the *Rev. Mark Allstrom* join them on the Sunday Service Committee.

Thank you to all who joined us for the special clean-up/work day January 17th. It is great to see the church sparkling and to fill up that dumpster with the junk that seems to accumulate in the hidden corners!

Thank you to all who contributed to the foyer remodeling. The contract has been given to the low bidders, Modern Builders of Waverly. We are optimistic that work will begin soon and we will be seeing a more welcoming entrance and a quieter sanctuary.

Thanks to *Judith Harrington, Bob Robinson, Dennis* and *Juanita Harbaugh-Williams, Jan Gallagher*, and *Kay Rewerts* for their contributions to the "Gifts to Your Church Tree". Thanks to these donations we have: a nice new announcement board and chalk board in the fellowship hall, new batteries for the nursery toys, coffee for the kitchen, and three new hymnals. We will soon be announcing a campaign to purchase a few more new hymnals. If you would like to donate for a hymnal (perhaps in honor of a special person) contact *Karen Impola*.

And finally, thank you to all who contributed and helped move furniture and other items for *Mark and Louise Allstrom*. You helped turn an empty house into a home. The Allstrom's address is 315 Wema in Evansdale.

OUR WHOLE LIVES

The dates for the February O.W.L. youth education meetings are Friday the 6th and Saturday, the 21st. The time will be 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Meetinghouse, in the Junior High room.

Barbara Harvey

ANNUAL MEETING



The 2004 *Annual Meeting* will be Sunday, April 18th, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. Please mark your calendar.



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We have hired *Jon Welchman*, a UNI student, to fill one of the AA/RE positions. He will be working upstairs with the 2nd – 5th graders. Please introduce yourself as you pick up your children.

Just a reminder—an adult needs to be with any child in any of the classrooms including the Shane room (the playroom by the fellowship room). When you pick up your child from their classroom they need to remain with you. Thank you.

February activities:

First hour – Alternative Activities

We will continue to explore Unitarian Universalism by looking at the lives of famous UUs.

Second hour – Religious Education and Exploration

The children will be studying different religions and ways of life including: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Quakerism, Hinduism, and others. We started studying the Chinese New Year in January.

OUR UU YOUTH IN THE NEWS

The Youth and the RE Committee have appreciated the consistent commitment of two of our adult members, *Karen Miller* and *Brian Forster*.

Karen has been sharing her teaching skills as she utilized the curriculum “Passport Program: A Journey Through Emotional, Social, Cognitive, and Self Development”, written and published by our own *Ann Vernon*. She led the youth in the curriculum portion of RE last year, as well as this year. Thanks, Karen, for the energy you bring to our youth program!

Brian has been volunteering as a “Second Leader” by being a resource and occasionally facilitating a discussion, but mostly, just “being there” and sharing his enjoyment of young people. He’s volunteered to facilitate the “Coming of Age” Program in the near future. Thanks, Brian, for so generously sharing your time!

MUSIC ADDENDA

Here are two corrections/additions regarding the music in recent services:

“*Lord of the Dance*”, which was sung on December 14th, is a traditional tune with words by Sidney Carter.

“*I Had an Old Coat*”, sung on January 4th, was recorded by Sally Rogers, but was in fact written by Paul Kaplan.

Karen Impola

CONSCIOUS LIVING CORNER

It is the beginning of a new year and although I don’t make New Years Resolutions, I have been thinking about what I have done well this last year and how I can improve on my commitment to Conscious Living this next year.

I will continue to monitor my TV viewing. I will evaluate the role that money plays in my life and continue to avoid impulse buying. I want to spend more time on the difficult task of sorting materials I have accumulated over the years (sixty-seven in the same house) and finding places where they are welcomed, thereby reducing clutter.

Most of all, I want to spend more time appreciating the world around me and all the blessings in my life.

Mildred Pierce

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

February 1st

Imbolc Celebration -- Deep Ecology Group—The somewhat silly celebration of Groundhog's Day is actually a remnant of a much more serious pagan holiday, Imbolc. It marks the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, and thus it is a kind of turning point when winter begins to wane and spring gets ever closer. It also marks the end of the period of minimum sun energy hitting the earth. Possibly, this is why the groundhog seeing his shadow came to be associated with the prediction of the remaining length of winter. It is also celebrated by Catholics as St. Bridget's Day. Join the Deep Ecology group as we truly celebrate this turning point in the cycles of Nature.

Conscious Living Discussion Group

February 8th

Greet Our New Minister!—This is your first chance to interact informally with our new interim minister, *Rev. Mark Allstrom*. Take this opportunity to get to know him better!

UU Theological Issues Book Discussion Group

February 15th

Conscious Living Discussion Group

Social Action Proposals—The congregation has allocated one percent of its budget each year for a social action project. The main criterion is that it be one where UUs can serve as volunteers and help make our Society a more visible presence in the community. Please bring your ideas for how to spend this money, and be prepared to listen to the ideas of others.

February 22nd

UU Theological Issues Book Discussion Group

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation—This is part of our continuing series of discussions, following a curriculum prepared by the UUA, that prepare our Society to be a truly welcoming congregation to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. Led by our Board Chair, *Mica Lorenz*.

February 29th

What is Quakerism?—This session inaugurates a monthly discussion group on Quaker beliefs. All are invited to share in the discussion.

Wisdom Circle—Topic TBA



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The congregation's Ministerial Search Committee held its Retreat on Saturday, January 17th. For the first few hours, a professional facilitator guided us in getting to know one another better and focused on topics such as consensus-building. For the rest of the Retreat, we conducted organizational business, including identification of Committee members for the following necessary responsibilities:

Chair--*Judith Harrington*, including preparing Newsletter articles and being in charge of the Committee's communication with the congregation;

Secretarial Duties--*Shanlee McNally* will record minutes and communicate with candidates, and *Carolyn Hildebrandt* will create bulletin board materials;

Treasurer--*Pam Hays*;

Packet Editor and Distributor--*Jan Gallagher*, assisted by *Lynn Brant*;

Local Arrangements--*Shanlee*;

Arrangements for pre-candidates' services in 'neutral' churches--*Carolyn*;

Reference Checker--*Esther Kieffer*;

Congregational Survey Coordinator--*Lynn*, assisted by *Jan*. *Pam Hays* will also serve as the Committee's representative on the Negotiation Team.

In our next article, we will provide preliminary information about how we will be gathering input from you and other sources. In the coming months we will describe more of the Search process. Thank you for your trust in us; we are enthused and enjoy working together.

Judith Harrington, Search Committee Chair

HERE YE!! HERE YE!! 2004 CHILI COOKOFF



Sunday, February 8th at 12:30 p.m.

UU Fellowship Hall

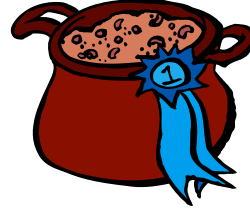


We need everyone to be looking through your recipe books for the chili you will make, or create your own. The sign up sheet is on the table by the kitchen. Think of a special name for your chili. No one is too old or too young (with help) to do this. The trophy you could win is getting bigger and better every year. The poem on the trophy reads:

Chili beans are red
But come in other colors too.
We appreciate diversity
Here at the UU.

Atheist, Buddhist,
Christian, and Pagan,
With beans, without beans,
Con carne, and vegan

To say diversity is the spice of life
Is anything but silly.
It is the variety of type and spice
That allows UUs to make great chili!



THANK YOU!

The Foyer Renovation Committee would like to thank the following folks for their contribution to the Bev Forster Memorial Fund:

Vicki Edelnant, Bob and Marie Robinson, Judith Harrington, Mildred Pierce, Deb Johnson, Mica Lorenz and Mike Knapp, Ramona Rooff, Yvette and Ray Berner, Gordon and Dottie Harrington, Brian Forster, John and Marilyn Desmond, Susan Hill, Dick and Vivian Shane, Janet Gallagher, Russ Campbell, Ron Flory, Neil and Nancy Langenwalter, Rita Lynn, Jeannette Gibson, John and Mary Lou Page, Clarence Alling, Steve and Gerry Chamberlin, Marvin and Joan Webster-Vore, Florence Petrides, John and Karen Miller, Ann Vernon, Karen Impola, Lynn and Betsy Brant, Marilyn Bolin, Mary Kay Madsen, and Bob and Esther Jones.

We would like to thank *Al and Pam Hays* for their contribution to landscaping the courtyard.

In addition to the above contribution, *Dick and Vivian Shane* contributed money in memory of *Maude Shane and Larry Taylor*, and *Janice and Dean Crowe* contributed in memory of *Gwen Stedry Bailey*, all of which will be used for the Foyer Renovation Project.

Soon you will be seeing a new entry space to the Society that will enhance our building, soundproof the sanctuary, and provide for a better flow into different parts of our building. Thank you for making this possible!

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COME HEAR OUR INTERIM MINISTER

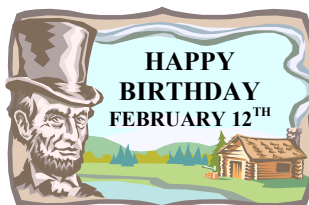
Our Interim Minister, *Mark Allstrom*, will be speaking on four Sundays in February. Join us on these dates.

February 8th - "The Best Gifts": The spiritual life is learning that gifts are not given and received. They are best when shared.

February 15th - "Valentines": I never much liked Valentines Day. I tend to be cynical about it. But as disparaging as cynicism can be, it also helps us more fully understand ourselves.

February 22nd - "Are We Still Needed?": What are we about? What is it to be a Unitarian Universalist?

February 29th - "UUism and the Cosmic Comedy": It seems to me that the most striking—and unique—aspect of Unitarian Universalism is its essentially comic approach to life, existence and our trials and tribulations. If this is true, what are we doing and why?

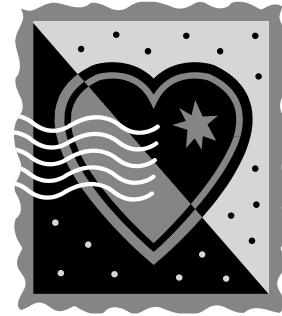


Recently I ran across the following poem. It occurred to me that it might just *stir up a memory or two* for any of us in the “boomer” category.
Enjoy, Gerry (Editor)

AFTER SCHOOL ON ORDINARY DAYS

After school on ordinary days we listened
to The Shadow and The Lone Ranger
as we gathered around the tabletop radio
that was always kept on the china cabinet
built into the wall in that tenement kitchen,
a china cabinet that held no china, except
thick and white and utilitarian,
cups and saucers, poor people’s cups
from the 5 & 10 cent store.
My mother was always home
from Ferraro’s Coat factory
by the time we walked in the door
after school on ordinary days,
and she’d give us milk with Bosco in it
and cookies she’d made that weekend.
The three of us would crowd around the radio,
listening to the voices that brought a wider world
into our Paterson apartment.

Later we’d have supper at the kitchen table,
the house loud with our arguments
and laughter. After supper on ordinary
days, our homework finished, we’d play
monopoly or gin rummy, the kitchen
warmed by the huge coal stove, the wind
outside rattling the loose old windows,
we inside, tucked in, warm and together,
on ordinary days that we didn’t know
until we looked back across a distance
of forty years would glow and shimmer
in memory’s flickering light.



by Maria Mazziotti Gillan from *Italian Women in Black Dresses*

***** 2004 *****

- FEBRUARY 1** 10:00 A.M. **“PAY IT FORWARD”** – Carolyn Hildebrandt
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. R.E. for Youth / Adult Education
- FEBRUARY 8** 10:00 A.M. **“THE BEST GIFTS”** – The Rev. Mark Allstrom
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. R.E. for Youth / Adult Education
- FEBRUARY 15** 10:00 A.M. **“VALENTINES”** – The Rev. Mark Allstrom
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. R.E. for Youth / Adult Education
- FEBRUARY 22** 10:00 A.M. **“ARE WE STILL NEEDED?”** – The Rev. Mark Allstrom
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. R.E. for Youth / Adult Education
- FEBRUARY 29** 10:00 A.M. **“UIISM AND THE COSMIC COMEDY”** – The Rev. Mark Allstrom
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. R.E. for Youth / Adult Education

