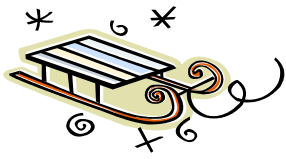


UUSBHC January 2004 Newsletter



IOWA BREAST CANCER EDU-ACTION

Iowa Breast Cancer Edu-action, working with the Black Hawk County Health Department, announced publication of two different breast cancer treatment guides: one in Serbo-Croatian for the Bosnians in Iowa and the other, an update of the Iowa Breast Cancer Resource Guide. Both are free of charge to Iowans.

ZA ZENE SUOCENE S RAKOM DOJKE (For Women Facing Breast Cancer) is for Bosnian women recently diagnosed with breast cancer. This comprehensive, yet easy to read, American Cancer Society publication was developed and written by women who have had suspicious breast lumps, biopsies, or a diagnosis of breast cancer.

If you know or want to help someone who is Bosnian and facing a breast cancer diagnosis, get a copy to learn about the basics of mammography, breast biopsies, cancer staging, treatment options, and breast reconstruction. It also gives general information about joining a clinical trial and has a list of questions to take up with a doctor or nurse.

The updated Iowa Breast Cancer Resource Guide 2004, one of the very best Iowa resources on breast cancer, is once again available. The Guide contains advice for getting the best breast cancer care. It includes the kind of information breast cancer survivors think every breast cancer patient needs. Get a copy to learn about getting quality care, the basics of breast biopsies, cancer staging, treatment options, and breast reconstruction. The Guide also gives information about Iowa hospitals for cancer treatment, support services and groups, and financial and insurance matters. Unlike many other breast cancer treatment publications, the Guide lists alternative therapy and complementary medicine services and addresses breast cancer and the environment. It discusses genetics and genetic testing, why clinical trials can be an excellent option, how to make informed care choices that are right for you and so much more.

Iowa Breast Cancer Edu-action (IBCE), founded by our own UU *Christine Carpenter* in 1997, is a member of the National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund (NBCCF). Through NBCCF, IBCE advocates for improvements in the health care system so that it begins to reflect our patient-centered, evidence-based vision of quality care.

To get your free copy of either Guide, fax (319) 277-7342; email <sydneywikner@cfu.net>; or call (319) 277-3057.

UU DISCUSSIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH UUA WEB SITE

The uaa.org web site is a wonderful resource. For example, if you are fairly new to Unitarian Universalism you may have some questions about the denomination. The web site has a section just for newcomers. Go to www.uaa.org/aboutuu.

If you are interested in electronic conversations with other UUs, there are Discussion Boards available. They are: "Basic Questions about UUism", "Social Justice Bulletin Board", and "Reclaiming a Vocabulary of Reverence Within Unitarian Universalism". These can be found at www.uaa.org/programs/communication.html.

There are also many different email lists you can sign up for at www.uaa.org/mailman/listinfo/. They range from discussions about Adult RE, civil liberties, UU-parenting and UUWF-L (advocating for and celebrating UU women).

FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

We thank the congregation for your faith in electing us to the Ministerial Search Committee, and we appreciate all who were willing to be nominated for this special assignment. Committee members are excited about working together. To date, the Committee had an organizational session in November with Sue Schiess, who traveled from Minneapolis for our orientation. The Committee next met on December 14th to prepare for our retreat, which will be held later in January. During the retreat, we will learn more about ourselves to enhance our working relationships; and we will make assignments for various tasks, as well as developing our Search Calendar. We'll provide you with more specific information in the March newsletter but can assure you even at this early point that the congregation's input—both formally and informally—will be essential to us.

Judith Harrington for the rest of the Ministerial Search Committee: Lynn Brant, Jan Gallagher, Pam Hays, Carolyn Hildebrandt, Esther Kieffer, Shanlee McNally

OUR UU YOUTH IN THE NEWS

The youth have been watching and discussing a video of a forum held recently on the issue of “Homelessness and Hunger in the Cedar Valley”. In exploring how they might assist the efforts of local agencies in addressing these issues, the youth decided to help encourage donations from our congregation to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Wish lists of the Food Bank’s needs are located on the table in the coat room (under the nametag rack). You can put your donations in the wicker basket beside the table. (Kudos to the *Shanes* for always making sure the goodies get to the Food Bank!)

If all goes well, by the time you read this, the youth will have visited and caroled for our UUSBHC members at Friendship Village who have “mobility challenges”. Thanks to *Brian Forster* for help coordinating.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

January 4th

Conscious Living Discussion Group—“Thinking Clearly About Genetically Modified Plants”, Laura Krause, speaker (see article).

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation—This continues a series of discussions begun last spring, 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*.

January 11th

UU Family Values – “Toxic Media: Overcoming Negative Body Images in Girls and Women”—*Pam Hays* will lead a discussion on ways to counteract the negative body images that are inflicted on girls and women by a constant media barrage. Her organization, the YWCA has been sponsoring a group called “Real Girls” that addresses this topic.

UU Theological Issues Book Discussion Group

January 18th

Conscious Living Discussion Group

Talkback on “UU Religion and Politics: How Do They Mix?”

January 25th

UU Theological Issues Book Discussion Group

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

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

The subject of gay rights and the freedom of gays to marry has become a front-page issue this fall. UUs are on record as supporting the right to marry for all. At the 1996 UUA General Assembly, delegates voted overwhelmingly to call for the legalization of same-sex marriage. Because of several lawsuits, same-sex marriage will be legal in Massachusetts by May 16th and seven of the fourteen plaintiffs in these same-sex lawsuits are UUs.

The conservative right has announced their intention to use this issue as a political weapon, and already some columnists and letter writers have been expressing their views in the media. I would encourage everyone to make our voices heard too. When we show a willingness to speak out against prejudice and intolerance it may give others the courage to do the same. Silence on this issue may imply more support for intolerance and prejudice than there really is.

I know how difficult it is to sit down and actually write a “letter to the editor”. I have been trying for months to put together one that is perfect. What I need to do is just write one from the heart that is supportive and to the point. I encourage you to do the same. The UUA has an Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns at the UUA. On their web site the UUA offers some talking points about this issue. I will share some of them with you here to assist you in writing letters to the media, to your congressperson and in conversations with others. You can find more information at www.uua.org/programs/ministry/talkingpoints.html.

1. While Unitarian Universalist Churches are delighted to marry loving couples, not all religions have to. This is about “civil” marriage and equal protection.

2. Defending marriage is about putting more faith, hope and love into our marriages, not about excluding people from its legal protections.

3. The court’s ruling is decidedly pro-family by providing the entitlements of marriage to all families. It’s in everyone’s interest to promote strong, healthy marriages and families.

4. On a Federal level marriage confers more than a thousand benefits and protections to married couples, benefits that do not extend to same-sex couples. This is fundamentally unfair.

Mica Lorenz, Board Chair

WELCOME ABOARD!

Board Secretary, *Jan Gallagher*, having been elected to the Search Committee, has resigned from the Board. Former Board Secretary, *Heather Flory* has been appointed to complete Jan's term. The Board would like to welcome Heather back, and thank them both for filling this important position.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES (from the UUA web site)

The use of the Seven Principles follows a long tradition of religious statements of faith (other religions often call this a creed) which arose in both the Unitarian and Universalist traditions. During World War II, the American Unitarian Association (one of the two founding organizations of the UUA), affirmed a set of five principles on which it believed most Unitarians would agree. They were: individual freedom of belief; discipleship to advancing truth; the democratic process in human relations; universal brotherhood, undivided by nation, race, or creed; and allegiance to the cause of a united world community.

In 1961, when the American Unitarian Association merged with the Universalist Church of America to become the Unitarian Universalist Association, those principles were incorporated into a new Statement of Purpose, and can be seen in the current set of Purposes and Principles of the Association. The original statement drafted in 1961 became dated, however, and in the late 1970's, the sexist language seen in the original document was reworked after a group of women, led by Lucile Schuck Longview of Lexington, MA, proposed to the UUA General Assembly a re-articulation of UU faith which eliminated sexism. This effort, brought forward by the Women and Religion Resolution, provided the impetus, says author Edward Frost, for revising the UUA Purposes and Principles. After much debate, revision, and negotiation, a new and revised set of Purposes and Principles were affirmed by the General Assembly in 1985 and included as part of the UUA Bylaws.

For further reading on this subject, we recommend "With Purpose and Principle" (essays about the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism) by Edward Frost and "Our Seven Principles in Story and Verse" by Kenneth W. Collier. Both are available through the UUA Bookstore.

Deborah Weiner, UUA Director of Electronic Communication

UUSBHC WEBSITE UPDATE

The UUSBHC website (<http://www.uusbhc.org>) is constantly evolving. It is a source for often-updated information about UUSBHC. The site is designed to augment the UUSBHC Newsletter as a source for information about what is happening in our congregation.

Based upon perceived needs, congregational suggestions, and new skills that I develop as I learn more about using DreamWeaver, new information and capabilities are added to the website periodically, so check it weekly. I hope to provide a monthly article about the new things that you can find at our site.

What's new:

Discussion Groups: Now you can get involved in discussions with UUs from all over the country and world. Join conversations in groups entitled: "Basic Questions about Unitarian Universalism", "Newcomer's Corner", "Reclaiming a Vocabulary of Reverence Within Unitarian Universalism", and "Unitarian Universalist Families". You can involve yourself in more general discussions with the soc.religion.unitarian-univ newsgroup. If you like to have your discussions delivered to your email box, we have included a link to a UUA list of mailing lists on over one hundred-seventy different topics.

Sermons: We are attempting to post photos and texts of the sermons that have been delivered over the past year. If you miss a sermon you can read what was said, or don't forget to pickup a cassette tape of the sermon next time you are at church.

Deck the Halls: Photos from the Deck the Halls day on December 7th are posted in the sermon section. See your friends decorating the walls, singing carols and having a wonderful time.

Treats and Talents: Items still available from the Treats and Talents auction are listed. The price has already been determined. You just need to buy what you like.

Forms On-Line: We have decided to place our forms on-line. This doesn't mean that you can complete and submit them through the site. You CAN download them and print them out to be completed and submitted. You can access this through the Resources section. So far we have the Expense Reimbursement Voucher and the Building Rental Agreement form on-line. Does your committee have forms that you want us to post?

Leigh Zeitz

WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS

We will be having at least one more Second Hour discussion, on January 4th. At this session we will be continuing the discussion of becoming an official Welcoming Congregation. We will be taking a vote at the Annual Meeting (which is April 18th). In addition to taking a vote we will need to look at several other actions, such as adding a non-discrimination section to our By-laws, ensuring that our publications and programming use inclusive language and participate in and/or support efforts to create justice, freedom and equality for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people in the larger society.

Becoming a truly Welcoming Congregation means that we must continue to monitor ourselves to assure that we are not just welcoming but affirming. To that end I am proposing that we form a Welcoming Congregation Committee to monitor and initiate programs and educational events. If you would like to join in this effort, contact me, *Mica Lorenz* at <Micalea@mchsi.com> or 291-6509.

SERMONS ON TAPE

Did you miss an interesting sermon? Are you finding it difficult to get to church because of health or weather conditions? That's not a problem—we taped it!

That's right, we taped it. We have been taping the sermons for over two years. You can just pick one up next time you come. If you can't make it on Sundays, contact me through the church (319-266-5640 or by email <Zeit@uni.edu>) and I will put you on the mailing list for tapes. We have decided to make it part of the Outreach Program so the tapes and mailing are FREE to you.

Wondering what sermons have been delivered or what's coming up? Look in your UUSBHC Newsletter or check on-line at <http://www.uusbhc.org/sermons.html>.

***** 2004 *****

JANUARY 4 10:00 A.M. **“SUSTAINABILITY”** – facilitator Karen Impola
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. **R.E. for Youth / Adult Education**



JANUARY 11 10:00 A.M. **“AFRICAN AMERICAN WRITERS WE LOVE”** – Donna Davis
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. **R.E. for Youth / Adult Education**

JANUARY 18 10:00 A.M. **“UU RELIGION AND POLITICS: HOW DO THEY MIX?”** – Al Hays
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. **R.E. for Youth / Adult Education**

JANUARY 25 10:00 A.M. **“THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORY”** – Lynn Brant
Alternative Activity for Children
11:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
11:30 A.M. **R.E. for Youth / Adult Education**

ANNUAL MEETING

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

CONSCIOUS LIVING CORNER

Thinking clearly about genetically modified plants

On January 4th Laura Krause will be our speaker for the Conscious Living Circle. Laura farms near Mt. Vernon where she raises vegetables and open pollinated seed corn. Pollen from nearby farms have contaminated her open pollinated crops. Bill Moyers featured her in “NOW with Bill Moyers”.

Laura will talk about her farm and key issues surrounding a technology that is touted as a savior of humanity. Laura Krause teaches Biology at Cornell College. Please join us.