



DECEMBER 2009 GREEN BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Linda Peacock-Landrum

As we enter the season of giving, it is appropriate that our Fellowship has created and put in place a Caring Process for our Fellowship and our members. To be successful, a caring effort needs regular and consistent leadership, organization and coordination. Unfortunately our efforts were lacking. It is not that we did not care for one another as we certainly do. It is not that we did not support one another or respond as we certainly have in the past. But as our Fellowship has grown, needs and concerns of members were not easily communicated or got lost unfortunately amidst our other efforts and activities.

A special thanks is extended to Carrie Arnold for volunteering to serve in an important role of Caring Coordinator. Because of her training and education, Carrie is also willing to provide pastoral care during the next four months of our minister's sabbatical.

In response to our members expressed concerns and frustrations, our Board established the following caring process.

1. Requests for assistance or expressions of need are received by email or phone.
2. Needs may include transportation, food, visitation, emergency care for family and/or children, emotional support and counseling.
3. Our Caring Coordinator will coordinate the care process by communicating the need to the committee for response/assistance.
4. The Caring Coordinator will determine if pastoral care is appropriate.

5. Pastoral care is available on an as needed basis through a qualified professional who is a member of our Fellowship.
6. Initiate the process with an email or call to our Caring Coordinator:

Carrie Arnold
caring@greenbayuu.org
920-391-6827 (work 9-11am & 1-4pm)
920-217-0882 (cell)
920-497-4981 (home)

Our Caring Committee consists of members who have volunteered to provide assistance as needed by indicating what assistance they can provide. In addition, select Fellowship members will be attending a *helping/caring session* in December. These members will then be available for non-professional conversations and visits with members of our Fellowship.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



GREEN BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

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SPECIAL MESSAGE AND INVITATION FROM OUR FELLOWSHIP BOARD

Over the past 12 months, our Fellowship has faced challenging times due to the economy and our growth. Many discussions about the current and future state of our Fellowship have occupied countless hours at Board meetings. It has become apparent that our Membership needs to come together to discuss these challenges, explore solutions and determine the path we will choose for the future of the Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

In December we will provide details about a collaborative engagement session to be held on Sunday, January 10, 2010. Invitations to this session will be mailed to each active member by mid December. Included with the invitation will be an overview of key issues and discussion items to hopefully encourage and promote both inclusion and participation of as many members as possible. The future of our Fellowship is for us to decide. Please join us on January 10th.

-- Our Fellowship Board: Linda Peacock-Landrum, Jane Shatswell, Doug Gjerde, Al Heubscher, Lisa Adams, Mike Wentz and Karen Eckberg.



FROM THE PRESIDENT... (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

We realize in moving forward that our process may need to be adjusted, enhanced or expanded. We welcome your feedback as to how this new process is working. Many members have volunteered to provide a variety of services and assistance. Thank you to all those members who have volunteered to date. But more caring members of our Fellowship are needed to strengthen and expand the care we can provide to one another.

Please give consideration to how you can help – cooking a meal, lending a helping hand, providing transportation or caring for a child or pet. Volunteer forms are available on the Caring Bulletin Board in the Coffee Room and will soon be available on our website. Once completed, please place the form in the Caring Committee mailbox in the Office.

Thank you to all of our members for your patience and understanding as this Caring Process was established and recently operational. Remember caring for one another is a reason why our Fellowship serves a crucial role for us as members.

-- Linda Peacock-Landrum

FROM THE TREASURER...

What is being referred to by many as the Great Recession has affected many in our fellowship and across the world. It says a lot that despite a terrible economy we're gaining members and despite layoffs of so many members we're holding our own financially. It is a great testament to the value of and need for our spiritual community.

Our fellowship received some great financial news in November. Despite the toughest economy in 70 years your generosity made the service auction, our largest fundraiser behind the canvass, a huge success. Though the final accounting of income and expenses isn't finished it appears we matched or surpassed last year's results with a total of around \$6000 after expenses. That is amazing. We'd like to pass on a huge amount of gratitude to those who organized, worked and attended the auction. The generosity of time, talent and bidding is truly appreciated.

Though the contingency reserve built into our budget to account for decreased income due to the economy is likely to be surpassed our financial situation is staying healthy. Thank you all for your contributions to our great community.

--Doug Gjerde and Al Heubscher



UNsung HEROES FOR DECEMBER 2009

• **The Auction Committee: Geeta Bhojwani, Lisa Adams and Vicki Fresen**

For their tireless efforts and bountiful enthusiasm in coordinating the 9th annual auction. Thank you for securing donations, developing the theme, arranging food and beverages, event set up and take down, managing all the paperwork resulting from the sales and so much more.

UnsUng Hero Nominating

****Nominations are being accepted
for January.****

1. Complete an UnsUng Hero Nomination Card.
2. Place in the Nomination Box.
3. The GBAUUF Board will review nominations monthly.
4. One or more of our members will be recognized for his/her efforts.

"ADOPT-A-FAMILY" TREE

Have you been blessed and wish to give back? Do you believe in changing the world one family at a time? Now is your chance to accomplish both by supporting our Golden House Adopt-A- Family.

On November 29th after the service, a tree will be placed in the back of the sanctuary. Our children will decorate it with ornaments detailing the needs of one family in crisis. Simply select one or more ornaments, purchase and wrap the gift and then return it with the tag attached. We will be delivering all items on December 18th to Golden House.



The family that has been selected for us consists of a mother and three young children. They are currently residing at Golden house and have a need this year, more than ever, of the support of our community and a Merry Christmas.

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION SET

Religious people worldwide observe many seasonal days of celebration during the month of December. Nearly all are linked in some way to the winter solstice. The solstice truly is the reason for the season. As a way of celebrating the return of the sun, the turning of the seasons and reconnecting with the Earth and our ancestors, Steve Krings and Carolyn Hawk would like to invite all to a Winter Solstice celebration on Sunday, December 20. Attendees will gather outside around a blazing yule log at 6:00PM to ring out the old and ring in the new. They will then move inside Steve's house which is at 340 Graass Street in Green Bay.

Participants are encouraged to bring a rhythm instrument, poem, reading, song or CD to help celebrate the season, the Earth and our ancestors. Refreshments will be served so please bring something to share if you are so inclined. Call Steve at 432-5756 or Carolyn at 469-0673 if you have any questions. Please feel free to bring a friend.

FIRST FRIDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

Come join us, December 4th, when we will decide whether to "be in the moment" is the way to go. We will begin the discussion with the article "*Be Present*" on page 33 of the fall 2009 issue of UU World. Group is at 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Fellowship. Bring a snack or small dish to pass (optional) and your thoughts on experiencing the "moment." For more information, call Michael at (920) 435-6720 or e-mail msppbs@itol.com.

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING IDEAS

HOLIDAY BONUS CONTRIBUTIONS WITH SCRIP

Most retailers are already offering huge sales to encourage early and increased shopping for the holiday season. A record number are also offering bonus contributions on gift cards purchased through our scrip program.

Now, more than ever, it's a great opportunity to make money for our fellowship by shopping with scrip. Plan ahead to make your purchases or give gift cards bought through our program. You'll be getting your shopping done, and you earn a larger than ever contribution for us! See Lisa Adams or order online scrip@greenbayuu.org

CHICOBAGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Everybody has seen cloth grocery bags for sale at their grocery store. I've purchased those in the past because my cloth shopping bags were AT HOME!! ChicoBags have a handy pack pouch, so you can keep them in your car or purse. By purchasing (and using) the GBAUUF ChicoBags, you can help us with fundraising while being a good steward of the Earth. At \$5 each, these can be an inexpensive way to help someone break the disposable bag habit!

Here are some tips to make a difference this Holiday Season:

1. By using ChicoBags while doing your holiday shopping, you not only skip the paper/plastic, but you set a great example.
2. Use as a gift bag or treat bag. In my experience I have learned that Teachers LOVE ChicoBags!
3. Instead of wasting wrapping paper, wrap presents in a ChicoBag-make it part of the gift! Great for your mail carrier!
4. If someone asks/compliments you on your ChicoBag (and you're feeling charitable), "Pay it forward" and give them one!



Bags are available in the back of the Fellowship Sanctuary.



Practice for the upcoming Intergenerational Service will be on Sunday, December 6. If your child is involved in the production, please help them attend that Sunday for practice. Also, please help them start thinking about costume ideas for their character. The actual service will be on **December 13**. The kids will perform "An Orange For Frankie" and be in charge of the Sunday Service. Thank you for helping make our holiday program a success.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY

Already feeling overwhelmed by the idea of another ultra-consumptive holiday season? This 5-week discussion course addresses the distractions of modern society that keep us from caring for ourselves, our relationships, and our environment.

Discussion Course Goals:

- To understand the meaning of voluntary simplicity.
- To explore the material and psychological distractions that prevent us from caring for the earth.
- To acknowledge the connection between our lifestyle choices and the condition of the earth.

Topics Covered:

January 7 *The Meaning of Simplicity*: The concept of simplicity, as a religious practice or philosophy of life, has a long history. Both inner simplicity and outer simplicity are involved. What are some common misconceptions about a simple life?

January 21 *Living More with Less*: Accumulating material possessions is part of the American Dream. For some, the dream has become a nightmare. When do material possessions add meaning to our lives and when do they detract?

February 4 *Making a Living*: A growing number of people wish to resolve the conflict between the desire to make and spend money and the desire for a simple life. Why is that so difficult in our culture?

February 18 *Do You Have the Time?*: In modern society, our minds are focused on the "busyness" of the day, our current problems, and our future challenges. Are there alternatives to the fast pace of our mainstream culture?

March 4 *Living Simply and Sustainably*: There are countless practical benefits in moving toward simplicity and sustainability. What steps can be taken to move toward a life simple in means, rich in ends?

There will be a \$20 fee for this course to cover cost of discussion guide (however, you're welcome to find a buddy to share with). All class times are from 7-9pm. Questions? Please contact Stacy Gilmore (stagilmore@yahoo.com or 920-309-0297) or Steve Krings (skrings@new.rr.com)



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who just recently signed the Membership Book: Josh Lewis, Jennifer Gross, Dianne Fossen, and Mary Wallschlaeger.

If you wish to become an official member of the Fellowship, please speak to a member of our board.



UU MEN'S GROUP

The December meetings of the UU Men's Group will be on the Thursday nights of the 3rd and 17th. The meetings last from 7-8:30pm at the fellowship. The dates have been changed from our usual schedule due to the holidays. Please contact Doug Gjerde at 490-9484 or Steve Krings at 432-5756 if you have any questions. Please remember to save the dates of February 6th and 7th for attending our annual winter retreat. New men are always welcome!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The December meeting of the Membership Committee will on Thursday, December 17th, at 5:30 pm. New members are always welcome to help with the vital work of nurturing and growing our membership.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The December meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 5:30. We will be discussing the Welcoming Congregation process –addressing action steps and the voting process. Our JOSHUA representative, Michael will be giving an update on JOSHUA happenings. We will also discuss and develop a proposal to be presented to the Board regarding continued participation in JOSHUA and options in membership levels. Everyone is welcome to attend committee meetings. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for Social Justice action items.

-- Laurie Falk llfalk@yahoo.com.

UU BOOK GROUP

The December selection will be "The Hour I First Believed" – by Wally Lamb. We will be meeting on Wednesday, December 16th at Jitterbean Coffee, 2670 Monroe, DePere (south of HWY 172 and GV) at 6:30pm. All are welcome to join in the discussion. January's book will be "Genesis" by Bernard Beckett.



The Facilities Committee wishes to thank Peggy Towers & Lois Schnizlein for the the Cleaning Team for November. Thank you also to all who helped clean after the auction.

Remember you too can be part of a Clean Team - one opening is available for December. January and on are open and looking for members. Sign up on the table in the back of the sanctuary or contact Jane Shatswell.

GBAUUF LENDING LIBRARY

Several new titles have been added to the GBAUUF lending library, courtesy of Rev. Sandy. Just a few of the titles are:

- *Freedom from Fear: Finding the Courage to Act, Love, and Be* by Forrest Church
- *Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital* by Dr. Heidi Squier Kraft
- *The Questions of Jesus: Challenging Ourselves to Discover Life's Great Answers* by John Dear
- *Peace Heroes in 20th Century America* edited by Charles DeBenedetti

The Lending Library Collection is located in the Library, to the right of the sanctuary. Feel free to explore the books and check something out.



SOUP SUNDAY DECEMBER 20

Calling all crock pots! Soup Sunday is the third Sunday of every month and is a time when we all can come together and share great food and conversation after the service. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the sanctuary for those attending to volunteer to bring soups, stews, breads, rolls and desserts. So pull out your recipes and plug in your pots and join us on Soup Sunday.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RESOURCES

Are you looking for more information about Unitarian Universalism? If so, check out these websites to learn more.

- UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association)
main website: <http://uua.org/>
- UU World Magazine-You can access the magazine online and see other resources:
<http://uua.org/publications/uuworld/index.shtml>
- Skinner House Books-UU Book Store:
<http://www.uuabookstore.org/>
- Beacon Press- Book Store:
<http://www.beacon.org/>



SERVICE TOPIC PREVIEW

November 29 -- service by Diane Light. A special service of thanksgiving presented by Diane Light, long-time member of the Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ripon. Diane is in her second year of seminary, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. During her first year of seminary, Diane traveled to Guatemala as part of a class project. On this Sunday after Thanksgiving, she will share her experiences from that trip, from both a cultural and spiritual perspective.

December 6 -- “Setting Our Gyroscopes: Finding Balance in the Quicksand of our Lives” by Alf Langan.

December 13 -- “An Orange For Frankie” an Intergenerational Service by the prekindergarten through 7th grade classes. The service will be centered around the book *An Orange For Frankie* by Patricia Polacco. In this story a boy and his family practice the true meaning of giving during the holiday season.

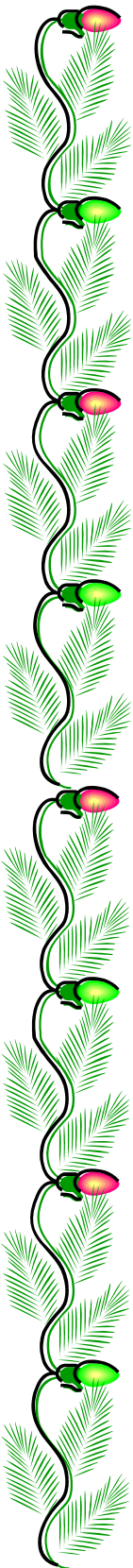
December 20 -- “Winter Solstice Celebration” by Stacy Gilmore. Some years it seems that the holidays are more synonymous with stress than with celebration. We invite you to pause amidst busy holiday preparations and purchases to contemplate the most basic of our needs and wants—warmth and light. In this session, we celebrate the Winter Solstice in a simple ritual with your beloved community.

December 24 at 7:00pm -- “Christmas Eve Candle-light Service”. Come celebrate the holiday with festive and traditional stories, carols and candle-lighting.

December 27 -- “The Spirit of Winter” by Therese Barry-Tanner. If you struggle with the season (not the holiday season, but the WINTER season), come and bask in a new perspective on what winter can offer us besides darkness, cold and snow. Therese will provide her perspective with some winter poetry mixed in, so that you will not feel “blah” about winter again.

January 3 – “Voluntary Simplicity” by Stacy Gilmore. Already feeling overwhelmed by the idea of another ultra-consumptive holiday season? This Sunday, we will begin to explore the idea of Voluntary Simplicity, which is the topic of the discussion course beginning January 7. The ideas of this program are, just to name a few, to moderate even further our consumer habits, to become aware of living conditions in many other countries, to understand western consumption’s cost to the rest of the world, to live closer to nature, to educate about all sustainable practices for the earth, and to live more balanced lives.

January 10 -- Prof. Edward Risen , Topic TBA. Edward is Professor of English at St. Norbert College. He regularly teaches courses in early British literature plus Classical Myth, Dante, introductory linguistics, and the literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance generally. Recent seminar titles include *Authoring Arthur*, *Tolkien’s World*, and *Literary Humor*. In addition to numerous articles, reviews, and creative pieces, he has published nine books, including literary criticism, translation, novels, poetry and a textbook. Come today to hear what Edward has to say to the UUs.



FROM THE JOSHUA REPRESENTATIVE...

by Michael Paprocki

Soon we as a congregation will be asked to vote on whether to continue our participation in JOSHUA, and at what level. Consider becoming familiar with JOSHUA. There are yearbooks in the back of the church that explain JOSHUA and its work.

JOSHUA is a non-partisan interfaith coalition of faith communities in the greater Green Bay area dedicated to deepening relationships within and among those communities.

JOSHUA dedicates itself to celebrating and respecting our diversity and is open to all faith traditions. While not agreeing on every matter, JOSHUA seeks to unite members around those faith values on which we do agree.

JOSHUA works to impact public policies that affect those who are most vulnerable. It uses education, advocacy, empowerment, and action (moving beyond the walls of our churches/fellowship).

JOSHUA functions through a Board of Directors with representatives from every member congregation. Each month pastors and other religious leaders gather at the Religious Leaders Caucus. Issues committees meet monthly to research, educate, and propose impact strategies.

JOSHUA is based upon building relationships within member congregations; “core teams” meet monthly to respond to the concerns and passions of their congregations.

JOSHUA is a part of WISDOM, a statewide organization with more than 125 member congregations. Our nearest WISDOM neighbor is ESTHER in the Fox Valley. The Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a member of ESTHER.

If you have questions, check out JOSHUA’s website at www.joshua4justice.org ,
Call the JOSHUA office at 920-362-1511,
Contact Michael Paprocki (435-6720, msppbs@itol.com),
Or talk to one of the Social Justice Committee members.

As is stated above, each congregation has a “core team;” fellowship members that form the “core” group of people working with JOSHUA. Consider whether YOU would want to be a JOSHUA core team member. Consult with Michael Paprocki or Laurie Falk if you might be interested.



JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The January deadline will be Sunday, Dec. 20.

Please email all submissions to:

newseditor@greenbayuu.org

By using this address your news will be posted in the newsletter *and* the monthly bulletin.

Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically.

Email:

newseditor@greenbayuu.org



THE PRINCIPLES OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to 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.



Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Address Service Requested

First Class Mail-Please forward or return to sender