



FEBRUARY 2009

GREEN BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

FROM THE MINISTER...

by Rev. Sandy Ingham

On the day that this column was due, I watched the inauguration ceremonies. Among other things, I was struck by the new president's seemingly sincere commitment to openness and honesty. In that spirit, I would like to use the next couple of newsletter columns to respond to some of your questions and concerns.

Once in awhile, someone will ask me what my goals are for the Fellowship. I can answer that question with one word: growth. I don't mean just numerical growth. I also mean personal spiritual growth (mine and yours); growth that strengthens our infrastructure (board, committees, programs); growth that leads to ever-deepening, more meaningful relationships among people in the congregation; growth that gives us the confidence to take our values and beliefs out into the larger community to work with others on social justice issues.

Sometimes I am asked what I think about different parts of our Sunday morning service. For example, do I think that there might be other ways to have a congregational response time other than always having it as a part of the service? Yes, I do. We could invite anyone who is interested to meet in the library or the front of the sanctuary and discuss the morning's reflections.

Occasionally people want to know if I think that the candles of community are a strong part of the service. My answer is, "Sometimes, but not always." I worry that we too often forget that candles of community are a

time to briefly state a joy or a sorrow or a concern. The point is to let people know that you have experienced something you would like to share with them and by lighting a candle (which, of course, can always be done silently), others will know to seek you out after the service and learn more about your joy or sorrow.

Many Unitarian Universalists love to talk, but when we ramble on, we risk depriving others of the opportunity to speak because there is simply not enough time in a one-hour service for all that we would like to say. Also, there is always the danger, during candles of community, of giving the appearance that we are an exclusive club and that only those who are in the club know what we are talking about. We almost always have visitors and new people among us on a Sunday morning. We need to remember that there is a fine line between feeling left out and feeling included.

Joys and concerns, aka candles of community, were not traditionally a part of Unitarian or Universalist services. They are a relatively recent addition to our liturgy. Not all of our congregations include them in each Sunday service. I know that they mean a lot to most of you and I am certainly not suggesting that we eliminate this part of the service. But, I would like to suggest, gently and kindly, that you use the candles of community time mindfully, expressing actual joys or sorrows, being aware of how long you are speaking.

In March, I will consider: mingling with each other... on Sundays and other days; office hours; getting to know each other better... and more! In the meantime, on February 15, during our second town hall meeting of the church year, you will have a chance to ask questions, make comments and share ideas about how we can continue to be a healthy, vibrant congregation. I hope that you will plan to attend. The meeting will begin right after the service, as soon as we have gotten our soup, and will last no longer than an hour. See you Sunday... Rev. Sandy

GREEN BAY AREA UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Alf Langan

In the middle of this winter, during which we have experienced record snowfall and near record freezing temperatures, we have witnessed this day the dawning of a new era in this country when Barack Obama took the oath of office as our 44th President. As the great documentary filmmaker Ken Burns commented, today marks the beginning of the third act in our country's history, where anyone, regardless of background, race, religion, or creed can ascend to the top leadership position of our government. Although we face many challenges, and there will be bumps in the road ahead, I think that most of us feel that we will succeed, and we will reach that mountaintop of peace and freedom for all that Dr. King talked about over 40 years ago.

It makes me think about our own little community, and how, even though we face our own challenges, if we work together and with common purpose, we too will continue to nurture and build our own spiritual family. We have come a long way from the days of meeting at the YWCA, but there is much yet to do. The key to our continued survival is growth. When we voted unanimously to move from Oneida Street to our present space, I told you that we were taking a huge leap of faith that would have to be matched by our collective efforts. And now, 14 months into our new space, we have again reached a crossroads. Our

growth has stalled in the last 6 months. Unless we add more members we will face hard choices when budget time comes round again. We have a dedicated and hardworking Membership Committee that is doing all it can to help us attract new members, but they cannot do it by themselves. We all must join in that effort. No one has a monopoly on ideas, so I am asking each of you to use your imagination and tell those of us on the Board or the Membership Committee your thoughts. I expect that we will also discuss this at our next town hall meeting, but don't think you have to wait until then to tell us about your great idea.

The other thing we can do is stay on the lookout for friends and acquaintances who, like you were at one time, looking for something more than they're finding in their respective spiritual journeys. Don't be bashful about telling people who you think would be open to the discussion about our congregation and what we do here. The difference between those of us who are already members and most of the other people we know is we know about us, and they don't! Let's not be strangers to them!

We have a terrific energy about us, and I am confident that if we let that energy spill outside our doors that others will follow us inside. Let's do it!

ANNUAL CANVASS SUSTAINING OUR GAINS



That's the theme of this year's annual canvass. As in the past though, the annual canvass is about much more than collecting pledges to support the operating budget of the fellowship. It's an opportunity for all of our members and friends to renew their individual commitment to the fellowship and to one another. It's about sitting down with one another and sharing priorities, feelings and information, asking questions and communicating concerns. It's an opportunity for meaningful dialogue about our future.

The annual canvass kick-off will be on March 8 after the Sunday service. Each canvasser will have 3-4 fellowship members to visit with over the next ten days. The canvass will be an opportunity to talk about your vision of the future, things you love about the fellowship, and any room for improvement. The canvasser will also gratefully accept your pledge for the next fiscal year. Stay tuned for more details in the March newsletter.

If you would like to help out with the canvass by being a canvasser or by presenting a canvass moment at the start of a Sunday service please contact the canvass chair, Steve Krings at 432-5756.

FROM THE TREASURER

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by Matt Johnson

The stewardship team met and has recommended steps to the board to get through our financial crisis. We recognize that we don't want to keep coming back and asking for more money each year in crisis mode. This year we are looking not only at the next 6 months, but at the next 1.5 years.

Our current donations stand at \$44,700 out of \$81,600. If you have not made any progress towards your pledge, now would be a great time to get caught up. We continue to run too tight for comfort.

For December, we had \$5674 in donations and \$6780 in expenses for a deficit of **-\$1106**.

We need to grow to make this work. If you see someone at service you don't know, introduce yourself. We need to connect with each other and grow.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Did you know that until last year, the Fellowship did not even have a Social Action Committee? (Of course, many of you were "out there" doing social justice work either on your own or in conjunction with other groups.) But now, not only do we have a Social Action Committee, but also our bylaws have been amended to make this committee one of our permanent, standing committees. (Trust me, this is a Big Deal!)

Even though Social Action is a new committee, it has already accomplished great things. For example, having our Fellowship become a member of JOSHUA was one of the Social Action Committee's first goals. (JOSHUA is an interfaith group that works together on local peace and justice issues and concerns.) Thanks to all of you, in October of 2008, the Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship became a member of JOSHUA. In October of 2007, the Social Action Committee held a letter-writing campaign to draw attention to the situation in Darfur. And, in April of 2008, the Committee led a Sunday morning service in celebration of Earth Day.

The Social Action Committee is currently working with the Religious Education Committee to distribute, fill and collect the GAYT (Guest At Your Table) boxes. By participating in this social justice action, the Social Action Committee hopes to introduce more people in our congregation to the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) and to the incredible, highly regarded, successful work that it does throughout the world.

One of the Social Action Committee's biggest challenges is to start the process of having our Fellowship become a Welcoming Congregation. The Committee intends to form a subcommittee that would decide how best to go about this process so that we can become an officially recognized (by the UUA) Welcoming Congregation. We need your help!! We also need volunteers to lead the Welcoming Congregation workshops that are a part of the process.

Confused by all these terms and "alphabet soup" references?? Good!! Every Sunday during February, members of the Social Action Committee (which includes Karen Eckberg, Janice Galt, Bette McAnulty, Michael Paprocki, Jen Patryn and Rev. Sandy) will be more than happy to bring you "social justice clarity" and to answer your questions and hear your ideas about social action. Look for our display in the coffee room. We welcome and encourage new committee members!! (We currently meet at 5:30 p.m., on the second Tuesday of each month, at the Fellowship, but that time is not sacred or even "cast in concrete".)



UnsUng Heroes for January 2009

•Anita Gjerde for always being open and willing to help out when needed. She most recently has stepped up to assume the role of Coffee Host Coordinator to replace Betty McNulty. Anita has also taught RE, planned fellowship & RE events and has been involved in coordinating Soup Sunday.

•Pete Masias for being our Sound System expert for years. Pete is always making sure things are working well. He also quietly does other things that are often not acknowledged but are always noticed - like checking out the fellowship after the fire, giving insight into risk and safety issues, shoveling snow, dealing with the grill, teaching RE and many other things too!

UnsUng Hero Nominating

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.

****Nominations are being accepted for March.****

UU BIBLE STUDY

What does the Bible have to say to Unitarian Universalists and religious liberals in the world of today? Grab a Bible (if you have one) and join Rev. Sandy and Margaret Krings for a 4 session Bible study to learn more. Included will be information and discussion about Bible origins (who wrote it, when was it written, why is it important for UUs), Old Testament, New Testament and use and misuse of Bible stories through history. The sessions will be held at the Fellowship on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 on Feb. 5, 12, 26 and March 5. If you've always wanted to know more about why the Bible is so important in western culture, these study/active discussion sessions are for you. You can sign up on the round table in the back of the sanctuary or talk to Rev. Sandy or Margaret.

UU BOOK GROUP

The next meeting will be Sunday, February 8th at 6:30pm at Ann Derge's home (3180 Glenmore Rd., Green Bay). We will be discussing "Peony in Love" by Lisa See. Please RSVP to Ann at 632-4834; and also inquire about directions.

March's Meeting will be Wednesday, March 4th at 6:00pm at Jean Wentz's home. We will be having a "Locally grown/made in WI" potluck while we discuss "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver. Please RSVP to Jean at 499-8517; and to inquire about more information or directions.

The Book Group's April Selection is "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson. The meeting will be at Jennifer Johnson's home on Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30pm.

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to Kay Aanonsen and Joe and Karen Eckberg and their daughter Maddy who recently signed the membership book. We are delighted to have them as the newest members of our faith community. If you wish to become an official member of our Fellowship, please speak with Rev. Sandy or any of our board members.



FEBRUARY EVENT
TREAT MAKING



All of the children in the RE program are invited to come to the Fellowship on Saturday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m. to decorate/bake Valentine treats! We'll make enough cookies so that we have some to taste and plenty left over for everyone to enjoy at the Sunday service on the 15th.

A few details:

- We expect to be done with our baking by noon.
- For children 5 and over, parents are welcome to drop them off for the baking party.
- Children under 5 are welcome to attend, but parents are asked to stay.
- All parents are welcome to stay if they wish!

Feel free to contact Claudia Moder at Claudia@GreenAcresBoxerRescue.com or 920.497.8783 if you have any questions.

MARCH EVENT
BOWLING

RE students of all ages and their parents are invited to strike up some fun on Sunday March 29 from 2-4pm at the Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley (2929 Allied St, near Menard's West). The cost is \$6 per person and that include shoe rental and as many games as you can bowl in 2 hours! Bumpers are available for the young ones to aid in the fun. Concessions are available for purchase if you work up an appetite. Hope to see you there!



PLEASE SEE THE GREEN TABLE TO SIGN UP FOR THESE SUPER ACTIVITIES!

CHICO P.U.N.K. FUNDRAISER

The GBAUUF "P.U.N.K."s (Progressive Unitarian Nature Klub) will be launching an educational fundraiser that promotes healthy living and a conscious lifestyle. P.U.N.K.s decided to raise awareness while also raising funds after realizing the average citizen in the United States uses 300 to 700 single-use plastic bags per year. Many of these single-use bags will end up littering our earth's fragile eco-systems and are often mistaken for food by land and marine wildlife. P.U.N.K.s will use the money raised for an environmental focused project for the Fellowship.

GBAUUF P.U.N.K.s have teamed up with The ChicoBag Company to sell reusable bags that are designed to be unforgettable. We are working on a screen print design that reflects our values. The bags will cost \$6 each, and we will begin taking orders soon!

If you would like to show your support while also making a difference on our planet, please contact Stacy Gilmore for more information on how to make your donation. For more information on ChicoBags, check out their website, www.chicobag.com.



SERVICE TOPIC PREVIEW

February 8 -- “This I Believe” featuring Jane Shatswell, Mike Wentz, Doug Gjerde, Stacy Gilmore, and Della Rose. The popular NPR series goes local. You will hear from fellowship members and friends about their core belief or beliefs which will create an enlightening and enriching experience for all.

February 15 -- “Pity the Poor Prophet”, third in an ongoing series about prophets and the prophetic tradition. Today Rev. Ingham will introduce you to James Luther Adams (JLA), a modern-day prophet, Unitarian minister, professor, author, philosopher and theologian in the mid-to-late 1900’s. The spiritual journey that this son of a Baptist country preacher made might remind you of your own spiritual journey. And his message about prophets and the prophetic tradition is as relevant in this century as it was in the last one. Why do we call JLA the “smiling prophet” and what did he mean when he spoke of the “prophethood of all believers”, a phrase he coined? Come and find out!

February 22 -- Sister Caroline from the Bridge Between Retreat Center will share her thoughts in a sermon.

March 1 -- It’s time for the annual “Sermon on the Amount”, as one of you wits called it. (I believe that would be one of the wits on our stunning Stewardship Committee!) Rumor has it that next Sunday we will kick off our annual canvass drive with food, fun, fellowship, and, we hope, lots of good reasons why you will not only be looking forward to a visit from one of our charming canvassers, but will also be more than eager to fill out your pledge card and give even more generously than you already do. Rev. Ingham

UU MEN’S GROUP

The February meetings of the UU Men’s Group will be on the Thursday nights of the 12th and 26th. The meetings last from 7-8:30PM at the Fellowship. New men are always welcome. Contact Doug Gjerde at 490-9484 or Steve Krings at 432-5756 if you have any questions.

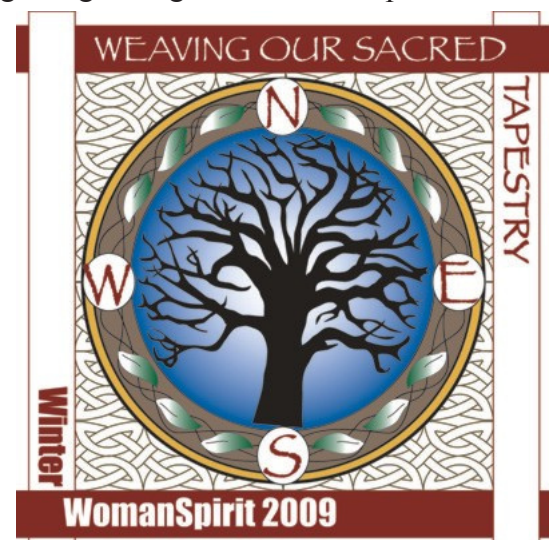
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is currently seeking a volunteer to coordinate the Circle Dinners that are held three times a year. The time commitment would be about an hour or two to set up each one. It’s a great way to help build community within our fellowship. Please contact Steve Krings at 432-5756 if you are interested in helping with this essential task.

The next meeting of the Membership Committee will on Thursday, February 19th, at 5:30 p.m. New members are always welcome to help with the vital work of nurturing and growing our membership.

WINTER WOMENSPIRIT 2009

This year’s winter conference is February 20-22 at UU Church in Peoria, Illinois. The theme is “Weaving Our Sacred Tapestry. You are welcome to build, share, and “weave” you Inner Feminine Divine. Shelly Graff, the keynote speaker/performer, has a “folksy, personable approach to performing and facilitating Singing in Sacred Circle workshops...” There are plenty of fun and inspiring activities and great women to meet. Don’t be surprised if you find this a truly transforming experience! Registration forms are on the back table in the Sanctuary; or contact Kate Hutton (435-5563) for more information. Carpooling is available.



CALENDAR

- Jan 31-Feb 1** Men's Group Retreat
- Feb 1 10:00am** Turn in Guest At Your Table boxes
Service Topic -- "All You Need Is Love" by Rev. Ingham
- Feb 5 7-8:30pm** Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship (see page 4 for details)
- Feb 6-8** UU Pantheist Weekend (see January's newsletter, page 4 for details)
- Feb 8 10:00am** Service Topic -- "This I Believe" by members of the fellowship
6:30pm UU Book Group at Ann Derge's home (see page 4 for details)
- Feb 10 5:30pm** Social Justice Committee Meeting at the fellowship
7:00pm Board Meeting in the fellowship library
- Feb 12 7-8:30pm** Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship
7-8:30pm UU Men's Group at the fellowship
- Feb 14 10-noon** RE Treat Making Event at the fellowship (see page 5 for details)
- Feb 15 10:00am** Service Topic -- "Pity the Poor Prophet" by Rev. Ingham
11:00am Soup Sunday-Please sign up on the green table to bring soup, bread, or treats.
11:15am Town Hall Meeting
- Feb 19 5:30pm** Membership Committee Meeting (see page 6 for details)
- Feb 20 11:59pm** Deadline for March newsletter
- Feb 20-22** Winter WomenSpirit 2009 Conference (see page 6 for details)
- Feb 22 10:00am** Service Topic -- TBA by Sister Caroline
- Feb 26 7-8:30pm** Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship
7-8:30pm UU Men's Group at the fellowship
- Mar 1 10:00am** Service Topic -- "Sermon on the Amount" by Rev. Ingham
- Mar 4 6:00pm** UU Book Group at Jean Wentz's home (see page 4 for details)
- Mar 5 7-8:30pm** Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship
- Mar 8 10:00am** Service Topic TBA
11:00am Annual Canvass Kick-off
- Mar 29 2-4pm** RE Bowling at Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley (see page 5 for details)



SERVICES ARE SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE AND NURSERY CARE ARE AVAILABLE DURING SERVICES.

2008-2009 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

- President: Alf Langan 337-9147
- Vice President: Linda Peacock-Landrum 406-0562
- Secretary: Janice Galt 432-5947
- Treasurer: Matt Johnson 465-1173
- Trustee: Bruce Rose 338-2385
- Trustee: Al Huebscher 609-1751
- Trustee: Doug Gjerde 490-9484
- Minister: Rev. Sandy Ingham 499-2344

COMMITTEE/GROUP CONTACTS

- Board of Trustees -- President, Alf Langan 337-9147
- Joint Committee on Ministry -- Rev. Ingham 499-2344
- Membership Committee -- Chair Steve Krings 432-5756
- Caring Committee -- Co-Chairs Kate Hutton 435-5563 & Francesca Pallo 662-9311
- Program -- Chair Therese Barry-Tanner 336-4642
- RE -- Co-Chairs Beth Jensen 338-2385 and Jennifer Johnson 465-1173
- Social Action -- Chair (vacant) Rev. Ingham 499-2344
- Stewardship Team -- Chair Matt Johnson 465-1173
- Facilities -- Chair Jane Shatswell 405-8338
- SCRIP -- Lisa Adams 983-8661



Happy Birthday!

Wishing children a happy birthday by singing to them is a unique part of our service. If you choose to announce your child's birthday during Joys and Concerns, please include their name so we all know who the birthday child is and we can properly sing. Thank you!

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The March deadline will be Friday, February 20.

As always, please email all submissions to:

jennifer@thosejohnsons.com



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



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