



JANUARY 2009 GREEN BAY AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

FROM THE MINISTER...

by Rev. Sandy Ingham

Howard Thurman said that the work of Christmas begins after the angels' song is stilled and the star in the sky is gone and the kings and princes have returned to their homes and the shepherds are back in their fields. My New Year's resolution is that we will do the work that needs to be done in 2009 by practicing compassion, improving our communication skills and developing a better understanding of the complexity in which we work together.

Practicing compassion involves kindness and gentleness. I was so touched by how very kind you all were to me on Sunday, the 21st of December, when, due to a series of weather-related minor occurrences, I arrived a few minutes after ten o'clock. I was extremely embarrassed and "bent out of shape". Yet you seemed not the least irritated or judgmental. Instead, you were concerned, afraid that I had landed in a ditch somewhere on my way to the Fellowship.

Thank you for that caring and kindness. It was exactly what I needed in the midst of a snowy, frigid, dreary December. I was nourished and heartened by your gentleness and your good humor. And, I was reminded of how important communication is to the art of compassion.

How will we know if someone is in need of extra concern and compassion if we are afraid to talk honestly and openly to each other? I hope that, by now, you feel comfortable enough with me to know

that you can talk to me anytime, about anything. I need your feedback -- both the positive comments and the ones that fall into the constructive criticism category. And I need to have opportunities to explain, in the kind of environment you provided on December 21st, why I do or do not do something. If it is difficult for you to give feedback one-on-one, there are other options. You may talk to someone on the Board or put written comments in our suggestion box. (Please note, however, that it is important to know who is giving the feedback; anonymous comments are not useful.)

One of my goals for the New Year is to find a third person to be on the Committee on Ministry (COM). The COM serves as a sounding board for the minister and is usually considered to be "minister-friendly". But the COM is also there to listen to what you have to say about the minister. Right now, Alf Langan and Janice Galt make up the COM. I hope, though, to be able to give you an update on this committee in the near future, including the name of a third member.

It is important to remember that all of this communication takes place in a setting of complexity. Unitarian Universalism, which we are trying to honor and live by, is complex. Human relationships, which we are trying to maintain and respect, are complex. Nonprofit organizations, of which we are one, are complex. Volunteers, who do most of the work of a nonprofit organization, are complex beings.

My wish for 2009 is that we will have more opportunities to compassionately communicate with each other, working our way through the complexities of our marvelous faith tradition, always learning more about our quirky individual natures and continuing to explore the complex relationships that make the Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship the fantastic place that it is!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Rev. Sandy

GREEN BAY AREA UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
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FROM THE TREASURER

by Matt Johnson

Finance Update

November's data was in last month's newsletter.

December's data as of 12/29:

Expenses: \$7883

Income: \$5674

Deficit: -\$2209

Fiscal year to date:

Expenses: 44375

Income: \$44510

Surplus: +\$135



As you can see, we are running VERY VERY close. This makes it difficult to pay rent which is due on the first of the month. This also shows that we have already used up any of the excess that the rummage sale and auction have generated. Our budget has always been tight, but since we have had no new pledges since July, we have not been able to close the gap. At the January board meeting I will recommend a budget that basically ONLY includes paying the minister and keeping the lights/heat on. So, what do we do? Well, we buckle down, we welcome new faces, invite friends, drive excellence in everything we do! We can do it! Thank you for your current, past, and future donations and sacrifices.

2008 End of the Year Statements will be distributed during services in January and February. These are different than the ones you recently got. Those were for the fiscal year. This new one you will get in late January or early February for the calendar year 2008, for tax purposes. As always, contact me with any questions or to discuss differences vs. your own records.



MEN'S GROUP RETREAT

The UU Men's Group will be holding their third annual retreat on Saturday, January 31, starting at 11:30AM and ending on Sunday, February 1, at 1:30PM. The location is Camp Helen Brachman which is a wooded setting on a small lake west of Waupaca. The activities planned include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, workshops, discussions, great food, fellowship and lots of time sitting around a blazing fireplace. The cost is \$60 and all men are welcome to attend. For more information you can pick up a brochure on the back table of the sanctuary or contact Steve Krings at 432-5756 or Doug Gjerde at 490-9484.

Our January meetings will be Thursday the 8th and 22nd at the Fellowship from 7-8:30PM.

UU BIBLE STUDY: WHAT CAN IT SAY TO UUS TODAY?

The Bible "...has been the best-selling book in the world every year since its printing began... Its stories, words and phrases have permeated our culture, infiltrating even our subconscious minds." (from Sins of the Scripture by John Shelby Spong).

Join us to discuss how this book has been used, misused and misinterpreted. Learn whether this great work can still inspire you today. Reverend Sandy and Margaret Krings will lead a four session exploration of the Bible starting Thursday evenings, February 5, 12, and 26th and March 5 at the Fellowship. Sign up at the round table in the back of our fellowship hall or talk with Rev. Sandy or Margaret Krings (432-5756) for more information.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT STEWARDSHIP TEAM

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The Stewardship team meets about 4 times a year to discuss monetary concerns of the fellowship as an institution. It consists of the treasurer, the president, and a few other long term members with financial or organizational knowledge. The current members are: Matt Johnson, Alf Langan, Bob Fresen, Steve Krings, Bruce Rose, Andy Hansen, and Al Huebscher. Kate McDougal was a member until moving. The team discusses the fellowship budget, cash flow issues, and policies prior to bringing them to the board. The team is amazing in that we are able to talk and discuss the hard decisions the fellowship needs to make at times in an open and supportive environment. The also team assists the chair of the annual canvass team and discusses long term goals and financial vision. The fellowship budget is now just over \$100,000. The treasurer cannot manage the donations and expenditures alone. The board cannot be bogged down by the absolute details; in-between is the stewardship team. Some of the issues we are dealing with now are the current projected shortfall and coming up with a plan to not get into this same spot in the future.

Submitting Expenses

Over the last six months, the board has been focusing on policies and procedures. These will form the backbone of the fellowship and allow us to grow as an organization. One policy the board passed is regarding reimbursement of expenses. This policy, along with others, will go up on the website in January. The gist of it for most people is that you need to use a form that is available in the office when submitting expenses, staple the receipt to the form, and put it in the Treasurer's mailbox. Expenses should be submitted within 30 days of incurring the expense with none being submitted after 60 days. Any questions can be directed to Matt Johnson at the fellowship or via email at treasurer@greenbayuu.org or phone 465-1173. Feel free to check with Matt before incurring an expense to make sure we have it in the

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Don't forget to take a Guest At Your Table (GAYT) box home and fill it up between now and **February 1**, the Sunday that we will be collecting the boxes. The GAYT tradition was begun by the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) many years ago. The UUSC is an independent human rights organization dedicated to strengthening workers' rights; protecting the right to safe, affordable water; defending civil liberties and democratic processes; and preserving the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.... and you can easily help with all of this by simply putting money in your GAYT box. Boxes are on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.



NEW UU CLASS ON JANUARY 17

Have you always wanted to know more about Unitarian Universalism and its roots? Rev. Sandy will facilitate an overview of the history of Unitarian Universalism on Saturday, January 17 from 10am-noon at the Fellowship. Child care will be provided. Sign up at the round table in the back of our Sanctuary or talk with Rev. Sandy or Margaret Krings for more information. Everyone is welcome.

UnsUng Heroes for December 2008



- Brian Brooks for determination, problem-solving and ingenuity to unfreeze a frozen lock box to allow entry to the Fellowship for repairs. Brian extended this commitment to work with a locksmith to find a viable solution long term!
- Denise Jacobs for creativity, insight, commitment and professionalism with her overall selection, coordination and leadership for wonderful weekly music accompaniment and enhancement to Sunday Services. She has worked hard to bring variety in participants and instruments.

SOUP SUNDAY JANUARY 18

Calling all crockpots! 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 service. A sign-up sheet is on the green table for those attending to volunteer to bring soups, stews, breads, rolls and desserts. So pull out your recipes and plug in your pots and come join us on January 18!

UU BOOK GROUP

The book group's January selection is "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Wells. The meeting will be on Jan. 7th at Margaret Krings' home (340 Graass St.). Please call Margaret at 920-432-5756 to say you'll be attending.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee will meet on Thursday, January 15th, at 5:30 p.m. Please note the new time. New members are always welcome to help with the vital work of nurturing and growing our membership.

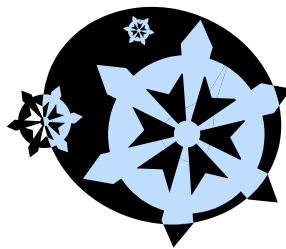
COFFEE HOSTS

Thanks to December Coffee Hosts: Julie Lennon, Laverne Bochek-Robbins, Bette McAnulty, and Vicki Fresen.

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 February.



UU PANTHEIST WINTER WEEKEND

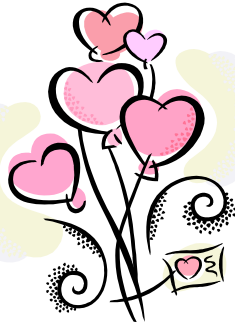
The UU Pantheists of Eastern Wisconsin invite you to a midwinter weekend of cross country skiing, snowshoeing, lakeshore exploration, star gazing and over all fun in the snow at Point Beach State Forest near Two Rivers. What better way to enjoy the half way point of winter than to spend it at a rustic cabin nestled in the wildness of a winter wonderland along the shore of Lake Michigan. Steve Krings along with Dave Gerlach and Jon Wigg of the FVUUF have reserved one of the park's rustic cabins for the weekend of February 6, 7 and 8. People are welcome to stay overnight on Friday and/or Saturday or they can come over for any part of the day on Saturday. Families with children are welcome as well. We'll have a campfire outside and a heated cabin to keep everyone warm. Contact Steve Krings at 432-5756 for information or to RSVP so that you can get directions.

JANUARY ACTIVITY SLEDDING

Come on out and celebrate winter by attending GBAUUF's Sledding Day at Josten Park in Bellevue. Sleds will coast down snowy hills on Sunday, January 18th from 1:00 - 3:00pm. We'll have hot cocoa, snacks and lots of fun. Bring your own sled or tube and your sense of adventure.



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.

Photos from the December 14 Intergenerational Service "The Last Straw."



January 4 -- “A Letter to my Grandchildren” from Rev. Sandy... and to all children, for that matter.

If I could give the children of the world -- and all succeeding generations -- a truly happy new year, what would that mean? What would I wish for them in this January of 2009 new year and in the next new year and the next? What would you want the world that our children will inherit to look like? Think carefully about that and come prepared to share your thoughts about how we might create the conditions that would ensure many Happy New Years for the youngest among us.

January 11-- “The Spirit and Soul of the Hmong People” by Sandra Shackelford.

Sandra Shackelford has had close connections with the Hmong in Green Bay for a number of years. She has worked on various projects with them and has learned about their culture and customs. Join us this morning as we get an inside look at Hmong spirituality and the stories that bring it to life.

January 18 -- “Not Yet... Reflections on Racism”

On this Sunday, Rev. Ingham will continue her series of reflections about prophets with a look at the life of a modern-day American prophet, Martin Luther King, Jr. Even though we seem to have made a significant attack on racism in this country by electing our first black president, it is not yet time to rest on our laurels. There is still too much to do, especially if you look a little more closely at where Dr. King was headed in his prophesies.

January 25 -- “Yes We Can! Or Can We? And Will We?” by Judy Crain.

Judy Crain is a long-time guest who speaks with thought and wisdom. She has a masters degree in theology. She is a long-time member of First United Methodist Church. Her sermons are memorable! This year the title speaks for itself. What will it take to rally around new leadership in our country starting January 20th?

February 1 -- “All You Need Is Love”

Rev. Ingham would like to believe that this sentiment is true. However, love often seems to be in short supply. Or is it? If you break love down into its components, you run into the concept of kindness. And, everyone has stories of kindness to tell, don't they? There will be a congregational response time when you will be invited to share your kindness stories, especially those that concern “the kindness of strangers”.

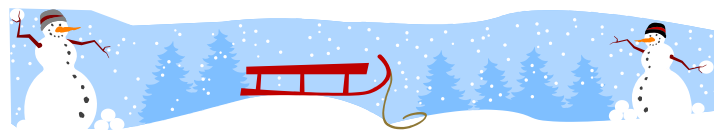
February 8 -- “This I Believe” featuring Jane Shatswell, Mike Wentz, Doug Gjerde, and Della Rose.

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.



CALENDAR

- Jan 4 10:00am Service Topic -- "A Letter to my Grandchildren" by Rev. Ingham
- Jan 7 6:30pm UU Book Group at Margaret Krings' home (see page 4 for details)
- Jan 8 7-8:30pm UU Men's Group at the fellowship
- Jan 11 10:00am Service Topic -- "The Spirit and Soul of the Hmong People" by Sandra Shackelford
- Jan 15 5:30pm Membership Committee Meeting at the fellowship
- Jan 17 10-noon New UU Class at the fellowship
- Jan 18 10:00am Service Topic -- "Not Yet...Reflections on Racism" by Rev. Ingham
- 11:00am Soup Sunday
- 1-3pm RE Sledding Event at Josten Park in Bellevue
- Jan 20 11:59pm Deadline for February Newsletter
- Jan 22 7-8:30pm UU Men's Group at the fellowship
- Jan 25 10:00am Service Topic -- "Yes We Can! Or Can We? And Will We?" by Judy Crain
- Jan 31-Feb 1 Men's Group Retreat (see page 2 for details)
- Feb 1 10:00am Turn in Guest At Your Table boxes
- Service Topic -- "All You Need Is Love" by Rev. Ingham
- Feb 5 Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship (see page 2 for details)
- Feb 6-8 UU Pantheist Weekend (see page 4 for details)
- Feb 8 10:00am Service Topic -- "This I Believe" by members of the fellowship
- Feb 12 Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship
- Feb 14 10-noon RE Treat Making Event at the fellowship (see page 5 for details)
- Feb 26 Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship
- Mar 5 Bible Study for UUs at the fellowship



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

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Starting with the next issue, the deadline for each newsletter will be the 20th of every month. So the **February deadline will be Tuesday, January 20**, March's deadline will be Friday, February 20 and so on. The key to remembering, is the **20th**.

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.



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