



We Are a Part of Something Much Bigger

by Laura Schlatter

Perhaps you, like me, once found yourself searching for a religious community, uncertain where to look, wondering whether there was even a place that would feel right to you. You visited some other religious communities but felt that nothing was quite the right fit. Maybe you searched online, visiting belief.net, only to discover that you scored highest as a Unitarian Universalist, which made you laugh since you'd never even heard of Unitarian Universalism. So you did more online research to figure out how to find a congregation. Perhaps you were just out for a Sunday morning walk and got curious about those wooden doors on Portland or Grotto and decided to wander in. One way or another, once you entered the Unity Church community, it felt like home and you knew you'd found a place you wanted to stay. You may have wondered why you didn't find Unity Church sooner, and now you feel you are pretty lucky because this place is unique and wonderful.

Unity Church is wonderful and unique in some ways, but to a surprising extent it is not so unique. Unity is one of over 1000 congregations in the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), an association of congregations that share many things — from the hymnal we use and the *Our Wholes Lives* curriculum our ninth graders experience, to the Seven Purposes and Principles we affirm and promote as a congregation, to Human Resources products and services for church staff. If you are a voting member of Unity Church — which means you have signed the Membership Book and you make an identifiable pledge — you should receive the *UU World*, a magazine published by the UUA.

Go to the UUA website, www.uua.org, to discover all of the things that the UUA does — the services it provides to member congregations and their clergy and staff; its publishing arm, Beacon Press; the public advocacy and witness it provides in the world — just to name a few. The UU Musicians Network, an affiliate of the UUA, recently held its national conference at Unity Church, hosting about 300 musicians, many of them music directors, from UU congregations all over the country. Unique as Unity Church is, it is part of something much larger — a larger community with which it shares values and history. Discovering the UUA is like discovering family.

One of the most dramatic ways to experience the larger Unitarian Universalist family is to attend General Assembly, the annual gathering of more than 5000 UUs. Each year, representatives from hundreds of congregations gather, attend worship services together, teach and attend workshops, share learning, meals,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Unity's Fair Share to PSD and the UUA

by Louise Livesay

Because of the tremendous value we receive from being a part of the UUA and PSD as mentioned in Laura Schlatter's article *We Are a Part of Something Much Bigger*, it is important that Unity Church pay its "fair share" of dues to the UUA and PSD.

As an association, the church is asked to pay \$75 per adult voting member so that the two organizations can operate and provide the broad array of services to their member churches and individuals of our faith.

Just as Unity Church asks its members to work toward giving their fair share pledge to the church, the UUA and PSD asks the same of its member congregations. In both cases, these fair share donations provide the funds for the quality programs and services to its members and a voice for our Unitarian Universalist faith in the larger world. The UUA and PSD do incredible work on our behalf and provide us with wonderful services that the members of Unity benefit from all the time.

Just as many of you are working toward your fair share pledge, Unity is working toward its fair share dues. Currently Unity Church is at about 25% of its dues to the two organizations.

Unity Church wishes to move closer to its fair share dues to the UUA and PSD; we hope each of you will help us reach the goal by adding \$75 per adult pledging member (\$150 per couple) to your pledge card specifically to help Unity have the money in its budget to pay its fair share to the UUA and PSD. There will be a box on the pledge card specifically for this purpose, separate from your annual Unity pledge. Please consider helping Unity be a credible voice in the UUA movement by helping us pay our fair share to the UUA and PSD.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

A few years ago, Rob and I were invited to attend a “triangle meeting” in Holland of the three congregations involved in creating an international partnership with Homorodszentpeter in Transylvania. We represented Unity; Kinga and two others represented Szenpeter. Our hosts represented and are members of a liberal breakaway congregation called the “Wood Chapel.” It is outside of Utrecht, Holland in a town called Bilthoven. Members of the congregation have also worked to support the village life in Szenpeter and a number of Unity pilgrims have met members of this other partnering congregation. They are engaging people and our visit to Holland and the triangle meeting was marked by in-depth conversations about history, theology, partnership and politics.

This past week friends from the congregation came to visit us. We were delighted to host and delighted even more at the opportunity to show off the Twin Cities to people who had never visited. With the help of some of the other partner church pilgrims, our Dutch friends saw numerous art museums, galleries, the Minnesota Historical Society, the majestic Minnesota State House; had a boat ride on the Mississippi; hiked along the river for miles, and attended numerous musical performances as part of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network. And they left with a list of things we didn’t have time to get to. They were gracious and appreciative guests. They enjoyed everyone they met at Unity, but I think the real highlight of their trip was our short walk through the ravine near the river.

The ravine sits near the St. Thomas campus and our house and I walk through it throughout the year. Its beauty sustains me and I love noticing the subtle and not so subtle changes that I see as I walk along its twisty and irregular paths. Our friends were amazed that a little piece of wilderness was nestled in among the city. There are parks in Holland and acres of grazing land for life stock. There, long green vistas and the glory of the tulips’ color strips covering the hillsides is a miraculous sight to observe, but it was the “untouched wild,” that spoke to them most deeply. It is the one thing they no longer have in Holland. Every piece of land is utilized for some purpose. The only untouched land they have is along the shore of the North Sea and that is often just a few meters between ocean and the signs of civilization.

We need wilderness; we need that sense of magic that we feel when we can leave the predictable paths of our city pavement. We need a place where we could imagine getting lost in. This is still available to us and we are so fortunate to have it as a resource. May you all have had a time of restoration in the wild this summer. May it carry you into the home we share together.

— *Janne*



Tuesday, September 12, is a Primary Election Day for offices across Minnesota. Find your polling place at the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us and be sure to go vote!

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Josephine Meri Schucker

born July 28, 2006

daughter of
Adrienne and Jeff Schucker
granddaughter of
Sherm Eagles and Sue Conner

Leo Brock Bernard Sagstetter

born June 14, 2006

son of
Helene Douville
and John Sagstetter

In Celebration

Julie Lindholm and Denny Hansen

married August 12, 2006

In Memoriam

Anne Louise Keeler

July 11, 1951—
August 30, 2006

Mary Elizabeth “Betsy” Downing

September 10, 1921 —
August 4, 2006

HALLMAN INTERNS

From the Hallman Ministerial Interns...

The first in a series of columns from the Hallman Ministerial Interns. Each month Justin or Teresa will present their thoughts to the congregation. This month, as a bonus, we present words from both of them.

From Justin:

At its core, hospitality is a spiritual practice, a practice that runs through many religious traditions. Genuine hospitality requires attentiveness, empathy, intentionality, listening, and deep kindness. Biblically, there is the notion that by welcoming in and offering food and shelter to strangers, one might be entertaining angels unaware.

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying I'm an angel! I am saying that I have felt warmly welcomed by the Executive Team, the staff, and the members I've met at Unity.

When I arrived, I was a bit anxious, wondering what things would be like, and full of the worries of just having moved to a new city and community. Perhaps in some ways, my initial anxiety reflects the worries of a first time visitor to Unity, who wonders, "What will this be like?"

However, the fact that Teresa Schwartz and I had name plaques on our office door reflected a deep and intentional level of hospitality, and it quickly lay to rest many of my worries. The name plaques sent the explicit message that there was a place for us here, that we were wanted, even anticipated! True hospitality has a way of disarming me, and of quite suddenly filling my heart with gratitude.

It felt good to be so strongly welcomed and it was a reminder that perhaps genuine hospitality is the first step toward creating the beloved community, as we welcome diverse people into our lives and communities.

Of course, not everyone coming to Unity will have a name plaque on the wall! Nonetheless, the language we use, the smiles we share, and the attentiveness we give can warmly welcome them, as serve as metaphorical "name plaque."

Ultimately, hospitality is the living of one's faith. It is the recognition that we truly are our brother and sister's keeper, that we, ourselves, are often the stranger in need of shelter and food, and that practicing hospitality has a way of growing our hearts and letting that spirit of kindness shine forth even more brightly in our lives.

That all being said, I recognize that I am still very much a "stranger" to this congregation (and it to me), but I trust that in the coming weeks and months, we will begin the dance of hospitality, of getting to know and welcome one another, as we share stories, laughter, and struggles, exploring the meaning and possibilities of creating beloved community together. I can't wait!

From Teresa:

Greetings! I am delighted and honored to serve as one of your Hallman Ministerial Interns, along with my co-intern, Justin Schroeder. Since my arrival this summer, staff and members have warmly welcomed me. So many of you have told me about the importance of Unity Church in your lives. Newer members and long-timers alike share this heartfelt feeling. Many of you have told me, "I can't imagine being anywhere else." Nor can I.

The wheel of the year continues to turn and we now enter the fall. It is my favorite season—for me it has always been a time of beginnings. It is the time of the new academic year, the Jewish New Year, and for all of us here at Unity, the beginning of our church year. I love the glory of fall—the change in colors and weather always reminds me of the possible change within.

Every year, on the first day of school, my mother-in-law would take a picture of her two children on the front steps of their home. It was the family's official rite of passage into the new school year. (My husband and I continued this tradition through graduate school and with new jobs, too.) On the threshold of the new church year, it is our time to take a snapshot of our community and ourselves. How have we grown? What has changed? What is the same? What do we fear? What do we hope for?

We are entering many new things together—the 3rd church service, a redesigned sanctuary and Center Room, welcoming new members into our community, and Rob and Janne's upcoming sabbatical. Though we don't know now what the church year has in store, we do know that we will walk through it together.

To minister is to serve. As your intern minister, I am here to serve this congregation and to learn. Part of my sacred work is to be a visible reminder that as Unitarian Universalists we all are ministers—we are called to serve one another. Often, when I walk by the church on the Grotto Street side, one door ring is slightly upturned. It is gently asking us to open the door, to enter. Sound the shofar, ring the bell, flash the camera, and then open the door to the new church year.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Getting Connected by Getting Involved

by Laura Schlatter

I become a member of this church aware of the privileges and responsibilities of membership and with a deep feeling that I have come home this day. I bring to my new family my talents and enthusiasm, my shortcomings and my doubts. I ask you to direct me into opportunities for service."

These are the first words spoken by new members as they participate in the responsive reading during the Ingathering of New Members ceremony. Many of you — members and non-members alike — are already involved at Unity Church and feeling well-connected and that this truly is your spiritual or religious home. Others may feel like outsiders, wanting to connect and contribute but not sure how.

Connecting to others and contributing your time and talents to the community are crucial parts of your decision to be involved in a religious community. This is especially true if you have taken the step of signing the membership book, but it is also the case if you have not technically joined the congregation but attend church services or programs regularly.

If you are wondering how you might get involved, consider the following opportunities. We need people in each of these areas and one of them might be right for you. All provide opportunities to get know others in the church. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Laura at the Church Office.

Welcome Team Member — 9:00, 11:00, or 4:30 p.m. service. but especially 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Help to usher, greet, serve coffee, staff the Welcome Table, ring the bell! Commitment: maximum of about 1-1/2 hours once a month during a Sunday service, 1 year.

Welcome Team Coordinator — 9:00, 11:00, or 4:30 p.m. service: Commitment: about ½ hour e-mail or 1 hour phone coordinating time each month at your convenience plus about 1-1/2 to 2 hours once a month during a Sunday service. 2 years preferred.

Bookstall Volunteer: 4:30 p.m. service especially, but 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. slots or sub slots could be arranged. Enjoy perusing the books in our excellent bookstall in the Parish Hall after one worship service per month while helping people who wish to purchase books there. A perfect way to get involved in fascinating conversations with other book lovers on Sundays! Commitment: about 45 minutes once a month, 1 year.

Children's Library Catalog data entry:

Help any time you can spare time to input the children's library catalog into the computer. Training provided. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who likes to work quietly and alone and enjoys looking at children's books!

Wellspring Wednesday Registration Team — 9:00, 11:00, or 4:30 p.m. service and/or just before the 6:00 dinner on Wednesdays: Staff the Wellspring Wednesday registration table on Sundays, signing people up for dinner, classes and/or check people in as they arrive for dinner on Wednesdays. Commitment: ½ to 1 hour per month (½ hour on Sundays; ½ hour on Wednesdays.) 1 year.

Wellspring Wednesday Kitchen Fellowship Team Member:

One week each month; Tuesday evening or Wednesday late afternoon and/or early evening shift, helping to cook, clean or serve. No experience needed. Excellent chance to have fun in the kitchen and get to know other people. Commitment: About 2-3 hours per month, either Tuesday evening or late Wednesday afternoon or evening,! 1 year, September through May.

Finding Yourself at Unity Team Member:

Help to welcome newcomers by assisting with Finding Yourself at Unity workshops. Just be a welcoming, hospitable presence or learn to facilitate the workshop. Help with room setup, putting together participant folders. Be part of a team committed to welcoming newcomers to Unity Church. Commitment: Varies, depending on your availability. 4 to 8 hours, 1 to 6 times per year. 2 years preferred.

Covenant Group Leadership Team Member:

First Tuesday evening of each month. Work closely with a small group that incorporates a covenant group meeting with their business meeting. Group oversees Covenant Group program, writes curriculum for program, acts as liaisons to Covenant Group facilitators. Experience with Covenant Groups recommended but not required. An excellent opportunity to get to know a small group well. Commitment: 1 two-hour meeting per month, plus occasional additional tasks, not more than about ½ per month average. 2 years.



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES / MORGAN FORUMS / BOOK CLUBS

Inside Out

by Carol Bauer, for the

Board of Trustees

In 1887, revered Unitarian minister, Rev. William Channing Gannett, drafted a list of "Things Commonly Believed Among Us" that was adopted by the Western Unitarian Conference. The purpose of the document was to accommodate the non-Christians among Unitarians, and to attempt to articulate what, exactly, it meant to be a Unitarian.

The list, while a clearly a reflection of its time, still has relevance as we struggle to embrace and live our faith. A couple items from Gannett worth noting:

- We believe that to love the Good and to live the Good is the supreme thing in religion
- We believe that we ought to join hands and work to make the good things better and the worst good

The congregation of Unity Church echoed these sentiments in working with the board to establish 2003-2008 vision and "ends statements" that serve as a compass for our church, and a framework for those who yearn for "beloved community." Our vision statement says that because of Unity Church—Unitarian, the world is a better place. Our end statements bring this to vision life by calling us to:

- Have a deeply meaningful, transforming liberal religious experience
- Feel connected with our religious community
- Live out our liberal religious values in the world

The board is entrusted with making sure that the work of the church aligns with the congregational charge. But what exactly does it mean to have a deeply meaningful, transforming religious experience? How do we feel connected with the religious community and what *is* the religious community? What are our liberal religious values, and how do we live them out in the world?

Through conversations with the members of Unity Church, we have started answering some of these questions through initiatives such as taking steps to become a welcoming congregation and the work of the anti-racism team. In the next two years, the board will turn this conversation outward to the greater community—area churches and schools, city officials, activist groups, the UUA and others who, like the Unity community, love the Good, live the Good and believe that we ought to join hands to make the good things better and the worst good. Our path is uncertain, but we are committed to the journey. We are thankful for your guidance and support along the way.

A copy of the Unity Church 2003-2008 Vision and End Statements is available online at: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/missionends.htm>

A copy of Gannett's "Things Commonly Believed Among Us" is available online at: <http://www.stanuu.org/beliefwgcg.html>

Samuel Morgan Community Forums

NORMA MILLER

Pioneer of Swing Dance at the Savoy in Harlem Saturday, September 9 -- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

This morning features stories from Miller's new book and an excerpt from a newly-released movie about her life. Dancers from the Central Ave. Dance Ensemble in Los Angeles will perform tap and swing dance numbers accompanied by select musicians from the Chester Whitmore L.A. swing/jazz dance band Opus One Big Band.

DR. HUSTON SMITH

Renowned Historian of World Religions

Saturday, September 16 -- 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A lifelong career of studying the world's religions has made Dr. Huston Smith especially gifted in illuminating the dialogues that are timeless. His conversations touch upon many Big Questions: what is the meaning of God? Where do science and religion meet? How can we teach children about the sacred in everyday life?

For more information on either of these forums, see August's commUNITY newsletter or visit the church website at unityunitarian.org.

Mother-Daughter Book Clubs (Grades 5-7)

The Mother-Daughter Book Club, for young women in grades 5 to 7 and their mothers or other adult woman friends, will meet on September 20, at Wellspring Wednesdays.

(Grades 2-4)

This new book club will have its first meeting at Wellspring Wednesday on September 27. The group is for girls and their mothers or other adult woman friends.

For more information on either club, contact Ginny Allen at 651/645-7176.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

FROM THE MANO A MANO MINISTRY TEAM:

To Bolivia With Love:

A Special, All-Ages Wellspring Wednesday Event

Have you wondered about the work of Mano a Mano in Bolivia? Would you like to do something hands-on to help with that work? Are you looking for a fun and meaningful way to connect with members of the Unity congregation, including those older and younger than you?

We've got a special, intergenerational event planned for Wellspring Wednesday on October 18 that's just right for you. To Bolivia, With Love is a multi-activity evening that starts with a delicious Bolivian meal, moves on to a short worship service with music and stories from the Andes, and culminates in our rolling up our sleeves for some hands-on work that will enable Mano a Mano to share baby clothes and school supplies with some of the world's most impoverished communities.

Registration limited to 100 people; children's and elders' participation encouraged.



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM:

September Whole Farm Orders

Buy meat, cheese, produce and much more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up right at Unity from Whole Farm Cooperative products.

For September pickup, place an order with Whole Farm at wholefarmcoop.com at 320/732-3023 by Friday, September 15. (Give an extra day for fresh fruit and vegetable orders.) Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, September 20. Invoices are enclosed with your order. You pay by sending a check for the invoice amount directly to Whole Farm. To find out more, stop by the table in the Parish Hall or contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

FROM THE CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE MINISTRY TEAM:

CVT Volunteer Opportunities

The Center for Victims of Torture exists to heal the wounds of government-sponsored torture on individuals, their families, and their communities. CVT's new healing center on Dayton Avenue, a few blocks from Unity Church, is in a renovated Victorian house whose space supports the recovery of individuals who have been confined and terrorized. Last fall, our CVT Ministry Team organized volunteers from the church to paint the porch. This fall, we will finish the trim work that will bring this beautiful porch to life. Consider joining us on September 16 or 23 for a few hours of painting.

FROM THE PARTNER CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM:

About the partnership between Unity Church and Homoródszentpéter, Romania

In 1989, after the fall of Ceceaseau's brutal and repressive regime, Unitarians in this country were again able to make contact with their cousins-in-faith in Romania. The region of Transylvania in Romania is the birthplace of Unitarianism in Europe. Unitarianism has been kept alive in that region since 1569 by ethnic Hungarians. They have done this by cherishing their given faith and culture in the face of much oppression and focused discrimination.

In 1991, Unity Church, responding to a call from the UUA, entered into a partnership with a village church in Homoródszentpéter. Since that time, there have been a variety of exchanges of visits between the two church communities. There have been visits and organized pilgrimages by more than just Unity members. Unity Church, through its Partner Church Team, has supported visits from the village minister and her husband, Kinga-Réka and Csaba Szekéley. In 2002, Unity arranged a visit from venerated and beloved village church elders Domokos and Erzebet Jobb. Members of Unity Church have supported community development work in the Transylvanian valley, with the recent attendance at a conference in Transylvania by representatives from the village as well as Eric and Laurel Lein, Mark and Sally Foster, Linny Siems, and Olga Zoltai from Unity Church.

Now, this November, Unity Church will be hosting two couples from the village church on their own pilgrimage here. Both couples are active leaders in their church and in village life. Their names are Ilonka and Zoltan Maté and Ildikó and Levente Mathe.

For more information about the partnership, the team, and the upcoming visit, view the Partner Church Newsboard and table in the Parish Hall, visit the church website at unityunitarian.org, or talk with members of the Partner Church Team.

BUY THE CHANGE / COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Building Community Through Commerce

by Zack Steven

Have you ever wished there were a simple and tactful way to promote your business or talents (catering, realty, music, consulting) to other members and friends of Unity? Or that Unity could benefit financially from some of the excess stuff (kids items, a bike, a piano) in your basement or garage? Maybe you have things you'd like to give away, or announce/promote to the Unity community.

Me too! As a parent, homeowner, and member of the Unity Board of Trustees I found myself wishing that there were an effective way for Unity to benefit financially from my time, talents, and "stuff." I also thought it would be great if there were an easy way to connect with other Unity Church members for home repair, childcare and other services. As an entrepreneur and proponent of business as a vehicle for social change I began working with several partners to meet this need.

The result of our efforts is Buy the Change, a web-based Community Board service that connects members and friends of real-world communities (churches, schools, co-ops, non-profits) through commerce. Our service became active online August 1, and Unity Church has signed on as one of three pilot communities. Here's how it works:

1. Visit unityunitarian.com and click on the "Buy the Change: Community Bulletin Board and Forum" link on the left side of the home page
2. Complete the free registration process
3. Post your goods or services for sale
 - ♦ Goods and announcements cost \$5 for 30 days
 - ♦ Services cost \$5-20 for 30 days, based on business size
 - ♦ The Garage Sale option allows you unlimited postings for 30 days for \$20
 - ♦ There is no charge to post items you want to give away
4. Upload photos or create links to your own website
5. Make a secure payment online by credit card
6. 70% of your posting fee is paid back to Unity Church!
7. Another member hires you, buys your stuff, or attends your event
8. There's one more familiar face at coffee hour

Visitors can browse without registering and there is no cost to Unity to use the service. Unity Church's community bulletin board includes "Yellow Pages" and "Classified" functions as well as a discussion forum for registered users. Perhaps you'd like to express afterthoughts about the sermon, recommend and discuss a book that has influenced you, or solicit ideas about daily spiritual practice.

It matters how you spend your money. Please visit the website today to support fellow members and the mission of the church. Who knows, you might just find something you can't live without!

REPORT FROM EVERGREENPROJECTS TEAM:

Evergreen Foodshelf News

Once again it is time to remember those in our community who need help in providing food for their families. Every third Sunday of each month we encourage all of you to bring non-perishable food or other needed household items to the Food Barrels which are at the Holly and Portland entrances. A suggested list of needed items are provided for you but all nourishing and non-perishable food items are appreciated. The food will be taken monthly to Sharing Korner Foodshelf, located on Arundel Street. This is a wonderful project for families to do together.

Used but clean clothing is also an appreciated donation to the foodshelf as we approach this coming Fall and Winter seasons.

Meals at Ramsey County Family Center

For those of you looking for a fun and rewarding experience, you are invited to join the group of Unity people who take their turn to help prepare or serve a dinner to homeless families at the Ramsey County Family Resource Center on the second Monday of each month.

Individuals and families with youth middle school and older are very welcome. For more information or to schedule a particular month, please stop by the Evergreen table on any Food Drive Sunday, the third Sunday of each month or contact Karen Buggs at 651/297-0111 or Mary Barrett at 651/225-9708.



EVERGREEN FOODSHELF ITEMS FOR 2006-2007

Remember that any item, including non-perishable items not listed here, can be donated any month. These are just suggestions for what can be brought each month. Bring donations to the barrels at the Holly and Portland entrances.

- September 17:** canned fruit
- October 15:** hygiene products (shampoo, handsoap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant)
- November 19:** canned tuna or meat, hamburger helper, rice, dried beans
- December 17:** small bottles of detergent (dish or clothing), toilet paper
- January 21:** canned or dry spaghetti, canned stews, pancake mix, syrup
- February 18:** canned vegetables, tomato sauce
- March 18:** peanut butter, jam and jelly
- April 15:** canned soup of basic kinds
- May 20:** diapers and baby food
- June 17:** cooking oil, small bottles of detergent (dish or clothing)

ANTI-RACISM / WELCOMING CONGREGATION / COUPLES CLASS

FROM THE WELCOMING CONGREGATION MINISTRY TEAM:

Welcoming Congregation Team plans for 2006–2007

The Welcoming Congregation Ministry Team held a retreat in late May and a followup meeting in June to plan for the coming church year. The team's major goal is to prepare for a vote at the 2007 Congregational Meeting that will make us an official UUA Welcoming Congregation. With that in mind, we have held many educational events in the past year, some for the congregation at large, some for specific groups. We've also involved the congregation in political events like Rally Day and Lobby Day, a forum here at Unity Church, and community events like Rainbow Families Conference and Twin Cities Pride.

During this church year, we plan to continue educational, political and community events. We'll also continue the film series that has started this summer, develop stronger linkages with the Anti-Racism and Restorative Justice teams, carry out a review of the language in church documents, and work with the OWL teachers, who are charged with teaching our youth about a UUA perspective on sexuality.

Our final task is to develop the structure that will ensure that Unity Church remains a truly welcoming congregation after the vote. Interweave is the UUA's name for such groups — a name that is familiar to newcomers from other UU congregations. Count on hearing Interweave as part of the name of the new organization.

Looking for a rainbow stripe for your nametag? The Welcoming Congregation Ministry Team will have a table on the first Sunday of each month (except September, when it will be September 10) where you can pick up this symbol of your support for the work of the Welcoming Congregation Team.

FROM THE ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM:

Did you know?

The UU Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) was formally organized in November 2005 in response to a call from DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries), the people of color organization within the UUA.

The group's vision states: *"We the UU Allies for Racial Equity ground ourselves in a vision of an anti-oppressive, multicultural Unitarian Universalist faith. We will be accountable to DRUUMM by building a movement among white UUs to understand white privilege and unlearn racism and white supremacy."* To learn more, go to <http://uuallies.org/>, a space for Whites to explore and begin to address issues of institutional racism in our association, our congregations, and in our own lives.

DRUUMM provides opportunities for members of ethnic and racial minorities to network with and support one another. Visit druumm.org for more information.

The Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus has its own website and newsletter at apiuu.org.

The Latina/Latino Unitarian Universalist Networking Association (LUUNA) supports and advocates for Latinas, Latinos, and Hispanics. Contact Rev. Jose Ballester at luunnaysol@aol.com.

The Unitarian Universalist Network on Indigenous Affairs (UUNIA) is dedicated to advocating for Native American people and related issues. Contact Rev. Robert Thayer at rthsadhana@aol.com.

Committed Couples Class

Each year Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs offer a five-session course on marriage as a spiritual path. The course is intended for couples, gay or straight, who wish to strengthen their relationships through self-reflection, focused conversation and the support of good companions on the path. This class can be very helpful if you and your partner are:

- ♦ preparing for marriage
- ♦ searching for a second wind
- ♦ wanting to renew your vows

The class will meet on five Tuesday evenings from September 28 to November 2 (no class on October 26) from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Childcare is available upon request if you notify us by the Wednesday before class time. Register by contacting Julie Handberg at the Church Office or by emailing julieh@unityunitarian.org.



Twin Cities Marathon Alert!

It's autumn again and the Twin Cities Marathon will wind its way along Summit Avenue the morning of Sunday, October 1. Many roads will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please plan alternate routes and allow extra time to reach Unity Church that morning.

WOMEN'S RETREAT / UUA/ PSD

Unity Women's Retreat: Balancing Oya October 6-8, 2006 at Camp Courage

Oya (the Yoruban Goddess of weather) storms into your life to tell you that change is calling, beckoning, and camping out on your doorstep. Have you been too busy, too stressed, to attend to the changes needed in your life to nurture yourself? Is change so fearful a concept that you push it aside, play hide-and-seek with it, or just ignore it? Have you arranged your life so perfectly that there is no room left for potential? These are the kinds of questions we are pondering while Balancing Oya in our lives. "Balancing Oya" is the theme for this year's Unity Women's Retreat.

This year the Unity Women's Retreat Planning Team is working to find workshop opportunities to explore how to balance ourselves in changing winds — through art, music, spirituality, yoga, meditation and movement. This weekend can be a time for ourselves to take notice of our lives, reflect how we feel about the way we live, energize our spirits or just relax and take time out for personal rest. The lakeside camp with surrounding trees, the community of supportive women, and the shared talents and wisdom of our sisters are included in this wonderful weekend opportunity.

Our planning community is working to pull essentials together to create a meaningful and spiritual weekend. We are seeking individuals to help with details regarding set-up/tear down, welcoming guests by assisting with carrying luggage and materials in and out, worship planning, and wake-up singing. There are many ways to help. If you are able to help with any of these kinds of tasks, contact Laura Schlatter at the Church Office, Terri McNeil at 651/699-9896 or Rebecca Walters at 651/298-1013.

Is the voice of Oya calling out to you to explore and expand your full potential in this supportive community of women? On Saturday night, October 7, we will be holding an open-mic/coffee house/talent show. If you have a song to sing, a dance to dance, a poem to ponder, a joke to jest or even a short play to perform, we encourage you to contact our Mistress of Ceremonies, Rochelle Lockridge, at 651/731-8012 to sign up. Space is limited, so call soon. It is time for change. It is time to sweep out, sweep up, and be swept away! We look forward to sharing this unique and wonderful opportunity with you.

Pre-registration for the retreat has already begun. Please visit us at our registration table in Parish Hall after services. And watch for more announcements in This Week at Unity and around the church.

If you would like to be included on our email contact list for updates, please contact Laura Schlatter, Terri McNeil or Rebecca Walters.

...Part of Something Much Bigger

continued from page 1

laughter and tears.

At this year's General Assembly in St. Louis, I had the pleasure of sharing a meal with two other full-time membership coordinators — one from Kansas, one from Maryland. As we talked, we discovered how much we share in our work lives — the challenges and the joys of doing the work we do in large Unitarian Universalist congregations. Later, I sat with one of those two people in a workshop on "Radical Hospitality in Universalism" and enjoyed singing the Peter Mayer hymn, "Blue Boat Home" with the other during a worship service. The exhibit hall was lined with booths displaying chalice art jewelry and collections of lovely ceramic chalices, fair trade goods and information about sustainable agriculture and green sanctuaries. This conference, hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Association, is truly a time to feel part of a larger family.

In addition to operating on a national level, the UUA is divided into 20 districts. Unity Church is part of the Prairie Star District (PSD), which includes about 60 congregations in eight states: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The PSD offers a wide array of resources and services to congregations, including leadership training and support for congregational staff and lay leaders. The PSD owns and operates Camp Unistar. On a personal level, I have been a member of the PSD Board of Directors for the past two years and through that work am becoming more familiar with some of the people and resources in the 60 congregations in our district. Each time I attend a PSD Board meeting, I come away inspired and renewed by the commitment of the people with whom I am working to our shared faith. Be sure to visit the PSD website at www.psduua.org.

There are many ways to contribute to the work of the UUA and the PSD. If you are interested in deeper involvement in the wider Unitarian Universalist movement, let me know. Consider attending next year's Prairie Star District conference in Minneapolis in April, or General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, in June. Understanding how we at Unity Church fit into the larger Unitarian Universalist community is an important way to deepen your connection and your faith.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Gears Up For Fall

September 10 Family Sunday:

Merging of the Waters and Ice Cream Open House

Our church year begins with a Family Sunday to celebrate our gathering together again as a loving, faithful community. Children attend the entire worship with their families. Activity books are provided to help children engage in the themes of the service. A special story for all ages will be offered during the worship.

The R.E. staff will be seeking water bearers for our Merging of the Waters litany. Children of our R.E. teachers from last year's programs are invited to assume a special role as the bearers and namers of the waters of the world. Four children are needed for each of the three services. If you taught or guided classes last year and your child is between the ages of 6 and 12, please contact Kerri about this opportunity to participate in our first worship.

Following each worship, please join us in the basement for our annual R.E. Open House and Ice Cream social. This is a great opportunity to see the R.E. spaces with your children and meet Unity parents and staff. Registration forms and ice cream will be available for everyone!

The Return of Tower Club

Our high school youth group starts up again this fall, beginning Sunday, September 10. Tower Club will meet Sunday evenings, beginning with the 4:30 service (a pew will be reserved for youth, their guests and their families).

Following worship, we meet from 5:30 until 7:30 for some crazy fun and fellowship, a shared meal and work on spiritual deepening and social justice issues. Jo LaFerla, Rob-Eller Isaacs and Kerri Meyer will share the leadership of this youth group with lay leaders from the church community. All high schoolers in grades 10-12 are invited to join us for Tower Club. Contact Jo or Kerri in the Church Office for more details.

Youth Music Ensemble

One of our exciting options for middle school/junior high youth at the 11:00 service is our Youth Music Ensemble. We're broadening our musical horizons beyond (but still including!) choral performance. This class will meet and rehearse during the 11:00 worship. With the guidance of some of Unity's adult shining stars, our young people will explore music as a sacred experience, learning about many musical traditions and sharing their own musical gifts and talents with each other and the church.

Each semester will include a musical project: the writing and composing of a new song or hymn for UU youth and congregations. Contact Kerri or Ruth for more information about this combined opportunity in Music Ministry and Religious Education.

Registration: Last Call!

Families who have not registered for 2006-07 Religious Education programs are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Forms are available at the Holly Avenue information table as well as on the church website: www.unityunitarian.org.

Enrollment confirmation letters for registered families will be sent the first week of September. Please note that families will not be able to register their children or youth for classes on the first day of R.E. programming, September 17. Our staff and volunteers work hard to run a smooth, welcoming beginning to the R.E. year; both adults and children need to know where they 'belong' to have a pleasant, stress-free day. In order to attend classes on the 17th, families must be registered no later than Sunday, September 10. Children registered after September 10 will be enrolled and welcomed beginning on Sunday, September 24.

Certain classes are filled or near capacity. If your family includes a junior high student at 11:00 or a preschool child at 9:00, please call Kerri before completing your registration. Also, please note that registration for the 9th Grade OWL/COA class is now closed. If your family is new to Unity, please contact the R.E. office for assistance in selecting and registering for the appropriate classes.

Sunday Routines

Some helpful reminders for a smooth Sunday:

- ◆ Nursery care opens 15 minutes before each service – please take a pager in case your child needs you during the service.
- ◆ Preschool children (Spirit Play) must be signed in and out by a parent or guardian and should be picked up immediately after the worship has ended.
- ◆ Elementary children must be picked up from their classroom by an adult. Workshop Rotation classes end at 10:15, 12:15 and 5:45, respectively. Please enjoy coffee hour or collect your younger children before picking up elementary kids.
- ◆ Workshop groups can be located by color using the signs posted throughout the stairways and basement hallways.
- ◆ Choir children will be escorted to their rehearsal space following R.E. classes.
- ◆ A Kidspace is set up in the Parish Hall with a rug, chairs and quiet activities so that families can enjoy coffee hour together.
- ◆ Please do not bring children for Nursery care or Sunday School if they have experienced a fever, rash or vomiting in the previous 24 hours.

Boston 2006!

Our high school pilgrimage to Boston will take place this fall from October 19–23. Youth in grade 11 (and this year, grade 12) are invited to contact Kerri at the Church Office for more information about this trip. The youth are grateful for the continued support of the congregation through our many fundraising efforts.

2006-2007 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

Dates on this planning calendar may be subject to change. Watch This Week at Unity and commUNITY for confirmations or changes.

September

- 9–10:** Grade 9 Our Whole Lives Retreat
- 10:** Family Sunday Merging of the Waters
Ice Cream Open House
Tower Club begins
- 13:** Wellspring Wednesdays begin — children's activities and nursery available
- 17:** First day of Religious Education classes

October

- 1:** Celebration of New Lives, 9:00 service
- 19–23:** High School Boston Trip
- 22:** **NO R.E. CLASSES** (MEA Weekend)
- 29:** Story Sunday

November

- 19:** Family Sunday Thanksgiving
- 26:** **NO R.E. CLASSES**
(Thanksgiving Weekend)

December

- 1–2:** High School Cookie Baking Overnight
- 3, 10, 17:** High School Cookie and Wreath Sales
- 10:** Celebration of New Lives, 11:00 service
- 13:** Drop & Shop
- 16:** Holiday Potluck and Carol Sing
- 17:** Family Sunday Winter Holy Days
Carol Shout/Sing Service
- 23:** Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 24:** Christmas Pageant
Family Holiday service (new!)
- 31:** **No R.E. CLASSES** (Winter Break)

January

- 7:** R.E. classes resume
- 9–10:** Children's Musical Auditions (tentative)
- 11:** COA Parent & Mentor Meeting
- 21:** Story Sunday
- 26–27:** COA Overnight

February

- 4:** Celebration of New Lives, 4:30 service
- 16:** Jello Jamboree
- 18:** Story Sunday

March

- 1–3:** Children's Musical
- 9:** COA Sacred Spaces Potluck
- 18:** Story Sunday
- 24–25:** High School Book Sale

April

- 1:** **NO R.E. CLASSES** (Spring Break)
- 8:** Family Sunday Easter
- 15:** Celebration of New Lives 9:00 service
- 21:** COA Service Project Saturday
- 28:** Coming of Age Ceremony
- 29:** Coming of Age Sunday, 4:30 service

May

- 13:** Senior Bridging
Teacher Appreciation
Last Day of R.E.
- 20:** Family Sunday Flower Communion
- 20:** R.E. Registration Deadline for 2007–2008
- 27:** Summer Worship Schedule begins, childcare available through age 12

June

- 10:** Celebration of New Lives 10:00

A Special Thanks!

Thank you to some of the Unity families who have already given all or part of their 10 hours of volunteer time to our work in Ministry with Children and Youth:

Ginny Allen	Alan Birkholz	Teresa Connor
Jill Gebhardt	Dan Thompson	Laura Christenson
Ingrid Hallett	Mike Hallett	Judy Lykins
Max Lykins	Jenny Thompson	John Steiner-Manning
Anna Barron	Elizabeth Wrobel	Andy Steiner-Manning
Mark Wrobel		

With their help, we've completed data entry and remodeling work and have offered loving, safe childcare for Summer Sundays. Many more families and other congregants have committed to teaching on Sundays. Plenty of opportunities are still available to help in our ministry — teaching Sunday School is just *one* of them. We're still looking for folks who are willing to paint, organize, type, do mailings, read stories, do crafts and enjoy the company of the children and youth in our congregation. Contact Kerri to share your time and talents.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADERS

Religious Education Leaders Needed:

Your religious education still needs teachers and guides for this fall, winter, and spring.

Spirit Play – Ages 3, 4, 5

Each classroom needs a group of 5 core teachers committed to teach the entire year. Those teachers will then set their own schedule. A substitute list will be available for these teachers to find their own subs.

9:00 Service

East Classroom

1. Susan Hinze
2. Ali Naughton
3. Jason O'Keane
4. John Steiner-Manning
- 5.

West Classroom

1. Amy Horning
2. Kris Kulevsky
3. Craig Rot
4. Betsy Rot
- 5.

Substitute:

Substitute: Krista and Paul Hanson

Substitute: Karin Roof

11:00 Service

East Classroom

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

West Classroom

1. Susan Dayton Larkin
2. Peggy Lin
3. Katy Gray
- 4.
- 5.

Substitute: Teresa Connor

Substitute: Alan Birkholz

Substitute: Karin Barnes

4:30 Service

East Classroom

1. JoAnn Daddi
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

West Classroom

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Substitute:

Substitute:

Substitute:

Journey Guides – Grades 1-6

Guides will make a half-year commitment to move from workshop to workshop and experience the curriculum with the students.

9:00 Service

September–December

Grades 1-2

Red: Todd Graham

Orange: Beth Janke

Grades 3-4

Green: Stacy Surratt

Yellow: Jim Leuthner

Grades 5-6

Blue: Julie Rice

Purple: Anne Caswell

January–May

Grades 1-2

Red: Kim Chase-Kozak

Orange:

Grades 3-4

Green:

Yellow:

Grades 5-6

Blue:

Purple:

SUBS

Kent or Jacki Sall

Bridget Borell

11:00 Service

September–December

Grades 1-2

Red: Alison Green

Orange: Kathy Paulsen

Grades 3-4

Green: Lee Olson

Yellow: Laurie Wagner

Grades 5-6

Blue: Ruby Young

Purple:

January–May

Grades 1-2

Red: Rachel Kaul

Orange: Todd Graham

Grades 3-4

Green: Bonnie Reiland

Yellow:

Grades 5-6

Blue:

Purple:

SUBS

Mary Dunkel

Christie Manning and Frank Schilder

4:30 Service

September–December

Grades 1-3

1. Bob Utke

2.

Grades 4-6

1.

2.

January–May

Grades 1-3

1.

2.

Grades 4-6

1.

2.

SUBS

1. Gretchen Olson

2.

Workshop Rotation Teachers

Each leader will commit to one or two six-week sessions. They will follow a suggested lesson plan that they enhance with their talents and interests.

9:00 Nature of God

September–October

Art : Kim Chase-Kozak

Music: Teresa Schwartz

Kinesthetic: Hillary Frazey

Drama:

Science/Nature: Kevin Roberg-Perez

Storytelling/making: Michelle Dzik

9:00 Being Human

November–December

Art : Lee Hesselroth

Music: Cathy Crosby-Schmidt

Kinesthetic:

Drama:

Science/Nature: Molly McBeath

Storytelling/making: Justin

9:00 Divine Within

January–February

Art : Deb DeNoyelles

Music:

Kinesthetic: Heidi Welsch

Drama:

Science/Nature: Scott Velders

Storytelling/making:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADERS

9:00 Community

March–April

Art : Deb DeNoyelles

Music:

Kinesthetic:

Drama:

Science/Nature: Anne Caswell

Storytelling/making:

9:00 Endings

April–May

Art : Lee Hesselroth

Music:

Kinesthetic: Anne Caswell

Drama:

Science/Nature:

Storytelling/making:

11:00 Nature of God

September–October

Art : Lee Hesselroth

Music: Angela and Brian Newhouse

Kinesthetic: Michael Garry

Drama: Randi Madisen & Jeremy White

Science/Nature:

Storytelling/making: Jen Vanek

11:00 Being Human

November–December

Art : Pam Quirk-Becker

Music: Audrey Greene-Perez

Kinesthetic:

Drama:

Science/Nature: Steve Hughes

Storytelling/making:

11:00 Divine Within

January–February

Art : Zack and Shannon Stevens

Music: Jim Hinkley

Kinesthetic:

Drama:

Science/Nature: Science/Nature:

Storytelling/making: Sally Anderson

9:00 Community

March–April

Art : Susie Macpherson

Music: Steve Lewis

Kinesthetic: Suzanne Burr & Mary Beth Elchert

Drama:

Science/Nature:

Storytelling/making:

9:00 Endings

April–May

Art :

Music:

Kinesthetic:

Drama:

Science/Nature: Nancy Wagner

Storytelling/making:

4:30 (5 or 10 Sundays, September – May)

Art:

Music: Deanna Kramer

Kinesthetic: Jerry Kettunen

Drama:

Science/Nature: Rob Fulton

Storytelling/making: Cynthia Mills

Grades 6, 7, & 8

Teams of four teachers will work with two curricula each year. They will schedule their own weeks on and off.

11:00 Winter Semester:

Heresy Apparent (UU History-Identity)

September–December

1. Elise Schiffman

2.

3

4.

Substitute:

Substitute:

11:00 Winter Semester:

Connecting with the Earth

(Nature & Earth-centered traditions)

September–December

1. Ted Lentz

2.

3.

4.

Substitute:

Substitute:

11:00 Spring Semester:

Sacred Threads (Asian Religions)

January–May

1. Mark Frey

2. Mona Walden-Frey

3.

4.

Substitute:

Substitute:

11:00 Spring Semester:

Jesus & His Kingdom of Equals

January–May

1.

2.

3.

4.

Substitute:

Substitute:

4:30 Winter Semester:

Heresy Apparent (UU History-Identity)

September–December

1.

2.

3.

4.

Substitute:

Substitute:

4:30 Winter Semester:

Connecting with the Earth

September–December

1.

2.

3.

4.

Substitute:

Substitute:

4:30 Spring Semester:

Sacred Threads (Asian Religions)

January–May

1.

2.

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Substitute:

Substitute:

4:30 Spring Semester:

Jesus & His Kingdom of Equals

January–May

1.

2.

3.

4.

Substitute:

Substitute:

MUSIC AND ART

Music Program Offerings for 06–07

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH OFFERINGS:

Unity Church's move to three services has offered us the opportunity to think creatively and both evaluate and improve our music program offerings for children and youth. Our hope is that they will be more coordinated with the R.E. program and designed to meet the needs of our children and youth with greatest effectiveness. Beginning Fall 2006 our program offerings are as follows:

Children's Choir: Grades 1 through 4

Kathleen Radspinner, director.

Sunday mornings 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. – Chapel

Children's Musical: Grades 5 and 6

Sandy Waterman, Michael Lee, Joyce Paxton, directors.

(Fifth grade students will have a year off from the traditional program offerings in anticipation of their first year of involvement in the Children's Musical.)

Youth Ensemble: Grades 6 through 8

A variety of directors to be announced.

Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. service in the Ames Chapel — to be offered as a module of choice in the R.E. program offerings. This will be divided into various modules of musical experience including singing, instrumental, various cultural music, collective composition resulting in a performable song and many other special interest opportunities as well.

ADULT OFFERINGS:

Unity Singers: auditioned 16-voice ensemble – Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Unity Singers small ensembles: Quartet, Octet, etc. – developed from and during Unity Singers rehearsal times

Unity Choir: non-auditioned ensemble of 60 to 75 voices – Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.

Unity Choir Ensemble: Smaller divisions of Unity Choir — often occurring on Sundays when the choir splits between services, memorial services, various occasions, etc.

Carmina Singers: a short-term, high-geared 'special project' ensemble open to all choir members and congregation members only able to commit to limited rehearsal times – three successive Mondays (TBA), 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Ruth Palmer if you are interested.

Concerts with a Cause: These one-hour concerts will be offered periodically throughout the year followed by a reception and social time.

Chamber, Candlelight and a Cause
Community, Culture and a Cause
Choirs, Carols and a Cause
Caberet, Coffee and a Cause

MORE ADULT OFFERINGS:

Unity Church Volunteer Musicians:
As always we will be looking forward to hearing from our own Unity musicians in various venues. Of particular interest is the Wellspring Wednesday Worship Service. We encourage solos, small ensembles and family musical teams to participate.

Guest Musicians:

We always look forward to inviting outstanding musicians to participate in our services and are enriched by the presence of their expertise.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ART (PART II)

Peg Fogelson

For me, pottery is one spiritual connection to the natural world: Earth, Water, Fire, Air.

I work mostly by hand building slab and coil. I find inspiration in the natural forms of stones, rock walls, and flowers opening. Natural elements are also a part of my work — bark and pebbles for pattern and texture.

"We are bedded in the ground, we are rocks," Walt Whitman.

Houses represent place, shelter, and home in the world.

Masks are a mystery, what they reveal and what they conceal — what is real, and what is unreal. "A mask tells more than a face," Oscar Wilde.

I studied pottery at Gail Kristensen's Studio and Raku at Split Rock Workshops.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS / GATHERINGS

Circle Suppers

Gather with others from Unity Church for a monthly meal. In groups of 8 to 10, participants gather in each other's homes on the second Saturday of every month to meet, chat, and develop deeper connections with others. As always, there are many options for Circle Suppers this year! Each member contributes to the meal. Hosting is not required if space is limited. Sign up at the table in the Parish Hall or contact the Church Office for more information. Sign up through September 24.

Unity Singles Group

Are you an adult single, age 35 and beyond, interested in dining, socializing, and experiencing cultural activities with others like you? Join our group by contacting Karen Pike at 651/695-9800 or Rick Ahern at 651/636-5836.

Upcoming Unity Singles Group Events:

Sunday, September 24:

Afternoon buffet cruise with dixieland on the St. Croix River.

Saturday, October 14:

Hike at Afton State Park.

Put on Your Dancing Shoes

Unity adults are invited to a dance party, complete with salsa and swing dance instruction, in the Parish Hall on Friday, September 8! The music starts at 7:30 p.m. All you bring is yourself and your lightest dancing shoes. For those who want it, dance instruction is taught in a group, and no partners necessary. Bring your beverages of choice and, if you like, a donation of a couple of bucks to defray the costs. Childcare is available if you request it from Patricia Ohmans at 651/489-4238 by Wednesday, September 6. For more information, contact the Church Office.

Heart to Heart:

A Couples Enrichment Weekend

Heart to Heart is a program designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. The weekend emphasizes personal reflection and couple dialogue. Participants are not asked to share with the group, but rather, to dialogue privately with their partners. All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome — same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. Three Unitarian Universalist couples lead our annual fall retreats. The cost is \$360 per couple, and includes two nights lodging and meals Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to the generosity of previous participants, "scholarship" assistance is available. If the weekend cost is too high and would prevent your being able to attend, please contact us. Space is limited to 15 couples, so register soon. For information, visit our website at heart.mn.cx or call 651/227-0486.

THIS MONTH'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP MEETINGS

All are invited to attend the following groups. For more information, contact the Church Office or the persons listed with each group.

Unity Singles Group

Contact Laura at the Church Office.

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Joan Lovrien at 651/739-6958

Afterthoughts

Every Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. service

Contact: Paul Gade at 651/487-7806

Unity Young Adult Group

Twice a month following the 4:30 p.m. service

For more information, contact Jo at the Church Office.

Mother-Daughter Book Club (grades 5-7)

Held monthly on the third Wednesday of every month as part of Well-spring Wednesday. For titles, contact the Church Office.

Unitots! A group for families with kids through preschool age.

Every Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Bridget Borell, 651/644-5618.

Grandparent Unitots! A group for grandparents and their grandkids.

Every Monday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Sue Conner at 651/646-6667

Unity Bridge Club

First Friday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at members' homes. Contact

Bernice Hanson at 651/633-3276.

Evergreen Quilt Group

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Kathie Simon Frank at 612/379-4253

U-Knitarians ...for those who enjoy knitting and crocheting

Fourth Wednesday of each month at Wellspring Wednesdays

Contact: Laura at the Church Office

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, September 11 and 25

from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Phil Morton at 952/934-3578

Many Voices Political Discussion Group

Contact: Vince Grundman at 651/488-0778

Unity Divorce/Transitions Group

Contact Laura at the Church Office.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Sunday services during the summer are held at 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30, unless otherwise noted. Worship leaders are assisted on Sundays by Worship Associates and Sunday Welcome Teams.

THREE SERVICES BEGIN!!

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10, SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT 9:00, 11:00, AND 4:30.

September 10 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

“Crossing the Waters” — Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs

Every river flows down to the sea. And we will merge the waters of the world as we begin another year together. The whole church family will gather bringing water they have brought back from around the world. We’ll sing songs old and new. We’ll pray for peace and be at peace together. Please note that this Sunday begins our new service schedule of 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30.

September 17 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

Dr. Huston Smith and Rob Eller-Isaacs

A lifelong career of studying the world’s religions has made the world-renowned Dr. Huston Smith especially gifted in illuminating the dialogues that are timeless. His conversations touch upon many Big Questions: what is the meaning of God? Where do science and religion meet? How can we teach children about the sacred in everyday life? Join Rob Eller-Isaacs and Dr. Smith for an insightful look into this field of study.

September 24 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

“Familiar Strangers” — Janne Eller-Isaacs

For the first of our High Holy Day services, Janne and Worship Associate Elizabeth Alexander will explore the dimensions of the classic text used for the beginning of the new year, the sacrifice of Isaac at the hands of his father. In addition they will address this in the light of the immigrant experience in our country.

October 1 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

“Your Waves Washed Over Me” — Rob Eller-Isaacs

With gratitude and respect we enter into Yom Kippur. The traditional text for the Day of Atonement is the Book of Jonah. Rob and Worship Associate Estelle Brouwer will wrestle with the call to prophecy and their reluctance to heed God’s call. The service will include an invitation to forgive and be forgiven and “to begin again in love.”



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MAUREEN PHILLIPS, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANNE ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
ROB ELLER-ISAACS, CO-MINISTER
BARBARA HUBBARD, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
LOUISE WOLFGRAMM, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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