

Unity Youth Come of Age

Each spring our ninth grade youth are given a special opportunity to ponder their spiritual core through classes, mentor-pairing, worship, journaling, and special events. The youth then craft a Statement of Spiritual Identity to present at a Coming of Age ceremony. In their Statements youth are asked to address their personal theological understanding of the nature of a higher power, the purpose of life, the significance of death, how the holy and the sacred touches their lives, and the role of a spiritual community. Those who have witnessed this event in the past know that our youth offer Statements of depth, insight, humor and inspiration.

The Coming of Age ceremony is open to the entire church community. Even if you don't know any youth in this program, attending this event is one of the ways adult members show their dedication to the spiritual lives of the children and youth of our church. This year's Coming of Age ceremony will take place on Saturday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The following day, April 29, we honor the Coming of Age class at the Sunday worship services. That day's worship will feature samples of the youths' statements, homilies from both of the ministers, recognition of the adult mentors and facilitators that played key roles in the youths' year, and music courtesy of The Eclectics. All of the youth and mentors will be present for the 4:30 p.m. service. We hope you will join us at one of these important events!

The 9th grade program is blessed to have talented and dedicated adult advisors. The Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexual education program that took place in the fall was adeptly taught by Ann Brataas, Gillian Lawrence, Jesse Williams, Linda Smidzik, Merilee Inman, Pat Rivard and Terry Linsky. The advisors of the Coming of Age Program include Heather Magee, Jeff Risberg, John Andrew, Jon Eversoll and Tara LaFerla.

Each youth was paired with an adult mentor who attended services and special events with their youth and provided feedback and support as their youth crafted their Statement of Spiritual Identity. We are grateful for their significant donation of time, energy, and trust.

Please consider attending one or both of the Coming of Age weekend events! If you have questions please contact Jo LaFerla at the Church Office.

by Jo LaFerla, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

2007 Coming of Age Youth

Aaron Duke	Eric Baudry	Malaby Webster
Abby Guthmann	Jon Aslani	Marissa Cline
Amir Ener	Justin Miller	Matt Daddi
Andy Guthmann	Justin Fulton	Miela Bjork
Anna Schmitz	Kathryn Litzau	Nathan Eckstein
Asha Ghassemlouei	Katie Utke	Scott Voermans
Brendan Johnson	Lacey Loomer	Simon Alexander-Adams
Callie Lewis	Laura Harreld	Susana McCormick
Chris Masanz	Maddie Hite-Smaka	
Daniel Hadidi	Maddy Lachowsky	

2007 Coming of Age Mentors

Steve Lewis	Gerry Voermans	Ginger Pinson
Martha Tilton	Todd Seabury-Kolod	Niloufar Hadidi
Paul Adams	Rob Fulton	Clayton Bennet
Barbara Ford	Kevin Harris	Pam Quirk Becker
Grit Youngquist	Becca Pournoor	Mary Blouin Auffert
Julie Rice	Cynthia Mills	John Macleod
Allen Giles	Jill Henricksen	Bob Lies
Neely Crane-Smith	Ellen Johnson	Dave Becker
Collin Rust	Laura Smidzik	
Kelly Rodieck	Marion Seely Kreisman	

A SAMUEL MORGAN FORUM
SPONSORED BY THE UNITY CHURCH LIBRARY AND
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAMS



David Korten
*Author of "The Great Turning:
From Empire to Earth Community"
and Leader in the
Anti-Globalization Movement*

Saturday, April 14 • 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Free of charge • All are welcome • Refreshments

For more information on this community event, see page 5.

Just Words

Better Health Through Laughter: Be An April Fool!

One of my favorite days of the year is April Fools' Day. I have fond memories of putting (or finding) salt in the sugar bowl, sugar in the salt bowl, green dye in the toilet tank (trust me, it's quite shocking to watch your toilet fill up with green water!), and a rubber band around the kitchen hose handle (nothing like getting squirted with water as you turn on the faucet!).

In my family, April Fools' Day was always filled with practical jokes and pranks. We'd often recount exploits from the previous year and always ended up laughing, secretly planning for next year's adventures.

April Fools' Day was a tangible reminder to not take ourselves too seriously and to remember to play around and have fun as we moved through life.

Because life *can* feel heavy sometimes, especially as we seek to end oppression, fight injustice, slow down global climate change, feed our families, undo racism, try to get by, or just lessen the amount of stress we feel (whew! I'm tired just recounting that list!), April Fools' Day reminds us that humor is medicine for the spirit, and that the "Laughter Diet" is the one diet we all need to be on every single day of the year!

To be clear, I'm not advocating that we laugh away our worries, or turn away from the world, immersed in mind-numbing entertainment. I'm advocating that we embrace the silly paradoxes of life, celebrate the wacky, unpredictable nature of things, and laugh contagiously when it all seems to be too much. Who knows, by doing this, we just might find our balance and reclaim a piece of joy, as we work, live, and play together with a new perspective.

The importance of foolery and silliness has deep roots and for a simple overview of the history of pranks, clowns, parables, and religious and philosophical craziness, I invite you to read *Wes Nisker's Crazy Wisdom*.

Interestingly enough, this year April Fools' Day falls on Palm Sunday. As we conclude Lent and our exploration of the "idols" in our lives, we move toward the renewal, rebirth, and resurrection of Easter. As we make this transition, may we consider also letting go of the idols of "seriousness," "shoulds," and firm "practicality." May we play, laugh, prank, and dance with one another, as we move through this painful, incredible, astonishing world – and may we invite the Holy to dance and laugh along with us.

May it be so.
Justin



Evergreen Foodshelf Corner

The next Food Drive Sunday will be April 15 when the foodshelf items will be canned vegetables and tomato sauce. Remember that any item, including non-perishable items not listed, can be donated at any time. Monthly items are simply suggestions for what can be brought each month. Please deposit items in the Portland or Holly Avenue foodshelf bins.

Feed Our Community: Be a Wellspring Lead Cook

Is cooking for others your spiritual calling? Do you like to build community through shared meals? You'd be the perfect person to lead a Wellspring Wednesday cooking team. We're still looking for two new Wellspring Wednesday lead cooks. No need to have a chef background. Mentorship, training, and other support available. Contact Laura in the church office to talk about the possibilities.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

**Emily White
and Karl Sevig**

married March 3, 2007

In Remembrance

Alta Waege

mother of Douglas Waege
grandmother of
Mary Kate, Beth, and Curt Waege

Jean Turner

mother of Ross Turner
mother-in-law of Sherri Knuth
grandmother of Benjamin and
Craig Turner Knuth

Know of a Good House or Apartment for a Unity Intern?

Unity Church's interns for 2007–2008 are beginning their search for housing. If you know of places that fit these criteria, contact the Church Office and we'll put you in touch with the interns.

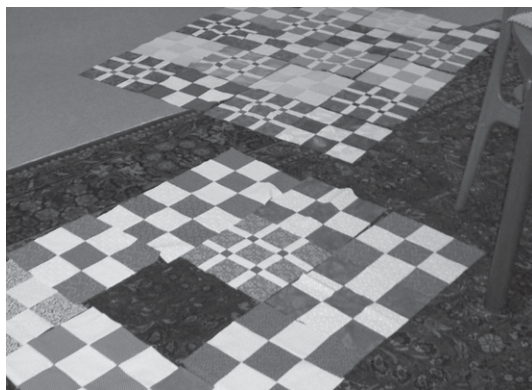
Jacqueline Duhart. Jacqueline is looking for a place for herself, her partner, and a well-behaved 10-year-old cat. The apartment or house needs to be clean, furnished, and have two bedrooms. Walking distance to the church is preferable, as well as affordable character and charm.

Matt Alsbaugh. Matt and his partner are looking for a two or three bedroom house or apartment, preferably near the church. The two have a dog, so a fenced yard would be wonderful. They are looking for June or July availability.

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

IN PICTURES...

Block by Block at Unity



The Unity Quilt Group's "Block Club" meets on occasional Saturdays to work on their quilting projects.

The Return of Unity Interns!

While Rob and Janne are on Sabbatical, some familiar faces will return to Unity Church's pulpit. Throughout the spring, Unity's former interns, all four Hallman Interns and our UTS intern, will return home to Unity Church.

Note that some of these dates are still tentative. Watch upcoming issues of commUNITY newsletter and This Week at Unity for more details.

May 6: **Rev. Dottie Mathews**
Fox Valley UU Fellowship
Appleton, Wisconsin

May 20: **Katie Lawson**
Saint Paul Academy
seeking a ministerial position



Unity's Heritage Society Welcomes Sen. Dave Durenberger

Sen. Dave Durenberger will be Unity Church's special guest at the annual Heritage Society Dinner on Friday, May 4. All those who have made a planned gift to Unity Church are invited to attend. David Durenberger served as a U.S. Senator from Minnesota from 1978 to 1995. He was the first Republican from Minnesota ever elected to serve three terms in the Senate.

About Sen. Durenberger:

Senator Durenberger began his lifelong commitment to public policy reform as Chief of Staff to Governor Harold LeVander of Minnesota in 1966, when Medicare, Medicaid, and the Great Society's myriad of categorical health, welfare, and social programs were being launched in Washington.

In 1978 David Durenberger was elected to the U.S. Senate to complete the unexpired term of Sen. Hubert Humphrey, whose position had been filled temporarily by Humphrey's wife Muriel. In 1980, he became chair of the Health Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee and was catapulted into the leadership role in national health reform.

Senator Durenberger currently serves as Chairman of the National Institute of Health Policy (NIHP), a program of the University of St. Thomas. He is author of *Prescription for Change* and *Neither Madman Nor Messiahs*. He teaches and speaks nationally on the future of health care delivery, and policy.

Planned Gifts Demystified:

It's as easy as directing that a part of your life insurance proceeds will get paid to the church, or having your will say that a specific sum of money will be paid to the church — there are no dollar requirements or limits. There are many other ways of making a planned gift either during life or at death. Contact Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office for more details, or if you are already in the process of making a planned gift which we may not know about.

Why do it? Because you believe Unity is a positive force in your life and in this community, and you would like to see it continue into the future. You want to leave a legacy that supports your values after you're gone.

Ride Share Program at Unity

Would you like to worship with Unity Church, but cannot to get to church on Sundays, because of transportation issues? We'd love for you to be here and thanks to a number of Unity members who have offered to help out with the occasional ride to church, this is now possible.

If you know you'll need a ride to church, contact Julie Handberg in the Church Office by the Wednesday before the service, so we can make arrangements in time. We'll try to match you with a Unity member that lives nearby, so a pick up and drop off will be easy for all.

MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY / WHOLE FARM ORDERS

Generosity Ministry Team Update

The Generosity Ministry Team appreciates the ongoing input and feedback from the congregation. Each Sunday, Unity Church puts the plate into the hands of these community organizations, becoming an extension of our community outreach. All of the Sunday plate recipients have been referred to the Generosity Team by members of Unity Church.

Unity Church gives because we are able and our giving becomes an intentional spiritual practice. This giving is not intended to be the first step in building a partnership with each recipient. In many cases, however, continuing relationships with the recipient groups are maintained by members of Unity Church who work or volunteer in various capacities with the organizations selected. Please continue to direct any questions, suggestions or feedback to Pat Haff at the Church Office or Dick Buggs at unuseddreams@msn.com.

Offering Recipients for April:

April 1: SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development.

SteppingStone Theatre actively engages children and youth in the creative and expressive powers of theatre, enabling young people to participate in and contribute to the rich cultural heritage of our community. They teach children and youth about history, diverse cultures, literature and the arts, while making learning engaging and creating a lifelong appreciation for the arts. SteppingStone Theatre is currently renovating 100-year former Grace Community Church, located at Victoria Street and Holly Avenue, and plans to move into its new home later this year. Check out their website at steppingstonetheatre.org.

April 8: Unity's Affordable Housing Team

This team has several partners, including Habitat for Humanity and the Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing (MICAH). The Affordable Housing Team is also involved in legislative work, joining other interfaith groups for "a day on the hill" each year.

April 15: Unity Church's Adult and Children's Library

This special offering will go to support our own church library, here at Unity Church. This collection will be used to buy additional books, media resources, CDs, and more.

April 22: The Center for Democracy and Citizenship

Based in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, The Center for Democracy and Citizenship draws on a rich heritage of people and institutions doing public work to achieve things of lasting importance. They believe that citizenship is best seen as work, whether paid or unpaid, that has public meaning, lasting public impact, and contributes to the common good. The center was founded on the principle that ordinary people are creators of the world of ideas in which we live and work. Thus, ordinary people, not only credentialed academics or intellectuals, help create political ideas and can effect real change through their work. The Center for Democracy and Citizenship will be working with our Anti-Racism team this spring as they develop conversation models to deepen anti-racism work within the church. For more information on the Center, check out www.publicwork.org/home.html.

April 29: American Refugee Committee

This week's offering was chosen by the ninth grade Coming of Age Class as part of the Coming of Age weekend events. Ninth grader Kathryn Litzau has been involved in the "Darfur Awareness Now Group" at Roseville High School, which has been working with the American Refugee Committee. ARC is headquartered in Minneapolis and works with refugees, displaced people, and those at risk to help them survive crises and rebuild lives of dignity, health, security and self-sufficiency. ARC sets the highest standard for helping restore and enhance the dignity and self-sufficiency of refugees, displaced people and those at risk. For more information, visit their website at archq.org.



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE TEAM

April 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. For this month's pickup, place an order with Whole Farm at wholefarmcoop.com at 320/732-3023 by Friday, March 13. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, April 18.

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.



commUNITY

commUNITY is the church newsletter of Unity Church—Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30/year.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Questions about Seating Times at Sunday Services

Why did you start having seating times?

We started having seating times to better honor our sanctuary's sacred space and to further create a transforming worship experience. We wanted to be sure that we gave worshippers an extended period of quiet to reflect, to meditate, and to sink deep into the holy without distractions. Our goal is to help people in the sanctuary experience the insights that only come, as Arthur Foote says, "by stilling the restless surface and sinking down into the undisturbed, tranquil depths of our being."

Why don't you have seating during the anthem?

We considered allowing seating during the anthem, but the music is really an extension of the prayer. The worship leaders carefully choose the music to give additional time for reflection and spiritual growth. Interrupting that time takes away from that experience.

Isn't this really unwelcoming?

Seating times allow us to create a truly welcoming environment inside of the sanctuary. Outside of the sanctuary, Welcome Team members extend our welcome to those who arrive during the service, with orders of worship and a warm welcome, inviting people to sit in the folding chairs with them until the next seating time.

Are you open to going back to no seating times?

The needs of a religious community are always subject to change, and we try to meet the needs of the entire community. Please continue to give us your feedback about how this change has affected your worship experience.

Want to know more about joining Unity Church?

For more information about membership at Unity Church, contact Membership Coordinator Laura Park at the Church Office: laura@unityunitarian.org or 651/228-1456 x107.

FROM THE WELCOMING CONGREGATION MINISTRY TEAM

Planning for the Future: A Welcoming Congregation and Interweave

The WCMT will hold a planning lunch on Sunday, April 15, for all who are interested in the Interweave Ministry Team that will continue to make Unity Church a truly welcoming congregation for GLBTQ people and allies. Please consider whether you would like to join this group and plan events in the areas of education, activism, support and FUN! It's very important that the group include many allies of GLBTQ people — Interweave is for people of all identities! Lunch will be served at noon at the church.

Other upcoming dates:

April 18: The WCMT conducts Wellspring Wednesday worship

April 19: Lobby Day at the State Capitol. Show up to support GLBTQ rights!

April 21: Rainbow Families with keynote Abigail Gardner of COLAGE

FROM THE ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM

RACE — Are We So Different?

This current exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota will be there until May 6. Your Anti-Racism Leadership Team says "Don't Miss It!" Our church is seeking to develop an anti-racist institutional identity in all aspects of our church life. To that end, we need to seek opportunities to promote dialogue and learning within our church community about the origins and functioning of systemic racism.

The Science Museum's exhibit brings together the everyday experience of race, the history of race as an idea and the role of science in that history. It then uses findings of contemporary science to look at the same idea. This exhibit is a powerful look at race and racism as it functions in the United States.

Once you have seen it, and we hope that you all will, join us at one of the following opportunities to participate in a "circle conversation" about your experience. April 15, after the 9:00 a.m. service, April 29 after the 11:00 a.m. service.

FROM THE UNITY CHURCH LIBRARY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAMS

David Korten at Unity Church

David Korten, author of "The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community" and Leader in the Anti-Globalization Movement, will come to Unity Church on Saturday, April 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. as part of the Samuel Morgan community forum series. This free of charge event, made possible in part by a grant from The Saint Paul Foundation, is open to the public.

Korten expresses that we stand at a critical moment in Earth's history — a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

Korten knows that the leadership needed to redirect the human course must depend on citizen groups working from a shared understanding of the deeper problems afflicting the species and a common vision of unrealized possibilities. He works through public interest citizen organizations devoted to a transformational social change agenda.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Religious Education News

Registration for Fall R.E.

Registration forms for the 2007-2008 Religious Education year are included in this newsletter and are also available at the church website, www.unityunitarian.org. Please note that forms will be processed as soon as they are received if both sides are complete, including the Adult Volunteer Registration. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis; please note that Spirit Play and Junior High classes fill rapidly. The Earlybird deadline this year is May 20; families registered on or before this date can take \$5 off the materials fee of \$35 per child. Coming of Age registration packets will be mailed to incoming freshmen in May.

Please note that the 9:00 and 4:30 worship experience for Workshop Rotation kids will be Children's Chapel. The 11:00 R.E. session will begin with whole-congregation worship in the Sanctuary; children in Workshop Rotation will be blessed out to classes just before or after the offering.

A few important changes will happen beginning this fall:

All Kindergarteners will be enrolled in Spirit Play regardless of age. The Workshop Rotation curriculum and model have shown to be most effective for grade-schoolers. Spirit Play classes will be grouped by age, with 3- and 4-year-olds together and 5- and 6-year-olds together.

The course options for Junior High this year are as follows:

Fall

"What Do You Stand For?" An exploration of character and personal morality

"Stories of the Old Testament" An introduction to the sacred stories that shape our Judeo-Christian culture

Winter

"Heresy Apparent" A review of our UU heritage and identity (prerequisite for COA in Grade 9)

"Allah's Prophet" An exploration of Islam

Youth Music Ensemble will rehearse at 11:00 again this coming year. Please note the supplemental material fee of \$30 per youth per semester to help cover the expense of contract musicians and audio-visual technology. All youth in grades 6-8 are invited to participate, regardless of prior musical performance experience. Registered students will be invited to a personal entry interview and parents will be asked to commit to assisting with rehearsals and performances.

The R.E. staff looks forward to another great program year and thanks families for their cooperation in the important process of registration for programs that serve more than 400 Unity children and youth.

Senior Bridging

Families with High School Seniors who will graduate this year are encouraged to sign up to participate in Unity's Senior Bridging ceremony on Sunday, May 13. Contact Martha Tilton at the Church Office for more information. **The deadline to sign up to participate is Wednesday, May 9.**

Dedication of Older Children

Unity families whose children were not celebrated as infants are invited to have their children participate in our yearly special dedication ceremony on May 20. Generally speaking, children ages 3 to 12 find this a meaningful experience. Each child will process to the chancel with other children, participate in a dedication liturgy and receive a chalice for the family. The ceremony takes place during both worship services. Contact Kerri at the Church Office by Friday, May 11, if your family is interested in taking part in the Dedication of Older Children.

Coming of Age

Our Coming of Age youth and mentors are drawing near the exciting culmination of their time and learning together. Friends and family from Unity and beyond are warmly invited to attend the presentation of the class' statements of spiritual identity during the ceremonies on Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Important dates remain for our COA families:

- ♦ **Wednesday April 18: COA Statement Prep night.** 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Get feedback and suggestions from peers, mentors and advisors — and a former English teacher, too.
- ♦ **Saturday, April 21: Service Learning Saturday.** Contact Jo at the Church Office for details.
- ♦ **Sunday, April 22: Statements of spiritual identity due.** Email to Jo at jo@unityunitarian.org
- ♦ **Saturday, April 28: Coming of Age Ceremony.** 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Banquet for mentors and youth followed by presentation of statements to the congregation.
- ♦ **Sunday, April 29 (4:30 p.m. service): Coming of Age Sunday.** Please arrive by 3:30 p.m. for photos and instructions.

Religious Education Dates to Remember

- Sunday, April 1:** No Religious Education
Spring Break Begins
- Sunday, April 8:** Family Sunday - Easter
- Sunday, April 15:** All Souls' Children's and Youth Choir visits
Worship routine as for Story Sunday
- Sunday, April 29:** Coming of Age Sunday
- Sunday, May 6:** Practice Memorial Service in the Ames Chapel
- Sunday May 13:** Senior Bridging and Teacher Appreciation;
Last Day of R.E.
- Sunday May 20:** Family Sunday (Flower Communion)

Unity Church–Unitarian Sunday School Registration 2007–2008

All households with children who wish to enroll in Sunday School must return a registration form.
This form is to register children ages 3 through 8th grade.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): Address: Home Phone: E-mail Address:	If there are additional households you wish to receive church school mailings, please list them here: <hr/> Please check the session you will attend: <input type="checkbox"/> 9:00 am <input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 am <input type="checkbox"/> 4:30 pm OWL/COA is only offered at the 4:30pm service.
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Enrollment Options:

Ages 3 – Kindergarten: Spirit Play

Offered at all three services.

The goals of the Spirit Play classrooms at Unity are to share the stories that connect us together, to help children begin a search for their own answers to some big questions and to simply learn to be together in a kind and respectful way. Three-year-olds must be reliable in their toilet training before joining the classroom.

Grades 1 - 6: Workshop Rotation

Offered at all three services.

In our elementary school program the six-week units focus on five questions of classical theology: What is the nature of **God?**, What does it mean to be **Human** and alive?, How is the **Divine** present within each of us and in our lives?, What is the purpose of **Community?**, How do we live in the face of **Death** and **Loss?** The curriculum is delivered through six different workshops: Story, Art, Science, Drama, Music, and Kinesthetic.

Grades 6* - 8: Junior High

Offered at 11:00 and 4:30 only.

Students in grades 6*-8 should choose one class for Fall semester and one class for Winter semester. Indicate your choice by number in the space provided on the chart below.

- Fall:**
1. **What Do You Stand For?**
 2. **Stories of the Old Testament**
 3. **Youth Music Ensemble[♠] (11am only)**
- Winter:**
1. **Heresy Apparent**
 2. **Islam**
 4. **Youth Music Ensemble[♠] (11am only)**

*Sixth graders may choose to enroll in Workshop Rotation or Junior High RE.

[♠]Additional fee and volunteer requirements.

Children and Youth Information:

Child's Name (first and last)	Birthdate:	Age:	M/F	JR High Fall Semester	JR High Winter Semester	Allergies or Special Concerns
	/ /					
	/ /					
	/ /					
	/ /					
	/ /					
	/ /					

Early Bird Discount:
Register by Sunday, May 20 & receive \$5 off per student.

Materials Fee:
Pledging: \$35/child
Non-pledging: \$200/child
2007-08 Teachers & Journey Guides: \$0/child

Youth Music Ensemble is an additional \$30 per semester per student.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ # of children} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ \$30/student per semester if enrolling in Youth Music Ensemble} = \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ total enclosed}
 \end{array}$$

Please contact me with scholarship information.

***If you are new to Unity Church** and wish to explore the Religious Education program before you commit to pledging, RE fees are waived for a 3-month trial period and volunteer requirements are waived for a year.

For office use only

Entered by: _____ on _____ Paid: Y / N Check #: _____

Registration is only complete when both sides of this form have been filled out.

Unity's commitment to the spiritual lives of children is a co-operative ministry. Each family registering a child or children for R.E. is asked to contribute 10 hours of volunteer time in the Religious Education department. This commitment may be fulfilled by one or more members of a family, including parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents or friends. Fill in the information below. Next to your selection, use the number (1 or 2) that corresponds with each adult's name to indicate your choice(s).

Family Member #1 _____ E-mail _____

Family Member #2 _____ E-mail _____

Our Whole Lives or Coming Of

Age facilitator (40-50 hours, gen. Sunday mornings plus one weekend training and one weekend retreat) 9th grade OWL program covers human sexuality; COA, human spiritual identity. Comprehensive training and support! Sunday evenings.

_____ OWL (September – December)
 _____ COA (January – April)

Spirit Play teacher (20-30 hours per year, Sunday mornings) 1.5 hours per Sunday, full-year commitment with flexible scheduling, children ages 3-5. Teams of three teachers use story, liturgy and Montessori-style play to teach UU values and explore theological questions

High School group advisor (20-30 hours, Sunday evenings). Facilitate Tower Club meetings with Jo and Kerri. Chaperone overnights, youth conferences or fundraising events

Workshop Leader (18 hours, Sundays only) 1.5 hours per Sunday, six consecutive Sundays, Grades 1-6. Teach the same fun lesson every week! Easy prep and high confidence!

_____ Art _____ Sept – Oct
 _____ Music _____ Nov – Dec
 _____ Story _____ Jan – mid-Feb
 _____ Body _____ mid – Feb–March
 _____ Science _____ April – May
 _____ Drama

Rotation Journey Guide (22 hours, Sun only) 1.5 hours per Sunday, half-year commitment, Grades 1-6. No lesson responsibilities! Provide a consistent, loving presence to one group!

_____ Grades 1 & 2 _____ Sept – Jan
 _____ Grades 3 & 4 _____ Feb – May
 _____ Grades 5 & 6

Junior High R.E. teacher (35 hours, mostly Sundays) One hour per Sunday, year-long commitment with flexible scheduling, youth in grades 7 & 8. Teams of three teachers explore neighboring faiths and service to our community

Coming of Age mentor (14 hours) Support a 9th on their journey to craft a statement of spiritual identity. Primarily Sunday evenings with a few dinners and an evening ceremony.

R.E. Welcome Team Family (12 hours) Greet visiting families one Sunday per month from September through May (kid/parent teams encouraged!)

On-Call Sunday School Substitute (10 hours) Cover for RE teachers who are ill or unable to teach.

RE Redecorator/Organizer (6-8 hours) Summertime teams will form to clean, paint and 'recreate' one basement room each. Just like being on HGTV! Hours at your convenience. Reorganize materials, construct shelving, make classrooms child-friendly

Summer RE Leader (3-4 hours) Supervise nature-centered lessons about personal strengths with groups of 12-20 kids of all ages. One 10:00 A.M. service only, trade on and off with other Team Leaders

Social Activities Team (4-6 hours) Movie Nights, bowling, Halloween party, Jell-O Jamboree, Valentine Fun, Drop N Shop, Seder, Open House Ice Cream Social, potlucks,

Senior Bridging Coordinator - Send invitations, gather information & set-up reception for High School Senior Bridging Ceremony.

Service at which you'd like to volunteer:

9:00 11:00 4:30

Purchase & Prep - Go shopping and prep materials for the classrooms.

Substitute Chapel Leader

Field Trips - Chaperone and/or drive for various Sunday field trips

Classroom Buddy - Be a classroom buddy to a student with special needs.

7/8 Youth Group Advisor (10-12 hours)

REMT- Become a member of the Religious Education Ministry Team

Teacher Appreciation - Coordinate flower planting and distributing for Teacher Appreciation Sunday

Chaperone church overnights

I would like to share my Talents/Interests:

- Service projects
- Provide snack/Cook
- Carpentry or construction
- Computer/internet
- Paint rooms/murals
- Sewing
- Photography
- Office work

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Living for a Good Death

"Death is a gift that gives something to people who are living and dying and is so often passed along without being opened."

Can death be a gift? What makes for a good death? What is a good death for our loved ones? For ourselves? In this class, we will explore our feelings and attitudes toward death and dying. Good deaths don't happen by accident — they require intention and planning, so we will explore our wishes and the tools we need to convey those wishes to those who survive us. Together we will explore our deaths; in so doing we will explore what it means to live.

Living for a Good Death will be held on four Thursdays, May 3 to May 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Center Room. Registration required, class limited to 15. (Additional sessions at an alternate time — daytime or another evening — will be added with a minimum of 5 participants.) Contact Teresa at the Church Office to register or request an alternate time. Childcare will be provided upon request by April 19.

Enneagram Wisdom Workshop

This workshop explores how our personality develops to compensate for our loss of connection with our divine essential qualities. This ten-week series will be held at Unity Church on Tuesdays from April 17 to June 26 (no class June 12), from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The special rate for Unity members and sustaining friends is \$100 for all 10 classes. To register, contact Katy Taylor at 651/291-8551. Required Book: *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* by Don Riso and Russ Hudson.

FROM THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

Restorative Justice Team Learns More About Sex Offender Project

At its February meeting, the Restorative Justice Team met to learn more about the grant to work with sex offenders that has been obtained by our community partner, Amicus. Louise Wolfgramm and Mary Maas told the team about plans to provide support for sex offenders returning to the community.

Each sex offender will be assigned to a support circle that will meet weekly at a location that is not at Unity Church. The circle will include two St. Paul police officers and four community members. On the six other days each week, one member of the circle will be responsible for contacting the offender, in person or by phone, as well as contacting one member of the offender's community, such as a landlord or employer. This is important work, and has had excellent results in other places.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Mary Maas at Amicus at staff@amicususa.org. She can answer your questions and discuss opportunities to participate.

Who is Thy Neighbor? — hosted by Amicus

On April 18 at Wellspring Wednesday, Amicus will host a panel discussion on the role of sex-offenders in the community. Themes for this discussion will include: What does research tell us about sex-offenders and the efficacy of treatment? What are the challenges of re-entry? What is the community's role in re-entry? All are invited to attend.

FROM THE GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM

A Sally Bingham Film Screening

The Green Sanctuary Team will show "Lighten Up!," a 20-minute film featuring the Rev. Sally Bingham, founder of the Regeneration Project, that offers a religious response to global warming. A discussion of what we ourselves can do will follow the film. Stop by Wellspring Wednesday on April 11 in the Center Room.

A Green Tip

The Green Sanctuary Ministry Team, Unity Church's newly formed environmental group, will occasionally share tips on things you can do to help reduce our environmental impact on the earth. This first tip is something many people already know. Here are some interesting facts:

Replace your incandescent bulbs with fluorescent ones. Long term, they will put dollars back in your pocket but, more importantly, you will reduce the level of carbon on the planet.

If every American home replaced one light bulb with one that meets the federal government's energy star guidelines, it would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Remember: be sure to dispose of your fluorescent light bulbs properly as they contain mercury.

Want to share an idea? Contact Ginger Pinson at 651/227-1863 or gingerpinson@msn.com. To read about other things happening with the Green Sanctuary Team, check out the team's blog at greensanctuary.blogspot.com.

Unity RPCV April Potluck Supper

The Unity Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are getting together on Saturday, April 14, for a potluck supper. Contact Phyl Ostergren at 651/484-7947, if you are a returned Peace Corps volunteer and would like to meet up.

Unity News from North Carolina

On March 11, long-time member of Unity Church Patricia Guthmann Haresch was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Outer Banks in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, where she now serves. She and her husband are parents of a four-year-old son and a seven-month-old foster son.

MUSIC AND ART

Music Notes

by Ruth Palmer

Everything is gestation and then birthing.

— Rainer Maria Rilke

As with the sense of spring, it should be time for the ‘birthing’ of your creative work. After initial visions, careful planning, hours of long and intense work with all the details, it should be time to start seeing the ‘whole vision’ in sight. For me, at this point in my music preparation, I need to start practicing the performance — no longer just the parts that need to be put together, but the full vision of completion. What is that full experience? How do I breathe differently? What changes in my experience of light and space and time? To whom do the sounds reach? I must feel those things when I practice now for they are the completion of that vision.

We are way past the planting, the bud busting through, the slow opening. We are in full bloom and interestingly enough we often do not take time to ‘practice’ that culmination. We often fall prey to the thinking that it is here now, good for us, accomplished. Wrong! This treasured vision needs daily practice, constant care, healthy stretching of its limits and most importantly, ‘absorbed consistency.’ It needs to happen more than once. The performance needs to be practiced. Now is the time when the rewards come flying in. New visions, fulfillment, peace, revealing insights, inspiration. It is all possible if we can hang in there through those long moments when all we can see are the small details and pieces. What a joy is this creative process that always demands, always rewards.

Rainer Maria Rilke (from *Letters To A Young Poet*):

Works of art are of an infinite solitude, and no means of approach is so useless as criticism. Only love can touch and hold them and be fair to them. Always trust *yourself* and your own feeling, as opposed to argumentations, discussions, or introductions of that sort; if it turns out that you are wrong, then the natural growth of your inner life will eventually guide you to other insights. Allow your judgments their own silent, undisturbed development, which, like all progress, must come from deep within and cannot be forced or hastened.

Everything is gestation and then birthing. To let each impression and each embryo of a feeling come to completion, entirely in itself, in the dark, in the unsayable, the unconscious, beyond the reach of one’s own understanding, and with deep humility and patience to wait for the hour when a new clarity is born: this alone is what it means to live as an artist: in understanding as in creating.”

Looking Ahead:

- April 15:** Oklahoma Children’s Choir
from All Souls Tulsa at morning services
- April 22:** Arthur Foote Music Sunday
- May 13:** Minnesota Boy Choir at morning services

APRIL ART

Harvey J. Fields

With a Master’s of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls my artistic talents began long before my art education. My journey into the world of art came later in life through a winding path which included Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the 1950’s and 60’s, the military (Viet Nam War Veteran), blue collar jobs, and the nightlife of a Blues drummer. Nature or “out in the woods or brush” have played a very important part in my life. The calmness, serenity, and quiet of the woods allow my mind the freedom to contemplate the different views I visualize. This in turn facilitates my art.

To create a painting, I work with dye, oil and acrylic paints to transform my dreams and visions onto canvas to create my work, my art. Seeing the world from different perspectives and angles has always come naturally to me. The ability to move shapes, colors, and dimensions of what I see into a painting or drawing has been in my soul since an early age. Drawing and painting slowly became a calming pastime to transform my views and visions into a realm of art. My art reflects my dreams and my visions.

With the computer, I am able to create, alter, modify, and revise my paintings and photographs. Using parts of paintings, the entire painting, parts of photographs, or the entire photograph I am able to create a new vision, dream or idea from an original creation of my own or from a photograph of a favorite spot in my life. I am able to recreate and construct the shapes, dimensions and colors into my visions, my dreams, my prints.

For the audience, I hope my work touches your soul, evoking feelings and emotions. What you visualize in my art is from your perspective, your experiences, and the dimensions you have moved through in your life. From one human being to another human being, there is commonality between us. We see and visualize the art, some visions touch our soul. I hope my art can touch your soul and a human commonality can be bridged between us.

Mila Concert

Mila Vocal Ensemble will hold a concert at Unity Church on the evening of Saturday, May 5. Watch the May commUNITY newsletter and upcoming This Week at Unity inserts for more information.

Calling All Artists

Applications for artists who are interested in exhibiting art work at Unity Church for the 2007–2008 church year will be available beginning the first week of April. Contact Laura Park at the Church Office for applications. Applications are due by Tuesday, May 29, and will be reviewed by the Art Committee in early June.

FELLOWSHIP / ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPRING ADDITION TO WELLSRING WEDNESDAY

Teachable Values: Down-to-Earth Ways to Pass on Lessons of Character to Your Children

It's difficult these days for children to grow up in the midst of the storms of our turbulent society. One way to start to turn on sunny skies is to raise children who treat each other, their families and their neighbors in compassionate, respectful ways. Participants in these sessions will get a toolbox of ways to give children a strong foundation of essential life lessons. Marty Rossmann will lead two sessions on April 25 and May 2.

On April 25, topics will include Empathy, Helpfulness, Responsibility, Tolerance, Courage, and Humor. On May 2, topics will be Respect, Loyalty, Courtesy, Patience, Self-Reliance, Honesty, and Trustworthiness.

Unity Singles Group

Are you an adult single, age 35 and beyond, interested in dining, socializing, and experiencing cultural activities with others like you? For more information, contact Karen Pike at 651/695-9800 or Rick Ahern at 651/636-5836.

Upcoming Events:

April 21: Movie night, followed by dinner at a restaurant.

Gardening in Spring

The Unity Gardeners have been hard at work planning for spring. This dedicated group of volunteers enjoys getting their hands dirty, and you are welcome to join them regardless of your experience level! The mornings of April 7, May 5, 14 and 15 are designated work days for clean-up and planting. Contact Anna Newton at 651/483-2986 if you wish to help. If your interests include helping young people garden, plans are underway for a children's garden, and nurturing adults are needed to guide our youngsters.

If you have a garden of your own you can help support Unity gardens when you buy Linder's Gift Certificates from a Unity Gardener. Certificates in \$10 and \$25 denominations will be available for sale in the Parish Hall after each service on April 29 and May 6. Certificates are redeemable at the main store on Larpenteur Avenue or at any Linder's Flower Mart near you.

Volunteer Opportunities at Heritage Dinner

Several volunteers are needed to help with the Heritage Society Dinner on Friday, May 4. Volunteer opportunities include cooking on the evening of May 3, and final food preparation, decoration, serving and clean-up on May 4. Depending on when you volunteer, perks include meeting and connecting with other people from the church, picking up some new recipes, enjoying a fabulous three course meal "behind the scenes," and hearing keynote speaker David Durenberger. For more information or to volunteer, contact Ann Nelson at 651/690-9818 or ann@anncooks.com.

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.

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, April 9 and 23, 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.

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 651/771-7528

Unity Young Adult Group

Second and fourth Sundays of each 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 Wellspring 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 Mary Barrett at 651/225-9708.

Evergreen Quilt Group

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Kathie Simon Frank at 612/379-4253

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

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

**April 1 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30) "Fools, Foolishness, and Folly:
What Clowns, Jesters and Pranksters Have to Teach Us"
— Justin Schroeder**

This April Fool's Day (and Palm Sunday), come laugh and chortle as we explore the history of the "holy" fool — those clowns and jokesters that throughout the ages have managed to penetrate our upright defenses to tell us the things we really need to know. Justin Schroeder and Worship Associate Dick Buggs will lead this service.

**April 8 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30) "Easter Sunday"
— Teresa Schwartz and Justin Schroeder**

We honor the Easter story every year; every year we are in need of resurrection. We will celebrate doubt and belief, the commonplace and the miraculous, our fears and our hopes as we reach into new life. Teresa Schwartz and Justin Schroeder will lead this service.

**April 15 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30) "Abundant Possibilities"
— Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, All Souls Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Marlin Lavanhar grew up Unitarian Universalist at North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois. After graduating from Tulane University, he relocated to Kyoto, Japan, where he worked and studied for two years. Leaving Japan, he and a friend took a three year, around the world odyssey on mountain bikes. The trip took him through some of the world's highest mountain ranges, across parts of the Gobi desert, Tibet, India, Pakistan, through the Middle East, across Eastern Europe and North America. It was on this trip that he felt the call to Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Marlin will be joined by the All Souls Children's Choir. Justin Schroeder will serve as his Worship Associate.

April 22 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30) "Arthur Foote Music Sunday"

Arthur Foote Sunday is Unity Church's celebration of the part music plays in our services and church community. Honoring the memory of Arthur Foote and his love and contribution to music, we annually offer services filled with this great art in appreciation for what it adds to our lives. This year we will celebrate with two different musical programs. The morning services (9:00 & 11:00) will feature Unity Choir in performances of great choruses by Haydn, Fauré and Brahms and a Unity Singers piece by Franz Biebl. This is music that has stood the test of time, text, politics, and still speaks through its inherent essence. The culmination of these services will feature a presentation of the Beethoven Choral Fantasy for choir, chamber orchestra and solo piano; a testament to hope and harmony. Our 4:30 service will feature the Unity Singers in an array of eclectic choral works, ranging from the exquisite harmonies of Ticheli's 'There Will Be Rest', to Ysaye Barnwell, to Americana and Shenandoah. A string quartet will also fill the sanctuary with beautiful music at this service.

**April 29 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30) "Coming of Age Sunday"
— Justin Schroeder, Teresa Schwartz, and Jo LeFerla**

At our annual "Coming of Age Sunday" we honor the transition our ninth graders are making as they consider what it means to come of age as a Unitarian Universalist. Come hear samples of our youths' Statements of Spiritual Identity and celebrate this threshold experience, supported by their adult mentors. Join Justin Schroeder, Teresa Schwartz, Jo LaFerla and musical guests The Eclectics for an upbeat look at personal convictions and spiritual awareness.



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