

## ...and the music is their church



Youth Music Ensemble performs *Has the Dream Come True?* during Sunday Services

### Youth Music Ensemble

Some people might wonder why a youth jazz ensemble or drumming group counts as Religious Education. We've wondered sometimes, too. But if you think about it - especially about jazz and African American music - people who lived in slavery without a church to call their own pretty much made music...and *the music was their church*. They made music to be in touch with their ancestry and their religion. In the same way, Youth Music Ensemble (YME) is kind of our church. Looking forward to rehearsals and sessions makes us want to come to church in a way we've never felt before. It's also helped

us understand why church is so important to so many people. If you try to imagine a church without a choir, without hymns, without an organ or piano...well, what's the point? Even if you're not sure of what you believe or what someone else believes, when there's music, you can be sure of what you *feel*.

Almost all of us play in musical groups outside of church, but YME is different in that here we can actually contribute to the music. We have a lot of freedom to contribute, to try new things. People know their ideas won't get shot down - you don't have to feel embarrassed when you take a risk and share an idea. Maybe it will work

and you'll see your own idea written down on the music; maybe your idea won't work, but then someone else will maybe write you a solo that you can play. Together, we manage to find the right text, come up with a melody, fill out the parts and after a month we have a piece of music with a beginning, middle and end.

Working with Ruth Mackenzie is great. She really cares about everyone in the ensemble. Ruth listens to all kinds of crazy ideas from us and never makes fun of us. The greatest part about working with Ruth is that she believes in our potential and helps us do the best work we can but she

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Unity Children's Choir fills the Sanctuary with joyful voices.



The cast from the Hero Project thrills us with their super singing.

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# JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

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## Just Words

Many attributes drew Janne and me to Unity Church. Your institutional integrity, your respect for history and tradition, your commitment to excellence in worship (and especially music) all contributed to our saying yes to your invitation to come to Saint Paul in the fall of 2000. But of all your many attributes the one which first caught and then held my attention was and still is your understanding of shared ministry.

It manifests in many ways. In outreach teams and covenant groups, among the teachers and guides in our religious education program, we find people striving to wake up in every nook and cranny of our sacred home. Among the clearest indications of your intentionality is your almost twenty year commitment to good governance. You're clear about authority. You know who makes what decisions and why. This may seem petty when juxtaposed against our prime purposes. But governance is the means and not the end. It's amazing to me how few liberal congregations understand that fact.

A case in point...while most churches of every stripe imagine that a single person, a C.E.O. uberminister stands at the pinnacle like some small god and runs the show, you realized that model was largely patriarchal smoke and mirrors. So you created something new. And that new something, the executive team model, drew Janne and me to you. After the early trials we've never looked back.

Now, after seven and a half years of collaboration and respect the landscape is changing. Louise Wolfgramm has stepped down as a member of the Executive Team and the board has appointed Justin Schroeder to the Team in his role as Membership Coordinator. Before we arrived, when the Team was first constituted, it included the Interim Minister, the Administrator and a person charged to encourage financial generosity. The church was in transition, giving had slowed, confidence had to be restored. In appointing Justin to the Team the Board is flagging its understanding that we have made significant progress in restoring a "culture of generosity" at Unity Church and that clarifying and strengthening congregational life is now at the center of our concerns. Where are we now and who are we becoming?

We are immeasurably grateful for Louise's years of service and thrilled to have Justin join the team. I thank God every day for the privilege of serving as one of your ministers. You know how much church matters in our lives and in the life of the larger community.

In faith and gratitude,

**Rob Eller-Isaacs**

## *The Wheel of Life*

### In Memoriam

**Ruth Tanbara**

**October 15, 1907 -  
January 4, 2008**

## Committed Couples Class

This class is designed to support the work of nurturing our most intimate relationships. We will share in large groups, with our partners, in small group exercises and in individual work. Topics to be covered are: childhood wounding and its effect on relationships, how we manage conflict, the ways we avoid intimacy, the gift of sexuality and bringing the romance back.

Led by Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs, the Committed Couples Class will be held Thursdays, March 20 through May 1 from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. Registration is free/\$100 [pledging/non-pledging]. To register, please contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office.

Childcare is available at no cost, but arrangements for this must be made at least a week in advance. You can request this for all seven classes or just one or more by contacting Christy Randall at the Church Office.

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# FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

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Sunday services are held at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. except where noted. Worship leaders are assisted on Sundays by Worship Associates and Sunday Welcome Teams. Sermon podcasts and archives are available on line at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org)

## Worship Series

### Continuing February 3 and 10:

#### ***The Work Worth Doing Series***

We take a look at dimensions of how and why we work. True vocation is a priceless gift. Some feel called to it. Some leave home and hearth to seek it out. Others discover it by staying right where they are and learning to see with new eyes.

### Beginning February 17:

#### ***The Lenten Series: Stations of the Breath***

The services leading up to Easter Sunday are bound together by an image taken from Dylan Thomas' "A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire of a Child in London."

The majesty and burning of the child's death.

I shall not murder

The mankind of her going with a grave truth

Nor blaspheme down the stations of the breath

With any further

Elegy of innocence and youth.

Deep with the first dead lies London's daughter,

Robed in the long friends,

The grains beyond age, the dark veins of her mother,

Secret by the unmourning water

Of the riding Thames.

After the first death, there is no other.

Thomas is alluding to the "stations of the cross," the places Jesus is said to have stopped as he made his way to Golgotha. As we enter into a season of renunciation we visit times and places we've stopped along the way to catch our breath and mourn and even pray, aware as we are of this one precious life we have to live.

### February 3:

#### ***Intentional Joy — Jacqueline Duhart***

W. E. DuBois states, "Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the play-time." In justice-making work is there room for joy? If so, how do we find joy and sustain it? This service will be led by Jacqueline Duhart and Worship Associate Neely Crane-Smith.

### February 10:

#### ***Know Your Place — Rob Eller Isaacs***

There is no work (outside of serving as an instrument of evil) that cannot be made worthwhile. Both suffering and joy are largely a matter of consciousness. Gandhi taught that caste was a matter of karma. In other words, know your place and find happiness there. That approach is in direct conflict with working for human liberation. Or is it? Rob and Worship Associate Don Brunquell will struggle with this very tangled thicket.

### February 17:

#### ***The Righteous Blues — Janne Eller-Isaacs***

The Blues tradition embraces the reality that some times "just gettin' down" with our blues can be the wisest thing to do in response to our disappointments. Come join Janne, some poets and a remarkable jazz pianist as we embrace the righteous blues.

### February 24

#### ***I Tripped and Fell — Matt Alspaugh***

Sometimes our efforts at keeping our lives in balance are not enough. With a chance misstep, the world tilts, and we take a tumble. Can we fall with grace, or do we resist the inevitable outcome? Can we recover, and how? Who is there to help us, and can we accept that help? Come explore falling with Matt Alspaugh and worship associate Mary Baremore.

## Seeking Worship Associates

Do you enjoy thinking about and discussing matters related to the life of this church and the larger community? Does the idea of exploring world literature that resonates for the purpose of connecting with worship themes make you shudder with delight? Are you interested in collaborating with other members of the worship team in helping to shape our worship services? If you find yourself nodding in assent, you may wish to apply for this wonderful opportunity.

The Worship Associate program at Unity Church has openings for the coming church year. This program offers a singular chance to have a voice, both literally and figuratively, in the most visible, public element of church life—the worship service. We are seeking individuals who take pleasure in sharing their clear speaking voice and strong presence with others. No less important is the willingness to commit to attending two half-day and one full-day planning session per year in addition to intermittent meetings with the ministerial team. This is a two-year commitment. Please Note: The first retreat you will be required to attend will take place on April 12 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Look for the Worship Associate Table in the Hall between services on upcoming Sundays for more information and an application form.

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# CELEBRATING YOUTH MUSIC AT UNITY CHURCH

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doesn't push so hard that we're not having fun anymore.

It's cool that the church has enjoyed what we've been able to bring to worship, stuff like "Hold On to Dreams" and the drumming that we've done. We're glad that Unity has got this Youth Music Ensemble going on - it's different and fun and you don't see it in a lot of other churches. When we're making music together, we give it all we've got.

**From an interview with Youth Music Ensemble musicians Ian Macpherson and Patrick Mager**



## Children's Choir

Rise up and dance! oh my body!  
Rise up and sing! oh my soul!  
Rise up and live, oh, flesh and spirit,  
In this union, I am whole!

The words in this adaptation of a jubilant folk song express the spirit of the weekly experiences of our Unity Children's Choir members. Through the physical acts of singing, playing instruments and dancing, the children, each in their own individual ways, come to understand how the miraculous medium of music can reach and kindle the spark growing within each of us. Whether it is through the specific message of the song lyrics, or simply through the beauty of a two-part partner song sung with gusto, music helps the children to experience the power a musical ensemble has to unite a diverse group of individuals into a powerful and cohesive whole. This particular type of religious feeling is perhaps most keenly felt at monthly "Singing Sundays," when the children share their music with the congregation at the 9:00 and 11:00 services. A wonderful behind-the-scenes side benefit of these Sundays is the opportunity children have to build community through between-service snacks, games and social time. **From Kathleen Radspinner, Children's Choir Director**

## Ministry with Children and Youth

I am most aware of the power of music in the religious lives of children in moments when on Family Sundays, from the chancel, I look out into the Sanctuary and see children singing hymns that they know by heart because we've learned them in Chapel or Sunday School. I see them singing with their eyes closed sometimes, singing with the hymnal flopping down, unused, because the words are already in their hearts and heads, singing sometimes with a smile that seems to say that they own this church — and in those moments, they do. Music brings children into this community in a way that words and ideas sometimes fail to do. It happens at Wellspring Wednesday in worship, it happens when the Children's Choir sings and plays on Sundays, when the Youth Music Ensemble improves a jazz line with Ruth, when the players in the Children's Musical hear the first burst of applause on opening night. Music ushers us all, young and old, nearer to each other, nearer to the Holy. To paraphrase both Freidrich Nietzsche and one of Unity's seventh graders, "Without music, church would be a mistake." Clearly, our dedication to music ministry with children and youth has got church right. **From Kerri Meyer, Director of Religious Education**



## Children's Musical

Nothing else connects fifth and sixth graders to the church like the musical. Their awareness and relationship to the church as a space and a community is transformed by the musical. Until now, they come for RE and maybe choir, and maybe the pageant, and maybe Wellspring Wednesdays, but the children's musical enables them to have an intimate encounter with the space, the Unitarian values embedded in the musical, the other kids their age, and themselves. They explore the church building and the people, filling their minds with the memories of the musical, they become part of the church.

Individual growth in that period is palpable. They feel comfortable to risk, to push, to find what they can do with the group, and they internalize the messages that permeate the plays. They build trust in themselves and reformulate their role as part of this community. The musical is about them and their challenges, and about the journey they are taking as a participant, as a youth, moving away from childhood. If they are lucky to do two years, the experiment and growth continues the next year...and they are ever-after connected to Unity Church. The seed that had been sown in the earlier years starts to emerge from the ground at this impressionable age.

In addition, the teamwork and community created by the parent involvement cannot be compared to any other activity in the church. Short lived and intense, the ties that are created, bind for the long run. **From Rene Meyer-Grimberg**

The photos on this page were taken by the Youth Music Ensemble.



## Children's Musical

I have four daughters, and this year the third of them takes her first turn in the Unity Church 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade musical. My family has participated in five musicals and we are looking forward to our sixth. Each time the music swells and the lights go up on another performance I am again struck by how the children's musical experience is also a complete religious experience.

What transforms this home-grown show into a religious experience is informed by a vision for community and growth as strongly as it is informed by a creative vision. It is a vision where talented and committed adults support our community's children so those children can create beauty, express truth, and accomplish a performance of which they can be honestly proud. In keeping with our mission, the children's musical promotes integrity, depends on service, and gives great joy. **From Bob Utke**

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# FROM OUR INTERNS

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## Sabbath Time

from Matt Alspaugh, Hallman Ministerial Intern

When I was in California last year, I studied briefly with Rabbi Michael Lerner, founder of the Network of Spiritual Progressives and Beyt Tikkun synagogue. Since the class met on Saturday, he asked that we respect the Sabbath by not taking notes or doing other writing.

I recoiled against that restriction. This reminded me of growing up in Texas, where the blue laws forbade the sale of certain items on Sunday, like baby bottles or magazines. These laws made no sense to me, a student working part-time as a grocery clerk. I found the idea of Sabbath a complete turnoff.

But if we strip away the rules to look for the meaning behind the rules, we might begin to understand the possibility for transformation that Sabbath offers us. For Lerner, a key purpose of the Sabbath is the celebration of life. If we are to celebrate, this means we should not work. We should not, for this one day, be out in the world earning or doing or buying. Instead, we should use that time to be with friends, enjoying meals together, deepening our spiritual practice, and worshipping together. Wayne Muller writes in his book *Sabbath*, "Sabbath is time for sacred rest; it may be a holy day, the seventh day of the week.... But Sabbath time may also be a Sabbath afternoon, a Sabbath hour, a Sabbath walk — indeed, anything that preserves a visceral experience of life-giving nourishment and rest."

In the Jewish tradition, the decisions about what is allowed and what is discouraged on the Sabbath are made by the community. Thus in Lerner's Beyt Tikkun community, taking notes is not OK, but making a recording is. There is some logic to this. Note-taking is work, a distraction, but one can listen to a recording on another day.

In the Unitarian Universalist community, I think it is important for people to make their own choices about how they might adapt the Sabbath to their lives. Taking Sabbath time could be an ongoing experiment, in which one identifies and suspends those activities that scatter their energy out into the world. Theologian Rebecca Parker tells us, "To keep the Sabbath means ... to step outside the dominating culture and enter another space. On a regular basis, stop participating in life as it is defined for us."

Having stepped into another space, we can then focus attention on those activities that bring us closer to wholeness. Such things might be a walk in the woods, time with friends, playing with grandkids, and attending church.

I continue to experiment with what Sabbath means for me. I try to avoid working or doing chores on my day off, though I know that's not always possible. I meditate, spend time with Liz, and try to make time for pleasure reading. What's important for me is to have a time to pause and reflect, to cherish the joy and possibility in the world, and to love its beautiful imperfection. I encourage you to take time to reflect on what's important for you, and set aside Sabbath time for that.

## Black History Month: Dr. Howard Thurman

from Jacqueline Duhart, Community Ministerial Intern

Black History Month, originally known as Negro History Week was conceived of by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Dr. Woodson noticed that there were no positive references to Black Americans in history books. The purpose of Black History Week was to celebrate and recognize the remarkable contributions that Black Americans have made to the building of our nation. We owe to Dr. Woodson not only the creation of Black History Month but the study of Black history. Dr. Woodson selected the second week in February because it marks the birthdays of Fredrick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

In honor of Black History Month, let us take a peek into the life and work of Dr. Howard Thurman. He was born in 1899 in Daytona Beach, Florida, and died in 1981. He was an author, theologian, scholar, poet, mystic and civil rights leader. Some call him a prophet.

Dr. Thurman graduated valedictorian from Morehouse College and went on to complete his studies at Colgate Rochester Theological Seminary. He then pursued study at Haverford College with Rufus Jones, a noted Quaker philosopher and mystic. He served as dean of Rakin Chapel at Howard University and became the first Black dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University. Dr. Thurman was the founder and senior minister for the first racially integrated, intercultural and interdenominational church in the United States, the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, in San Francisco.

I have read just about everything Dr. Thurman has written. A colleague recently told me that she has a book written by Dr. Thurman that has his autograph. She has agreed to give me her signed copy for the copy that I purchased at the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples. What a deal!

Why highlight Dr. Thurman? Countless reasons! He was reared by his grandmother, a former slave, who could not read or write. In his autobiography he tells of his deep love for his grandmother and the profound influence she had on his life. He was a prolific writer of sermons, poetry and books. His writings focused on the connection between spiritual renewal and social change, unity of all creation, building community and the search for common ground. In 1935 he led an African American delegation to South Asia and met Mahatma Gandhi. The two sang spirituals and discussed issues related to oppressions, freedom and nonviolence. I believe that Dr. Thurman plowed the ground and sowed the seeds for the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil right leaders.

*Jesus and the Disinherited* is the text that repeatedly fires my soul. Here, Dr. Thurman offers his views on how the life and teachings of Jesus specifically apply to those facing suffering and oppressions. This was a man way ahead of his time and I hope you will learn more about him. I will close with an excerpt from *Jesus and the Disinherited*. "The first step toward love is a common sharing of a sense of mutual worth and value. This cannot be discovered in a vacuum or in a series of artificial or hypothetical relationships. It has to be in a real situation, natural and free."

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# MINISTRY OF GENEROSITY / PARTNER CHURCH

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## Sunday Plate Recipients

The letters of gratitude that Unity Church receives from the recipients of the Sunday plate tell the larger story of Unity's Generosity Ministry. Consider these lines from the December 2, 2007 recipient, the Alternatives to Violence Project here in St. Paul. ATV-MN Coordinator Erika Thorne wrote: "Thank you for your lovely letter, which accompanied a check for \$1,055.00 to the Alternatives to Violence Project. Your gift to us is a resounding affirmation of our work, for which we are grateful, and it is a testament to the dedication Unity has always shown toward constructive social change...Thank you!.. ATV-MN promises to use your gift wisely in support of non-violence becoming the model for more and more people with violent pasts." Through our generosity we become credible partners in community service. Through our generosity we extend the presence of Unity Church far and wide into our larger community.

**February 3: Protect Minnesota** is a multi-year campaign to prevent gun injury and death in Minnesota. It is grounded in the knowledge that gun injuries and deaths are preventable. Their education efforts promote measures that everyone can take to stop gun injuries and deaths, especially among children and teenagers and encourage Minnesotans to store firearms safely. They work to prevent illegal access to guns by demanding the state require background checks for all gun sales and transfers and to stop the illegal trafficking of guns in our communities. Unity Church member, John Blackstone, sits on the board of the Protect Minnesota Steering Committee.

### February 10: Mano a Mano

For 12 years, Mano a Mano International Partners (new name!) has been building clinics and schools in rural Bolivia, partnering with impoverished communities to improve health and economic well-being. Work has just been completed on a water reservoir in Laguna Sulty, enabling villagers to water their crops during the dry season — one more example of creative partnerships blooming and growing. Unity's Community Outreach Ministry Team Mano a Mano supports the work of MMIP through fundraisers and educational events.

**February 17: Cottonwood Foundation** is an all-volunteer organization, is dedicated to promoting the empowerment of people, protection of the environment and respect for cultural diversity. The foundation awards grants in the \$500 to \$1,000 range to committed grassroots organizations in the U.S. and around the world that rely strongly on volunteer efforts and where foundation support will make a significant difference. Unity Church member, Emmy Reppe, has supported the Cottonwood Foundation since the early 1990's.

### February 24: Unity Church Libraries

Books and More for Adults and Kids! Unity Libraries has a growing collection including materials that help in meaningful spiritual development, for a deeper understanding of one's self, our church, and our role in the community and world for adults and children to check out or purchase. Your generous donations also fund Library Team support of the clubs, teams, ministries, and programming of Unity Church.

## Easter in Transylvania

Easter comes early this year, on March 23. For our Partner Church in Transylvania this is an important liturgical celebration day. It is a Holy Day. Communion is celebrated by the congregation. Our partners in Transylvania are Unitarians. They and their ancestors for over 400 years have been Unitarians. For them their faith is what may be called a "received faith," one into which they were born, one which is given them with all the richness of its heritage and the knowledge that their forebears relied on this faith for sustenance throughout the travails of history. For this faith some of their ancestors died. Their Unitarianism has been for them and their ancestors a joy, a comfort, a guide, and, no doubt, a challenge - all that one would wish for from a faith.



Our Partners are Christians. Here in the United States one need not be Christian in order to be a Unitarian. In Transylvania, Unitarianism is a way of being Christian. If you are interested in seeing the Catechism of the Hungarian Unitarian Church in Transylvanian Romania, it is in English at: [www.unitarius.hu/english/catechism](http://www.unitarius.hu/english/catechism).

Here are some selections from the catechism relevant to Jesus:

- #17 How do we call those whose religion is based on Jesus' teachings? Those whose religion is based on Jesus' teachings we call Christians. The "Christian" name is derived from the Latin "Christians" which means: belongs to Jesus, the follower of Jesus.
- #57 What do we mean by "I believe in Jesus"? When we say, I believe in Jesus, we express our conviction that Jesus is the greatest child and prophet of God, and his teaching is the surest way by which we can come to a real knowledge of God.
- #64 What is the purpose of Jesus' teachings? The purpose of Jesus' teachings is to acquaint us with the laws of God and thereby to deliver us from ignorance, sin and from the fear of death.
- #70 How do we summarize the teaching of Jesus? ... to love God, to love our neighbors and to build the Kingdom of God on earth....

Easter is celebrated in our Homoródszentpéter partner church as a Holy Day signifying the victory of Jesus' ideas. A resurrection, bodily or otherwise, is not mentioned.

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

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FROM THE PARTNER CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

## Blooming Plant Sale

The Partner Church Team will be holding a blooming plant sale from February 17 until March 9. Look for the Partner Church table in the Parish Hall to place your order. You will be able to pick up your plants at church on Palm Sunday (March 16) so that you will have them in your homes on Easter.



A. Johnson and Sons, florists, will be getting the plants for us again this year. Johnson florists is a third-generation family-owned local business. It has been in its location on Grand Avenue for over 70 years. You may be interested to know that all of their roses are Minnesota grown. If you should want to see the facility at which they hydroponically grow all of their roses, give Mr. Johnson a call. They have to wear stilts to cut the roses!

If you would like to be a part of the effort and camaraderie of the Partner Church Team, talk with someone at the Partner Church table in the Parish Hall following services on Sunday.

FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING MINISTRY TEAM

## Low-Income Housing Legislation

On Sunday, February 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Gannett Room, the Unity Church Affordable Housing Ministry Team will host Julie Johnson, Outreach Coordinator and Barb Jacobs, Communications Specialist from the Minnesota Housing Partnership. They will discuss this session's proposed legislation affecting low-income housing in Minnesota and how citizens can get involved in this process. Plan to attend this informative meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

FROM THE INTERWEAVE MINISTRY TEAM

## Movie Night • Save the date!

Come celebrate Leap night at the movies! The Interweave ministry team will be sponsoring a GLBTQQIA themed movie on Friday February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Check for an announcement of the selected movie in This Week at Unity or at the upcoming Unity events section of Buy the Change website at [www.buythechange.com](http://www.buythechange.com).

**February 2008**

## Evergreen Foodshelf Items



February Evergreen Foodshelf items are canned vegetables and tomato sauce. Remember that these items are only suggestions and any nonperishable item can be donated any month. Donations may be left at the barrels at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances at any time.

FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING MINISTRY TEAM

## Welcome Baskets for St. Paul Jeremiah Program

The Jeremiah Program is a personal development program that moves women out of poverty into meaningful and significant employment by providing safe affordable housing, empowerment classes, life skills and early childhood education.

As new families, consisting of a mother and her children, move into the St. Paul Jeremiah campus, it is the goal of the program to greet each new family with a welcome basket. The basket contains basic items that each family needs for housekeeping. Members of the Evergreen Outreach Ministry Team who are supporting the work of the Jeremiah St. Paul Program are hoping to provide one or two such baskets to help fill the needs of the 14 families who are now moving into this new campus in our neighborhood.

If you are interested in contributing to these baskets, please bring one of these following new items to Pat Haff's office in the next few weeks:

- mop
- broom/dust pan
- twin bed size sheet sets
- twin bed mattress pads
- full bed size sheet set
- full bed size mattress pad
- bath towel, hand towel, wash cloth
- laundry basket
- shower curtain and rings
- one (gender non-specific) toy for a child
- one personal item for mom (bubble bath, lotion, etc.)
- kitchen towels, dish cloths, hot pad or oven mitt
- all-purpose household cleaner
- toilet bowl cleaner
- kitchen utensils (spatula, stirring spoons, etc.)



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM

## February Whole Farm Orders

Buy meat, cheese, produce and much more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up right at Unity Church from Whole Farm Cooperative. For this month's pickup, place an order with Whole Farm at [wholefarmcoop.com](http://wholefarmcoop.com) or 320-732-3023 by Friday, February 8.

Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, February 13. Invoices are enclosed with your order. Pay by sending a check for the invoice amount directly to Whole Farm.

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# UNITY CHURCH LIBRARIES / BOOK CLUBS

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**Food! Prizes! Friends! Books!**

## Unity Libraries Open House Sunday, February 24, 2008

Library Enthusiasts – Children – Parents – Teens – The Young-at-Heart – Community Outreach Ministry Teams – Book Clubs – Visitors – Members – Seekers of Enlightenment and Knowledge: You are all invited to the Unity Church Libraries Open House on Sunday, February 24, 2008, for food, fun, friends, prize drawings, and the opportunity to explore the endless possibilities for lifelong learning that Unity Libraries offer. The Anderson Library and the Whitman Children's Library are located adjacent to each other, upstairs in the Eliot Wing.

Speaking of long-lasting matters, libraries have been around for over 3,000 years, nearly as long as there has been a written alphabet. Likewise, Unity Church has had a library of a kind almost as long as the church has been in existence. During the ministry of William Channing Gannett in 1877, The Unity Club formed; their mission included operation of a Sunday Reading Room, study groups, and roundtables of magazines and papers. By the turn of the century, the church school library consisted of 400 books and boasted circulation of 646 in one year.

Today, Unity Libraries (Anderson Library, Children's Library, Bookstall, and Bookmobile) include a growing collection of materials:

- that are fun, fascinating, or important to children, adults, and families.
- to help in meaningful spiritual development.
- that further understanding of Unitarian Universalism and Unity Church.
- for a deeper understanding of one's self and one's role in the community and the world.
- that support the staff, programming, teams, and ministries of our church.

Though the ancient library at Thebes was considered a healing place of the soul, in reality, a library rarely has all the answers. As Anita Brookner said, "Problems of human behavior continue to baffle us, but at least in the library we have them properly filed." In Unity Libraries, you can search for answers to the great questions of life and feed your soul, but only on Sunday, February 24, can you do so with books AND a cookie. Enjoy!

## Read a Good Book Lately? Wish You Could Talk to Someone About It? You Can!

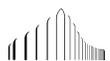
**Unity Church has two newly formed book clubs that you're welcome to join!**

**The 1st group** meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Gannett Room. The next meeting is February 12, and they will be reading *Urgent Message from Mother* by Jean Shinoda Bolen. In March they will read *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The April book is *Inferno* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. This Book Club considers all genres and literary styles for its selections. Meetings are open to all, even if you haven't read the book. Each book has a "sponsor" who begins the meeting time by presenting a bit about the author and the selected book.

**The 2nd group** meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Anderson Library. The next meeting is February 26. This Book Club also considers all genres and literary styles. At the beginning of the meeting, there is a quick "go-around" to get everyone's thoughts and responses to the evening's book. Participants are asked to bring a question about the book. Please contact Justin for the February selection (at the time of this writing, it had not been picked yet!).

**Newly Emerging Book Group:** *Interweave* (the ministry team dedicated to helping to make Unity Church a welcoming place for people of all genders and sexualities) is starting an "Interweave-themed" book group! This group is open to anyone who wants to explore the topics of gender identity and sexual orientation through good literature.

Please contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office if you're interested in participating in or would like more information about any of these Book Clubs.



**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 per year.

Unity Church–Unitarian

732 HOLLY AVENUE • SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55104  
651-228-1456 • FAX: 651-228-0927 WWW.UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG

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# MAKING CONNECTIONS

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## New Unity Photo Directory

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us to connect names with faces. It will also help us capture the history of our church congregation.



**Please participate!** All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with the Portrait Consultant at the church. For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments before and after services and meetings at the church. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- You will come to the church only once for photography and portrait viewing.
- Should you wish, you will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time. All portraits come with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.
- Whether you decide to dress formally or casually, make the most of this opportunity.

The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are:

Thursday, February 28, 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, February 29, 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 1, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 6, 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, March 7, 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 8, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18, 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, March 21, 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 22, 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.

You can sign up in the Parish Hall on Sundays or online from Unity's website. We look forward to seeing you in the directory!

If you have questions, please contact Justin Schroeder, 651-228-1456 x 107.

### Photo Directory Teams Needed!

Putting together a new photo directory takes cooperation and coordination! We'll need proofreaders, hospitality greeters, potential feeders (it's always nice to have a cookie while you wait) and maybe even a clown to entertain the kids. Please contact Justin Schroeder if you are available to help.

## Getting-to-Know-You Dinners

Is it difficult to connect with people at coffee hour? Would you like to know more people by name and learn how they came to Unity Church? Are you hoping to deepen the number of meaningful connections you have at Unity?

For several years now, the New Member Connections Team participants have invited new Unity members and a few longer-term members to "bring-a-dish gatherings" in their homes. The small, casual dinners or brunches allow new and old members to talk about personal histories, common interests, Unitarian-Universalism, jobs—whatever topics of conversation arise over a shared meal among the assembled group. We've found it great fun to learn more about the fascinating members of Unity as we make new friends to connect with during coffee hour and beyond. The one-time gatherings have amazing ripple effects, and we're eager for more Unity Church members to be so enriched.

Therefore, beginning in February, the New Members Connections Team will have sign-up sheets available during coffee hours. Interested people can sign up as hosts or guests at times determined by the hosts. Look for us there! We want to get to know you!

## Pathway to Membership

Whether you've been here a month or a year, we welcome and invite you to deepen your relationship with Unity Church by signing up for one of the classes listed below. Please contact Justin Schroeder at the Church Office for more information.

### *Welcome to Unity*

**Welcome to Unity** is offered the following Wednesdays from 7:10 - 8:30 p.m.: February 6, March 5, April 2, and May 7.

### *Finding Yourself at Unity*

**Welcome to Unity** is a prerequisite. Three Tuesday series: March 4, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and March 11 and 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Light supper will be served.

### *Committing to Unity*

Saturday, April 5, 9:30 a.m. - noon  
Saturday, May 17, 9:30 a.m. - noon

### Seeking Church Photos

Do you have pictures of church events? If so, we would like to share them with the congregation via the website, newsletter, and new photo directory. Digital photos can be sent by e-mail to Martha Tilton, martha@unityunitarian.org. Prints and CDs may be placed in Martha's mailbox at the Church Office and will be returned upon request.

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# FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING

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## If Walls Could Talk!

Do you know the story behind the skylight in the Sanctuary? How about the Bell Tower, where the high school "Tower Club" used to meet? Have you seen the St. Martin of Tours stained glass in the chapel?

Our faith has a long and rich history, and so does our building. You're invited to join us for a tour of Unity Church on the first Sunday of every month (February 3, March 2, April 6, and May 4) following each service. We'll gather in the back of the Sanctuary and then explore the building together. Tours are given by long time Unity Church members: Betsy Guthmann, Ruth Stryker-Gordon, and Laura Park.

## Elders Group



*How Love Changes*  
Thursday, February 14 • 1:00 p.m.

As our life experience grows, our understanding of love broadens. Valentine's Day speaks to a certain form of romantic love, at least as it is celebrated in the secular culture, but we know that there is so much more than romantic love. We'll explore the many varieties of love in our lives. What love have we left behind? What new loves have come into our lives? How has love changed for us? Contact Matt (Matt@unityunitarian.org) at the Church Office for more information.

## Lingering Ministry Team

The Lingering Ministry Team invites you to set aside time to "linger." Lingering is here defined as sitting around and conversing solely for the purpose of weaving connections.

Join us for Wellspring Wednesday, monthly pancake breakfasts or soup after the 4:30 p.m. Sunday service. Eat slowly and converse madly. "Linger" and connect more deeply with old and new members of Unity Church.



Our next pancake breakfast is Saturday, February 9, from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. Can't make it? Pancake breakfasts are scheduled for the following Saturdays from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Mark your calendar for: March 1, April 12, May 10, and June 14. *February's pancake breakfast is hosted by the Unity Transitions Group.*

## Women's Journaling Circle

*From Story to Sense of the Sacred*  
Facilitated by Becca Pournoor

This exploration invites you to remember, to reflect upon, to share — to be blessed and transformed by — those stories of deeper meaning from your own life experiences. It is often in circling through our own life stories that we discover what we hold sacred.

For six weeks we will share journal writings, altars, and artwork on topics such as home, attention, being stuck, our feminine guardians, forgiveness, and our spiritual journey. Commitment to weekly attendance is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration is required and class is limited to 15 participants. Contact Becca at bpournoor@msn.com to register.

Class meets Thursdays, February 21, 28, and March 6, 13, 20, and 27, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. in the Center Room at Unity Church.

*Rebecca Pournoor is a Unity Church member and has facilitated Circling for over eight years.*

## Men's Group

*Rising and Falling and Rising Again*  
Wednesday, February 20, 7:15 p.m.

This session considers transitions in our lives. These may be successes, or failures, or just change. We'll explore some of our experiences with rising and falling, and how they have affected us. How can we prepare for future transitions in our lives? How do we deal with the unexpected? How do we respond with grace and courage? This topic is a small preview of the theme for the Men's Retreat, which will be held the following weekend. Contact Matt (Matt@unityunitarian.org) at the Church Office for more information.

## Men's Retreat

**Camp St. Croix**  
February 22 to February 23

Join other men at Unity Church for a night and a day of fellowship, fun, and spiritual growth, at the Men's Retreat, beginning with dinner Friday night and ending after dinner Saturday night. We'll have plenty of time to get to know each other better, plus great programs on Relationships with Women, Kids and Values, Meditation Sampler, Improv Fun, and others. Presenters include Brian Newhouse, Bill Doherty, Don Brunnquell, and others. The retreat is at Camp St. Croix, located just 30 minutes east of the church on the St. Croix river. The cost is \$80 and scholarships are available. See Justin or Matt for a brochure and up-to-date information. Please sign up by February 11. More information is available at [unitymen.blogspot.com](http://unitymen.blogspot.com).

## Single?

*Are You Interested in a Singles Group with a focus on those in their 30s and 40s?*

If so, please meet with Anna Martignacco and other interested Unity Church members for a planning meeting after the 11:00 a.m. service on February 10. We'll meet in the Robbins Parlor. Questions? Interested? Call Justin Schroeder at the Church Office.

# WELLSPRING WEDNESDAY / UNITY SALON

## February 6

*Garlic Chicken, Lentil Veggie Stew, Faflooush Salad, Pita, Gingerbread with Lemon Sauce*

- *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor* — Susan Wicklund
- Into and Out of the Quagmire — Michael Orange
- Welcome to Unity Church — Justin Schroeder
- Voluntary Simplicity Group
- Introduction to the Enneagram — Katy Taylor
- Parents of Teens Group: Media and Ratings
- Kundalini Yoga



## February 13

*Lasagne: Meat and Veggie, Mixed Greens Salad, Garlic Bread, Relish Trays, Dessert*

- Sustainable Farming — Ken Meter
- Into and Out of the Quagmire — Michael Orange
- Voluntary Simplicity Group
- Kundalini Yoga

## February 20

*Hot Pizza, Fresh Salad, Sweet Dessert*

- Sabbatical Stories Part II — Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs
- Into and Out of the Quagmire — Michael Orange
- Voluntary Simplicity Group
- Parents of Teens Group: Interests, Talents and Sports
- Unity Church Men's Group
- Kundalini Yoga

## February 27

*Spaghetti with Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread, Cookies*

- Intergenerational Social Justice Night: Restorative Justice
- Voluntary Simplicity Group
- Mother/Daughter Book Club (Grades 6-8)
- U-knitarians: Knitting and Crocheting

### **Susan Wicklund, author of *This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor***

*"This Common Secret* chronicles Dr. Susan Wicklund's emotional and dramatic twenty-year career on the front lines of the abortion war. Growing up in working-class, rural Wisconsin, Wicklund had her own painful abortion at a young age. It was not until she became a doctor that she realized how many women shared her ordeal of an unwanted pregnancy – and how hidden this common experience remains. This is the story of Wicklund's love for a profession that means listening to women and helping them through one of the most pivotal and controversial events in their lives.

Much of the population has never known an America where abortion isn't safe and legal. What *This Common Secret* shows us, though, is that for many women in communities around America, the right to safe, legal abortion is already an impossibility."

*Susan Wicklund has worked in the field of women's reproductive health for more than twenty years. For much of that time she has been on the front lines of the abortion war, both as a doctor and as a spokeswoman for women's rights.*



## Little Salon on The Prairie

from John Poumoo, Unity Church Member

These days there are few forums geared towards life-long learning. Our tendency for specialization limits deep learning across a broad span of subjects. When information often appears only in 30 second capsules or delivered through an all too narrow lens, how can we foster in depth personal learning environments with active engagement? Unity Salon!

Unity Salon was an outgrowth of a Wednesday night supper conversation. Since that beginning and through small open-invitation gatherings a unique profile for the salon has emerged from the collective wisdom of the participants. This inclusive group strives to:

- ~ Deepen awareness and knowledge of social, political, literary, scientific, cultural and other topics
- ~ Provide an opportunity to invest time and energy into deeper investigation of a chosen subject by a committed group
- ~ Share results of such investigation to enrich learning and discussions
- ~ Create an understanding of the topic at hand beyond what is possible through traditional sources
- ~ Build a sense of community

The group will function at two levels. One as an on-line community and the other as an in-person gathering. Have an idea? Read an interesting article? You can post it on the on-line community. The on-line community allows for sharing your finds more frequently while monthly in-person gatherings allow for more in depth discussion. A hopper of potential salon topics submitted by members is maintained from which a topic is chosen for monthly group focus.

Unity Salon's home is at the Intentional Communities section of Yahoo! Groups. To join send an e-mail to: [unitysalonsubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:unitysalonsubscribe@yahoo.com).

**A 5-day Summer Day  
Camp for Children of  
Unity Members and  
Church Families**

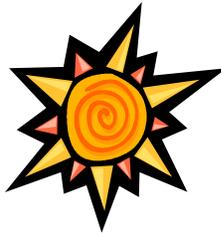
**Monday - Friday  
June 23-27, 2008  
8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily**

# Unity Chalice Camp 2008

Children in grades 1-6 are invited to participate in a new Unity day camp that explores Unitarian Universalist identity and history through games, stories, plays, songs and crafts! Ample indoor and outdoor activities! New friendships! Great memories!

**Hannah Eller-Isaacs, Director  
Kerri Meyer, Staff Liason**

Cost: \$200 per child for the 5-day program (includes \$25 contribution to need-based scholarship fund) covers all activities, snacks, supplies, staffing and training... plus, a camp t-shirt. Families will provide a packed lunch and transportation. Financial assistance available on request.



Registration is limited to 50 children in grades 1-6!  
Register early!

Limited number of Junior Counselors (grades 7 & 8) attend for free in exchange for leadership and work (application and interview required).

Registration materials will be available online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) and in the Parish Hall on Sundays beginning February 10, 2008.

Registrations will be accepted until April 6 or until the program is filled to capacity. Contact Kerri Meyer with questions.

**Staffed by Unity  
Church high school  
Camp Counselors!**

# MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## Workshop: *Families Raising Young Children Religiously*



**Saturday, February 9 • 9:30 a.m. until noon**

Tongue-tied when your children ask about God and heaven? More confident about what UU's do not believe in than about what they do believe in? Everyone agrees that religion is taught — or caught — mainly in the home, yet we think of religious education as something occurring for a hour on Sunday mornings. As a community of parents, we have collective expertise from which to draw, but rarely find the occasion to share it. Join like-minded Unity parents for a Saturday morning gathering that will draw from this shared expertise and foster confidence in your ability to articulate and live out family beliefs with intention and integrity.

Family therapist Bill Doherty will facilitate a workshop of family-to-family learning about what it might mean to be a Unitarian-Universalist family trying to pass on our religious heritage to our young children. Participants should anticipate dialogue and interaction. Topics that may arise include creating family rituals, engaging children in moral and theological conversation, and modeling the importance of spiritual community in our lives. This is the kick-off for an initiative that could transform the way we think about children, families, and Unitarian-Universalism. Childcare will be provided; contact Christy Randall at the Church Office to sign up. This event follows a pancake breakfast, so bring the kids, feed them well and let them play with church friends while you attend the workshop.

## Dates for your Family Calendar

**February 1-2**

COA Overnight

**Sunday, February 3**

Celebration of New Lives, 4:30 worship service

**Saturday, February 9**

Workshop: *Families Raising Young Children Religiously*, 9 a.m. - noon

**Friday, February 15**

Jello Jamboree

**Sunday, February 17**

Story Sunday; New Workshop Rotation Cycle begins: the Nature of Community

**Monday, February 18**

High School Interfaith Day of Service (President's Day)

**February 28, 29 and March 1**

Children's Musical Performances

## Parents Night Out

To help foster friendships among Unity adults, the Ministry with Children and Youth department is sponsoring a series of monthly "nights out" by providing two hours of free childcare to parents: our only stipulation is that adults take advantage of this opportunity to go to dinner, coffee or an event with other adults from Unity Church.

Our next Parents Night Out will take place on Friday, February 15. Unity Church's staff and youth nursery workers will care for children ages 6 months to 12 years here at church from 6:00 until 8:30 p.m. Children should eat dinner before arriving; a light snack will be provided. Pre-registration is required by Sunday, February 10; maximum capacity is 25 children. Contact Christy at the Church Office to make a reservation.

## Religious Education Teaching Opportunities



**9:00**

- Spirit Play Preschool classes - four or five Sundays at your convenience through May
- Five-week units on the nature of Community in:
  - Art
  - Music
  - Body/Kinesthetic
  - Drama
  - Story

**11:00**

- Spirit Play Preschool classes - four or five Sundays at your convenience through May
- Five-week units on the Nature of Community in Body/Kinesthetic

## Jello Jamboree - Friday, February 15!

Our annual evening of gelatinous fun is fast approaching! Join us from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, February 15, for an evening of Jello-themed games, crafts and competitions! Plan ahead and create an original work of Jello Art to enter into our Juried Jello Exhibition! Prizes will be awarded in three classes (Kids, Adults and Kid/Adult Teams) four categories (Most Unitarian, Most Creative, Best Engineering and Sheer Mass). Consider preparing your best Jello recipe and entering it in the Recipe Contest! This crazy night of intergenerational fellowship is the perfect antidote to cabin fever!

Childcare will be provided; please contact Christy at the Church Office to sign your six-month to three-year-old child up for the Nursery. Snacks will be provided, but families will want to feed their children before the event.

# MUSIC MINISTRIES

2008 Unity Church  
Children's Musical

## The Crystal Hat of Mystery

Starring Unity Church  
Fifth and Sixth Graders!

Performances  
are at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 28  
Friday, February 29  
Saturday, March 1

The Crystal Hat of Mystery is set at Harmony Junior High, on the day a mysterious magic show is to be performed at a school function. Through a series of Energized mishaps, a little Love and kindness, and a galaxy-wide Quest for the source of all power, the characters confront their assumptions about others and learn to look a little closer at themselves as well. The show has Aliens, Magicians, a talking Hawk, and host of colorful inhabitants of the school, including: Lita Leem, Sammi and Tammi Wonder, Abs and her Grrrrls, the super-smart Quiz Kid trio, as well as Principal Bob Bobble and the Candle Family. We hope to see you there!

## Music Notes

from Ruth Palmer, Director of Music Ministries

"It is hard to sing a stirring work from another culture and not care about where it came from."

— Ben Allaway



Continuing the series which present choral music as a way of global connection, I would like to share this article from Ben Allaway, printed in Chorus America's professional publication. Ben Allaway is a well-known composer who successfully arranges and presents choral music of various cultures. Unity Choir and Unity Singers will be performing his "From This House, To The World" on Foote Sunday, this April 20.

from *Ethnic Choral Music, Globalization, and Choral Citizenship* by Ben Allaway

In the last twenty years, choral music in the United States has become fully globalized. Encouraged by the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM, founded in 1982), the fruitful exchanges at the World Symposium on Choral Music (first offered in 1987), and the increased global emphasis at prominent ACDA conventions, ethnic and multi-cultural music is now commonplace on choral programs. American choirs now tour regularly to countries outside the typical European tour. Exposure to music by exciting, hitherto unknown foreign composers created a market for quality ethnic music to which publishers have responded, in turn raising the bar for American composers. Conductors, singers, composers, publishers and audiences world-wide now communicate easily via the Internet, obtaining advice, music, recordings, and video electronically for immediate use.

A true global community has been established among choral music professionals and amateurs from many lands, drawn together by their passion for choral music, sharing a wealth of resources and drawing inspiration from one another. It is hard to sing a stirring work from another culture and not care about where it came from. It raises awareness of the culture of origin of the music among the singers, which broadens the world view of the singer and promotes openness to other cultures and cultural points of view, so important to the work ahead. If we can care about another culture in another place, then we can help them. Hopefully, someone will be caring about us in the same way.

May you and your choirs find songs that matter, and share them lovingly with the world.

## Unity's Artists-in-Residence, Mila Vocal Ensemble

Mila Vocal Ensemble is seeking new members for its Board of Directors! Unity Church is home to this acclaimed professional women's ensemble. Our congregation regularly enjoys the group's authentic performances of music from Eastern Europe and across the globe during worship and special events. Mila stands at a new threshold of potential growth after an exciting 2007 which saw the release of the ensemble's fourth CD, contribution to a film score, collaboration with Ruth MacKenzie on Theotokos, and an influx of talent and energy in the form of five new singers! Individuals with a passion for celebrating and preserving cultural and musical traditions and a vision of building community are invited to apply. The Board is responsible for providing inspiration, developing resources, as well as building arts- and community-based networks to fulfill Mila's mission and vision. Mila is a registered 5013c non-profit organization. Interested individuals can e-mail [info@milavocalensemble.com](mailto:info@milavocalensemble.com) or speak with Unity Church member Carol Bauer or with Kerri Meyer for more information about this volunteer opportunity.

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# PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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## February Parish Hall Artist

### Gina Ruppert

I am a self taught artist, who began painting in 2003. Art has always been a part of my life. When I was young, the task of taking care of me fell upon my Grandmother. I remember getting into trouble, probably for terrorizing my cousin with my "over active" imagination. My Grandmother took me into her spare room where from the top shelf in her closet, she took down a narrow white box. She let me look through it to find art books, tubes of paint that she carefully preserved since the 1940's and a couple of brushes that she used herself. She looked at me squarely and told me to get to work. Long before I was born my Grandmother bought these art books for herself. They were a part of a mail order correspondence school. She would complete the drawings, and send them back to be graded. Familial and social demands forced her to quit, but she kept those books in pristine condition. I did not discover the irony of this until a year ago, when she sent me the art books upon my request, that the correspondence school was located in Minneapolis. These books, like my work, and this show have come full circle.

I began to paint and draw whenever I had the opportunity. The space between the edges of the paper were mine and I could do whatever I wanted within them. This became my ultimate act of rebellion, creating fantastical images while growing up in a religious conservative family. I remember thinking that everyone could tell me what to do everywhere else but they could not control what I thought or drew. I would then go on to receive the only formal art education that I have had to date. I was chosen to be a part of a class of art students in the ninth grade by a sometimes overwhelming and demanding teacher. I also met the boy that would one day become my husband, who crafts the frames for my paintings. During this time I began to experience some horrifying trouble in my home. My mother had unknowingly married a monster who for the next few years would terrorize us with violence and threats of violence. I abandoned art, like my Grandmother had, and again like her, I could focus on survival.

Years passed and I did survive. My husband and I moved to St. Paul in 2002. Adjusting from a southern to northern climate was difficult and I found the winters to be intense and isolating. My second child was diagnosed with autism and the long repressed memories of my own abusive childhood began to resurface. I began to paint because I had to. My first painting was completed with acrylic craft paint and a canvas board. I discovered the Women Artists Mentoring Group at Unity Church. I received a lot of support and invaluable advice from the women of the group. My first show at Unity was the Art of Recovery show. I would hang my art for the second time as part of the mentoring group. Now I've been invited back and I am thrilled that I can display my work of which the people here at Unity have been a part of. I feel, that in a way, I am coming home and yet again my art has taken me full circle.

I welcome you as the viewer to enter my world of down-the-rabbit-hole surreality, where my art still becomes acts of conscientious rebellion. While striving to craft aesthetically sound compositions, I also endeavor to use symbols to make what I show you also tell a story. The story may be entirely different for you, and I embrace that. I create my own mythologies where dragons beg as adoring dogs for affection. Where princesses do not need or even want to be rescued but find the mysteries within the dark places of the Earth, and here monsters become pets. Children become powerful manifestations of universal thought, and apocalypses become revelations.

## February 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: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

### Men's Retirement Group

Monday, February 11 and 25 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Contact: Phil Morton, 952-934-3578

### Unity Divorce/Transitions Group

Meets every Saturday • 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

### Unity Singles Group

Watch *This Week at Unity* for scheduled events.  
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

### A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of each month • 7:00 p.m.  
Contact: Joan Lovrien, 651-739-6958

### Afterthoughts

Every Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. service  
Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

### Unity Young Adult Group

Second and fourth Sundays of each month following the 4:30 p.m. service. Contact: Joseph LaFerla at the Church Office.

### Mother-Daughter Book Club (grades 6-8)

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month as part of Wellspring Wednesday.  
Contact: Ginny Allen, 651-645-7176

### Unitots!

A group for families with kids through preschool age.  
Every Friday • 9:30 a.m.  
Contact: Bridget Borell, 651-644-5618

### Grandparent Unitots!

A group for grandparents and their grandkids.  
Every Monday • 9:30 a.m. Contact: Sue Conner, 651-646-6667

### Unity Bridge Club

First Friday of each month at members' homes • 7:00 p.m.  
Contact: Mary Barrett, 651-225-9708

### Evergreen Quilt Group

Second Tuesday of each month • 7:00 p.m.  
Fourth Saturday of each month • 10:30 a.m.  
Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

### Unity Book Clubs

Second Tuesday of the month • 7:00 p.m. -or-  
Fourth Tuesday of the month • 6:30 p.m.  
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

**2008 Unity Church  
Children's Musical**

# **The Crystal Hat of Mystery**

**Starring Unity Church  
Fifth and Sixth Graders!**

**Performances are at 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 28  
Friday, February 29  
Saturday, March 1**

**Details on page 14.**

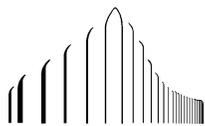
## **2008 Unity Church Photo Directory**



Have your photo taken and  
receive one free photo directory  
and one free 8x10 print.

Photo sessions will be held  
in February and March.

See page 9 for details.



**UNITY CHURCH – UNITARIAN**

732 HOLLY AVENUE • SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55104  
651-228-1456 • FAX: 651-228-0927 • WWW.UNITYUNITARIAN.ORG

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