

## Resistance

Each month worship, religious education, community outreach ministry, covenant groups, and Wellspring Wednesday programs will offer opportunities to contemplate, consider, contend with and discuss an intergenerational curriculum based on monthly themes. Our hope is that this approach will bind us more closely together and inform our lives in positive ways. January's theme is... Resistance.

One doesn't generally think of resistance as a theological theme, but think again. If theology is the study of the nature of God and of religious truth then how we acquiesce to or resist the forces which shape our lives becomes a profoundly theological question. Life itself is a gift and as such calls for the discipline of gratitude. Anything which degrades or attenuates our lives is an affront to the Holy and should therefore be resisted.

Let's begin at home. We don't really want young children to learn resistance. We want them to achieve a certain level of compliance before they begin to push back. But at a certain point we want our children to move beyond compliance as they develop a deeper sense of who they are and what values really matter most. We want them to resist the message that **things** will make them happy. We want our children to learn to resist the barrage of images that make them feel bad about themselves. We want them to learn to resist negative peer pressure and go it alone when their values require it. It's an uphill battle. But the struggle is well worth the cost.

Resistance is not always a positive force. We find it at play in both personal and interpersonal dynamics. Why, for instance, do we resist change even when we know we need it?

The most obvious example of the negative potential of resistance is addiction. We fall so easily into the delusion that we can fill the emptiness inside us with drugs or alcohol or

sex or overwork. And though we know that only God can fill that emptiness many of us are unable to break away from our dependence. We resist our own deep knowing. We know brain chemistry is partly responsible for addictive behavior but our unwillingness to change our lives in positive ways is also a spiritual crisis. When the recovery movement recommends that we "let go and let God," they're pointing us to an ancient truth we need very much to embrace in our times. Sometimes resistance is the way we hold ourselves back from spiritual surrender.

There are times when resistance is the only moral option. There are times when we have no choice but to stand against the tide, to stand firm and say no. Gandhi was a lawyer and a rather staid professional who finally couldn't stand it anymore. Having been exposed to Thoreau's essay "On Civil Disobedience," he saw a glimmer of possibility in nonviolent resistance. He called it "satyagraha," soul force. As a seminarian, Martin Luther King Jr. learned of Gandhi's success. He put soul force to work as part of a community of resistance comprised of women and men who would no longer acquiesce to organized prejudice.

Whether we know it or not we stand in the lineage of resistance. Every great tradition teaches us to expand the circle of family until it embraces all life. When we understand ourselves as inseparably connected, when compassion awakens us to the suffering of others, resistance becomes our birthright and our obligation.

Monthly theme resources are also available online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org)

### Worship Theme Resources

#### BOOKS

***My Experiments with Truth***

BN Publishing 2008

The autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi.

***An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum***

Henry Holt & Co 1996

***Civil Disobedience***

Wilder Publications 2008

Henry David Thoreau

#### FILMS

***Star Trek: First Contact*** (1996)

"Resistance is futile." But not really.

***I Am Sam*** (2001) Sean Penn as a developmentally disabled man fighting for custody of his daughter.

***Good Night, Good Luck*** (2005) Against the threat of Communism abroad and McCarthyism on the domestic front, Edward R. Murrow (David Strathairn) and Fred Friendly (George Clooney) of CBS News mustered the courage to take a stand against fear and ideological persecution.

***Norma Rae*** (1979) Sally Field as a courageous single mother who helps to organize the plant where she works.

***The Secret of NIMH*** (1982) To save her ill son, a field mouse must seek the aid of a colony of super-intelligent rats, to whom she has a deeper link to than she ever suspected. (Family)

***Amazing Grace and Chuck*** (1988) Chuck Murdock is the top pitcher of the little league team. After taking a tour of a nuclear silo, Chuck decides to quit playing little league until nuclear weapons are disarmed. Can one kid's act of resistance make the world listen? (Family)

Resources for parents and children, see page 12.

# JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

## Just Words

When I was an intern minister at Boston's famed Arlington Street Church in the early 70's I made a lot of mistakes. I was quick to acknowledge my errors and apologize. Mwalimu Imara, my mentor in ministry, had a consistent response to my apologies. "The universe doesn't care if you're sorry. Change your behavior." Harsh, but true. In recent years I've tried to combine my willingness to acknowledge my mistakes and to apologize for them with an active commitment to changing my behavior.

Anyone in the habit of making New Year's resolutions will testify to the difficulty of keeping them. We become so set in our ways. It is so much easier to keep on going through the motions, so much simpler to play the same tapes over and over again. "There's nothing new under the sun," the author of Ecclesiastes laments. And yet we know full well that world-weary phrase isn't true. A subtle shift in consciousness can make the whole world new.

Sometimes, early in the morning, I have to force a smile. I have, in fact, made smiling at myself in the mirror part of my regular practice. I often wake up groggy. I throw my legs over the side of the bed, put on my exercise clothes and stumble downstairs to make coffee. At some point I notice that I'm scowling. I can feel the extra strain in my cheek muscles. Then I go look at myself in the mirror and I smile. It silly I suppose. I'm still groggy. I'm still grumpy enough that I probably shouldn't speak to anyone just yet. But there I am smiling at myself as if to say, "Stop taking yourself so seriously, fool. Lighten up." And before long I generally do.

No less an authority than the great Unitarian Universalist writer Kurt Vonnegut said "You are what you pretend to be." This year why not pretend to be happy. Sure there's serious, important work to be done. But taking on the troubles of the world and letting them weigh you down only exacerbates the suffering. Next time you're "mad as hell and just can't take it anymore," why not go stand in front of the mirror and smile. Now that's a resolution almost anyone can keep.

*Rob Eller-Isaacs*

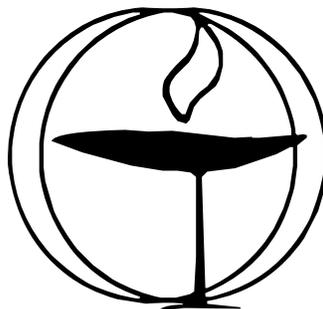
## Unitarian Universalist Heritage Week

**February 15-22, 2009**

Have you ever heard of Unitarian Universalist Heritage Week? Probably not, because we're launching it for the first time here at Unity!

It's a special week of focus on the story of our liberal religious tradition from its heroic beginnings in Eastern Europe through its twentieth century struggles and breakthroughs. The week's events will culminate with Sources Supper gatherings in members' homes on February 20, 21, and 22, where we will tell the stories and reflect on the meaning of our UU heritage in our lives today.

For a preview of the Sources Supper, visit [www.SourcesSupper.org](http://www.SourcesSupper.org).



## The Wheel of Life

### In Celebration

**Lucy Belle Capesius**

**born November 18, 2008**

daughter of

Jacque and Traci Capesius

**Will Alex MinJong**

**Carls-Lissick**

**born March 3, 2008, in Seoul, South**

**Korea, and joined his Minnesota**

**family on November 24, 2008**

son of Mike Lissick

and Lara Carls-Lissick

**Tucker Robert Keen Schroeder**

**born Sunday, December 14, 2008**

son of Juliana Keen

and Justin Schroeder

**Ida Thelma Thoreen**

**born November 19, 2008**

daughter of Tim Thoreen

and Mary Hanrahan

### In Memoriam

**Richard L. Smith**

**January 28, 1928 –**

**September 1, 2008**

**Beth Olson**

**March 7, 1948 – November 23, 2008**

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# JANUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

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

## January Worship Calendar

### January 4

#### ***A Tolling of Bells***

We begin each New Year with a service to honor those who have died in the previous year. The ministers will eulogize a number of “world shapers” artists, musicians, writers and leaders. Then the congregation will be invited to light a candle and speak the names of those they have lost this year.

### January 11

#### ***No Way, No How — Rob Eller-Isaacs***

We know what’s good for us. But for some reason we hesitate to do those things we know full well will help us to be happier, healthier, more effective, more loving people. Rob and Worship Associate Hal Freshly will offer the service.

### January 18

#### ***When Hope and History Rhyme***

##### **— Janne Eller-Isaacs**

Martin Luther King Jr. was part of a community of resistance. Without Ralph Abernathy, Rosa Parks, Bayard Rustin and a host of others, there would have been no Martin Luther King Jr. Janne and Intern Minister Leon Dunkley will help us understand the many ways in which we are a community of resistance and suggest what heroism may be needed now. This service will be our Association Sunday. We will acknowledge and celebrate the work of the Unitarian Universalist Association. A special offering will be received in recognition of the Association’s commitment to racial justice.

### January 25

#### ***A Welcome Guest***

Worship Associate Allen Giles will be joined by a very special guest preacher for the concluding service for our series on resistance.

## Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, seventy percent of the offering collection is given to non-profit organizations within the larger community. The remaining thirty percent supports the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church.

### January 4 — Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Nationwide, TPL provides conservation services to help communities acquire land for public use and enjoyment. In Minnesota, TPL has a long history of serving local communities in achieving their conservation goals. TPL’s recent accomplishments in the Twin Cities include the creation of the new Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, protecting nine city lots in Minneapolis neighborhoods for community gardens and acquiring the historic Pilot Knob overlooking Fort Snelling. Statewide, TPL works to protect iconic lands in the Northwoods and critical properties along threatened shoreline.

### January 11 — Interfaith Service to Latin America (ISLA)

Since 1992, ISLA, a non-profit, non-governmental organization has been working in north central Nicaragua in the community of Jalapa. ISLA volunteers partner with local citizens and organizations to undertake projects that most benefit their communities and travel to Jalapa four to five times each year to provide health, education and construction services. ISLA’s Nicaraguan staff coordinates year-round services that focus on women’s health (cervical cancer and gynecological services), student scholarships for about 125 students to attend public schools, and construction and support for approximately 75 schools in Nicaragua. ISLA’s administrative director is Jon Kerr, husband of Unity Church member, Grit Youngquist.

### January 18 — Unitarian Universalist Association

Association Sunday supports the Unitarian Universalist Association which represents 117,000 Unitarian Universalists in 560 congregations. Funds raised this year will be used for outreach for UU ministers of color and the congregations they serve, and for grants to congregations for growth outreach projects.

### January 25 — New Orleans Pilgrimage Scholarships

Five years after the hurricanes and flood, there is still much rebuilding that needs to happen in New Orleans. The New Orleans Pilgrimage Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to Unity Church members to help meet the travel costs of a trip to New Orleans to assist with the rebuilding of homes. Interested in going on the trip? Turn to page 11 to learn more.

## Want to Nominate the Plate?

Have your favorite non-profit organization be a Sunday offering recipient. Go to [www.unityunitarian.org/givingawaytheplate.htm](http://www.unityunitarian.org/givingawaytheplate.htm). The form is also at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES / ARLT

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## From the Board of Trustees

Resistance: the refusal to accept or comply with something. It is a concept with which we are all familiar. We resist the erosion of our rights and work for political change. We resist the discrimination against our brothers and sisters of color and we work for social change. We suffer the resistance of our children to good advice and common sense. We resist the good intentions of others. We resist stagnation. We resist change. We resist the little indignities heaped upon our loved ones and ourselves.

The New Year begins. We savor the sweetness of the opportunities, possibilities and the dangers presented by another year. It is a time for renewal and an opportunity to try again, reapplying ourselves with renewed vigor. Many of us actually start the New Year fully charged and ready to reenter the fray, full of promises, resolutions and commitments.

But what about the rest of us?

We have emerged from the most hectic time of the year, hopefully unscathed. But not always. Sometimes, we have barely suffered through the stress of the holiday season, our values assailed by over-hyped mega-consumerism, our wallets besieged by demands and obligations. January is the month of resolutions. The month that finds many of us desperately resisting temptation, trying to stick to earnestly made promises as our will inevitably erodes away.

But don't be too hard on yourself if you fall short in your attempts to make yourself a better person and your world a better place. It is the journey, not the destination that promises our salvation. A willingness to try, and to fail; yet to try again, is where the truth lies. It's so easy to lose track of what is important in maintaining your identity and beliefs in the crush of life. It's easy to lower your resistance and relent just a little bit. Let the kids watch TV. Buy the factory-farmed eggs. Overlook a neighbor's intolerance. Let yourself think, I just don't have the strength to fight today.

But then, sit down, take a break, reflect on what you have achieved. Marvel at the strength you've shown shouldering your burdens and beliefs through life. When you feel you can't go any longer, look to your partner, your friends, your fellow churchgoer and see them for what they are. A comrade in the struggle, a member of YOUR Resistance, and borrow the strength to go on. Those same people will lean on you before the year is through.

Carrie Chapman Catt, suffragist and founder of the League of Women Voters, said, "To the wrongs that need resistance, to the right that needs assistance, to the future in the distance, give yourselves." A momentary pause to gather strength before resuming the struggle is not a sin, it is human.

## From the Anti-Racism Leadership Team

### Happy New Year. And what's up with the chart?

The Anti-Racism Leadership Team, in our newly chartered role reporting to the Unity Church Board of Trustees, greets you. In the spirit of the New Year, when it's common for introspection and taking stock of ourselves, it's appropriate to consider how we are progressing on the path to becoming an anti-racist multicultural institution.

In November you may have seen a large chart posted at the ARLT table in the Parish Hall. Members were asked to place a small red sticker upon the chart to say where they felt Unity Church was along the spectrum from exclusive, segregated institution to a fully inclusive and transformed one. A few of you took a stab at it.

It is fair to ask "Where did this chart come from?" and "What is this chart about?" This year the ARLT hopes to make this instrument more visible and well known. Called the "Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Institution," it was developed by Crossroads Ministry and used by the Minnesota Collaborative Anti-Racism Initiative (MCARI) in teaching and promoting the anti-racism model being used here at Unity.

The continuum describes a path from monocultural to anti-racist multicultural organizations, with six steps along the way:

- Exclusive** Segregated institution intentionally enforcing the racist status quo;
- Passive** "Club" institution that maintains racist policy while showing limited tolerance;
- Symbolic Change** Multicultural institution, but little fundamental cultural change;
- Identity Change** Intentional and committed anti-racist institution, but structurally unchanged;
- Structural Change** Transforming institution;
- Fully Inclusive** A transformed institution in a transformed society.

Where would you put us? How do you know? Do we all even really understand what these categories mean? How do you change internal structure to become all-inclusive? These are fair and important questions to ask. We **are** asking, and we should continue asking.

We also should continue moving forward. The Board authorized the formation of an ARLT in 2002. Unity embarked then on a thorough, revealing audit of its policies and actions in history. By 2008 the board had written new Ends Statements with explicit anti-racist goals and expectations. As a result the Board voted to charter the ARLT, making it an institutional entity that will observe, report and advise the Board on fundamental church structure and action. Our momentum is good, but we have to keep moving! We trust that we will.



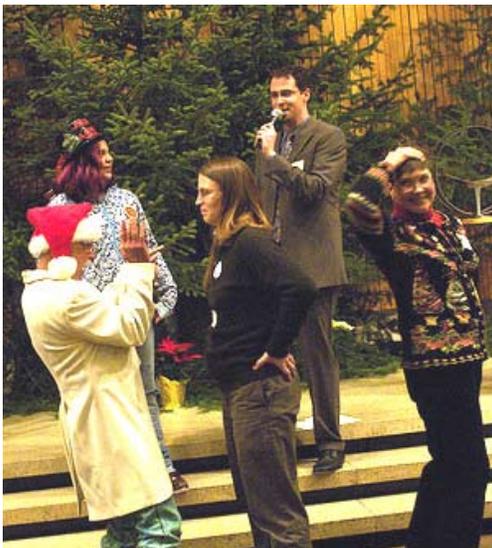
## Jolly Holly Auction A note of thanks

The much-anticipated Jolly Holly Auction was held on Saturday evening, December 6. What a party it was! Almost 300 ticket holders deliberated long and hard over auction items, enjoyed magnificent delicacies, cheerfully greeted fellow attendees, listened to wonderful music, and released their generous spirits enthusiastically at the live auction. Gross receipts from ticket sales and the auctions were over \$30,000!

The Steering Committee for the Jolly Holly Auction was a bundle of energy. These people know how to make things happen! Special thanks to the committee chairs: Kit Brady, Lee Carey, Cynthia Starkweather Nelson, Ray Wiedmeyer, David Carnes, Judy Lykins, and Mary Kujawski. Many others too. All in all, we had well over 100 volunteers lend their time and resources to this event. Thank you for all that you did.

Jolly Holly could not have happened without our wonderful volunteers, donors, attendees, business partners and marvelous church staff. On behalf of the Steering Committee, I want to thank everyone who made the Jolly Holly Auction such an extraordinary event.

Sue Cook, Jolly Holly Auction Chair



Heads or Tails? finalists Anne Caswell (left) and Laurel Lein anxiously await the flip of the coin. The call was "heads!" and Laurel won the weekend getaway to Lansboro.

## Where are they now? An update on interns past

Recently someone inquired about the whereabouts of former ministerial interns so we thought we would share an update with you all.

**Jen Crow**, Hallman intern 2002–2003, was called as an Associate Minister in Rochester, New York. She has had a distinguished ministry there. She and her partner, Loretta Mitchell, are the proud parents of Henry.

**Melissa Ziemer**, Hallman intern 2003–2004, was called as minister to the Kent, Ohio, congregation. She was married to Ellen Carvill and now her name is Carvill-Ziemer. The church there has grown with Melissa's ministry.

**Bill Neely**, Hallman intern 2004–2005, has served the Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church in Cordova, Tennessee, since ending his internship here. The congregation Bill serves is in suburban Memphis.

**Katie Lawson**, Hallman intern 2005–2006, taught at St. Paul Academy for two years waiting to see where her partner, Virginia, would be attending medical school. Virginia attends medical school at Brown University and Katie serves as half time minister in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

**Dottie Mathews**, part time intern in 2004 and 2006, went on to be selected as the second minister in her home congregation in Appleton, Wisconsin. She is happily settled there as their Associate Minister.

**Justin Schroeder** and **Teresa Schwartz** who served as Hallman interns in 2006–2007 both live in the area. Justin has worked at Unity Church for the past year and a half. Last year Teresa worked as a hospital chaplain at United but is now home with the new baby, Josephine. Justin is currently on paternity leave learning the ways of Tucker.

**Matt Alspaugh**, Hallman Intern last year, is spending this year working in the same chaplaincy program that Teresa did the previous year.

**Jacqueline Duhart**, our community intern is working as a chaplain at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, California.

## An Intern's Public Journal Entry Four

Talking about things like gratitude and repair is relatively easy. Living into them can be extremely difficult.

I used to be a college professor. One of the first things that I learned in my former career was that you don't always get the lesson perfectly right—not for any lack of preparation and not for any failure of execution. It can't be done. There is just no way of predicting what will and what will not be received by eager students. Not getting the lesson perfectly right was completely normal. It was a healthy part of the process of being together. It was an opportunity for growth and repair. What is true in teaching seems to be as true in preaching. There is just no way of predicting what will work. We, who gather in peace and in thanks and in sympathy, want different things sometimes. We, who gather in hope and in compassion and in grace, have different needs. That is what church is about for me. So, it was never the perfect sermon that I was after on Sunday morning, it was the sacredness of our gathering together—our shared witness of the cathedral of our presence, as it were.

No matter how self-confident I was then, am now or will be in the future, it remains daunting to stand before a group of people and offer tenderness from the heart...or to ask to be joined in the celebration of the holy...or to perform a piece of music (which means the same thing to me)...or to dance or to paint or to rhyme. It was always daunting. There is nothing more normal than this and at the same time, there is nothing so rare.

After preaching my second sermon on November 30, I received a set of mixed responses. I have to say that I love mixed responses. It seems a sign of spiritual wrestling...soulwork. I'd like to think so, at any rate. I don't know. What I know for sure is that it is a blessing to be, to be here and to be here together.

Every blessing. Id

# COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

## Wellspring Wednesdays

### January 7

- PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Families Tell Their Stories
- Welcome to Unity: A Class for Newcomers
- Teens Serve it Up! Special Guest: Mason Fong

### January 14

- Reading of *How to Believe* with Jon Spayde
- What's Love Got to Do With It?: White People Working for Racial Justice Part 1 of 2
- Kick that Cold! Say Goodbye to the Flu! Homeopathy
- Singing Meditation
- Mano a Mano Outreach Ministry Team
- Unity Men's Group
- Teens Serve it Up! Bakin' in the Kitchen

### January 21

- My Journey to Mae Sot: Lessons About Karen Refugees
- What's Love Got to Do With It?: White People Working for Racial Justice Part 2 of 2
- Diamond Approach Introductory Talk
- Rise Up Singing
- Mother/Daughter Book Group
- Teens Serve it Up!

### January 28

- Harry C. Boyte, Author of *The Citizen Solution: How You Can Make a Difference*
- Southern Style 5 Animal Kung Fu ~ Part 1 of 5
- Film and the Impossible Soul
- Teens Serve it Up! Bakin' in the Kitchen

Kundalini Yoga is offered every Wednesday.

## How Our Values Intersect with Our Careers

Thursday, January 8 • 6:00 p.m. with the Career Transitions Group

Whether we are aware of it or not, each of us has a set of values that we can subscribe to in our work lives. These are a preferred set of conditions that would make us most fulfilled if we could only have them exist within our job. Some of our values may influence the type of employer we seek out. Common career/work values will be identified, and we will discuss how awareness of our values can impact our job search, or help us critically examine our current employer/job.



## Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast

January 10 • 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

You'll enjoy local sausage, OJ, all you can eat pancakes, and lots of lingering and good conversation. **Bring a friend!**  
Cost: \$3 per person or \$10 per family.

## For the Bible Tells Me So

Saturday, January 10 • Following the Pancake Breakfast

Unity's Interweave Ministry Team will co-sponsor a showing of *For the Bible Tells Me So*, a documentary that tells the story of several families who are forced to reconcile their Christian faith with the issue of sexual orientation when their children come out.

Outfront, an organization working in advocacy for Minnesota's GLBT community, will introduce the film and facilitate a question and answer session with Phil and Randi Reitan, a local couple who appear in the movie, after the showing. A free-will offering will be taken if more than 30 people view the movie.

## January Movie Night

(Film and Discussion)

The Men's Group is gathering for an evening of film and fellowship. Continuing the momentum from the Fall Retreat, the Men's Group will gather to watch a film that is of particular concern to men. Afterwards the group will meet for an hour and the issues raised by the film will be discussed. Good times will be had by all! It will be a great way to begin the new year.

Specific details (i.e. place, directions, etc.) will be determined by e-mail response. Reserve a comfortable seat by making your interest known to John at [John.hubbling@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:John.hubbling@metc.state.mn.us) or contact Leon Dunkley at the Church Office.

## A Fashion Show for Social Change



Saturday,  
January 17, 2009  
7:30 p.m.

A fashion show of daily fashion, T-Shirts, and unique clothes that use the power of words and images to create awareness of discrimination against african americans and white privilege. The show will inspire and motivate you.

Directed and created by Nathan Eckstein and featuring the Tower Club, Unity's High School Youth Group.

*Laundry is the only thing that should be separated by color.* – Unknown.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



## Maren Aspaas

My name is Maren Aspaas, and I enjoy a rich, loving, family life with John Legler, my husband, and Sela Patterson, my daughter, who is 13. We are grateful to have found a UU community so close to our home where we feel inspired and welcome. I work as a hospital chaplain at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. We love vegetarian cooking, long bike rides, and really good conversation to compliment a nice glass of wine.

## Kristen Bastis

Passions: discovering the people and the places that make the Twin Cities special. Projects: sewing, knitting, learning to weave, and flute lessons are on the agenda. Dreams: my work as an archaeologist, finding a community like Unity are dreams come true, maybe a family will be next...

## Patti Cook

Hi! I am currently a homemaker with a passion for scrapbooking and card making. I grew up in the Wiccan tradition and my husband is Christian. I am happy to find a church that embraces my faith as well as his. I have four children and 3 grandchildren, who keep us pretty busy.

## Erickson Family

Todd, Christina, Mia and Sonja Erickson are excited to join Unity Church. Mia and Sonja have already enjoyed Religious Education and have made new friends. As a family we enjoy playing outside, making malts, and walking our yellow lab, Ryu. We already appreciate the Unity community and look forward to deepening our participation.

## Pat and Barb Foss

We were married amidst the historic turbulence of 1968, 40 years ago. It's probable that this shaped our eventual decision to join Unity. Our two sons and daughters-in-laws live in San Francisco and Boulder, CO, and we will have 3 grandchildren as of April 2009. Travel happily defines our time. We are drawn to the world religion-defined inclusiveness of Unity Church and the commitment to make a marked difference in the health and fairness of the world.

## Wendy Frieze

For 20 years I have been a product and interior designer. Taking inventory of my years as a sculptor, designer and gallery person, I decided to give back, to mentor and to share my passion of art with others. I am presently attending the Adler Graduate School of Psychotherapy for a Masters in Art Therapy and LMFT. I attend and participate at Unity because of the it's special community and spiritual support.

## Julie Marckel

Since 2006, Julie has worked at the Science Museum of Minnesota, currently in the position of Coordinator of the Collectors' Corner Satellite Program. After working for three years with an architecture/landscape architecture firm in New Hampshire, Julie returned to the Twin Cities in 1990. Julie is passionate about the arts and sciences and quality education for children.

## Ann Mathews-Lingen

I love to read good adult and childrens literature, travel anywhere and sew. My current passions include singing with a volunteer Threshold choir which

helps people with the transition from living to dying, homeschooling our two daughters Emma and Claire with my partner Robyn and traveling to historical sites as a family. I am enjoying Unity's openness, social justice vision and its very welcoming community.

## Robyn Mathews-Lingen

I am person who is easily engaged in a variety of interests, activities and new ideas, but my primary passion is always my family. My partner Ann, and daughters, Emma and Claire, are my absolute foundation. By day, I am a communications consultant specializing in print and web development for education and training applications. I enjoy literature and music, working with wood and miniatures, and lingering with friends over a cup of French Roast.

## Jennifer Otto

I live in Mendota Heights with my husband Tom Saby and adult son Adam. In 1990 I graduated from St. Catherine's with a degree in social work. I am happiest when working on social justice issues. Currently I am doing research on Ojibwa treaty rights. Unity is a great church home for me and exceeds my expectations with each new experience.

## Diane Ross

As a widowed senior, I'm into my ninth year of volunteer teaching a creative writing class for advanced ESL students in Roseville Adult Education. I'm an obsessed gardener, too. I have joined Unity Church because it meets my current spiritual needs, my aspirations, and my convictions that cherish diversity and peace.

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# INTRODUCING KAREN HERING

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## A Literary Ministry: New and Old at Once



Greetings. In this first month of the new year, I write to introduce myself as a new member of the church staff. My name is Karen Hering and, beginning this month, I will be the half-time assistant literary minister here at Unity Church.

I come, as many writers do, with a pocketful words and a love of weaving them together, whether in stories or in poems, in letters or in essays, in work or in play. I come as many ministers do, with a heart full of prayers and a love of weaving them together in the fabric of beloved community, whether in joy or in grief, in need or in blessing. I come deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring these two parts of my vocation together in one ministry at Unity Church. I

have been writing for many years, but I am new to ministry as a second profession. I graduated from United Theological Seminary last May and was approved for ministerial fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Association last September.

What does a literary ministry look like? It is a new idea, at Unity Church and within our larger religious movement as well, so it will take some time to answer that question. We are charting new ground here, and as a congregation, we will explore and discover it together. But here is the intention, as defined by the church's executive team over the past half year and as approved for a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism last month: My job will be to engage the transformative power of the written word in daily congregational life at Unity Church. It will be to employ writing as a tool – for members' theological reflection; for witness and advocacy in social action; and for articulating Unitarian Universalist values in society at large.

Notice, this is not primarily about my writing. My work as literary minister will, more often than not, involve lifting up the words of others, from within and without this congregation. I will be encouraging *your* writing, inviting you as Unity Church members into correspondence with that which is holy in your life and supporting your efforts to express your faithful convictions in matters of justice, peace and right relationship in the world around us.

Is that really such a new idea? As the ancient biblical poet reminds us, *There is nothing new under the sun*. The intentional creation of a literary ministry may be a new thing in name. But this work is as old as writing itself; and it has played a significant role in our own religious history as far back as Michael Servetus' determined and fateful publication of Unitarian ideas almost 500 years ago.

In this first month of the new year, I invite you to join me in shaping this literary ministry, new and old at once. I am eager to hear your questions, your ideas or your interests related to this work. And if you'd like to join a new group of writers convened to reflect on the church's upcoming monthly themes, please see the related article in this issue and come to our first meeting on the afternoon of January 18, if you can.

I look forward to meeting you in the weeks ahead and to writing this next chapter of Unity's ministry together.

Karen Hering  
Assistant Literary Minister  
karen@unityunitarian.org  
651-228-1456, ext. 128

## Open Page

### An Invitation to Reflect on Prayer in Writing

**Sunday, January 18, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

"There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground," the poet Rumi so eloquently reminded us long ago. If you would like to explore what prayer means to you in a guided writing session, please join the new assistant literary minister, Karen Hering, on Sunday, January 18, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

All are invited, seasoned writers and those newly called to bring pen to page. We'll also discuss opportunities for those who wish to share their reflections with staff and Unity Church members in February when the congregation will focus on Prayer as the monthly theme. However, those who wish to write for their own eyes only are welcome too.

For more information, or to discuss other upcoming opportunities for writing gatherings, contact Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org or 651-228-1456, ext. 128.

*The Coordinator of Communications is grateful to Unity Church member Karin Barnes for her help with this issue of commUNITY.*

# CHILDREN'S MUSICAL CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

## Hey Kids, Let's Put on a Show!

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Unity Church–Unitarian Children's Musical. The musical is an offering of the Unity Church Music Ministries and it has become a fixture of the church year. The musical typically involves 25-35 families and numerous church staff and volunteers in the development and performance of an original musical starring middle school–aged–children of the church.

In 1989 the Children's Music Committee formed to examine other programming options for children in addition to Religious Education. George Chu, Unity Church's then musical director, convened a group that included Cynthia Stange, Jean Kummerow, Kathryn Paulson, Pam Sheen, and Sandy Waterman. Sandy discussed developing and performing children's musicals at the Jewish Community Center. The committee determined to go ahead with the development of a musical for third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders at Unity Church. Sandy was identified to write the music, Joyce Paxton joined the creative team as choreographer and movement specialist, and Sarah Sheehan joined as the theatrical director. The first musical, *Winter Walk*, was performed in the sanctuary, in February. Other directors and playwrights during the course of the Unity Children's' musical have included Elee Wood and Michael Lee. This year Mary Auffert Blouin takes over the directing reins.

The vision for the work of the musical remains unchanged. It is a creative performance where everyone participates, where growth and taking on challenges is recognized and rewarded, where high expectations produce a show of which the young people feel proud, and where caring adults help youth learn to value their own gifts and talents. As the musical has grown in appeal, the number of grade levels for eligible actors has been reduced. The current arrangement, recruiting performers from 5th and 6th grades, allows the creative team to work

in a focused way with young people at the cusp of adolescence.

The annual musical has always been a community-building experience. The first year there was no program budget, and the musical was funded entirely through participant fees. Parents contributed costumes and props. Some of the dances were choreographed on table tops. Lightbulbs in coffee cans were used to light some of the stage action.

The accoutrements of the musical have changed over the years. Current features include the stage which converts the sanctuary space into a working theatrical space. Professional quality lighting has been added and the sound system is expanded with supplemental amplification. But it is still a community event. Parents plan and execute all sets, props, costuming, events, and publications. These changes have deepened the experience for all involved.

Sandy Waterman reflects on the changes she's seen over the last 20 years, "Now, many siblings are involved on work crews to help the production each year, and parents find that they, too, are able to make new connections with other parents working on the project. Some adults without children have volunteered to work on the project at various times, and alumni of the musicals have been coming back to cheer us on from the audience. It has truly become a family of seekers that embraces the vehicle of theater arts in seeking a Unitarian understanding of life and its challenges and opportunities."

The Musical Families "Get-to-Know You" and Planning Meeting will be January 15, 2009 7:00–8:30 p.m.

For more information contact: Bob Utke at [baja\\_jack@hotmail.com](mailto:baja_jack@hotmail.com), Rene Meyer-Grimberg at [rmeyerg@aol.com](mailto:rmeyerg@aol.com) or Joyce Paxton at [jd\\_paxton@yahoo.com](mailto:jd_paxton@yahoo.com).

20th Anniversary Unity Church Annual Children's Musical

# Hey Kids, Let's Put on a Show!

Performances: February 26-28, 2009

Casting auditions are January 8, 2009, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and are open to 5th and 6th graders.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

**fun**  
Team  
Trivial  
Pursuit

**food**  
Lots of  
Prizes

**frolic**

**Saturday**  
**January 24**  
**7:00 PM**  
**\$15/person**

**Game Night at Unity Church**  
to benefit our partner church in Transylvania  
Tickets go on sale Sunday January 4



## ¡Baile!

On Saturday, January 31, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. the Mano a Mano Outreach Ministry Team invites all Unity Church members and friends to come spend an evening listening to the warm tropical sounds of latin music and dance the winter blahs away.

Professional dance instruction will be offered for an hour and a half. No prior dance experience necessary! No partner needed, open to all who want to learn to dance salsa, merengue, cha-cha, tango, mambo.... donations gratefully accepted, but no one will be turned away. Free child care will be provided.

## Classroom Assistant

St. Paul Webster Magnet Elementary School, across the street from Unity Church, is looking for classroom assistants during daytime hours in this school year. For more information contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

## Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. For January 18, suggested items are canned or dry spaghetti, canned stews, pancake mix, and syrup. Any and all donations are welcome! Donations can be brought



anytime an barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances. All food is taken to Sharing Korner Food Shelf.

## Whole Farm

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 at [www.wholefarmcoop.com](http://www.wholefarmcoop.com) or 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, January 14. Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, December 21. Pay by sending a check with the invoice enclosed with your order to Whole Farm.



## Wanted:

**Unitarian  
Universalist  
Service  
Committee  
Representative  
from Unity Church**



With more than 47,000 members and supporters, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. The programs are based on Unitarian Universalist principles that affirm the worth, dignity and human rights of every person.

Through a potent combination of advocacy, education and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC supports programs and policies that promote workers' rights, advance the human right to water, defend civil liberties, and preserve the rights of those affected by humanitarian crises.

For more information about UUSC, visit their website at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org). If you are interested in becoming a UUSC member or serving as the Unity Church representative to the UUSC, please contact Pat Haff, Coordinator of Community Outreach Ministries, at the Church Office.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



Three related presentations on aspects of global travel, philanthropy, and service. All three events are free and open to the public. All will be at Unity Church. For more information, please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office.

## Weaving a Fair Trade

Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22

Examine the fair trade movement using the specific example of artisan-woven textiles from Bolivia. Through hands-on weaving exercises and small-group discussion, we will learn about the art of Andean weaving, and how fair trade textile sales can help develop indigenous communities.

The Saturday Samuel Morgan Community Forum is co-led by Unity Church member Patricia Ohmans and by Melissa Draper, both recently returned from Bolivia. Melissa worked with democracy-building and fair trade initiatives and now represents a Bolivian women's weaving cooperative seeking markets in the U.S. Workshop space is limited; please plan to pre-register. The following Sunday, workshop participants and others can purchase textiles and other handicrafts, at a fair trade crafts bazaar co-sponsored by area fair trade organizations.

## Philanthropic Tourism

Wednesday, March 25 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Philanthropic Tourism is what the *New York Times* calls the new trend toward service or volunteer vacations, in which travelers combine traditional sightseeing or adventure with service activities such as teaching, building, providing medical services and more.

Unity Church member, Laney Ohmans, who recently returned from teaching English at a tribal girls school that Vivek and Vidyulatta Pandit founded through the UUA Holdeen India Program in rural Maharashtra, India, will describe the work she did during her "summer vacation." She'll be joined by a panel of travelers, each of whom has a different tale of philanthropic tourism to tell. Resources and information from local and national service vacation organizations will be available.

## Global Giving in Tight Times

Wednesday, April 29 • 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Learn how to make rational decisions about your charitable donations to international development organizations. International development expert Garth Osborn will join Patricia Ohmans to describe the global health and development world; explain common misconceptions about donations to development groups; and help you plan where to donate money in the future. Patricia and Garth are co-authors of the book *Finding Work in Global Health* and both have worked with a variety of non-profit global development organizations.

## Third Annual New Orleans Pilgrimage

Join other people from Unity Church for the third annual pilgrimage to help in the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita.

Five years after the hurricanes and flood, there is still much rebuilding that needs to happen in New Orleans. The Unity Church Affordable Housing Ministry Team and the Unity Church Racial Justice Team in collaboration with UUA Gulf Coast Relief efforts is sponsoring this pilgrimage that will take place from February 28 through March 7, 2009.

This will be a time to provide hands-on assistance and an opportunity to learn more about the culture and history of the area by meeting and listening to the stories of people who survived the devastation and are now trying to rebuild their lives.

There will be an introductory meeting to learn more about the trip on Sunday January 11, 2009 at 12:15 p.m. in the Center Room or contact Pat Haff, Coordinator of Community Outreach Ministries at the Church Office.



The 2008 pilgrims take a break to pose for a quick picture — and a game of jump rope.



## *Resistance: Unity's Monthly Theme for Parents and Children*

Resistance can be a bit of a tricky topic for people who are raising kids. For younger children, especially, *compliance* is actually a survival trait and — dare we say it? — a desirable behavior, from a parent's point of view. Even if it seems unfair, do we really want our toddler to resist her 7:30 p.m. bedtime? Even if it seems meaningless, do we really want our teenager to resist going to school or coming to church? Our children spend their young lives trying to figure out “the system” and how they fit into it, whether that system is family, school, society or the cosmos. Discerning which parts of the system merit compliance and which resistance is a skill that comes with maturity and experience. Testing the boundaries often tests parents' patience.

Yet, the world into which our children are growing up is filled with forces that we hope they will resist: oppression, hatred, injustice, violence. We feel compelled to hold up lives of extraordinary courage, examples of Resistance (with a capital “R”), so that our children might be inspired to live out their own values in a similar way.

There are countless historical figures who resisted systems of injustice and violence who, without fail, fascinate kids as they grow and learn. Another important form that Children's literature offers excellent retellings of the lives of resisters.

Books on the subject of resistance:

- Becker, May Lamberton. *Youth Replies, 'I can': Stories of Resistance*. Knopf, 1938. (Ages 10+) This hard-to-find classic collects folktales, fiction and history from around the world in read-aloud format
- Demi. *Ghandi*. Scholastic, 2001. (Ages 7-10) A beautifully illustrated chronicle of Mohandas Gandhi's leadership
- Beals, Melba Patillo. *Warriors Don't Cry*. Simon Pulse, 2007. (Ages 12+) The autobiography of one of the Little Rock Nine

- Rappaport, Doreen. *No More!* Candlewick, 2005. (Ages 9-12) Stories and songs of slave resistance
- Scott, Sharon. *How to Say No and Keep Your Friends*. A guide for adolescents navigating peer pressure

Films for families:

- *Veggie Tales: Rack, Shack and Benny*. Big Idea, 2002. DVD (not rated). A retelling of the Bible story that celebrates resistance to peer pressure
- *Ruby Bridges*. Disney, 1998. DVD (not rated). The true story of an African-American child during integration
- *Au Revoir, les Enfants (Goodbye, Children)*. A French film about a Catholic school that hides Jewish children during WWII (available from Netflix)
- *Breaking Away*. 20th Century Fox, 1979. DVD/VHS (rated PG) An adolescent coming-of-age story about a would-be bicyclist who refuses to conform to his family's expectations

### Our Own Resisters Martha and Waitstill Sharp



Youth who have learned about the Holocaust may be interested in learning more about the Sharps, founders of the Unitarian (Universalist) Service Committee. Unfortunately, there aren't any books written for young readers about these two Unitarians, but the UUSC has a documentary in post-production.

From the website of *Journey to Freedom*, ([www.journeytofreedomfilm.com](http://www.journeytofreedomfilm.com)) the upcoming film about the lives of these two Unitarian heroes:

Just days prior to the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, Waitstill Sharp, a Unitarian minister, and his wife Martha, a social worker, left their young children

in Wellesley, MA, to embark on an uncertain journey. At a time when most Americans were either ignorant of or indifferent to the clouds of war gathering over Europe, this unassuming pair of New Englanders plunged into the storm. Armed only with their faith and determination, they helped feed and shelter thousands of refugees and matched wits with the Gestapo to help anti-Nazi dissidents and Jews escape to safety. When the Nazis forced them to close their operation, they briefly returned to the embrace of their family and congregation in the U.S., only to leave for France where they would once again put the well being of their fellow human beings ahead of their own comfort and safety. Who were these 'American Schindlers' and what is their legacy for us today?

When Waitstill and Martha Sharp were recognized as Righteous among the Nations at Yad Vashem — the highest recognition accorded by the state of Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the World War II — they became only the second and third Americans to be so honored among more than 21,000 others from around the world. Theirs is a unique, compelling story that reveals an almost unknown chapter of Holocaust history and shines a new light on America's relationship to it. The era between the wars was one of disillusion and difficulty for religious liberals. Economic hardship prevailed. Isolation and intolerance were on the rise. Racist and anti-Semitic demagogues enjoyed enthusiastic radio audiences. Few American voices were raised as Hitler consolidated power, codified his violent anti-Semitism and methodically began to envelop his neighbors. It was from this America that the Sharps departed for Prague in early 1939 to help a beleaguered Czech Unitarian colleague, whose plea had been, “Don't send money, send Americans.”

Our symbol, the flaming chalice, comes to us out of their unwavering stewardship of the fire of justice and their lives' work as beacons for human dignity.



## Unity Men's Group Contributes to R.E. for Boys (and Girls, Too!)

Over the past year, the members of Unity's Men's Group took on a project, under the guidance of Nels Otto, to supplement the church's efforts to engage boys in Religious Education classes. At all ages many boys find physical and tactile learning experiences more compelling than verbal or interpersonal activities. With this in mind, Nels and Director of Religious Education, Kerri Meyer, made plans to create a "Church Building Corner" in the preschool Spirit Play classrooms.

The men of the group raised funds to purchase blocks which were complemented by a donation of additional blocks and toy boxes from Jaime and Marion Seely-Kreisman (of Beka, Inc.). In all, the total value of the Men's Group's efforts neared \$600.00. The men also refurbished older blocks already in use in the R.E. program. Nels researched images of places of worship across the globe and provided the classroom with color photos to inspire children with the world's religious diversity.

Thanks to Nels' commitment and the contributions of the Men's Group, the boys (and girls) in Spirit Play now construct spectacular block churches, reinforcing their interest in sacred spaces and capitalizing on their interest in cooperative building play. Visit the Spirit Play classroom to see more photos of the young architects and their buildings.



*Spirit Play's new blocks bring smiles.*

## Dates for Your Calendar

### January 2009

- Sunday, January 4: regular Religious Education classes resume
- Sunday, January 11: regular R.E.
- Sunday, January 18: Story Sunday!
- Sunday, January 25: regular R.E., Junior High Winter Semester classes begin!

### February 2009

- Sunday, February 1: regular R.E., Celebration of New Lives, 4:30 service



*Tower Club's annual overnight and cookie baking extravaganza.*

## Guest at Your Table

Families participating in UUSC's Guest at Your Table program should return their boxes (or a check to Unity Church with UUSC-GAYT in the memo) on Sunday, January 4. Families whose funds are not turned in by this date should send their donation to the UUSC ([www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)).

## Youth Notes

### 9th Grade

This month the 9th graders transition from Our Whole Lives to Coming of Age. Over the next four months the teens will consider their spiritual beliefs and values as they craft an original Statement of Spiritual Identity, which will be presented at a ceremony in April.

Five theological themes frame the class: the nature of God, why we are here and what we must do, how we should understand death, our experiences with the sacred, and the role of community in our lives. Special thanks to the adult mentors and advisors who will walk this journey with our teens!

### Tower Club

Thanks to everyone that purchased cookies, wreaths and trees to support youth travel to Boston, General Assembly, and leadership trainings!

Last month we continued preparation for our January 17 Fashion Show for Social Change (see event information on page 6). Members of Unity's Anti-Racism Leadership Team and Racial Justice Ministry Team visited to discuss their work in the church and beyond. We also hosted a t-shirt making workshop to prepare for the fashion show. We hope you will join us on the 17th!

### Boston 2009

Although the Boston pilgrimage for high school juniors isn't until next fall, now is the time for sophomores to be fundraising—and you don't have to be in Tower Club to participate!

If you are a high schooler interested in going to Boston and making the cost of the trip more affordable please contact Joseph or Kerri in the church office to be included in events like donut selling, our book sale and more.

# LIBRARIES / BOOK CLUB / MUSIC MINISTRY

## What's New at Unity Libraries?

Anderson Library • Bookstall

Whitman Children's Library • Bookmobile



Let's talk resistance, and the payoff, change. The January theme is rich in possibilities for greater understanding in Unity Libraries with books and a special program.

Unity Libraries is honored to present "A Book Talk with Harry C. Boyte, author of *The Citizen Solution: How You Can Make a Difference*" on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, with an introduction by Bill Doherty.

*The Citizen Solution* is "the practical progressive's Bible for making things happen. Really happen" (Daily Kos). Read and hear the author talk about his new work detailing the kind of resistance that you and I can practice to realize a beloved community.

Wangari Maathai dared to resist urban development that resulted in deforestation and shrinking crop land in Kenya. She began the Green Belt Movement simply by planting nine trees in her own backyard. Now, over 30 million trees have been planted in thirty African countries, and 80,000 people have benefited economically. In 2004, she was the first African woman awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Read about this amazing woman in *Wangari's Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter, and find another story of brave resistance in *The Librarian of Basra* (same author), both in the Whitman Children's Library.

Last month, the Worship Associates recommended *Repair: The Impulse to Restore in a Fragile World* by Elizabeth Spelman, (Beacon, 2002), which explores all the ways humans try to "repair" things, from their cars and their friendships to the world's climate. The author, a professor of philosophy at Smith College, believes that people are hard-wired to try to fix things.

Read it and see if you agree.

## 2nd Tuesday Book Club Update

Everyone is welcome!

The **Second Tuesday Book Club** will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13. The book they will be discussing *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* (Sedaris). Each book has a "sponsor" who begins the meeting by presenting a bit about the author and the book.

February 10: *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

March 10: *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield

April 14: *The Latecomer* by Kao Kalia Yang

## Music Notes

*Every moment is precious, precisely because it is ephemeral and cannot be duplicated, retrieved, or captured."*

*Stephen Nachmanovitch (from Free Play)*

I was recently reflecting on what helps me most to stay connected with myself — to touch into the very core of myself and feel grounded. There were two things that especially came to mind: playing the piano and talking with a friend.

Talking with a friend provides a way for me to hear myself within the conversation reminding me of who I am and what I'm about. Even if my friend doesn't say much, things seem to clear up as I articulate my thoughts. What might feel confusing or uncertain in my mind and heart gains clarity as I speak my words. It's like a mirror that provides a reflection of the true me. There's no room for pretending, and no need to do so.

Playing the piano often takes me into another realm. The possibility of genuine expression through the touch of the keys, dynamics, coloring is boundless. Interpretation is very personal; what you express is what you express and reflects who you are. You experience yourself — you reconnect with something very basic. The act of creation happens in the moment and requires one to be in the moment. It's hard to focus on anything else when I'm truly engaged in the music — it forces me to break from the usual mind chatter. That anchors me, bringing me back to a sense of myself and a connection with my soul that reminds me that I am part of something inherently beautiful and lovely in this world.

I appreciate and treasure the opportunities I have here at Unity to express myself through music — playing with the choir, as a soloist, and sometimes as a duet partner.

It is a great pleasure to help create the summer services with the contributions of so many talented musicians. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all who shared their gifts of music with this community in the summer services last year.

*Kathleen Bartholomay is the Unity Choir accompanist and Coordinator of Music for Summer Services.*

## 20th Anniversary Children's Musical

# Hey Kids, Let's Put on a Show!

**Performances: February 26-28, 2009**

**Casting auditions are January 8, 2009, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and are open to 5th and 6th graders.**

**See page 9 for more about this exciting anniversary!**

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# PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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## January Parish Hall Artists

### Bill Nelson

Black and white photography has been a passion for me since my first Kodak Instamatic camera in the mid 1960's. As I have sought to hone my craft of traditional photography, I've found it to be a welcome retreat from the rigor and complexity of my career as a cinematographer.

Our trip to China allowed me to reflect on and engage in these traditional methods while seeking to capture China as it has been for thousands of years and as it is today.

The twelve images that I'm showing here were captured on film and printed full frame on gelatin silver fiber based paper.

### Jane Weis

In the summer of 2007, our family traveled to China with Red Thread Tours to revisit our daughter Cora's homeland. The trip was incredible and our entire family benefited greatly from the experience. I knew I wanted to create paintings for an exhibit and so looked at China through those eyes.

I have been a regional artist for many years. I paint what's around me: flowers from my garden, roosters at the State Fair, still life in my studio, women, farmscapes, etc. This is the first time I've created an exhibit about 'somewhere else.' As I think about it, though, I realize that because of our tie to China through our youngest daughter, China has become part of my region, my second country, in fact. So my life as a regional artist continues. I'm honored to share the results of this latest adventure with you.



## January 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.

### Men's Retirement Group

Monday, January 5 and 19 • 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 the 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

### Mother-Daughter Middle School Book Club

Every third Wednesday for a girl led discussion of modern and classic books  
Contact: Millie Adelsheim, [millie@peapods.com](mailto:millie@peapods.com)

### Unitots!

A group for families with kids through preschool age  
Every Friday • 9:30 a.m.  
Contact: Michelle Hill, 651-264-0884

### 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

Tuesday, January 13 • 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, January 24 • 10:00 a.m.  
Contact: Michelle Hill at 651-264-0884

### Unity Book Club

Second Tuesday of the month • 7:00 p.m.  
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

### Career Transitions Group

First and Third Thursday of the month • 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Contact: Wendy Frieze, [wendyfrieze@mac.com](mailto:wendyfrieze@mac.com)

# The Gathering

## A Women's Retreat

Saturday, January 31, 2009

8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**Come gather** with fellow women at Unity Church to spend a winter Saturday building community.

**Share connections**, participate in fun workshops, take one-on-one time, get a massage, or sign up for spiritual direction.

**Workshop topics include:** Creating Connections, Spiritual Practice, Beauty and Women, Favorite Fairy Tale, Sexuality, Journaling Circle, Eat Pray Love Book Discussion, Project 515, What Unity Women Want, Bucket List, Drumming and Jeremiah Program.

**For more information**, stop by the table in the Parish Hall after morning services or contact Judith Devine at 651-731-1404 or Jen Hogan at [littlehoagie@hotmail.com](mailto:littlehoagie@hotmail.com).

**Registration and payment** may be done online at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org) or at the Women's Retreat table in the Parish Hall after morning services. A light breakfast and lunch is included in the \$25 registration fee. Please sign up by Monday, January 26.

# Join a Covenant Group

## New groups starting in February

Covenant Groups meet regularly for spiritual reflection and sharing. Each Covenant Group has a trained facilitator and the content for each meeting is based on the monthly theological theme.

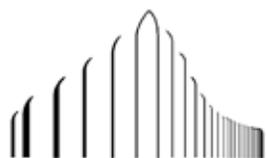
**Participants in a Covenant Group meet for five months.** For the final meeting, group members have a chance to practice "endings," and to hold themselves accountable to saying a "good goodbye" to one another. **New Groups are formed at the end of each five month cycle.** Covenant Groups continually make room for the newcomer.

Unity Church is launching a new five-month session of Covenant Groups that will meet from February through June. Groups will meet for a total of seven or eight, two-hour sessions at church. Days and times will vary to fit all schedules.

You can sign up for a Covenant Group at the "Covenant Group Sign Up" table in the Parish Hall following any service or download a form at [www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org).

### Themes for 2009:

February: Prayer  
March: Sin  
April: Redemption  
May: Blessings  
June: Sabbath



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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BARBARA HUBBARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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