

Dreaming Big: Unity Church's New Ends Statements

from Carol Bauer, Board of Trustees, Chair

Every five years, the Board of Trustees invites people of Unity Church to work together to create Ends Statements to shape our future as a church community. This year, over 170 members of the congregation and a number of community partners shared their hopes and dreams during 20 workshops facilitated by Laura Park and Teresa Thomas-Carroll of Unity Church. Following this process, the Board and Executive Team distilled the results and crafted new Ends Statements, which were approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 17.

We now present them to you. Thank you for lifting your voices, for sharing your hopes and dreams, for guiding us in shaping our church to serve our community and our world. We are excited to work with you to make these dreams come true.

Ends Statements 2009 - 2013

Mission

The mission of Unity Church-Unitarian is to engage people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy.

Ends Statements 2009-2013

Within

1. The people of Unity Church-Unitarian have a deeply meaningful, transforming, liberal religious experience which includes:
 - a. A rich and diverse worship life that nurtures, challenges and inspires;
 - b. Compassionate pastoral care in times of joy, sorrow and transition;
 - c. Spiritual and theological deepening through both personal and family-based religious practice and ritual;
 - d. Lifelong opportunities for growth, learning, engagement and racial healing;
 - e. Knowledge of Unity Church-Unitarian and Unitarian-Universalist history.

Among

2. Unity Church-Unitarian is a radically hospitable, spiritually vital and supportive community where:
 - a. People of all ages feel welcome and connected across identities including race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, politics and education;
 - b. People are generous with their time, talent and resources;
 - c. Shared ministry is actively encouraged and the circles of power, opportunity and access are intentionally widened;
 - d. The resources and facilities of the church are well managed and maintained, and appropriate to the needs of the church and the community.

Beyond

3. Unity Church-Unitarian is a visible leader and partner, making a positive impact in our neighborhood and in the world through:
 - a. A commitment to anti-racism and racial healing in covenant with people and communities of color;
 - b. Advocating in the public arena for liberal religious values in response to prejudice, injustice and oppression;
 - c. Proclaiming the transforming power of our faith;
 - d. Working with congregations and institutions around shared values;
 - e. Full and active participation in the larger Unitarian Universalist community;
 - f. Acting and investing in environmentally responsible and sustainable ways.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

I do love the month of May. Though winter stayed with us a bit longer than usual, the lilacs are on the very verge, the air is soft and filled with the scent of spring. I love the high moments of May at the church. Coming of Age marks the start, the Heritage Dinner, Flower Communion and the Memorial Day service to honor those who served, carry us down into summer.

That said, there is also something bittersweet in May for me. This May in particular has been challenging. All this beauty juxtaposed against our son Jonah being diagnosed with melanoma, undergoing surgery, considering treatment options while within 48 hours of Jonah's news we hear that our predecessor, Roy Phillips had died while visiting family in Morocco. We're optimistic that Jonah will be able to beat this cancer. And though we'll miss our dear friend Roy, his memorial service brought the congregation together in ways that will abide.

Each Wednesday when the Unity staff meets we begin with a reading followed by a focus question. Last week I began by talking about the dynamics at play in late spring in church life. In congregation life, just as in the world at large, everything blossoms in May. But by late spring the staff, those of us who have been hard at work since August, tilling and planting and paying attention to the details, often feels completely depleted. Then I offered this poem from the great American feminist poet, Adrienne Rich:

The Afterwake

Nursing your nerves
to rest, I've roused my own; well
now for a few bad hours!
Sleep sees you behind closed doors.
Alone, I slump in his front parlor.
You're safe inside. Good. But I'm
like a midwife who at dawn
has all in order: bloodstains
washed up, teapot on the stove,
and starts her five miles home
walking, the birthyell still
exploding in her head.
Yes, I'm with her now: here's
The streaked, livid road
edged with shut houses
breathing the night out and in.
Legs tight with fatigue,
we move under morning's coal-blue star,
colossal as this load
of unexpired purpose, which drains
slowly, till scissors of cockcrow snip the air.

After a moment of quiet reflection I asked members of the staff, "What have you helped to give birth to this year?" One after another the staff members spoke of moments when they saw their work take root and blossom in your lives, moments when they felt the church was working well in part because they had been there to help. Each of us attends a birth now and then. What have you helped bring to birth this past church year?

Janne and I plan to attend the General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale. I, in my role as president of the Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association, and Janne as one of the key coordinators of Laurel Hallman's campaign for UUA president. After GA we will spend a few days in the Carolina Sea Islands walking in the footsteps of William Channing Gannett who served there among the newly freed slaves in the midst of the Civil War. Then we're off to the lake for much of the month of July. We'll miss you but we have every confidence in your ministry and we know full well your ministry continues whether or not we're around. Thank you for your overwhelming expressions of support and affection.

Blessings, *Rob Eller-Isaacs*

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Independence Day

The Church Office will be closed Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Nina Romanov LaFerla
born April 22, 2008
daughter of
Tara and Joseph LaFerla

**Jennifer Harrington and
Jonathan Frisch**
married May 17, 2008

In Memoriam

Roland Manley Peek
November 2, 1920 - May 8, 2008

SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Summer Sunday services are held at 10:00 a.m.

Sermon podcasts are available on line at www.unityunitarian.org.

We will return to Sunday service times of 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. beginning Sunday, September 7.

June Worship Calendar

June 1: *Kitchen Wisdom: The Making of Joy of Cooking*

— Janne Eller-Isaacs

Did you know that Irma Rombauer was a Unitarian? And that *Joy of Cooking* has its roots in the Women's Alliance of the Unitarian Church in St. Louis? Janne and Worship Associate Jean Olson will lift up the unique contribution of *Joy of Cooking* and the importance of kitchen wisdom. This Sunday is also Senior Bridging. Join our graduating high school youth for pastries and fellowship from 9:30 until 10:00 in the Parish Hall. Seniors are also honored and blessed in a special litany during the worship. Come wish them well!

June 8: *What Remains* — Matt Alspaugh

In the Buddhist tradition, the first of the three marks of existence is impermanence. This idea that reality is constantly flowing has become embedded in modern, Western theological thought as 'process'. In this continual flux, is there anything permanent and unchanging? What is our place in this transient world? Where is the joy?

June 15: *May I Have This Dance* — Jacqueline Duhart

Remember that first dance with someone you were attracted to and barely knew. It may have been scary wonderful, awkward, transformative or all of this at once and more. Please come worship with Community Intern Jacqueline Duhart one last time. Jacqueline and Worship Associate Neely Crane Smith will explore the sometimes mysterious dance of ministry, learning, and letting go.

June 22: *Torture is a Moral Issue* — Jennifer Vanek

Extraordinary rendition, denial of habeas corpus, enhanced interrogation tactics, waterboarding, torture. We have been hearing and reading these words too often since September 11, 2001. It has been difficult to follow the recent history. It's tough to sort out facts from spin, and for some, the issue is too abhorrent to think about. CVT and the National Religious Campaign against Torture have determined this June to be Torture Awareness Month and have charged religious communities across the country to recommit themselves to their most deeply held convictions and act in this effort to ban torture. Come hear what this means for our church and the larger Unitarian Universalist community.

June 29: *A Religious Look at the 4th of July* — Chico Hathaway

July 4 is Independence Day, the premier national holiday, and we are called upon to demonstrate our pride in our independence, our freedom. But before we are washed over by the sea of red, white, and blue flags, and become transfixed by the fireworks red glare, let's reflect. Do we dare to acknowledge our interdependence on Independence Day? And what can we understand about this iconic word, freedom?

July Worship Calendar

July 6: *Out/Up-Lifting* — Neely Crane-Smith

At the center of German philosopher Hegel's construction of logic is the concept of *Aufhebung*, a word which carries three meanings: to lift up, to preserve and to destroy. Join Unity Church member Neely Crane-Smith and Worship Associate Sue Babcock for a look into the spiritual practice of dialectics, or accepting seemingly contradictory ideas to be true, and the practical implications for those on the journey to integrity, service and joy.

July 13: *Making the Effort* — Laura Smidzik

Unity Church encourages us to create lives of integrity, service and joy. How do we engage in this effort within our own lives, with each other, and beyond the walls of Unity Church? What holds us back and what drives us forward? Join worship leader Laura Smidzik as she takes a thoughtful look at the journey our faith calls us to take.

July 20: *To Infinity and Beyond* — Craig Allen

Our liberal religious tradition values the role of rational inquiry more than other traditions. But careful, rational inspection of the best of our information and deepest of our intuitions can lead us into strange places. What happens when familiar truths are shown to have disconcerting implications? Some examples from the history of mathematics can be both cautionary and enlightening.

July 27: *Learning to Surf* — Jenny Wilson

Mindfulness meditation encourages us to recognize the inevitability of pain and struggle in daily life - the embracing of this reality allows us to let go and find peace. This is the essence of what the Buddhist nun Pema Chodron calls "letting go of the story line." She writes, "real life problems are the material for waking up, not the reason to stop trying" - holding our struggles with the same honor that we hold our joy is the essence of waking up to life. But how do we learn to just "be" while still needing to do the "do"? Jenny will explore the challenges in reaching this state of awareness, the journey to find peace there, and the role of faith and religion in this process.

**Sunday offering recipients
are detailed on page 7.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ANTI RACISM LEADERSHIP TEAM

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition only a gathered congregation may ordain a person to the ministry. Having completed her work at United Theological School and met the requirements of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Lyn Burton, a longtime member of Unity Church asked the congregation to ordain her. Upon the recommendation of the Ministers and the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting on May 17, the congregation voted unanimously to proceed.

Lyn has been called to serve small congregations which aspire to grow. Next year she will be serving as minister in Bismark/Mandan, North Dakota but Unity Church will always be her home. Come participate in the ancient rite of ordination as we acknowledge one of our own.

**The members of Unity Church-Unitarian
invite you to participate in the**

*Service of Ordination for Lyn Burton
into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry*

**Sunday, June 8, 2008
2:00 p.m.
Unity Church-Unitarian**

All fuses now, falls into place... Sermon by Rev. Mary Samuels

*A reception at the church will follow.
Clergy are invited to robe at the church (optional) and process.*

Beloved Community

from Wendy Harris,
Anti Racism Leadership Team (ARLT)

The phrase "Beloved Community" has been tossed around a lot recently. But it wasn't until I was asked to define it in a discussion after a *Shades of Praise* concert that I thought beyond "wouldn't that be nice" to "how would I describe what the Beloved Community means to me?"

I live in an intentional community. Five of us live together with the intention to care for each other, cook for each other, eat together, check in about our days, converse about meaningful things, work together to do our part in caring for the Earth, and have fun. Though we come from different backgrounds, religions, and life journeys, we are committed to walking this part of the journey together.

I see the Beloved Community as this writ large – from neighborhood to the entire world. In the Beloved Community, we would all, as human beings, care for each other in a general sense. We would ensure that everyone was provided for, we would support each other when we needed it, we would have discussions about important things, we would care for our Earth, and we would have joy.

This all ties back to living lives of integrity, service and joy and the Unitarian Universalist Principles of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. As Unitarian Universalists, we are morally called to work toward bringing those principles into realization – the Beloved Community.

Many thanks to Wendy Harris for her committed work as she completes her term on the Anti Racism Leadership Team.

A New Partnership in India

Laney Ohmans, longtime member of Unity Church will be traveling to India this summer as part of a new Unity Church partnership with the UUA Holdeen India Program. She will be working as an English teacher for two months at a girls school built by Vivek Pandit (who preached at Unity Church in fall 2007) and his wife, Vidyullata Pandit. The school is located in the Maharashtra region of India, two hours outside of Mumbai. The Pandits' organization is one of



the UUA Holdeen Trust partners, and Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs formed a special bond with the Pandits during their sabbatical visit to India.

Laney grew up at Unity Church, has taught in the religious education program, co-led a summer religious education project, was part of the first Mano a Mano Outreach Ministry team sojourn to Bolivia and is currently completing a yearlong undergraduate internship at Unity Church. This fall, she will be entering her senior year of study at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she is majoring in religion studies with a focus on Islamic Studies and is considering becoming a UU community minister or chaplain.

FROM OUR INTERNS



Listening and Hearing “A” Call from Jacqueline Duhart, Community Ministerial Intern

As a child, I was prone to daydreaming. My imaginary worlds were filled with characters that struggled to live out the golden rule... do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Regularly, my beloved grandmother summoned me back to earth by saying, “Jackie, are you listening? Did you hear what I said?” I resisted both being called back to earth and the name Jackie. However, my grandmother had a way of saying “Jackie” that made a plain and simple nickname sound sophisticated and elegant. When I entered seminary, I asked close friends and family to call me Jacqueline, a name change that coincided with the death of my beloved grandmother. Taking on my birth name Jacqueline not only marked the sudden death of my grandmother; it represented my conscious decision to fully embrace my spiritually wise self — to take risks and to formally explore my call to a professional, Unitarian Universalist ministry.

My spiritually wise self has put away some childish things; nevertheless, I still indulge in daydreaming. Now, my imaginary worlds are versions of beloved communities where the golden rule is a world ethic, practiced by all peoples. Along with the wise voice of my grandmother calling me to my highest self, I hear the call of Great Spirit, the Ground of My Being, saying, “Jacqueline, are you listening? Did you hear what I said?”

Listening, hearing and discerning one’s call to ministry is an intimate, tender and ever unfolding process. In my discernment process, I have had mountain top experiences where I have come away saying, “Yes, yes, ministry is my next right path!” And there have been lonely valley experiences where I have said, “Oh, my God, what have I done and who do I think I am?” I have asked myself, “Jacqueline, are you awake? Do you understand what the Holy is asking?”

This is my final writing for *commUNITY*, with a full and humble heart, I acknowledge that **YOU**, Unity Church-Unitarian, a teaching congregation, have listened, heard and called me out, as a Unitarian Universalist minister. How?

You have loved me, a stranger... calling me to examine my stereotypes around white skin privilege.

You have dared to tell me your stories... calling me to grow my capacities to accept what I do not understand and to freely offer compassion.

You have faithfully held before me my gifts and challenges... calling me to love all of me and to use all of who I am in ministry.

You have provided me with rich opportunities to share in community and to experience the raw depth of the complicated human condition... calling me to be professional and scholarly

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Endings and Beginnings

from Matt Alspaugh, Hallman Ministerial Intern

A few days ago, I was talking with Justin Schroeder about a new form of covenant groups that Unity Church will start in the fall. In addition to creating the opportunity to go deep with strangers, these groups will offer an understanding of endings. Each group will exist for five months, and then it will be expected to split into two groups or to dissolve. That’s key. We realized that if we are to truly offer radical hospitality, to make room for the new people who come to us, we have to create good endings so that new beginnings can happen. Many UU churches have covenant group programs, but no other UU church that I am aware of has been able to create a good covenant about endings for their groups. Invariably the groups become closed to new people, and without opportunities for small group intimacy, many of the new people often drift away the church. Endings are hard for us, but they are necessary. I hope Unity Church can rise to this challenge, and show the way to include good endings in our shared ministry.

I too, have an obligation to create an ending so that new beginnings can happen. I will leave my role as the Hallman Intern Minister this summer, so that my fellow seminarian and good friend Leon Dunkley can move into this ministry in the fall. In the fall, I am beginning a year-long chaplaincy residency at United Hospital. Even though I’ll remain in town, I will keep appropriate professional distance from Unity Church, as is the custom for interns in the UU movement. In all that, I’ll still feel connected to Unity Church through the newsletter and ministerial contacts, as some of you may feel connected with me, through my blog, malspaugh.blogspot.org.

My time at Unity Church has been most wonderful; it has been caring and challenging; it has been rich with love and learning from people who know how to do church well; it has been transformative for me. I appreciate that you have walked with me with good humor and grace, and also with straight and honest words, as I have worked to find my way from seminarian to minister. My feelings of gratitude for your support and care run deep and are everflowing. I’m particularly grateful for the support and guidance of the Senior Ministers Janne and Rob, and my Ministerial Intern Support Team: Don Brunquell, Michael Hamacher, Howard Huelster, Jessie Light, Anne Parker, and Janet Wacker. I’ve loved working along side a hardworking, talented, and downright joyful staff. Most of all, I’ve cherished my times with you, whether at meetings, in the emergency room, or just in the pews or at coffee hour

My long-term goals include interim and parish ministry in UU churches. Part of my hope is that I will be able to carry some of the seeds of Unity Church wisdom with me and plant them in other UU communities, who, often without even knowing it, long for and need what you have created in this place.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Mano a Mano Diaries: Three Years in a Village Clinic in Bolivia

Sunday, June 8, following the 10:00 a.m. service
Foote Room at Unity Church



Meet and hear stories from Dr. Sergio Zegarra, a Mano a Mano International Partner Doctor from Bolivia.

Dr. Zegarra will share his many tales of motorcycle medicine as the only trained doctor in a rural community in Bolivia. In three years as the sole doctor within 20 kilometers, he delivered 125 babies, vaccinated 255 children, regularly stitched up wounds from knife fights and bull gorings, and endlessly dosed people for TB, Chagas and other violent diarrhea. As a rural doctor, he also needed to learn a lot of veterinary skills and did odd dental work—usually extractions.

Dr. Zegarra is 32 years old, a public health masters' program student and a graduate of the Universidad Mayor de San Andres Medical School in LaPaz, Bolivia. He is currently Co-Director of the Medical Department at Mano a Mano International Partners Bolivia. He is spending some time in this country as a presenter at the Global Health Conference in Washington D.C. in June and then traveling to the Twin Cities to experience the work of Mano a Mano International Partners USA.

This presentation will include an informal talk, slide show and reception with tasty Bolivian refreshments.

Evergreen Quilters

April Showers Raffle and Silent Auction Update

April was an exciting month for the Evergreen Quilters. We would like to thank all of you who were so complimentary when viewing our raffle quilt and silent auction pieces. Your compliments to the quilt artists were very much appreciated, as was your bidding! All of the auction items were sold and for only the second time in our ten year history, a church member was the winner of the raffle quilt: Diana Diers!! (Pictured at right.)

Thanks to your generosity, the raffle and auction raised \$5,345.90! All proceeds are given directly to support the work of the Evergreen projects: meals at the Ramsey County family shelter, Sharing Korner food shelf, The Family Place day center for homeless families, and Jeremiah Program.



**Diana Diers,
2008 Evergreen Quilt Raffle Winner!**

www.unityunitarian.org



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM

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 June pickup, place an order at wholefarmcoop.com or 320-732-3023 by Friday, June 13. For July pickup place an order by Friday, July 11.

June orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, June 18. July orders will be delivered Wednesday, July 16. Pay by sending a check, with the invoice enclosed with your order, directly to Whole Farm.

Evergreen Foodshelf

June and July Evergreen Foodshelf items are cooking oil and small bottles of detergent (dish or clothing). 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.



Homeless Connect

Unitarians are invited Tuesday, June 10, 2008, to host people needing resources such as housing, dental care, haircuts, food, and legal aid. We will join dozens of others to welcome and direct guests to different professional services in the St. Paul River Center. You can help for four or eight hours and there are training sessions to acquaint you with connecting people to the many professionals available that day.

For more information visit www.projecthomelessconnectmn.com or contact Lynnanne Warren at lynnanne@ties2.net.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Economic Incentive Rebates

If you filed an income tax form for 2007, you received, or soon will receive, an Economic Stimulus Payment from the IRS. For many of us, this is a perfect opportunity to practice *Living Our Values*, by expanding on a spiritual practice of generosity. Consider giving part or all of your refund to one of the partner organizations that Unity Church supports through our Community Outreach Ministry Teams:

- AMICUS
- C3 (Caring for Creation)
- Center for Victims of Torture
- Cooperative Energy Futures
- Family Place
- Habitat for Humanity
- Jeremiah Program
- Malawi Project
- Mano a Mano International Partners
- Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing (MICAH)
- Model Cities
- Project Harvest Hope
- Sharing Korner Foodshelf
- Village of Homorodszentpeter, Transylvania

Visit www.unityunitarian.org for more information about these programs.

Donations by check should be made to Unity Church with the program name in the memo line. Donations are also gratefully accepted online through our donation link at www.unityunitarian.org. Please enter the program name in the comments box. In either case, we will include your tax deductible donation on your end-of-year statement. If you have questions regarding donations please contact Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office.

We hope you will consider this opportunity to put your economic stimulus to work, living our values of abundance and generosity.

June and July Sunday Offering Recipients

June 1 and July 6 — Holdeen Partnership: The Unitarian Universalist Association Holdeen India Program has helped fund more than 90 groups in India since 1984. The groups have fought to enforce land rights for indigenous tribes, free laborers enslaved by landlords, educate child laborers, empower poor women and demand dignity and equality for the so-called untouchables in India's caste system. One of the Holdeen Trust partners is Shramajeevi Sanghatana, founded by Vivak Pandit (who preached at Unity Church last November) and his wife, Vidyullata Pandit. This organization is a training and support project that has built a model school for girls in the Maharahtra region of India. When Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs visited the organization on their sabbatical last year, they were asked to form a partnership between our two countries by recruiting U.S. teachers for the school. The first person to participate in this new partnership is church member Laney Ohmans, who will be traveling to India to teach English this summer (see page 4). This Sunday's offering will go to this Holdeen partnership to support this and future teachers work at the girls school.

June 8 and July 13 — Minnesota Council for Vets (MACV): MACV is a nonprofit dedicated to helping Minnesota veterans by providing assistance to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crisis. These programs support all veterans towards self-sufficiency in key areas of housing, employment and civil legal services. MACV addresses the gaps in services that the Veterans Association and other government agencies are unable to cover. Veteran John Blackstone is a supporter of MACV.

June 15 and July 20 — Unitarian Universalist Congregations in Africa: The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) supports the emergence of new Unitarian Universalist (UU) groups in Africa. As part of this support, a leadership training conference was held in February to help new and existing African UUs increase their understanding of what it means to be UU in the context of our global movement. Nearly 50 people participated in the conference including groups from Nigeria, Kenya, Burundi, Congo and Uganda. The conference provided training and experience in the growth and development of congregations, in skills for ministers and religious leaders, and strengthened their regional ties and opened avenues for cooperation and collaboration between them. The Rev. Jill McCallister and Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt were the American UU staff at the conference.

June 22 and July 27 — Pro-Choice Resources (PCR): PCR is a grassroots organization committed to offering education, advocacy, financial assistance and outreach services in reproductive health for women. The mission is supported by four programs: the Bird and Bees Project, an education site for teens, the Hersey Abortion Assistance Fund, the Abortion Provider Expansion Project and Emerge: After-Abortion Support. Several members of Unity Church volunteer at PCR.

June 29 — Wilderness Inquiry: Wilderness Inquiry (WI) brings together people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities for affordable outdoor adventures ranging from one day to one month. In 2007, 45% of WI's 9,903 participants were people with disabilities and chronic illness. Through shared experiences participants discover that people's perceived differences are far less significant than their many similarities. Several members of Unity Church are regular supporters of Wilderness Inquiry including Howard and Betsy Guthmann who nominated WI as a Sunday offering recipient.

CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE MINISTRY TEAM

Advocacy to End Torture

from Jen Vanek, CVT Ministry Team Leader

There is a new sign hanging outside the church on Portland Avenue. This sign represents the commitment of the Unity Church Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) Ministry Team and hundreds of Unity Church members who have supported CVT through volunteering, financial contributions, and donations of clothing, food, and talent. In honor of this broad support and our Unitarian Universalist belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we have become endorsing members of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) and are working to support NRCAT's efforts to stop our government from using torture.

Across the country during the month of June, hundreds of churches united by NRCAT, will hang banners expressing our belief that torture is a moral issue, not a political issue, and that torture should never be committed by our government on our behalf. NRCAT's mission is "to expand the moral consensus among the American people that torture is never acceptable." NRCAT also wants to shape public policy, effecting the following change:

- Prohibiting U.S. exemption to the human rights standards of U.S. and international law - without exception;
- Prohibiting the practice of apprehending suspects and transporting them to countries that use torture as an interrogation technique;
- Prohibiting the existence or use of secret prisons for U.S. detainees anywhere in the world;
- Mandating access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to all U.S. detainees around the world;
- Restoring habeas corpus protection for all U.S. detainees, citizen and non-citizen alike;
- Prohibiting the use of evidence derived from torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment;
- Initiating an independent investigation of the role of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees under U.S. custody and control after September 11, 2001.

NRCAT and CVT are working with Evangelicals for Human Rights and military leaders because torture is both morally wrong and strategically irresponsible. The ticking time-bomb scenario is fiction; torture does not yield actionable intelligence. A detainee will say whatever words he or she believes will stop the torture. The moral cost of pursuing this course is too great to ignore. Before 9/11 America stood publicly against torture. Though there were most certainly U.S. violations of international law prior to 9/11, there was at least the understanding that it was morally, politically, and legally wrong, and thus, torture was not used with impunity. *It was not articulated policy.* This new impunity cannot be tolerated. It puts our soldiers at risk and tarnishes the principles on which this country was founded.

The CVT Ministry Team urges you to notice the big black banner hanging on Portland Avenue during the month of June. Please send letters to your elected officials and the three main Presidential candidates telling them to work toward policy consistent with NRCAT's initiatives (listed above). For more information go to cvt.org, nrcat.org, or contact Jen Vanek at jenifer.vanek@gmail.com.



UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Thursday, June 26, 2008
6:00 p.m.

CVT Healing Center
717 E. River Parkway • Minneapolis

Join CVT in an event to show solidarity with torture survivors and bring people from all walks of life together to speak to our highest aspirations: a torture free world.

Enjoy the music of Hospitality House African Drum & Dance group and the work of local playwright Kira Obolensky.

www.cvt.org

Torture is a Moral Issue

U.S. Torture: Quick Facts

- At least 45 detainees died in U.S. custody due to suspected or confirmed criminal homicides. At least eight of these people were tortured to death. At least 98 detainees have died while in U.S. custody in Iraq or Afghanistan;
- At least 69 of the detainees died at locations other than Abu Ghraib;
- At least 51 detainees have died in U.S. custody since Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was informed of the abuses at Abu Ghraib on January 16, 2004;
- 12 deaths have led to punishments of U.S. personnel;
- Zero CIA personnel have been charged with wrongdoing in connection with alleged involvement in at least five deaths.

For more facts and citations visit:
www.humanrightsfirst.org

COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Pancake Breakfast!

Haven't been able to make it to a pancake breakfast yet? Don't worry - our next pancake breakfast is **Sunday, June 15, from 8:30-10:00 a.m.** Come for the breakfast, stay for worship at 10:00 a.m. You'll enjoy local sausage, OJ, all you can eat pancakes, and lots of lingering and good conversation. It's fun for the whole family! **Cost:** \$3 per person or \$10 per family maximum.

Unity Men's Group

The Wednesday Men's group continues meeting in the summer on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Center Room. The June 18 topic will continue the discussion of depression in men, based on the book *I Don't Want to Talk About It* by Terrance Real.

The July 16 and August 20 meetings explore gender differences in the brain using the PBS documentary *He Said, She Said*. Please contact Matt Alspaugh at the Church Office or Nels Otto at 651-484-4590 for more information.

Also, join us for a St. Paul Saints baseball game on June 10. RSVP to Justin Schroeder at the Church Office. Visit unitymen.blogspot.com for details.

Elders Group

The Elders Group will meet this summer, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. on the following Thursdays:

- June 19: Hope
- July 10: Legacies
- August 21: Forgiveness

Please contact Matt Alspaugh at the Church Office or Priscilla Mac Dougal at 651-224-6121 for more information.

Career Transitions Group

The Career Transitions Group is a new networking and support group for people who are changing jobs or careers, have lost jobs or are transitioning into retirement. Contact Matt Alspaugh at the church office or Wendy Frieze at 480-216-8411 for more information.

What's New at Unity Libraries? Summer 2008!



Geneste M. Anderson Adult Library • Bookstall
Elizabeth M. Whitman Children's Library • Bookmobile

A library is not just books; a library is people, according to my great old-school library professor /Texas political activist. At his memorial service, his long-time friend Ann Richards said, "Sam was a dancing fool." We laughed, but what we had all learned from him was true: whatever you do—dancing, writing legislation, librarianship, teaching—do it with a passion.

Passion is in no short supply on the Library Team this year. As we wrap up the year, I would like to acknowledge the many contributions and ardent commitment of Steve Nelson, Bookstall Leader, Louise Merriam, Anderson Library Leader; and all the library and bookstall volunteers. Thank you to Barbara, Justin, Pat, and Kerri for support and enthusiasm for the libraries. It's an honor to serve with y'all.

— Shelley Butler

Oh and FYI: we have some great, recently-acquired titles for summer reading; here are just a few:



Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey
by Jane Goodall. 2000

A title requested by the Green Team, the New York Times called this book, "subtle and provocative... profound, delicate and accessible."

The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America
by Jim Wallis. 2008. With the goal to achieve spirituality over ideology, Wallis reveals the 'common ground' upon which faith in America can be rebuilt and opened to a larger group of discontented believers. —PW

This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor by Susan Wicklund. 2008. Dr. Wicklund, who spoke at Unity in February, tells a courageous and moving story about her medical career providing abortions to women in the upper Midwest and her confrontations with anti-abortion protesters.

Book Club Update

Unity Church Book Clubs are open to all - even if you haven't read the book!

THE SECOND TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10, in the Gannett Room at Unity Church. They will be reading *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson*, by Joseph J. Ellis. The book for July is *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons* by Minnesota author, Lorna Landvik. Each book has a "sponsor," who begins the meeting by presenting a bit about the author and the selected book.

THE FOURTH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, in the Anderson Library at Unity Church. They will be reading *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry. The July selection is *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. At the beginning of each 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 (for group discussion) about the book they've read.

MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH / MUSIC MINISTRY



Summer Sundays

Nursery care and supervised childcare are available at the 10:00 a.m. summer Sunday services. Children can be dropped off - no registration required - beginning at 9:50 a.m. Infants and toddlers through age three will be cared for in the Nursery and provided a snack of animal crackers and apple juice; please check the ingredients of the crackers if your child has food sensitivities.

Children ages 4-12 will be gardening outdoors, weather allowing, so please send them in clothes that can get dirty or damp as we work in the Children's Garden. School-age childcare can accommodate up to 21 children on a first-come basis; supervision is provided by adult volunteers and youth childcare staff.

June 1 is Senior Bridging Sunday!

Join our graduating high school youth for pastries and fellowship from 9:30 until 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 1. They've grown up since you taught them in Sunday School - find out where they're headed next! Seniors are also honored and blessed in a special litany during the worship. Come wish them well!

Online R.E. Registration!

Families who have not yet registered their child(ren) for the 2008-09 Religious Education program can take advantage of the church's new paperless online registration process. The link for this registration process is on the Unity Church home page. Parents should be prepared to select their child's class, commit to their adult volunteer role and pay materials fees with a credit card.

Parents who intend to teach R.E. and waive their materials fees should still use the paper registration form. Contact Kerri with questions or problems related to this pilot program.

Parents Night Out!

To help foster friendships among Unity adults, the Ministry with Children and Youth department is sponsoring a "night 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.

Parents Night Out will take place on Friday, June 13. Unity Church staff and youth nursery workers will care for children ages six months to 12 years 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, June 8; maximum capacity is 25 children. Contact Christy Randall at the Church Office to make a reservation.

"Walk-In" Choir • Sunday, June 8

Come and sing with members of the Unity Choir on Sunday, June 8. Come for a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. and sing at the 10:00 a.m. service! Come for some fun and music quickly learned!

Summer Musicians Wanted!

Summer is a great time to share your musical gifts with your Unity family and friends. The variety of worship leaders and themes of the summer Sundays provide a wonderful opportunity for a broad range of musical styles and instrumentation. There is room for every kind of expression!

Summer lay-led services begin on June 22 this year and continue through August 31. If you are interested in participating in the music, contact Kathleen Bartholomay at 651-698-2431.

Journey
*from this house...
to the world*

2008 Unity Music CD
Now available at the Bookstall in the Parish Hall or
purchase it online at www.unityunitarian.org

Listening and Hearing "A" Call

continued from page 5

and human.

Yes, **YOU**, Unity Church-Unitarian, have given me a window through which I have seen our Unitarian Universalist principles lived out... calling me to embrace a brighter hope; someday we shall overcome and ALL of God's children shall walk hand in hand and paradise will be realized.

My body vibrates with gratitude. I leave your welcoming embrace with a deep and abiding sense that I am "Called" to a professional Unitarian Universalist ministry.

PARISH HALL ART / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

June/July Parish Hall Artist

Ramona Howey

Horses as a subject matter come almost automatically for me through personal interaction with them throughout my lifetime. They are, for me, an endless source of inspiration and a vehicle to express emotion. This body of work reveals a relationship between the subject and its environment that I create. I see them as sharing the same energy and try to convey it through paint.

Although the connection to the real inspires the wanting to capture a movement or certain shape on canvas, a realistic image is not my intent. Rather, it is in the interpretation of the form and the use of color to evoke a deeper meaning. Most of my work starts at a subconscious level and brings itself to surface as the layers are added and a more defined shape emerges.

I think it is said best by Linda Kohanov, author of *The Tao of Equus* and *Riding Between the Worlds*:

"The horse, long a symbol of power and freedom, is more specifically a teacher of non predatory power and freedom through relationship. Those adventurous souls who follow the ways of horses almost can't help becoming more balanced, confident, and peaceful, more open to the beauty and sacredness of life. Moving among the herds, these people recover a heightened sensitivity to the environment and to others - and, most importantly, the courage to embrace that sensitivity."

Here's to that courage. I hope you enjoy the show.

Grand Old Day Parking Reminder

Sunday, June 1, Grand Old Day begins at 8:00 a.m. and will create traffic congestion and difficulty parking. The church lots will be barricaded and staffed by the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) Ministry Team and Unity's high school youth to assure that lot parking is available before the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Following worship on Sunday, June 1, the CVT Ministry Team and Unity's high school youth will use both lots for fundraising and offer parking for Grand Old Day.



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
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www.unityunitarian.org

June/July Fellowship Group Meetings

All are invited to attend the following groups. For more information about when these groups meet during the summer contact the Church Office or the contact listed.

U-Knitarians

...for those who enjoy knitting and crocheting
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, June 2, 16, and 30 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Monday, July 14 and 28 • 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 Groups

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

A New Look at the Bible

Thursday, June 12 • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Joan Lovrien, 651-739-6958

Afterthoughts

Sundays during the summer following the 10:00 a.m. service
Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Unity Young Adult Group

Check *This Week at Unity* and www.unityunitarian.org for scheduled events. Contact: Joseph LaFerla at the Church Office.

Mother-Daughter Book Club (grades 6-8)

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 • 7:00 p.m.
Contact: Justin Schroeder at the Church Office

Going to General Assembly?

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
OF CONGREGATIONS



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A MEETING OF CONGREGATIONS

JUNE 25-29, 2008

FORT LAUDERDALE
FLORIDA



If you are going to the UUA General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale (or are thinking about it) please contact Matt Alspaugh or Justin Schroeder at the Church Office. We will organize a Unity Church dinner and other gatherings during General Assembly.

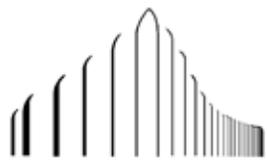
For more information about General Assembly visit: www.unityunitarian.org and click on **2008 UUA General Assembly**.

Unity Church Canning and Freezing Club!

Interested in eating more locally-grown foods all year round? Kerri Meyer, Director of Religious Education, is convening a church co-op for canning, freezing, pickling, jellifying and drying the abundance of produce available at the St. Paul's Farmers' Market.

We'll start with asparagus, rhubarb and spinach in early June and keep preserving all the way through the tomato canning season in early fall. Participants will shop the downtown St. Paul market before church on Sunday, attend worship together and then commandeered the church kitchen for a couple hours following the service! Each family will take home food for their pantry or freezer. Safe food preservation education will be part of our project, with the help of U of M Extension Services. Children and youth are encouraged to participate!

Contact Kerri at the Church Office to hold a space for you and your family members – kitchen sessions will start on June 15!



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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