

Brokenness

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 effective and positive ways. March's theme is... Brokenness

Long ago, on Sunday mornings, I used to walk through my neighborhood, taking in the brittle stillness of the early hour. Shards of broken glass would grind beneath my feet. Litter blew around me, lodging against fences with discarded shoes and stubborn weeds. Some of the windows were boarded up; others were hung with curtains torn or dangling. It was the broken down world of the inner city, a place I affectionately called home while stepping gingerly across its sharp and tattered edges.

Today, these memories are like splinters working their way to the surface when I encounter other scenes of brokenness, scenes that I'm finding, after seven years of war in Iraq, have become far too familiar in the daily news: whole buildings and lives torn open by explosions; the rebar of our world severed and exposed in discomfiting disarray; the accessories of daily life scattered like oversized shrapnel – bicycles, books and empty boots left behind in pieces. It has come to the point, said a Shiite man from Baghdad, where "we envy the people who die in one piece now."

Some days, and perhaps falsely so, it seems the world has never been as broken as it is now, a belief that brings its own aching and relentless heartbreak. In such a fractured reality, how can any of us hope to die – or live – in one piece? We see brokenness everywhere we look – in the rubble strewn across Haiti by the recent earthquake and by the crushing poverty that preceded it; in the broken down democratic processes of our Congress; and in the tattered edges of our own hearts torn by personal losses. How are any of us to live or die in one piece in circumstances like these?

The human longing for wholeness and healing is, however, as strong as it is

old. It is what gathers us in religious communities that believe in binding up what has been broken. Here in this religious community, ours is a healing effort that at its best neither ignores nor hides the broken edges that it touches, lest we lose the lessons history has to teach us. It is an approach to brokenness more akin to creating a mosaic with its cut stones, or tesserae, than creating a clean slate erased of our shattered past.

I remember one cold March, on the Michigan shore of Lake Superior, when I scaled a tall bank of crusted snow along the lake's edge and was stunned by a dazzling display of ice and light below. On an earlier day, the lake had frozen smooth and then was shattered by the thews of wild waves crashing up from beneath. Large anvils of ice had been tipped upright and frozen into place by winter's insistent frigid grip, making one vast and clear mosaic, an expansive field of tesserae arranged by nature's hand, fixed in place but dancing delightedly in the sun's low and shifting light.

"A mosaic," says writer Terry Tempest Williams, "is a conversation between what is broken." Its calmness, she points out, is enforced by moving light and "its surface is irregular, even angled, to increase the dance of light on the tesserae."

When we come together in religious communities, we all carry brokenness within us – the wounds of personal loss as well as countless hairline fractures caused by oppression's larger fault lines running beneath our world. Can we together bring this brokenness into conversation? Can we tip our shattered hopes up into the dancing, angled light of day? Can we make of the world's broken faults, and our own, some shining whole that speaks of a larger vision, creates a greater design, presents a wider beauty?

It is said that only the broken heart knows true love. Then let us bring our brokenness into conversation so that words of love can be spoken out loud, shining and dancing on the world's frozen, fractured surfaces that stretch out all around us.

— Karen Hering
Consulting Literary Minister

Worship Theme Resources

BOOKS

Finding Beauty in a Broken World, by Terry Tempest Williams

Broken for You, by Stephanie Callos

Repair: the impulse to restore in a fragile world, by Elizabeth V. Spelman

FILMS

Mystic River (2003) Clint Eastwood directs this film about the rule of the bone on the neighborhood streets of Boston Massachusetts. 'Jimmy,' 'Dave' and 'Sean' grew up together and although they went their separate ways, they remained connected. Tragedy brought them back together only to tear them apart. All of the performers are at their best. It is a brutal classic.

The Hours (2002) Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Nicole Kidman star in a brilliant film directed by Stephen Daldry. Three generations of women explore a Virginia Woolf novel called "Mrs. Dalloway." It is a story of fragility and brokenness, of subtle beauty and survival.

The Reader (2008) A deeply effecting and difficult film about pride and passion in Germany in the aftermath of World War II. The fault lines run deeply through the obviously evil enemy as they do through the hero, as they do, perhaps, through all of us.

JUST WORDS

Just Words

A few years back, in the midst of one of those cantankerous conversations about church growth, one of the board members asked, "Can any of you tell me exactly who it is you don't want our church to help to live a life of integrity, service and joy?" We know it's not that simple. People tend to fall in love with the way the church was when they first found it. If it's a small extended family church they treasure its intimacy. If it's a large, multi-faceted congregation they take pride in its reach. Our attachment to the church with which we fell in love can easily stand in the way as the church works to pursue its mission in the world.

We have a saving faith. We have good news to share. The world is in need of our gospel of freedom and conscience. The following is an excerpt from the sermon delivered on October 28, 2007 at the installation of Galen Guengerich as the new Senior Minister of All Soul's Church in New York City.

In her address, Harvard Professor Dr. Diana Eck, herself a Methodist and one of the world's leading scholars of American religion, called on Unitarian Universalists to take seriously our place in the religious landscape of America, saying:

...I believe that Unitarian Universalists have a very important role in this new religious America and the new millennium of the world in which we live. You are, in my estimation, the church of the new millennium. In this era, Unitarian Universalism is not the lowest common denominator, but the highest common calling... In a world divided by race and by religion and ideology, the very presence of a church like this, committed to the oneness of God, the love of God, the love of neighbor and service to humanity is a beacon. The Unitarian theology, and yes you have one, does not reduce the mystery of the divine, the transcendent, but amplifies it, broadens it to include the investigation of the many, many ways in which the divine is known and yet unknown... The world is in need of your theology.

Much as we've grown to love the church as it is we also know that it and we, as human beings and as a congregation, will have to change and grow. It's the way of the world. It is also a direct response to the theological imperative that is at the heart of our liberal faith. The question we need to ask ourselves now is, "Are we willing to be changed by what we've started?"

With faith, and yes, some trepidation, I invite each and all of you who treasure our beloved church to take part in the congregational conversations being held at the end of April. Within a few days you will receive the first issue of a newsletter devoted to keeping you fully informed about the strategic planning process initiated by the Board and the Executive Team. Read it over carefully. We need your input.

Rob Eller-Isaacs

PSD Annual Conference

April 23–25 • Davenport, Iowa

Unity Church members and friends of ALL ages are invited to attend the Prairie Star District Annual Conference. For more information or to register by March 16, please visit www.psduua.org or call Assistant Registrar George Robinson at 563-381-3561.

Scholarships are available!

Camp UniStar

Registration is Underway!

Camp UniStar is a camp for Unitarian Universalist individuals and families. It is located on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota. The registration deadline is Sunday, March 21. Registration forms and information are available on line at www.campunistar.org or stop by the Camp Unistar table in the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 14.

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Mesfin Mueller

son of

Kate Heider and Joe Mueller

born March 2, 2008

and joined his family on

January 29, 2010

Theodore Starling Dutcher

son of

Libby Starling and Kevin Dutcher

born February 10, 2010

Adelaine Elizabeth Carlson

and

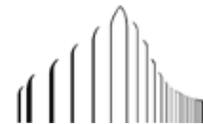
Isadora Louise Carlson

daughters of

Lauren and Ryan Carlson

born February 14, 2010

Congratulations to our Unity youth Katherine Allen and Anna Schmitz for their roles in planning another successful Interfaith Youth Day of Service on February 15. More than 350 youth from many different faith communities spent their day off from school volunteering at a dozen different Twin Cities service organizations. As event planners and members of the Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition, Anna and Katherine represent our inclusive faith well!



commUNITY is the 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.

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MARCH WORSHIP INFORMATION / HALLMAN INTERN

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 online at www.unityunitarian.org.

Worship Calendar

March 7

Blessing the Bills:

Reflections on Scarcity and Abundance — Meg Riley

Our guest preacher is the Rev. Meg Riley. Meg directs Advocacy and Witness Programs for the Unitarian Universalist Association. These are programs which take our message of love and justice out into the wider world. In former incarnations she was Director of Religious Education at First Universalist Church Minneapolis, and directed the UUA's Youth Programs, Washington Office, and Office of LGBT Concerns. Riley lives with her family in Minneapolis.

March 14

Broken for You — Rob Eller-Isaacs

There is beauty in the midst of brokenness. Consider the image of the lotus flower growing from a broken heart, or Hanuman, the monkey whose compassionate heart can be seen through a permanent opening in his chest. Compassion the great teachers say, grows from a broken heart. Rob Eller-Isaacs and Worship Associate, Katy Taylor will offer a service on brokenness and compassion.

March 21

The Past is Prologue — Robert Balint

Welcome the Rev. Robert Balint, the 2009-10 Balazs Scholar from Starr King School for the Ministry. Balint is minister of the Unitarian Church in Meszko, the alabaster village in Transylvania where Francis Balazs for whom the fellowship is named once served. In addition to his theological studies, Balint has completed a degree in sociology at Kolozsvár Babes Bolyai University. He has been involved in the Unitarian youth movement and worked with local social and charity organizations. With others, he has started the Balázs Ferenc Historical Preservation Project, designed to preserve and promote Francis Balázs's spiritual and material heritage. His wife, Réka, is a forestry supervisor. They have two children. Chico Hathaway will serve as Worship Associate.

March 28

Breaking Away — Janne Eller-Isaacs

It is so easy to be captured by the myth of progress. It's not that there is no such thing as progress but it is neither inevitable nor orderly. As young people we imagine our personal lives will conform to certain patterns of progress. And as a culture we tend toward the assumption that progress is "onward and upward forever." There are aspects of the myth both personal and collector that need to be broken. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Worship Associate Hal Freshly will lead the service.



From Lissa Gundlach
Hallman Ministerial Intern

The Christian liturgical season of Lent starts in mid-February on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Holy Week and Easter, marking the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Lent represents the forty days when Jesus of Nazareth was said to have fasted in the desert, a practice that shaped his ministry. Jesus' time in the desert mirrors the Exodus story in the Hebrew bible: the forty days the liberated Hebrew people spent exiled in the wilderness of Sinai before they could return home to Israel.

Lent is an ancient practice closely related to the coming of spring. Anglo-Saxon Pagan customs honoring the period of lack before the spring harvest co-mingled with Christian practices honoring Jesus' life and death to produce the traditions of the liturgical season. The word *Lent* originates from the Old English word *lenctene*, referring to the lengthening of days in early months of spring.

In Minnesota, winter is a wilderness experience. In March, the days get longer and the sun shines strong and bright, but the hope of spring is still a far-off dream. While the seed catalogs are out, they are only fodder for the imagination to conjure the feeling and smell of the earth and the delight of the first green sprouts. The ice begins to soften our hearts, and yet we are still wintering, wandering towards the warmth.

Those who observe Lent find many ways to reflect on Jesus' earthly ministry. Many people deepen their spiritual lives by practicing daily fasting or abstaining from eating some foods, drinking, or smoking. Some friends I know are giving up Internet and media practices that have become addictive or overly time consuming: Facebook, Internet gossip sites, inflammatory television news.

Lenten practice is not about deprivation, but a renewed relationship to what is consumed. There is so much in our lives that consumes our attention without our intention. We can get lost in the wilderness of our lives and lose track of where we are going. We need intention to stay connected to what is life-giving—the sources of energy and faith that sustain us.

The two questions for my Lenten practice are: "What do I consume and what consumes me?" and "What is life-giving for me in the 'wilderness' times of my life?" Through reflection and meditation, answers will hopefully emerge over the course of the next month, as the promise of spring is unfolding. Whether or not you identify with the season of Lent, perhaps you'll find questions emerging from your life that guide you through a period of reflection and renewal. Peace and blessings!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Look Back... and A Look to the Future

In 1999 the Ministerial Search Team conducted a special congregation-wide survey to help define who we were, what we wanted to become, and what traits we most valued in a new minister (or as it turned out, in a ministry team). The following statement is a quote from the summary report of that survey to the congregation: "By and large, we do not want much change, but the priority areas for change are increased emphasis on (1) ministry with children and youth, and (2) social/action justice." If we look at the areas where this church community has flourished over the last 10 years under the leadership of the Executive Team (ET) and the Board of Trustees, our progress in these two areas would certainly occupy positions at or near the top of the list. Regarding RE, we now have 450 children participating in our religious education program and programs at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services are at capacity. In the area of social/action justice we have established a full time position (Pat Haff) who oversees our community outreach ministries. In the last 10 years we have gone from three Community Outreach teams to 13 at last count. In addition we now have a well established Ministry of Generosity that allows us to give away 70% of the Sunday offering to community non-profit organizations that share common values.

To these two areas of significant growth we can add a third. Our music program under the direction of Ruth Palmer for the past 11 years enriches our Sunday experience as never before. Every Sunday is a testament to the high level of proficiency and dedication of our musicians and choirs. And special musical programs featuring children and adults are offered throughout the year. Music program participation has more than doubled in the last 10 years with larger numbers in the Adult Choir and the addition of Unity Singers, the Youth Ensemble, and a robust children's choir. We also enjoy the ongoing presence of

community musicians and choirs. The practical problems resulting from this success are lack of adequate spaces for rehearsal and equipment storage.

All of this suggests a vibrant church community that is reaching out, growing, and creating growth opportunities in significant ways.

The subject of growth is one that has increasingly been a subject of interest to both the ET and the Board of Trustees. Much of this recent attention has been triggered by five realities or drivers of growth:

- Religious education program expansion and need for improved spaces (see above).
- Music program expansion and needs for improved space (see above).
- Worship experience often overcrowded, inhibiting growth and the sense of welcome.
- Need to reduce Unity's carbon footprint.
- A recently completed Life Cycle Facility Condition Assessment report estimated deferred maintenance on existing facilities at \$1 million and total infrastructure system renewal at \$2.5 million.

At a minimum the last bullet point above mandates that we look at raising and spending some serious dollars in the near term. (If you're looking for the connection between this column and this month's theme of "brokenness" the last bullet point is it). Given this level of spending just to maintain the status quo it seems prudent for us to take a comprehensive and strategic look at our facilities in general and how they support our expanded outreach, growth, and our commitment to radical hospitality. Such a strategic study would be in the spirit of one of our new Ends Statements which states, "*The*

resources and facilities of the church are well managed and maintained and appropriate to the needs of the church and the community."

As part of this strategic study the ET has formed a small group of Unity members to look at facility possibilities for Unity Church as we look to the future. The members of this "Unity Tomorrow" team have been selected for their skills and expertise in areas such as architecture, facilities planning and development, finance, community relations, and environmental planning. They are charged by the ET with *developing the framework for growth by identifying potential facility scenarios and their respective development and operating programs and associated costs.* As the Board of Trustees liaison member of this group I can attest to their expertise, knowledge, and perhaps most importantly, their commitment to do superior work for this church community.

In a few days you will receive a separate mailing from this team outlining their work, charge, and deliverables in more detail. Also included will be an invitation (with specific times and dates) for you to join us in this important discussion.

Steps of the magnitude discussed here will require the approval of the Board of Trustees and the congregation before proceeding. As a Board we have endorsed this process and trust that it will lead to decisions appropriate for the role we want Unity Church to play in our lives and the lives of all who seek the beloved community. We are excited about the possibilities. We hope you will join us as we consider what is possible.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT / GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010

2010 Budget and Pledge Drive Update

When we closed the formal portion of the 2010 canvass on December 13, we had accomplished 80% of our goal and we were still waiting to hear from 223 households. The 2010 pledges that had been received from people reflected an average pledge of \$1,777 and an average increase of 6.4% over the 2009 pledges from those same households. We also had received 29 new pledges for 2010.

Since that time, we have continued to invite past pledging households to renew their pledges and other people who are active in the church to pledge for the first time. Our pledge dollars have grown by \$157,682 since the last time we reported to you and we are now at 93% of our goal. Recurring pledges are now showing an average increase of 4.8% and we have 50 new pledges. There are 91 pledges that were not renewed for a variety of reasons – people moved or died, are experiencing financial hardship or are attending a different church. We are still waiting to hear from about half of these households.

It has become clear over the past weeks that we will not reach our 2010 pledge goal, an 8.5% increase in pledge dollars, by the end of this fiscal year. That projection included a 5% increase in current pledges and a *net* gain of 30 pledging households. It is the latter assumption that we don't anticipate being realized.

We have revised our 2010 pledge projections and accordingly, our 2010 Operating Budget in order to live within our means. What follows is a list of assumptions and revisions that are being implemented for the remainder of 2010.

- Another \$36,000 in 2010 pledges is expected by the end of the year which will reflect a 5% increase in total pledge dollars from 2009
- Ways to enhance non-pledge revenue are being considered
- No involuntary staff cuts are planned
- The voluntarily vacated half time facilities custodial position will not be filled in the foreseeable future
- Salaries will remain at the July 2008 level
- No reductions in staff benefits are planned (even though premiums have increased)
- Programmatic cuts that have a minimal impact will be made
- Cost reduction measures in all departments will be made
- UUA dues have been reduced by \$7,000 to 25% of fair share / Prairie Star District dues remain intact at 60% of fair share
- Fundraising for the UUA and PSD is under consideration
- Reserves will not be drawn from
- Our commitment to build our general and sabbatical reserves remains intact per our Board's directive

If you would like further information, please talk with an Executive Team member or call Barbara Hubbard at the Church Office.

www.unityunitarian.org • unity@unityunitarian.org

2010 General Assembly

The Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly comes to our district this year, presenting us Minnesotans with the opportunity to be with thousands of other Unitarians from around the world without traveling far. General Assembly (GA) will be in Minneapolis at the Convention Center from June 23 to 27. Early registration will cost \$310 for full-time attendance, or \$110 for one-day attendance.

However, if you are able to volunteer 24 hours during GA, and your application is accepted, the registration fee will be waived. About 200 volunteers will be needed, and all applicants will be notified by early April whether or not they are accepted.

Volunteers will:

- welcome UUs arriving at the GA site
- provide information about the local area
- assist UUs with mobility difficulties and other needs
- care for young children or help with field trips for older ones
- handle church banners after the parade
- staff the local GA office
- register attendees
- act as ushers at plenary or events, count votes at plenary sessions and mini-assemblies

If you are interested in volunteering at the GA, apply online at www.uua.org between March 1 and March 31. If accepted as a volunteer, your GA registration fee will be waived, you can attend functions as time permits, and you can feel a part of the larger UU community while helping others enjoy their experience.

Questions? Please contact Sally Foster at sallyfoster@msn.com or 651-227-1105 or Sharon Merritt at merrittsharon@aol.com or 651-429-2621.

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Come To Life!—Volunteering Ministries at Unity Church

from Leon Dunkley, Director of Congregational Life

Life is a cabaret, old chum Come to the cabaret!

If life really were a cabaret, it would be a total blast! Everyone would have a ticket for the best seat in the house. In the sanctuary of a noble theater, a show of life would begin with a miracle. It would begin with something as beautiful as birth. The audience would be absolutely awed by the opening scene. The standing ovation would be thunderous. We would yell “Encore!!” even though the show had just begun. We would applaud and set our dreams, indelibly, into the fabric of life. We would stain ourselves, as if with the sands and oils of life itself. We would buy popcorn and soda. We would relax and settle in for the rest of the play.

If life really were a cabaret, we would enjoy the scenes to follow—the youthful dances, the new romances, the tears and joys of learning how to love. As the play went on, the plot would deepen and the drama would begin. We would get involved. We’d have opinions and we’d start to identify with the leading performers. We would see ourselves in them. We would sing with them and we would dance. We would ask ourselves the question, just as Mary Oliver did: What will we do with this one wild and precious life?

If life really were a cabaret, we would learn too soon about limitations. There would be tragedy or loss. There would be questions that could never be answered in a million years. What am I to do with life’s challenges? How can I learn to forgive or learn to love?

If life really were a cabaret, it would still star Liza Minnelli. And Liza would still remind us of Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*. And Liza would still remind us of our dreams—not our fantasies but our dreams...the dreams we live by. Living by our dreams, that’s the miracle. It’s easy to live your dreams at the cabaret!

Each time we gather, we live out our dreams. Each time we do something that is miraculous. Miracles may be tricky, but they are hardly rare. They happen all the time. It’s just that they can be very hard to see. Miracles are the things that make dreams possible. Dreams are made of miracles, just like us.

When we gather on Sunday mornings, we gather as miracles. We gather together and as we do, we are met by teams of wonderful volunteers. They greet us with a smile, offer the orders of service and help us find a seat. They guide our children to Spirit Play and Religious Education. They keep our youth and young adults from too quickly taking over the whole world. They hold the hands of elders. They keep us safe—and, almost most importantly—they make us coffee!

When we gather for Pancake Breakfast, for Soup Supper and for Wellspring Wednesday, we gather as miracles. We gather together and as we do, we are met again by teams of wonderful volunteers. They prepare our meals and cook them with care and beauty. You can find the miracle there if you look for it. The miracle happens on the butcher’s block when garlic and onions are being chopped nice and fine. It happens when carrots are being washed in the proper sink. It happens online when the menu is being decided. It happens when, for no earthly reason, the food comes out of the oven in time for lines of hungry parishioners! The miracle happens!

To those who have given of their time in support of the Sunday Service Welcome Teams and the Food Ministries of Unity Church—Unitarian, thank you! Unity Church becomes more beautiful for your efforts. The gift of your time is a blessing. In grace, thank you.

Fortunately, there are many opportunities to give. Volunteering for a Sunday Service Welcome Team means committing yourself for the

church year to one service, one Sunday a month. It means offering your time to the congregation so that the service can run smoothly, so that the worship can be sweet. Of course, there is flexibility built into the system and arrangements can be made to accommodate scheduling conflicts. Likewise, volunteering for one of the Food Ministry Teams means committing yourself for the church year to volunteer for one meal, once a month (on Sunday afternoon for Soup Supper or on Wednesday for the Wellspring Wednesday evening meal). Once again, there is flexibility in the system.

There are plenty of opportunities to serve. Look for the Volunteer Sign-up Forms at the Welcome Table in the Parish Hall or contact Leon Dunkley at leon@unityunitarian.org or by phone at 651-228-1456 x107. Come be a part of the miracle! Come to the cabaret! Come to life!



COMMUNITY / FELLOWSHIP / LEARNING

Guided Meditation in Ames Chapel

Ongoing Tuesday Evenings • 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Buddhist meditation is a centuries old spiritual practice that can bring greater awareness, clarity and peace to our lives. Join Lissa Gundlach for a weekly guided meditation in the Ames Chapel. Each week we will briefly listen to teachings, practice sitting and walking meditation and support one another in our developing practice. Come every week or drop in. All ages and levels of experience welcome.

Part 2 of Unitarian Universalist History

Early American Unitarian and Universalism (1600-1900)

Tuesday Evenings, March 2, 9, 16, 23 • 7:00–9:00 p.m. • Robbins Parlor

Have you wondered how Unitarian and Universalist traditions are woven into the vibrant religious and philosophical fabric of American history? Join Hallman Intern Lissa Gundlach for the second of a three-part series exploring the history of the two faith traditions which would later merge into Unitarian Universalism in 1961. All ages welcome.

Please e-mail lissa@unityunitarian.org or call 651-228-1456 x129 to reserve a space in the class and a reading packet! Reading packets are available for those who would like to follow along but are not able to attend.

Elders Circle Group

Thursday, March 11, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

The Elders Circle Group meets each month for fellowship, conversation and friendly community connections. The group is always open to newcomers as well as regular participants. Join Hallman Intern Lissa Gundlach for poetry, fellowship and conversation about our lives and this month's worship theme: *Brokenness*. Please call Lissa if you need transportation.

Caregivers Group

Thursday, March 18 • Third Thursday of every month • Noon–2:00 p.m.

Are you a part-time or full-time caretaker of loved ones in your life? Do you need support in order to sustain the care you are giving? Join Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs and Pastoral Care Team member Cynthia Orange for an informal support group for caregivers. Contact Janne Eller-Isaacs if you would like to participate in this group.

A Fair and Balanced Equinox Celebration

In the tradition of Nah Rooz (Persian New Year)

Saturday, March 20 • 1:00 p.m. • Parish Hall

Music, singing, didgereedoo, drumming, meditations, dancing, eating and drinking — all to welcome spring on the equinox. For more information and/or to volunteer assistance call or e-mail Bryan Janssens at 651-646-4216 or abryljan@aol.com.

Committed Couples Class

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

Led by Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs, the Committed Couples Class will be held Tuesdays, March 30 through May 11 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is free/\$150 [pledging/non-pledging]. To register, please contact Julie Handberg at the Church Office. Contact Christy Randall at the Church Office by Sunday, March 21, to request childcare.

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 13 • 8:30–10:00 a.m.

You'll enjoy local sausage, OJ, and all you can eat pancakes!

Bring a friend! Cost: \$3 per person or \$10 per family.



March 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, March 8 and 22

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Contact: Phil Morton, 952-934-3578

Unity Singles Group

Watch *This Week at Unity* for events.

Contact: Bonnie Reiland at

bonniereiland@aol.com

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of the month • 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Afterthoughts

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

Contact: Paul Gade, 651-771-7528

Unitots!

A playgroup for families with kids through preschool age

Every Friday • 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Michelle Hill, 651-264-0884

Grandparent Unitots!

A playgroup for grandparents and their grandkids

Every Monday • 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Sue Conner, 651-646-6667

Unity Bridge Club

First Friday of the month • 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Mary Barrett, 651-225-9708

Evergreen Quilt Group

Contact: Peggy Wright at 651-698-2760

Unity Book Club

Tuesday, March 9 • 7:00 p.m.

Open to everyone!

Job Transition Networking Group

Every Monday • 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Wendy Frieze at wendyfrieze@mac.com

LITERARY MINISTRY / UNITY LIBRARIES

OPEN PAGE

reflecting with pens in hand

These guided writing sessions, led by Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering, are invitations to the creative spirit, opportunities to correspond with “the still, small voice within.” No writing experience necessary; only an empty page and an open heart and mind. Individual programs, unless otherwise noted, are free and do not require pre-registration. Additional writing programs at other Twin Cities locations are listed on-line.

But I’m really not a writer

Some of you have asked me whether these writing sessions are just for writers, so I want to encourage any of you who are interested to attend an OPEN PAGE session in the future. Each session stands alone, accessible to first-time visitors as well as those who have come before. Each session is designed for writers and nonwriters alike. Here’s how participants have described them: “So thoughtful and thought-provoking. Really valuable. I loved the surprising outcomes.” “Terrific – accessible, great for all levels of writing skill.” “It enriched my experience of living and writing.” “Very calming, focusing, joyful.” “It put me in touch with a voice of encouragement.”

If you’ve been interested in attending an OPEN PAGE session, I hope you’ll join us. — Karen Hering

OPEN PAGE Writing Sessions

Sunday, March 7 • 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Reflection Topic: *Transformation*

As winter slowly gives way to spring, Wendell Berry pays homage to the transformation occurring in the natural world when he writes: “bud opening to flower / opening to fruit opening / to the sweet marrow / of the seed.”

How might we too pay homage to the transformation occurring within our lives? This writing session invites us to give witness to the transformative forces moving within our hearts and within our world. Free. No registration required.

Monday, March 8 • 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Reflection Topic: *Brokenness*

“There is a crack in everything,” observed Leonard Cohen. “That’s how the light gets in.” We’ll explore the places where we experience the world or ourselves as broken, and consider how we can find our way to wholeness. How is brokenness healed? And how does it sometimes open our lives and our world to the truth and the light we are seeking? Free. No registration required.

On-line literary resources

For more information about the *Faithful Words* literary ministry and additional writing programs offered in other locations, visit www.unityunitarian.org/WritingMinistry. Meditations offered on each month’s worship theme are also available on-line at www.unityunitarian.org/MonthlyThemeResources. To receive periodic e-mail notifications of upcoming literary programs and invitations for member writings, contact Consulting Literary Minister Karen Hering at karen@unityunitarian.org. These programs are supported by a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism and contributions from individual donors.



What’s New at Unity Libraries?

Anderson Adult Library ♦ Bookstall
♦ Whitman Children’s Library
Bookmobile ♦ Cairns Literary Journal

An important new biography. *A Mighty Social Force: Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford 1829-1921*

by Loretta Cody with Rev. Sarah Barber-Braun

Based on twenty years of research by Unity Church member Rev. Sarah Barber-Braun, *A Mighty Social Force* is the first full-length biography of this pioneering Universalist minister. Oral family history and documented sources tell her story and restore Phebe Hanaford to her rightful place in women’s history.

Now accepting submissions for the second issue of Cairns.

To be published in the fall of 2010, submit your poetry, art, prose, music by May 17 for early consideration. Don’t put it off—send in your poetry, prose, music, and art this spring! The final submission deadline is September 20, 2010.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2nd Annual Café Unity Friday, April 16 • 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in reading your original work or performing music for the next Café Unity, please contact us by e-mail or drop a note in our mail box in the Copy Room at church.

Suggestions, comments, submissions, questions? Contact us: literaryjournal@unityunitarian.org

Unity Libraries Celebrate
Women’s History Month
See box at right



Unity Church Book Club

The Unity Church Book Club will meet from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9. The book they will be discussing is *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. **Everyone is welcome — even if you haven’t read the book!**

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH / CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

Unity Libraries Celebrate Women's History Month

She Who Would Valiant Be
19th Century
Unitarian Universalist Women

Saturday, March 13
10:15 a.m.
Following the pancake breakfast.



Women's group, Unity Church
(Minnesota Historical Society)

Hear their words.

Listen to their stories.

Learn about their lives.

Join us in celebration
of our activist
Unitarian Universalist
women ancestors.

Unity Church-Unitarian Presents

Jubilee Pickle: A Circus Tale

Tickets will be available at the door!

a new children's musical
by Sandy Waterman, Mary Blouin Auffert & Gary Jader

Thursday, March 4 at 7pm
Friday, March 5 at 7pm
Saturday, March 6 at 5pm

Tickets: Adults \$6 Children \$3 Family \$15

732 Holly Ave St. Paul • 651-228-1456
(Enter on Portland & Grotto)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Thank you volunteers!

Project Home Comes to Unity Church in May

Thanks to the generosity of our Project Home volunteers, Unity Church-Unitarian sheltered 315 homeless guests last May. Our evening hosts entertained inquisitive children with toys, games, art projects, and snacks and offered loving arms and friendly words to sleepy babies and tired Moms and Dads. The overnight crew provided a reassuring presence for our guests while they slept and a cheerful alarm clock and quick breakfast to get them on their way bright and early the next day. Thank you, volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you!

An **extra big thank you** to long-time member Vivian Stone and her marvelous civic group, The Regalettes, who donated \$1000 to support the ongoing efforts of Project Home at Unity Church-Unitarian. This amazing group of woman has been raising money and supporting vital neighborhood organizations for many, many years. We are honored to be included in their charitable giving plans and will use the resources they've provided to make our church an even more welcoming home to families in need this May.

Planning for Project Home coming to Unity Church in May 2010 has already commenced. Volunteer sign-ups begin in the Parish Hall on Sunday, April 4! As always, we look forward to welcoming new and returning volunteers.

If you would like more information about ways you can help make Unity Church a home for families in transition, please contact Pat Haff at the Church Office. To find out more about Project Home visit the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches website at: www.spacc.org.

Offering Recipients

Each Sunday, thirty percent of the offering goes to support the Community Outreach Ministry at Unity Church and seventy percent is given to the chosen community non-profit recipients. **Please make checks payable to Unity Church.**

March 7: Resources for Child Caring

For over three decades, the purpose of Resources for Child Caring has been to ensure that all children have full access to quality early childhood education experiences so that they will enter school prepared to learn and thrive. As the state's largest child care referral agency, they help families make well informed choices about child care using indicators of quality that fit each family's unique needs. The agency has a training center to provide professional development for child care providers and through their publishing division, Redleaf Press, is a leading national publisher of curriculum, management and business resources for early childhood professionals. Unity Church member Janet Bisbee is the agency's Director of Development and Communications. Many Unity Church families have used their services.

March 14: Urban Partnership and Community Development Center (UPCDC)

UPCDC is a nonprofit agency that helps at risk families and seniors living in the Selby Dale Neighborhood navigate through crisis with transportation, food assistance, support and services. Their services also include helping people with chronic diseases and grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. UPCDC served 1,209 people in 2008 through a variety of emergency services. Transportation is especially challenging with the discontinuation of Red Cross ride services in 2009 and so the agency hopes to purchase a van to better meet the transportation needs of their clients. Unity Church member Carol Bauer is connected to UPCDC through her work at the Wilder Foundation. The work of UPCDC connects to Unity Church's desire to reach out to our neighborhood in building the beloved community.

March 21: Balazs Scholar Program

This offering goes to support the Balazs Scholar Program that brings a Unitarian Transylvanian minister to study in the U.S. at the Starr King School for the Ministry by providing fundraising, administrative assistance and tuition to each new scholar. This year's scholar, the Rev. Robert Balint, is the fifteenth minister from Transylvania to participate in the program. Robert presently serves two congregations as the minister in Meszko, the Alabaster Village and Csegez. In addition to his theological studies, he has completed a degree in sociology at Kolozsvar Babes Bolyai University. He has been involved in the Unitarian youth movement and has worked with local social and charity organizations. With others, he started the Francis Balazs Historical Preservation Project, designed to preserve and promote spiritual and material heritage. Rev. Balint will preach at all Unity Church Services on Sunday, March 21.

March 28—Night on the Street (Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation)

Night on the Street, an annual event sponsored by the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, raises awareness and financial support to work against systemic poverty, especially among youth in Minneapolis and Minnesota. Each year, youth from various religious traditions in the Twin Cities area spend a night in the Plymouth Congregational Church parking lot in cardboard boxes and engage in conversation with other youth about poverty and homelessness. The goal of this event is to "spend a night on the street so somebody else doesn't have to". Last year, along with over 400 youth from 33 congregations, Unity Church youth participated in this event and helped raise \$45,000 for the work of the foundation in providing affordable housing in several areas of Minneapolis.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Unity Makes an Impact in Restorative Justice

from Steve Nelson

As a member of Unity's Restorative Justice Team and Communications Director at Amicus, I was asked to relate a little of what I see while working in an agency supporting Minnesotans who have been incarcerated and are seeking a second chance.

Much of what I see is struggle. Amicus is often one of the first places people visit after being released from prison. They come to our office for our Reconnect program, which helps them in their search for shelter, employment, transportation and all the necessities of life on the outside. Those necessities are getting harder to come by. Finding a job is a challenge, even without a felony on one's record. Landlord associations often pressure those in their ranks to not rent to people with a criminal background, and information about almost anyone's past is a Google search away.

I've listened to a woman tell how she needed to cut herself off from her own mother, because that's where she learned drug use and dealing. I've spoken with a man who got sent back to prison one day after his release because he was unable to find even temporary housing in the suburban county where he committed his crime. I've seen a man come in with his wife and young children, trying to get a new start so he could help support his family again.

I'm proud to be a member of Unity Church when I see everything the church does to help provide people with second chances. Amicus is a small office, so even though it's not my main work to work with Reconnect clients, I get to pitch in occasionally. I've been privileged to hand out a few of the Coming Home Kits compiled by our RE kids. The clients are touched by the notes of support included with essentials such as deodorant and toothpaste. I've seen people celebrating a new job after Amicus provided them with a bus pass to get to the interview. The pass might have been one of those provided in a Unity Restorative Justice Team Getting Around Kit drive. I've helped fit a couple of guys coming out of prison with clothing suitable for a job interview. The clothing was donated by a member of Unity. Restorative Justice Team members have been at community gatherings in support of our shared work and volunteers from Unity are front and center in Amicus' One to One program and even at our front desk. The Sunday offering from Unity dedicated to Amicus is a spark of light during these dark times for nonprofit agencies.

Unity has a significant impact in the community through its work in Restorative Justice. Join the team. You'd be amazed at the difference you can make in creating second chances.

Interweave Re-Visited

from Ann Hite

Unity's Interweave Ministry Team, which advocates for the needs of the BGLT community, is undergoing some changes. In the past couple years, a very small team of people (about four of us) has been quietly involving the greater Unity Church community in social issues connected to the rights and needs of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender people (speakers panels, involvement in Outfront Lobby Day, marching in Pride, networking with groups working for marriage equality, etc.).

At our next meeting, we will be discussing options for re-naming the team (we have learned that there are many in our church who do not recognize the "Interweave" name and are therefore not able to connect it with our work) as well as the future of our mission. Increasing the membership of the team will be key to our ability to continue working for BGLT justice. Please join us on Wednesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gannett Room.

Amicus Volunteer Information Session

Monday, March 15

6:00–8:00 p.m. at Unity Church

Amicus volunteers continue a long tradition of offering friendship to those building new lives. Amicus volunteers visit individuals in correctional facilities where they provide friendship and much needed connection to someone in the outside world. You too can help. Training and careful matching ensure a safe and meaningful experience. Find out more at this session. A similar session will be held Monday, April 12.

RSVP by contacting Chris at 612-348-8570 or chris@amicususa.org.

Whole Farm Coop

Buy meat, cheese, produce and more from local, sustainable farms and pick it up at Unity Church! For a March pick up, order from wholefarmcoop.com or call 320-732-3023 by Wednesday, March 10.



Orders will be delivered to Unity Church on Wednesday, March 17. Pay by sending a check with the invoice enclosed with your order to Whole Farm.

Evergreen Foodshelf

The third Sunday of every month is Evergreen Food Drive Sunday. All non-perishable food and household items are welcome and needed!

Donations can be brought anytime and should be placed in the barrels located at both the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances.



Suggested items for Sunday, March 21, are peanut butter and jelly.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!



The Dee/Davis Family



Joanne Look



Mary Koltz



Peggy and Paul Wiltse



Santiago Fernández-Giménez and Laurie Sovell



Heather Wells



Jane Thomson



Daniel Sigg and Amy Olson-Sigg

Andy Davis and Lauren Dee have been living in Saint Paul's Hamline-Midway neighborhood since 2005. They have two children. Oliver (age 3 1/2) is energetic and gregarious. Juliet (age 8 months) is constantly admired by elderly ladies in grocery stores. Andy works as a lawyer for a Minneapolis law firm. He practices in the areas of administrative and environmental law. Outside of work, Andy loves listening to and playing music (trumpet), reading fiction, and rolling around on the floor with the kids. Lauren is returning to Unity Church which she attended as a child and teenager. A stay-at-home parent, she has done freelance project management work for music and media organizations, and she spends her days cooking good meals and working on raising creative and kind children.

Heather Wells is excited to become a member of this community after searching for such a place for quite some time. Heather is a technology educator by trade and a media artist that is in grad school. She lives in a little bungalow in Frogtown and enjoys biking and gardening. Heather moved to the Twin Cities in 2005 and has lived all over the country as well as a few places abroad. She looks forward to deepening her connection at Unity Church.

Paul and Peggy Wiltse love bicycling, gardening and traveling in Europe. Their garden and the farmer's market provide them with quality ingredients, their travels the inspiration, and bicycling the appetite for many wonderful gourmet home-cooked meals. Paul and Peggy have two grown sons, the older living in San Francisco and the younger living in Chicago. Peggy works as a School Psychologist in Minneapolis Public Schools. Paul, currently unemployed, has worked as a trainer and consultant with several consulting firms based in Minneapolis and Chicago.

Daniel Sigg is very happy that his family (wife Amy and daughter Ava, 10) have found Unity Church. Daniel is confident that this church will help with his spiritual growth, and he looks forward to giving back to the community in a meaningful way. When not working (as a physician - scientist), Daniel likes to read, spend time with friends, family, wine and dine, and play (mostly jazz) guitar.

Amy Olson-Sigg is thrilled to join Unity's community where the great spiritual questions can be explored free from the pressures and arrogance of doctrine. She loves to grow vegetables, read, attempt to play tennis, walk, spend time in nature, and practice observing life from a place of non-judgment. She dreams

of communities free from the grip of corporate interests where the true nature of power and wealth is redefined as *love* and *compassion*.

Laurie Sovell and Santiago Fernández-Giménez live with their two kids, Rubianna and Leo, and a dog and a cat, on the West Side of St. Paul. In addition to raising the kids, Laurie works to actively connect people across Minnesota with water resources by coordinating the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizen Stream Monitoring Program. Santiago works as an information architect and web project manager in support of student services at the University of Minnesota. He enjoys playing music, writing songs, and spending time with the family, especially outdoors. Leo and Rubi attend JJ Hill Montessori school, in the 4th and 1st grades, respectively.

Jane Thomson's work is community involvement, producing paintings and showing them, and keeping fit. Her hobbies are reading, gardening, and movies. In the future Jane hopes to travel more and to be active. One shaping experience she had was having her outlook and politics shaped by a course in social work she took in about 1976. It turned her into a Progressive Democrat. In Unity Church, she hope to find a community.

ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP TEAM / PARISH HALL ART

Navigating the Complex Terrain of Race

Three Wednesdays • March 17, 24, and 31 • 7:00–8:30 p.m. • Unity Church

Do you find discussions about racism unsettling and/or confusing? Are you unsure about how to navigate the complex terrain of race in the US? Join us for this three-part series offered by Dr. Heather Hackman. This workshop series will provide a framework to not only understand the issues but begin to take action on them as well. The conversation on racism and white privilege in the U.S. will be tied to core spiritual principles, encouraging participants to consider how they can integrate these issues in how they live out their values in the world. The format includes both the presentation of information and opportunities for dialogue. Please come willing to learn, share and consider actions you can take in your life.

You will be asked to commit to attending all three sessions. The maximum number of participants is 40. To sign up, contact Pauline Eichten at peichten@pclink.com or 651-312-0228.

Dr. Heather Hackman is a dynamic speaker, with a compassionately challenging message. An Associate Professor in the Department of Human Relations and Multicultural Education at St. Cloud State University, she teaches courses in social justice and critical multicultural education, heterosexism and homophobia in the US, race and racism in the US, and oppression and social change. She consults locally and nationally on issues of racism and white privilege, classism in education, LGBT issues in education, and power dynamics in education.

The 11th Annual White Privilege Conference

April 7-10 • La Crosse, Wisconsin

The White Privilege Conference (WPC) examines the challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team-building strategies to work toward a more equitable world. WPC is open to everyone and invites diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive look at issues of privilege including: race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, etc. — the ways we all experience some form of privilege, and how we're all affected by that privilege. It is committed to a philosophy of "understanding, respecting and connecting."

Concurrent with the WPC, there will be a Youth Leadership Conference for High School students Thursday, April 8, and Friday, April 9. This will include workshops, performances, caucuses, and affinity groups specially designed for youth and facilitated by some of the nation's most talented youth advocates and artists. More information can be found at www.uccs.edu/~wpc.

Ku Klux Klan in Minnesota

The Winter 2009-10 issue of "Minnesota History" magazine has an article on the presence of the Ku Klux Klan in Minnesota in the 1920s. After the lynching of three African-American circus workers in Duluth in June, 1920, the legislature passed the nation's first anti-lynching law in 1921. However, throughout the 1920s, the KKK grew in Minnesota. In addition to chapters in Duluth, Minneapolis, and St. Paul, there were rallies and meetings in towns throughout the state.

The article is not available online, but the magazine can be purchased at www.mnhs.org/market/mhspress/minnesotahistory

March Parish Hall Artist

Emel Sherzad

Emel Sherzad was born in 1961 in Kabul, Afghanistan, in a family of visual artists and music lovers. He grew up in France and Italy, where his parents pursued their graduate and post-graduate studies. In 1978, as a result of the pro-Soviet communist coup in Afghanistan, Emel and surviving members of his family became political prisoners. They were then exiled to Switzerland, where Emel obtained his baccalaureate.

In 1984 Emel came to the United States. He came to the Twin Cities in 1985 to attend Macalester College. He graduated in 1989 with a B.A. in Spanish and Portuguese. He then attended George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, as a graduate student in the field of linguistics.

Emel currently lives in St. Paul, where he and his wife, Masooda, own and operate Khyber Pass Café (www.khyberpasscafe.com) on Grand Avenue.

Since 1994, Emel has been hosting a weekly jazz program (International Jazz Conspiracy) on KFAI Fresh Air Community Radio, 90.3 FM, Minneapolis, and 106.7 FM, St. Paul (www.kfai.org).

Emel feels a certain affinity with fellow artists and musicians, whom he endearingly calls his "tribe." Emel's paintings are inspired by various forms of improvised music. He feels that life itself is a series of accidents through which individuals improvise their own dance. Shattered identity and adaptability are the main themes in his art.

Emel will host an reception in the Parish Hall on Friday, March 12, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. All are invited to come enjoy the art, music, and refreshments.



Our Family Story

A Creative Workshop for Multiracial Families

Families who identify as multiracial or interracially adoptive are warmly invited to a Saturday of sharing stories and creating artwork. High school senior, Nathan Eckstein (director of the acclaimed "Fashion Show for Social Change" held at Unity Church last winter) will facilitate a creative workshop for parents, kids and youth, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 20.

Nathan was born in Colombia and grew up in St. Paul as part of a multiracial family. Participants will share family stories with each other, explore the unique blessings and challenges that our family identities bring and then use our ideas as inspiration for a mosaic that will be installed at church. This event will include a potluck lunch and be fun, educational and powerful!

Families interested in participating should RSVP by Sunday, March 14, by emailing kerri@unityunitarian.org.

Unity Youth in Grades 7-12!

Join Us for A Night on the Street ...

A Night on the Street is an unforgettable overnight service experience for youth groups in the Twin Cities. You'll sleep out with only a cardboard box as shelter, learning firsthand about the challenges of being homeless. By drawing attention to the need for affordable housing, you'll put your faith into action in a concrete way and, at the same time, raise money to help prevent homelessness and provide housing that's affordable. The event begins the evening of Friday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. and concludes with worship and breakfast early Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Throughout the evening you will hear and learn from people who have lived on the street and explore your own feelings of connectedness and understanding through music, art, and small-group interaction. You'll stand in a soup line for dinner and receive your own cardboard box as shelter for the night. Funds raised help build transitional housing for homeless youth in the metro area. Put faith into action—register now! Contact Kerri Meyer in the R.E. Office to sign up - space is limited!



Chalice Camp 2010

Back for a third summer of Unitarian Universalist friendship and learning, **Chalice Camp will be offered TWICE this summer!** Registration materials are online! Both camps are five days, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Chalice Camp I is our mainstay program, exploring the Seven Principles, our religious history and the meaning of the flaming chalice. Chalice Camp II (new this year) is an exploration of our faith's history as a force against unfairness and unkindness with a focus on the Civil Rights movement in the U.S.

Registration materials are available online, as are applications for Junior and Senior Counselor positions (this year, both positions will be paid). Campers are welcome to participate in one or both sessions. Tuition for the week is \$200 by May 1 (\$250 after May 1), \$25 sibling reduction. Scholarships are available.

- **Chalice Camp I: Our History and Principles** (recommended for new campers, K-4): June 21-25
- **Chalice Camp II: Identity and Justice** (recommended for returning campers, 3-6): July 19-23

Contact Hannah Eller-Isaacs, Camp Director, at hannahariel.ei@gmail.com with registration questions.

Returning Family Registration for 2010-11 R.E. Programs!

Parents! Mark these April dates in your calendar! Four sessions (all identical in content) will be offered to families of children and youth Age 3 through Grade 8 who plan to return for Sunday School in September 2010. These in-person sessions are the **ONLY** opportunity to register your child(ren) and to the roles through which your family will contribute your 10 hours of volunteer service in the Ministry with Children and Youth. Upcoming registration sessions include:

- Saturday, April 10 • 10:00 a.m. (following pancake breakfast!)
- Wednesday, April 14 • 7:00 p.m. (following Wellspring Wednesday dinner)
- Tuesday, April 20 • 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 25 • 1:00 p.m. (last opportunity before September!)

Priority will be given to families in this order:

1. Voting, pledging member families
2. 2009-10 R.E. Teacher families (including non-members)
3. Returning non-member, non-teacher families

These sessions are only for Sunday School through Grade 8. Coming of Age (Grade 9) and Our Whole Lives (sexuality education) have separate enrollment processes; families will receive information about these programs in the mail. These sessions are for returning families: new families should attend a Wednesday Orientation on March 3, April 7 or May 5 to learn more about Unity's ministry with children.

Contact Kerri in the Church Office with questions about registration for 2010.

No Religious Education Sunday, March 28 — Spring Break!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Notes

Make Music with Your Life
– Bob O’Meally
(from *Teaching with Fire*)

Make music with your life
a
jagged
silver tune
cuts every deepday madness
Into jewels that you wear

Carry 16 bars of old blues
wit/you
everywhere you go
walk thru azure sadness
howlin
Like a guitar player

Yes, we all need inspiration, new ideas and reminders of our original intent and the fire that propels our lives and work. Sometimes we do need to "howl like a guitar player"! Use and allow music to inspire, comfort, companion, clarify ideas, and sort through emotions. It is a great way, as are all the arts, to celebrate the joyful times and also help to trudge through the difficult times; to express and feel your center when articulation is not yet possible; to join with you in the search of the moment; to help you be your most human while also reaching your most spiritual self.

We try to offer many opportunities at Unity Church, beginning with the weekly music in our Sunday services, to let you experience your musical self and to give you moments of musical pause that allow you to stop and explore your own inner journey.

Please note several opportunities in these next months that are available to you. We invite you to join with us in celebrating our music community; in music that helps you "make your life"; and in "making music" with your life.

Go Out!

A Celebration of Our Liberal Religious Heritage
Saturday, March 27 • 7:30 p.m.

If you think religious history has to be dry and dusty, think again! Composer Elizabeth Alexander presents *Go Out!*, a lively celebration of our liberal religious heritage in words and song. In addition to Unity’s own choral ensembles (Unity Singers and Unity Choir), guest musicians include choirs from Unitarian Universalist congregations in Bloomington and Rochester, Minnesota, as well as gospel singer Libby Turner and talented young violist Evan Vicic.

The evening will feature seven new works by Alexander (as well as some old favorites), inspired by a host of historic free thinkers, from the pensive and poetic to the fierce and feisty. Among the concert’s diverse offerings are a defiant 16th century German protest song, a soulful gospel elaboration of a (misattributed) Martin Luther quote, and a rousing treatment of John Murray’s 18th century Universalist exhortation: “Give them not hell, but hope.” A centerpiece of the concert is the world premiere of “Into the Silent Darkness,” an ethereal setting of Unitarian minister Richard Gilbert’s powerful words on faith and the unknown, commissioned especially for this occasion.

The suggested donation for this concert is \$12 (\$10 for Unity Church members or \$16 per family), which will help cover the cost of presenting a version of *Go Out!* at the National Conference of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network this July.

Arthur Foote Music Sunday Weekend **Saturday–Sunday, May 1–2**

Saturday, May 1 • 4:00 p.m.

A concert in the Sanctuary at Unity Church given by Chicago Children’s Choir*, Minneapolis Youth Chorus, and Unity Children’s Choir

*If you are interested in hosting one or two children from this choir, please contact Ruth at 651-228-1456 x118

Sunday, May 2 • 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Voices

presented by Unity Choir and Unity Singers; Karen Herring, poetry and readings

Sunday, May 2 • 4:30 p.m.

Voices

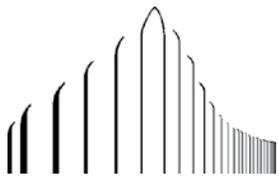
presented by Taichi Chen, violin, and Ruth Palmer, piano; Karen Herring, poetry and readings

Plan to come for at least one of these amazing Arthur Foote Music Sunday services, if not two or all of them!

Unity Church Children's Musical

Lulu Pickle: A Circus Tale

Turn to page 8.



UNITY CHURCH—UNITARIAN

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**TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Earth Day Celebration!



*Vision:
A world in which
reverence,
gratitude,
and care for Earth
are central
to our lives.*

— Unitarian Universalist
Ministry for Earth

Wednesday, April 21

6:00 p.m.

dinner • music • informal discussion

7:00-8:30 p.m.

programs

Although we may strive to honor the earth year-round, Earth Day is a global affirmation of our will for a sustainable future. Come celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day at a special Wellspring Wednesday gathering.

- Enjoy a delicious meal featuring seasonal foods
- Discover alternative transportation options and see how a hybrid bicycle can offer the utility of an SUV
- Watch a documentary film about urban agriculture in North America and discuss a blossoming initiative in Frogtown
- Learn how Unity's building and grounds have become greener and meet the worms hard at work composting Unity's food waste
- Activities for children - childcare will also be offered

Easter Blooming Plant Sale

This year Easter is on April 4. For our Partner Church in Transylvania this is an important liturgical celebration day, a Holy Day, where communion is celebrated by the congregation. Our Partners in Transylvania are Unitarians; they and their ancestors for over 400 years have been Unitarians. Our Partners are also Christians.

For our Partner Church, their faith is what may be called a "received faith," one into which they were born; one which is given them with all the richness of its heritage and the knowledge that their forebears relied on this faith for sustenance throughout the travails of history. For this faith some of their ancestors died. Even now, the Romanian government takes steps to diminish support for Unitarianism and increase support for other faiths.

This year as the Unity Partner Church Team continues its work on deepening the relationship that our congregation has with the village, we are raising funds to assist Unity Church members to go on pilgrimage to Homorodszentpeter and Unitarian religious sites.

To help in this effort, the Partner Church Team will be holding a blooming plant sale. Look for the Partner Church table in the Parish Hall during March to place your order. The deadline to place orders is Sunday, March 21. You will be able to pick up your plants at church on Palm Sunday (March 28) so that you will have them in your homes on Easter.

Order forms are also available in the "Quick Links" box at www.unityunitarian.org. Order forms printed off the web should be faxed to the church, attn. Pat Haff, at 651-228-0927.

