

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse Newsletter August 2004

Sunday Services: Program at 10:00 AM Refreshments at 11:15 AM

Services Site: The Pump House 119 King Street

Fellowship Mailing Address: PO Box 2676, La Crosse, WI 54602-2676

Message Center: 608-796-9993

Web site: www.uulacrosse.org

All services below, except August 29th, begin at 10:00 AM and meet at the Pump House.

August 8th: “A Remembrance of Malvina Reynolds”

UUF Music Director Becky Post will lead this service. The late Malvina Reynolds was a passionate songwriter, and a UU. She is known for "Little Boxes", "What Have They Done to the Rain?", "Turn Around", and many more. We'll take a look at her life, and sing or listen to several of her songs.

(No program August 15th)

August 22nd: “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised”.

Several members of our fellowship have viewed this video about the political crisis in Venezuela, and describe it as powerful and deeply moving. Filmed by an Irish producer, it gives insight into the clashes that are taking place in the country that is America's leading foreign oil supplier. **Political scientist and UUF member Matt Bosworth** will lead the service and discussion.

August 29th: “Peggy Seeger Live: A Dedicated UUF Concert”



Peggy Seeger, for many years a driving force in British folk music, is appearing this weekend at the Great River Folk Fest. She has agreed to do a special concert/presentation for our Fellowship, on the theme ***Mutual Responsibility: The Individual and the Community.*** Meet at the UW-L campus gazebo; on the Folk Fest grounds (enter from Vine Street at 16th). Service will begin promptly at 9:30 AM—bring folding chairs.

(No program September 5th)

September 12th: “Rock and Water Ceremony”.

Join us as we re-convene following our summer sojourns. Bring a rock or some water from a place near or far that holds meaning for you. **UUF Program Committee Chair Cindy Ericksen** will lead the service.



MUSIC NEWS

Becky Post

Come, gather all ye singers!!! The first choir rehearsal of the season will be Wednesday, August 25th at the Pump House. We'll rehearse in the basement conference room at 7:00 PM. September choir songs will be rehearsed. I hope to see everyone then.

Membership Committee News

Madeline Kepner, Chair

Our committee met in June for an organizational meeting with new UU member consultant, Alice Mack. With her valuable help, we set goals and assigned committee member responsibilities.

Members will be asked personally to be greeters and caregivers rather than passing the clipboard. Don't hesitate to contact Ann Beechler if you want to be a greeter or Liz Spangler if you want to be a caregiver. We will mail welcome packets to visitors because visitors haven't always received one on Sunday.

We will plan three potlucks for the year and have an Involvement Fair after a service to encourage members/friends to join a committee or an activity.

We contacted all Wisconsin UU churches for names of students who will be coming to La Crosse, and we will send those students a welcome letter. We'll also participate again in the UW-L Involvement Fair.

Our UU Fellowship will be listed in the next church brochure at the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Center. Our UU stamp has been placed at the bottom of the current brochure.

Joys and Sorrows information slips will be available with the weekly Order of Service. Whether or not you light a candle, please give us information about our members and friends for follow-up by the caregiver.

New Member Interviews

Madeline Kepner & Celine Donofrio

We are happy to have back in her native state of Wisconsin after many years in other parts of the country. She attended Washington Elementary School, Lincoln Junior High and Central High School. She was in the Air Force for four years. She was awarded masters and doctorate degrees from the University of Northern Colorado.

Her experiences include those of being a journalist, a planner for Council of Government, and twenty-seven years as an organization consultant, trainer, teacher, author, and management coach.

Her interests include writing, one-on-one conversation, walking, and as she reports, reading voraciously.

Welcome to our fellowship.

and :

and have been married for 20 years and have, between them, six children, five boys and a girl. They also have six grandchildren. They've lived in Mondovi, Sparta, Coon Valley and now West Salem calls their 22 acres in the country their "cathedral".

They are both currently retired. was a mental health therapist and , a math high school teacher. keeps herself very busy tutoring kids and adults in reading-- she herself is an avid reader. She is also active in international issues of globalization, poverty, literacy, and women's issues. She frequently writes letters to the editor. She has also been very involved with disabilities rights, serving on a Governor-appointed council, and president of Independent Living Resources. She is also an author and painter enjoys working on house projects and taking care of their plants and land.

They heard of the UU Fellowship from while doing peace activism. has studied about all the world religions. Once she would have thought to be agnostic but has come to believe she is very spiritual. is a 'recovering catholic'. They find the services very refreshing and loved finding others of similar interests. I am sure everyone will enjoy getting to know this very interesting couple as much as I have.

Hymnals

Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer

I will be placing another order towards the end of August for the UU hymnal, Singing the Living Tradition. If you wish to order a copy for yourself, the cost will be \$29 for a hardbound copy and \$46 for the two volume, large print, spiral-bound version (good for use at a piano). These prices include \$1 towards shipping costs. I will need your payment before ordering. You can reach me at or .

Monthly Caregiver

Monthly Caregiver for August will be Liz Spangler. Please let her know if any of our members need flowers, a card, or other message of caring. or

Social Justice News

Ron Malzer

1) **Workshop on Social Justice Organizing:** On Sunday June 27th, singer/songwriter and social activist Larry Long did a performance and presentation titled “Rivers of Stories and Songs” as our Sunday Service. Following that, a group of nine of us joined Larry at Lone Wolf Café, for a workshop he led on “Organizing for Social Justice”

Two possible social justice projects raised by those attending were looked at in detail. Liz Bonnett told the group that she and Keith Belzer have been discussing the possibility of a downtown “Soapbox”, where hot issues could be discussed with civility. Specifics of implementing this were discussed—place, issues, publicity, etc. Liz indicated at the end that her next step was to take the group’s ideas to Keith for further consideration.

The second area focused on is that of electoral politics. Not-for-profit groups such as our Fellowship are barred from expending resources to influence elections, but individual members are, of course, free to do so. Voter registration was identified as a key for Fall, 2004, and Madeline Kepner reported that she will be part of a voter registration campaign at UW-L in September.

Brief attention was also given to an area of interest of Larry’s: working with communities that are economically depressed, where the self-esteem of the community members is low. The Place of Grace was mentioned as an organization that does this work in La Crosse.

2) **Social Justice Committee structure:** An impromptu Social Justice Committee meeting was held on July 11th, at Panera’s, following the Sunday service at Cobbs’. It was decided that:

- 1) Bill Katra will serve another year as Chair;
- 2) Ron Malzer agreed to be Vice-Chair, chairing in Bill’s absence;
- 3) Minutes will be taken at each meeting;
- 4) Social Justice will meet on Sunday September 19th following the service, and in subsequent months, the first Sunday of the month.

New Horizons Update

Ellen Severson

Our fellowship has had a long relationship with New Horizons, a local shelter for women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse and constructing healthier paths through their lives. A donation box is available each Sunday at the front of the meeting room.

This month, please consider contributing one or more of the following items that are especially needed: business-size envelopes; fabric softener; legal-size file folders; first aid supplies; plain folders (two-pocket and three-prong); 13-gallon garbage bags; children’s backpacks; school supplies; gift certificates to department stores, restaurants, grocery stores and gas stations; Elmer’s glue; hair dryers and hair dye; and nonperishable food. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Severson at .

Pride Along the Mississippi

Christopher Townsend

The Fellowship communications committee will again sponsor an information booth at the Pride Along the Mississippi Festival this summer. This year the Fest will be held on Saturday, July 31. The information table allows the Fellowship to show its support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, and gives us the opportunity to let others know about UUism, and to become more visible in the community. Your help in staffing our table will be greatly appreciated; for more information, call me at .

Great River Folk Festival

Ron Malzer

Iris Dement, Peggy Seeger, Bill Miller, Christine Lavin, and many others will be performing at the Great River Folk Festival August 27-29. Craft booths, children’s activities, dance, and food are also featured. Concert and ticket information is available at 608-784-3033, and at www.greatriverfolkfest.org. In addition, you can get a free day pass by volunteering to work a two-hour shift in the music sales tent; for more info on the free pass, call me at .

Help Available

Bill Katra reports that he expects to have regular contact with individuals seeking babysitting, housekeeping, or similar types of jobs. If you are interested contact Bill at .

UUA News

Deborah Weiner
Director of Electronic Communication
Unitarian Universalist Association

FaithandValues.com, an interfaith Web site providing news and information about religion, featured the Unitarian Universalist Association in June on its Web site with a link off the home page and extensive information at <http://www.faithandvalues.com/channels/uua.asp> .

In addition to presenting a snapshot of the Association, the Web site features the following elements: the UUA’s “Freedom to Marry” Web site, the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy, “Vote 2004” Web site, Rev. William Sinkford’s Pastoral Letter “On Human Dignity and the Aftermath of War,” and the new Beacon Press title by Rashid Khalidi, “Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America’s Perilous Path in the Middle East” as well as “A Chosen Faith” by John Buehrens and Forrest Church.

Book Discussion Group, Anyone?

Chris Meisenheimer

Are there UUs who’d like to gather and discuss books of interest? I’d like to suggest a few titles:

- * “One River Many Wells” by Matthew Fox;
- * “Spirit Matters” by Michael Lerner;
- * “Credo” or “A Passion for the Possible” by William Sloane Coffin.

Important Program Note!

Sunday August 29th: “Peggy Seeger Live: A Dedicated UUF Concert”

Meet at the UW-L campus gazebo; on the Folk Fest grounds (enter from Vine Street at 16th).
Service will begin promptly at 9:30 AM—bring folding chairs.

UU Fellowship of La Crosse
PO Box 2676
La Crosse, WI 54602-2676

