

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse Newsletter February, 2004

Sunday Services: Program at 10:00 AM Refreshments at 11:15 AM
Southside Senior Center, 1220 Denton Street (by West Ave), La Crosse

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

Message Center: 608-796-9993 **Web site:** www.uulacrosse.org

Members are encouraged to bring their own thoughts, reflections and readings related to their personal and ideal view of patriotism.

February 29th “Troubled Latin America”: Bill Katra will discuss various social, economic and political issues affecting current conditions in Latin America that may serve as a harbinger for the United States.

March 7th: Thomas Jefferson’s Commentaries on Religion. Red Haines.

Upcoming Programs

February 1st “Garbage: A Burning

Issue”: Guy Wolf, Environmental Activist, Board Member of Clean Wisconsin. The Xcel French Island Incinerator, a polluter turned environmentally friendly? Three things citizens should know about burning garbage in our backyard, and three very important things citizens can do to make sure that the incineration never returns to the list of polluters in Wisconsin.

A Congregational meeting to discuss the Pump House situation immediately follows the service.

February 8th “William Ellery Channing”:

Reverend Wendy Jerome-Stern, Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka, Minnesota. Channing was one of our first Unitarian forbears on this side of the Atlantic. He is justly famous for his innovations in social service, his compassion, and his dazzling preaching, but he also challenged his parishioners with an issue of conscience and pocketbook - at great cost to himself and to our pride today.

Rev. Jerome-Stern grew up in the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, earned 5 master's degrees, and has been serving UU congregations for 16 years.

February 15th “What is Heart?”: Keith

Belzer. The Quest not only begins in the heart, but also ends there. Keith Belzer will journey through the many meanings of this muscle of life in literature, myth, philosophy and religion. This program will only be interesting to those persons who have, or have had a heart at some time in their life.

February 22nd “Act Like a Patriot”:

Present Your Thoughts. In honor of George Washington’s birthday we will celebrate the rights, responsibilities and spiritual connections to patriotism.

Board of Trustees Report

Kathy Schnitzius

The Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on January 22, 2004. These items were discussed and decided:

- *To accept the Building Committee's recommendation to move to the Pump House and will recommend such to the Congregation at a Membership meeting to be held on February 1, 2004 after the service.*
- If approval for a move to the Pump House is obtained from the fellowship, we voted to pay for an extra 2 and a half months of rent to the Senior Center after a date is set for our lease to begin at the Pump House. This is to allow for us to move without being rushed and to offer support and appreciation to the Seniors. We have been using their facility for over 25 years.
- To hire Tenisha Bertram, a UW-L student, as the RE teacher for the middle school age group.
- To offer an employment agreement to Becky Post as Music Director. She will be responsible for acquiring assistance with choir direction and musical accompaniment.
- Nick Long will substitute for our coordinator, Greg Dihlmann-Malzer.

- To ask the Social Justice Committee to make specific recommendations to the Board regarding special collections for organizations outside of our fellowship.
- To consider allowing absentee ballots on a case-by-case basis rather than creating a set policy.
- that further discussion will be held on the following topics:
 - ◆ creating a policy regarding donations to other organizations,
 - ◆ what to do with surplus funds after a fiscal year,
 - ◆ budgeting for the annual PSD meeting, April 23-25,
 - ◆ Planning for our annual retreat (perhaps an overnight with activities).

Our next meeting will be held on February 29 after the service, place to be determined.

Music News

Becky Post

The choir will sing for services on February 15th and 29th. We will rehearse at 9:00 AM on those days at the Denton Street meeting place, upstairs.

Upcoming evening rehearsals are:

Wednesday, January 28

Wednesday, February 25

Wednesday, March 24

Evening rehearsals are held at 7:00 PM at the home of Becky Post,



RE News

Liz Spangler

New in the UU Kid's Library: "A is for Abigail An Almanac of Amazing American Women", "Sally Ride, Shooting for the Stars", "Neil Armstrong", "Astronauts Living in Space", "Sacajawea, The Journey West", "Mars, Is there Life in the Ancient Ice?" an article from the January National Geographic, "Columbia's Last Flight", an article in the November issue of the Atlantic Monthly, a folder of information about Laurel Clark, astronaut and a UU who died in Columbia's last flight. Also in the folder are newspaper articles about space exploration.

Attention kids in grades 1-5:

Bring your sleeping bags on February 1st. We are taking a trip into outer space!!! Also bring two large belts, or sashes, and a bag or large pillowcase to put the sleeping bag in.

AdventUurers' News

Liz Spangler

The Soup, Sandwich & Cinema video on February 19th is, "The Secret of Roan Inish" a story about a little girl striving to find a lost brother and bring happiness to an entire family. (Irish, 103 minutes.) Supper is at 5:30 PM with video beginning at 6:00 PM. Call the center at 608-791-5295 and let them know you are coming. Franciscan Spirituality Center is located at 920 Market St. in La Crosse.

The UW-L presentation of "Romeo & Juliet" will be at the end of February and early March. Details of when we will choose to see it will be forthcoming. Call Madeline Kepner

Fellowship Holiday Donations Cheer Family

Ellen Severson

Our fellowship contributed a carload of items and a \$315 Target gift certificate to the family we 'adopted' from New Horizons for the holidays.

The family consisted of a mother, her 3-year-old son and 22-month-old daughter. The three were known to the fellowship by the pseudonyms Courtney, James, and Josie.

According to Rose, a counselor at the domestic abuse shelter, the boy had undergone his second heart operation shortly before Christmas. The boy's health problems had not been included in the information published in the La Crosse Tribune's "For Goodness' Sake" section in late November.

"He's home, he's happy, and he had one heck of a Christmas," said Rose in early January. Rose said the fellowship's presents and gift certificate made the family "very, very, very happy."

The family came to New Horizons after the 3-year-old son awoke one night to find his mother bleeding on the kitchen floor and his father drunk and unconscious. The boy dialed 911. The mother was in the hospital for three weeks.

The family had requested such items as children's shoes, boots and clothing; learning toys; food storage containers; clothing for the mother; small rugs; towels and washcloths; kitchen pots and pans; silverware; pillows; and blankets. The wrapped gifts filled the back seat and trunk of the Severson family car when Jo and Ellen delivered them to New Horizons December 19.

Along with the gift certificate, Ellen included information about our fellowship and a letter inviting the mother and her children to join us. The mother has Ellen's name, address, and phone number, in case she has questions.

This is at least the fourth year the fellowship has adopted a local family for the holidays. Every year fellowship members have responded generously and joyfully, and a bunch of people have said that doing this is one of their favorite parts of the holidays.

NEW HORIZONS' NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

Ellen Severson

New Horizons, a local shelter for women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse, is looking for the following items. Please consider donating one of these items to the fellowship's box at the front of the meeting room: alarm clock or wall clock; aluminum foil; antacid medications; appointment calendar; blanket; lip balm; slippers; sweatshirts and sweatpants; nonperishable food; and such baby items as lotion, monitors, pacifiers, powder, shampoo, wash and wipes. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Severson at _____.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

Belinda

By Celine Donofrio

Though some of you may have heard most of this during Belinda's UU Minute, here is some information she shared with me about herself: She was born in Faribault, Minnesota, but lived various places before settling in La Crosse to raise her son and daughter - both currently in college out of state. She is a nurse and her husband, _____, is a psychologist at _____. She has passed through many types of churches/faiths on her path to UUism. She visited our fellowship years back when we met upstairs but did not join at the time. Only upon visiting again recently did she find the combination of intellectual and spiritual aspects appealing. She appreciates both our educational and ceremonial components, as well as our diversity. Her interests include gardening, books, crafts and the outdoors. We welcome her.

Mark and Kim

By Bob Huff

Please welcome Mark and Kim _____ to our Fellowship. They began attending several months ago and decided to join recently. Mark, Kim, _____, and --- _____, live in _____, Wisconsin and drive forty miles to attend _____ is located between Sparta and Black River Falls.

Mark and Kim grew up in Black River Falls and that may be one of the reasons Mark is a cross country skier. There are some great trails in that area. They both enjoy hiking and own forty acres where they grow Christmas trees. Kim also worked as a probation officer. About three years ago, they formed their own business

named "Markim" after both of them. They specialize in rural property and are a part of the national company, United Country.

Kim stated that the girls enjoy the RE program. She was raised Catholic and Mark was raised Methodist but both find the fellowship friendly and meeting their spiritual needs.

They also each own Harleys which they actually ride!! So if you see two Harleys with skis sticking out the back, heading for the Black River State Forest in Milston, it will probably be them. I, on the other hand, will meet them at the Forest with my skis!

Wendy

By Lisa Metz-Belzer

Welcome new member Wendy _____ to our Fellowship. Wendy says that she has considered herself to be a UU from a theological standpoint for twenty years. In the '80's she visited this fellowship, but sought spiritual information on her own. In the process, she discovered the Church of the Larger Fellowship—a sort of "church by mail" organized and supported by the UUA. Together with her family (husband _____, and now grown children _____ and - _____) they pursued their spiritual self study at home for several years.

Recently, Wendy has become alarmed at the growing influx of the religious right. She feels compelled by her concern "that we as a human race move to find a way to live together in a way that isn't divisive, but embraces differences rather than retreat into clannishness."

Professionally, Wendy works as a Drama Specialist for the _____ and teaches classes at _____. In addition, she has been an actor and director in numerous local theater productions. As a teacher, she is revered by her colleagues and adored by students of all ages. Those who know her describe her as passionate and articulate, dynamic, vivacious and humble!

We joyfully and sincerely embrace you as a member of our fellowship, Wendy. You grace us with your warm presence.

Membership Committee News

Madeline Kepner

We currently have 65 voting members of the Fellowship.

The Membership Committee will meet Sunday, February 1st after the service. Anyone who would like to find out what the committee does and perhaps join it, is welcome to attend.

Thirsting For A Beverage?

Dave Goode

The Pepsi® Company has taken out the soft drink machine from the Senior Center—it was not profitable enough for them. For those who prefer soft drinks or bottled water, the Senior Center-- on a trial basis-- is providing them. An assortment to choose from is available in the rear-most refrigerator in the kitchen. Suggested contribution: 50 cents each. It's run on the honor system and there is a container inside the refrigerator for the coins.

Member News

Liz Spangler

Paula Whitt and Jay Lee have joined our Fellowship. Kim and Mark Pierce have recently signed the membership book. We also had a nice ceremony on December 7th to acknowledge eight new members. We are happy to have you choose our fellowship as your church home. As you acquaint your self with our group we hope you share your gifts and talents. Welcome.

Travis and his fellow neighborhood teammates won the regional competition in the First Lego League and now will go to the state (Minnesota) championship at the end of January. Talk to him about this challenging experience. It's not your tinker toys or erector sets of childhood, although they seem to be having a revival, but it is about computers, yellow chips, robots, and their missions. Good Luck Travis and team at state!!

Thoughts to Kristie Shappell and her family. Kristie's mom is very ill in California.

Clay LaBrec has been ill, but came back to service recently.

Maggie Peters-Voss graduated from UW-L in December.

Sympathy to Milo Velimirovic and his family on the death of his mother in California.

Correction: In December we reported that Rev. Dean Staffanson's new job was within the Pastoral Care Department. In fact, his new position is in Gundersen Lutheran Hospice and Homecare, so he has moved out of the Pastoral Care Department. Dean reports that he is very happy to have the new position-- and an end to his Residency program.

How Many Dogs Does It Take to Change A Light Bulb?

Humor from the Internet

1. **Golden Retriever:** The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?
 2. **Border Collie:** Just one. And then I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.
 3. **Dachshund:** You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!
 4. **Rottweiler:** Make me.
 5. **Boxer:** Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.
 6. **Lab:** Oh, me, me!!!! Pleeeeeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Huh? Can I? Pleeeeeeeeeze, please, please, please!
 7. **German Shepherd:** I'll change it as soon as I've led these people from the dark, check to make sure I haven't missed any, and make just one more perimeter patrol to see that no one has tried to take advantage of the situation.
 8. **Jack Russell Terrier:** I'll just pop it in while I'm bouncing off the walls and furniture.
 9. **Old English Sheep Dog:** Light bulb? I'm sorry, but I don't see a light bulb.
 10. **Cocker Spaniel:** Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark.
 11. **Chihuahua:** Yo quiero Taco Bulb.
 12. **Pointer:** I see it, there it is, there it is, right there ...
 13. **Greyhound:** It isn't moving. Who cares?
 14. **Australian Shepherd:** First, I'll put all the light bulbs in a little circle.
 15. **Poodle:** I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.
- The Cat's Answer:** "Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So, the real question is: How long will it be before I can expect some light, some dinner, and a massage?" ALL OF WHICH PROVES, ONCE AGAIN, THAT WHILE DOGS HAVE MASTERS, CATS HAVE STAFF.

Monthly Caregiver

The Caregiver sends cards and flowers to Fellowship members and friends as needed, and helps pass on the word if someone needs cheer or support.

The Caregiver for February is Jean Novack. Phone: _____ ; e-mail: _____

If you are unable to contact the monthly Caregiver please contact the Caregiver Coordinator, Liz Spangler at _____ or _____.

Social Justice/UUA News

Ron Malzer

At its January 4th meeting, our Social Justice Committee took a look at the list of five Study Action Issues that were selected at the UUA General Assembly in June of 2003. These are:

S1 Weapons of Mass Destruction. Issue: What can Unitarian Universalists do to promote the abolition of weapons of mass destruction, recognizing that their development and deployment threaten all life and that their use would destroy life on a mass scale?

S2 Indigenous Peoples. Issue: What can Unitarian Universalists do to be better neighbors and provide collaborative support for indigenous peoples regarding cultural, financial, political, and environmental concerns?

S3 Human Rights and Peace. Issue: How can Unitarian Universalist help utilize the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a basis for building peaceful relations and among nations and peoples?

S5 Criminal Justice and Prison Reform. Issue: How can Unitarian Universalists successfully advocate for reform of the criminal justice and prison systems, even as the prison industry expands to accommodate more people and becomes increasingly inhumane and unjust?

S7 Civil Unions and Same-Sex Marriage. Issue: What can Unitarian Universalists do to promote recognition of civil unions and eventually same-sex marriages?

The Social Justice Committee has an interest in having congregational discussion about S5 and S7. In addition, there is an interest in looking at a domestic aspect of S3, in particular, at the issue of abuses of civil liberties that may be occurring as a result of the Patriot Act.

The Social Justice Committee has communicated these interests to the Program Committee. In addition, individuals can access these study issues by going to: <http://www.uua.org/ga/ga03/finalagenda.pdf> (pp. 11-19)

Social Justice Committee also reviewed four ongoing projects:

- 1) New Horizons (see Ellen Severson's two columns elsewhere in this Newsletter);
- 2) WAFER (contributions of non-perishable food collected every Sunday);
- 3) LAMP (La Crosse Afghanistan Mine-Removal Program)—see Ray Starrett;
- 4) Separation of Church and State (lawn signs)—see Ron Malzer.

Prairie Star District Meeting

Jean Novack

The Prairie Star District meeting will be April 23-25 in Kansas City, MO. If you might be interested in going and sharing transportation, contact Jean Novack at 788-8965. Our fellowship will help finance the registration fee and will provide some additional funds also, in exchange for representing our congregation as a delegate at this conference. More information & registration materials will be sent soon, or check the web at the PSD web site or at amccleery@sbcglobal.net.

Directory of Members and Friends

Ron Malzer

Our Fellowship is fortunate to have a new directory for all of our members. Thanks to the work of Madeline Kepner, we can all be in touch easily. If you haven't yet picked up a copy, they are on the back table on Sundays. Madeline sent in the following addition and corrections; please cut this out and attach it to the inside cover of your directory.



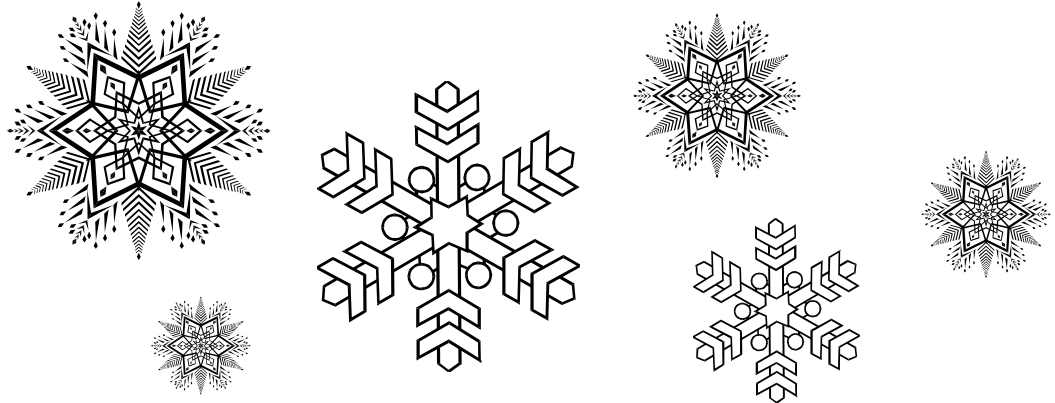
Corrections for January 2004 Directory:

Addition to Directory:

**Important
Notice**

The Fellowship
will hold a
Special Business
Meeting on
Sunday,
February 1
following the
service to
approve the
proposal to rent
meeting space at
the Pump House.

Did you forget to return your "Guest at your Table" box on Sunday January 25? Fear not! Late boxes will be accepted at the Fellowship for the next several weeks. The Guest at your Table committee requests that you count your own change and replace it with a check made payable to UUSC.



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

