

# The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse Newsletter January, 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

## Upcoming Programs

### January 4<sup>th</sup>: “*The Myth of Race*”: Dr.

**Susannah Lloyd.** Few topics stir so many intense feelings as that of race and racial relations. Are there any objective characteristics that define membership in a racial group? Is the term “race” of any value? Dr. Susannah Lloyd, UW-L anthropology department faculty member, will guide us through this issue.

### January 11<sup>th</sup>: “*Turning the Dark Inside*

**Out”: The Reverend Dean Staffanson.** “The long, dark nights of winter are often a time of quiet reflection, and a metaphor for the dark nights of the soul. I want to explore the sublime meaning and richness that is possible in looking into the darkness, and then taking the next step. So let’s stop by ‘a woods on a snowy evening’.” *Rev. Staffanson is a UU Community Minister, who is presently working as a Hospice Chaplain.*

### January 18<sup>th</sup>: “*Cultural Creatives*”:

**Madelon Wise.** The husband-wife team of Paul H. Ray, a macro-sociologist, and Sherry Ruth Anderson, a psychologist, summarize their 13 years of research in the book, The Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People are Changing the World. Perpetual seeker Madelon Wise will explain the three streams of culture in America described by Ray and Anderson. Who are the Cultural Creatives and how do they influence our lives? How can our understanding of these subcultures aid us in fulfilling our UU principles and purposes?

### January 25<sup>th</sup>: “T’ai Chi Chih”: Sr. Marian Massman, FSPA.

Marian Massman FSPA, has been giving T’ai Chi Chih® classes, presentations and retreats since becoming a certified instructor in 1990. She writes: “T’ai Chi Chih is a series of slow, relaxing movements that have benefits for body, mind and spirit. By circulating and balancing the body’s internal energy, the movements provide an effective way to relieve stress, restore balance and harmonize all aspects of one’s life.” She will discuss and demonstrate this form.



## Music News

### **Becky Post**

The choir will sing for services on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will rehearse at 9:00 AM on those days, at the Denton St. meeting place, upstairs.

There will be one evening rehearsal: Wednesday January 28, 7:00 PM at the home of Becky Post,

## RE News

### **Laurie Rogers**

The RE committee is pleased to announce the hiring of a middle school teacher who will begin working regularly on Sundays when she returns from her break from UWL at the end of January. Her name is Tenisha. She is a freshman studying education. Past experience with kids include swimming instruction. The Fox Valley area is her home. Tenisha will tell us more about herself (including her last name!!!!) in an upcoming newsletter. For now, these are the scant details I have at my disposal.

# **Board of Trustees Report**

***Kathy Schnitzius***

The Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on December 18, 2003 at 6:00 P.M. at the Elite Restaurant. The following items were discussed:

- An update on the Pump House was made. It was agreed that we could afford the \$5200 rent even if we do not use the facility every week of the year. We also agreed that there is no hurry to move. If we do decide to move, we would like to give the Senior Center ample notice and express our appreciation to them in some way.
- The Annual Campaign has raised \$34,531 in Operating Fund pledges and \$150 in pledges for the Building Fund.
- Our net worth is \$55, 567.89. Our Building Fund has \$38, 924.67.
- The UUA has clarified their information about Compensation for RE, offered Ethics and Safety resources, and advertised Church of the Larger Fellowship Jewelry. If anyone would like more information on any of these, see Kathy.
- We officially approved the 10:00 AM start time for services.
- We discussed absentee ballots for the issues voted upon at the Congregational Meeting held on Dec. 14, 2003. It was decided that we could not accept absentee ballots for that vote as we had not advertised acceptance of absentee ballots ahead of time. We will look into the state laws regarding absentee ballots.
- We approved the proposed budget for 2004 at \$36, 581. We will use unspent funds from 2003 to make up the difference between the pledges and the budgeted amount, if necessary.
- We will refer the Communications and Member Services Committees to the information about the "Uncommon Denomination" on the UUA Web site for a possible proposal to the Board.
- Our next meeting will be on January 22, 2004, 7:00 PM, at Margaret's.

## **Congregational Meeting Held on December 14, 2003 after the service.**

The purpose of this meeting was to vote on acceptance of the Mission, Covenant, and Vision of our fellowship, to approve a bylaws change that would add an Endowment Fund, and to update the fellowship on the possibility of renting the Pump House.

The members present voted to accept the Mission, Covenant, and Vision statements by an overwhelming majority.

The members present voted unanimously to add the bylaw XII. *An Endowment Fund is established to provide long-term financial security for the Fellowship. The Fund will be managed by an Endowment Committee with the approval and supervision of the Board of Trustees.*

Margaret reported that an Ad Hoc Committee established by the Board met with Deb Stover of the Pump House to determine whether they would possibly rent their facility to us for Sunday services and weekly meetings. They are very interested in leasing to us at \$100/week. This is twice what we pay at the Senior Center. We have adequate money in the proposed budget for 2004 to cover this expense. They would provide us with storage, and there is space for 2 RE classes in the basement. The whole first floor could also be used. The fellowship would meet in the large room on the second floor. A show of hands of supporters of this possible move indicated overall support

## **Fellowship Holds December 21st Service at the Pump House**

***Christopher Townsend and Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer***

On December 21, the Fellowship met at the Pump House-- 119 King Street in La Crosse-- for our regular Sunday Service. Seventy-five adults and children attended a beautiful intergenerational Solstice service. This was intended to be a trial run of what we might expect if we decided to rent space from the Pump House.

After the service, which was held upstairs in the theater space, members went downstairs to the main art gallery space for coffee and fellowship, and were free to tour the rest of the building. Other building features include an elevator, accessible rest rooms, a small kitchen, a basement with a large classroom with sinks used for art classes, a smaller room suitable for discussion groups or classes, and significant additional open space on the first floor and on the balcony. Those who attended were encouraged to fill out comment cards. The results:

## **COMMENT CARDS--PUMP HOUSE SERVICE-- DECEMBER 21, 2003**

- Rent this place.
- Let's do it!
- Lovely place, nice energy, beautiful art.
- This is great space-wise, LOCATION-wise, aesthetically, it's welcoming, has ample

parking, accessible to handicapped, wonderful natural lighting - what more can I say. This price is right too!

- What an opportunity! Thoughts for today: leave chairs near door open for late comers; move piano forward. RE questions: what can we do with the space; can we paint/ make walls/dividers? Coffee area is great.
- 2 people commented on latecomers being distracting. Possible solutions: put up dividers to screen that fact that people are late; reserve seats near the door for late-comers and families with kids.
- Love the building! Great place. Where will we do RE? Not a lot of separate rooms. Other than that - LET'S GO FOR IT!!
- Perfect place.
- IT'S AWESOME!! (although downstairs is a bit confusing)
- I LOVE THE PUMP HOUSE! Questions: AV for programs; can we control the Heat. I SAY LET'S DO IT. WE NEED THE SPACE.
- The environment is more appropriate. This place will allow us to grow. Economically I think it is a good move. Also, love to see us use an old building and help with their financial problems.
- Is it fireproof? Are there enough fire extinguishers and things like that?
- The space is pleasant and can be made to work for us. I'm apprehensive tho'. The Pump House has a mixed and troubled past - can't pay enough for a director, so they've changed often. Each one has different ideas about the use of the building, so I feel the use of the building in the future is not secure.

The general view seems to be that this is a definite step forward into a space that is larger and more aesthetic than the Senior Center, and will give us the chance to continue to grow as we keep working on longer term space solutions. So what comes next?

The Pump House is ready to rent to us. We have a 4-person committee (Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer, Connie Long, Ann Beechler, and Eric Severson) who will be negotiating with the Pump House. Please, contact one of them with any comments, concerns, or questions that you have. Whatever agreements we arrive at will need to be approved by the Building Committee, the Board, and the Fellowship membership as a whole. We will keep everyone updated.

## **New in the Kid's Library**

### ***Liz Spangler***

Ask your teacher about borrowing; A Solstice Tree for Jenny, The Winter Solstice, Sunshine Makes the Seasons. Maria Mitchell: The Soul of an Astronomer, Elizabeth Blackwell: Girl Doctor, The Beast in You! Activities and Questions to Explore Evolution, Tim Berners-Lee, The World Wide Web and the Web of Life, Carry On, Mr. Bowditch. I am also gathering information about Laurel Clark, one of the astronauts who died in the Columbia shuttle accident in February 2002. She was a UU from Racine, Wisconsin. The UU Kids' Library welcomes your donation of books and we have recently received Where the Wild Things Are, from Christopher Townsend. Talk to Liz Spangler about the Library.

## **What Would Venus Do?**

Well, you don't need to be told that I was happy on December 21! The psychological difference of walking into the Pump House for our Fellowship meeting says it all. I love the feeling of spaciousness, light, art, and entering a space that welcomes us as people of consequence. We can be honored for who we are and what we value. YES!!!

My most profound thanks to the members of the Building Committee--Margaret, Connie, Kathy, and Mike--who have worked so long and hard to find us a better space. We appreciate your dedication. And thank you to Cindy, Kim, Mike, Ray, and Ann for pulling together that beautiful intergenerational program.

I couldn't have found a better space or a better way to initiate it if I'd been in charge.

Love, Venus

## **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.

If you know of any member who is ill, has suffered a loss, or is having a rough time and could use cheering, please let the Caregiver know. Fellowship members don't always know of other members' difficulties, but we would like to extend a hand to any of our members and friends in need, so please let us know about your hardships, as well as the joys in your lives.

*The Caregiver for January is Madelon Wise at -  
or . If you are unable to  
contact the monthly Caregiver please contact the  
Caregiver Coordinator, Liz Spangler at or -*

## Guest at your Table Boxes to be Collected January 25.

*Christopher Townsend*

We will collect the *Guest at your Table* boxes during the service on Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>. Boxes were distributed during the intergenerational service held on Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>. If you did not pick up a box at that time, you may still pick up a box from the back table during the month of January.

The Guest at your Table committee requests that when you return the boxes, you count the change collected, and write a check for the total amount. Checks should be made payable to the UUSC.

Guest at your Table is a fundraising program for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Members of our congregation have been very generous in their support of the UUSC in the past, and we hope this trend will continue.

### AdventUUrer's News

By Liz Spangler

The first movie of the New Year at the Franciscan Spirituality Center will be on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, with supper at 5:30 PM followed by the movie at 6:00 PM. Call in your supper reservation at 608-791-5295. Right now I do not have the title. As soon as I know I will get it into the weekly announcements.

Judy Eubanks has extended an invitation for an afternoon/evening of games at her house on Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM till ????. A soup supper will be simmering in the kitchen. Please bring snacks, a salad, bread, sweets, or drinks to compliment the meal which we will eat around 6:00 PM. Also bring a favorite game if you wish. Judy's phone number is . -  
across from -

Children are always welcome. If the weather permits they can also play for awhile on the school playground. New members and friends are encouraged to join us in a time of fun and fellowship.

### Awards Nominations

*Jean Novack*

Is there someone in our congregation whom you feel deserves recognition for his or her efforts? Here is your chance to recognize and honor that person with an award nomination. Below is a list of Prairie Star District Awards to be given in April 2004. Forms for nominating someone will be available on the back table at Sunday services, or you may contact Jean Novack. The PSD also recommends

that your nominee receive this award within your own congregation.

**PSD Social Justice Award** pays tribute to those who witness to the ideals of social justice and responsibility so important to our UU heritage. **Two awards are presented: one to an adult and one to a youth** (under age 18).

**Unsung UU Award** affirms those UUs whose actions inspire, support, and express Unitarian Universalism, but who have not been previously recognized. The award is given to a person or group whose lifetime activities have made a significant contribution to the cause of Unitarian Universalism. The District's recipient of this award will be the District nominee for the **UUA Unsung UU Award**. (This award is usually given to someone who has also worked to further Unitarian Universalism in their district or nationally.)

**Keeping the Faith Award** was established to recognize people who live by UU principles. It is presented to persons who work to keep Unitarian Universalism alive in their community and who touch the lives of congregation and community members in a positive way. **Recognizing that there are great differences between small and large congregations, these four awards are divided into categories by congregation size.**

### NEW MEMBER PROFILES

#### 1.

*Madeline Kepner*

is one of our newest members. She and her husband, , have a daughter, - , who is 22 months old. [They] met at Winona State where [he] was in the Composite Materials Engineering program. [She] transferred to UW-Stout to finish a BS in Human Development and Family Studies. They moved to the East Coast in 1997 where [she] ran a county program for teenage mothers and [he] designed salt-water fishing rods. Since moving to Brownsville, [he] works in Caledonia as Vice President of - . [She] works three days a month as a telephone counselor at - .

Among their interests are gardening and outdoor activities. [He] works on house remodeling projects in their home. They are recycling activists and have a passion for solar and wind energy. They are members of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. [She] enjoys making jewelry and stained glass.

[She] says that when she hears a UU service and UU texts she is relieved to find a community that is in the same place she is. They were looking for a nurturing place for -- and found our community welcoming. Her mother was a Presbyterian and her father was an atheist so she

found inspiration in reading world religion texts. [He] went to Catholic schools through the eighth grade. He feels a connection with the UU philosophy as [she] does.

## 2.

### **Bob Huff**

Welcome \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to our Fellowship. They moved to La Crescent this past summer from State College, Pennsylvania where [he] worked as an emergency medicine physician. They have two boys ages twenty-three and twenty-six who are attending graduate school, one at Berkeley and one at the University of Minnesota.

[They] wanted to be closer to their sons and to be in more temperate part of the country where winter is only six months long (joke). They like the natural beauty of the area, theater, music and the three colleges and universities we have here. They are also very athletic and jog, hike, backpack, ski, and garden. [She] grew up in the Chicago area and attended St. Teresa College in Winona and was familiar with La Crosse.

[She] first attended a UU church in Rochester as student nurse. They met in Charlottesville, Virginia while she was employed as a nurse and [he] was in medical school. They met because of a loaf of bread. You will have to talk to them to get that story. They were married in a UU church but attended Quaker meetings for several years.

[She] had become disillusioned with the Catholic Church and was looking for a new spiritual home. [He] was raised as a Protestant and was active in the "Young Life" movement. He feels he benefited from his early religious experiences and learned valuable ethics and morals from it. He considers himself very spiritual but not religious and feels his spiritual life is a continuum building upon the best from his past and learning new ideas in the present to incorporate into his belief system. [He] has also done volunteer medical work in Nicaragua and is planning another trip there this winter. [They] like the people of the Fellowship, the friendliness, open exchange of ideas. Be sure to seek them out and talk to them, they are very interesting and kind folks.

## 3.

### **Madeline Kepner**

We welcomed \_\_\_\_\_ into membership at the recent Member Recognition Service. She is a lifelong resident of Wisconsin and La Crosse except for ten years when she lived in Prairie-du-Chien. She has two adult sons. She has recently been working in Home Health Care. She is a person of many interests. She has two associate degrees in accounting and finance and is now working on a liberal arts degree with a major in English. She says that

she enjoys studying. In addition, she likes cooking, home decoration, crafts, handwork and entertaining.

She heard about UU from people she worked with and first came to a program when the Fellowship met upstairs. Her education was in the Catholic schools of La Crosse. When she was eighteen, she left the church in search of her own religious truth and she reads the Bible daily. Over the years she has attended many denominations. She is happy to find a community where she can follow her own search for meaning in religion.

## 4.

### **Madeline Kepner**

We are happy that \_\_\_\_\_ moved back to La Crosse this past summer. Though he was born in Madison, early on, his family moved to La Crosse when his father became a physician at Gundersen Lutheran Hospital. He attended Logan High School and has a degree in English from Viterbo University and also has an associate degree in information technology. After graduating from Viterbo in 1999, he moved to the Bay Area in California where he taught school and worked as a temporary in the computer industry in Microsystems. [He] is currently working as a legal clerk at a law firm. He also works part time at Best Buy in the computer department. He likes the balanced community that exists in La Crosse.

He enjoyed reading Joseph Campbell, Emerson and Thoreau when he was in high school. He also read a book by Robert Fulghum and became aware of the Unitarian Universalists. He likes the open-ended philosophy of Unitarian Universalism and the search for meaning in religion, so he decided to become a member of the Fellowship this past month.

## News from the UUA:

### **Synapse returns:**

The UUA Youth Office is pleased to announce the return of the YRUU magazine "Synapse"! After a year and a half of uncertainty, Synapse is available both in print and online formats!

The online version of Synapse (same articles as in print, different medium) is available at <http://www.uua.org/yruu/synapse/> . For those interested in receiving a print version of the magazine, please email Ethan Field, at [efield@uua.org](mailto:efield@uua.org) .

*Deborah J. Weiner, Director of Electronic Communication  
Unitarian Universalist Association*

### **Friends of the UUA Fund Requests Support**

Friends of the UUA is the fund that allows individuals to make financial contributions directly to the UUA. Friends of the UUA has requested that member

congregations inform their members of their upcoming telephone canvases. Two phone-a-thons are currently scheduled in 2004. The first will begin in mid-January when they will call upon current members, and ask them to renew their support to the UUA. The second will begin in early May when they will conduct the fiscal year-end appeal.

Friends of the UUA requests your support during these telephone fund-drives. Last year individuals contributing through Friends of the UUA provided over \$1 million in funding, roughly 10% of the UUA's budget.

### UUA General Assembly 2004 in California

The UUA has given notice of a regular meeting of the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association to be held in Long Beach, California on Thursday, June 24, 2004.

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## Humor Column

*Julie Chamberlain*

### How Many Church Members Does It Take To Change A Light Bulb?

<u>Church:</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Reason</u>
• Amish	?	What's a light bulb?
• Baptist	<b>At least 15</b>	One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.
• Charismatic	<b>Only 1</b>	Hands are already in the air.
• Episcopalian	<b>3</b>	One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks, and one to talk about how much better the old bulb was.
• Lutheran	<b>None</b>	Lutherans don't believe in change.
• Methodist	<b>Undetermined</b>	Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring bulb of your choice and a covered dish.
• Mormon	<b>5</b>	One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.
• Nazarene	<b>6</b>	One woman to replace the bulb while five men review the church lighting policy.
• Pentecostal	<b>10</b>	One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.
• Presbyterian	<b>None</b>	Lights go on and off at predestined times.
• Roman Catholic	<b>None</b>	Candles only.
• Unitarian	<b>??</b>	We choose not to make a statement either in favor or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

## **Covenant Groups**

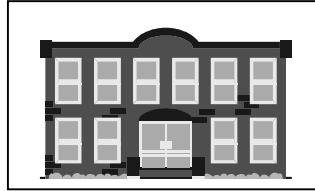
Consider joining a covenant group. Get to know your fellow UUs in a spirit of community, friendship, affirmation, and support. Meeting times, frequency and topics will be decided by the group at first meeting. Meetings will be held in member's homes. The first meeting is scheduled on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, January 28, 2004. Group is limited to the first eight folks who register so don't delay. Call or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

**Notice of Meetings:**

Beginning in 2004, the following meeting schedule will be utilized for monthly meetings following Sunday Services:

**Social Justice Committee** will meet on January 4th, and then continue meeting on the first Sunday of each month;

**Program Committee** will meet on January 11th, and then continue meeting on the second Sunday of each month.



**New Space for our Fellowship?**  
Several articles in this issue discuss the prospects for leasing the Pump House as our regular gathering place.

