

July/August, 2003

# The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse Newsletter

**Sunday Services:** Program at **9:30 AM** followed by refreshments at **10:45 AM**, Southside Senior Center, 1220 Denton Street, La Crosse, WI  
**Fellowship Mailing Address:** PO Box 2676, La Crosse, WI 54602-2676  
**Message Center:** 608-796-9993    **Web site:** [www.uulacrosse.org](http://www.uulacrosse.org)

*Note: In July and August we will meet only on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. All meetings will begin at our regular meeting time (9:30 AM) and be held at the Senior Center, unless noted otherwise.*

## Upcoming Programs

**July 13 – “Music That Inspires Us.”** Music takes center stage in this program hosted at the Long residence. Please bring a song to share (records, tapes, CDs or MP3s are all fine), why that song is meaningful to you, and an ingredient for a large fruit salad. Ask the Longs ( ) for directions to their house.

**July 27 – “Out of the Flames.”** Drawing upon a recent book by Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone, fellowship member Matt Bosworth will discuss the life and times of UU ancestor Michael Servetus, and the connection between theology, book publishing, and blood circulation.

**August 10 – “Bridging Ceremony.”** We will gather today, as in years past, to honor a transition in the lives of some of our young adults, Sarah Kraemer and Phil Martin. Please join us in marking this transition and help us bestow our blessings on them and their families.

**August 24 – “Good Hearted People.”** Presented by Larry Long.

*"Larry Long is doing what more singers and songwriters should be doing: using music to help people learn to work together, and bring a world of peace."  
Pete Seeger*

When you trust in the goodness of others, great things do happen. America's troubadour, Larry Long, will share life stories and songs of people and movements he has worked with over the past thirty years. We will meet at the site of the Great River Folk Festival (UWL). Enter by the west gate at the corner of Vine and 16th. There will be directions to the exact location at the gate. There will be no admission charge for the service.

Everyone is encouraged to purchase a ticket after the service to enjoy a day of music.

**September 7 – Program details to be announced.** Please join us for the beginning of a new program year. The Program Committee reminds you to please collect water and rocks from your summer travels for use in the September 7 service.



## Choir News

*By Becky Post*

The choir will have its annual potluck/first rehearsal of the season on Tuesday, August 26th. It will be at Becky's house ( ) at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to pass. We'll eat first and then begin to work on some music for the fall season.

This would be a good time for new singers to try out the choir. Lots of good voices have been heard at the Sunday meetings and at the karaoke mic at the Memorial weekend picnic! Come and have fun singing with us!



## Summer Focus Dinners

The Long Range Planning Committee is planning another round of Focus Dinners for this summer. We would like to have all members of the Fellowship participate so that we can get everyone's input on our vision and short term goals.

If you have already signed up, THANK YOU! And we will call to remind you about it when the time draws near. If you haven't signed up and haven't been call by Madeline or Kathy, call us instead. Let us know when you can attend one of these dinners:

- j Sunday, July 13th after service at Diane and Red Haines'.
- j Saturday, August 9th at 6:00 PM at Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer and Ron Malzer's.
- j Sunday, August 17th at noon at Bob Huff's.

Call Kathy Schnitzius at                      to sign up or e-mail to                      .

### **Needed: Substitute Sunday Coordinator**

A substitute Sunday Coordinator is needed to take the place of Sarah Kraemer who will be leaving for college in the fall. The duties are to periodically sub for Greg Dihlmann-Malzer when he is unable to attend on a Sunday. This includes getting the keys, opening at 8:30 AM, being sure that everything is set up for the service, being sure that everything is cleaned up and put away after the service, and locking up. Other duties may be included depending on the circumstances. Pay is \$10.00/hour.

Please call or e-mail Kathy Schnitzius if you are interested or have questions. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_, e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Keeping Up With the Our Wider Movement**

Interested in the discussions and decisions being made at the national UU level? The UUA Board of Trustees, which meets quarterly, posts its agenda, minutes and reports at [www.uua.org/TRUS](http://www.uua.org/TRUS). You can also see the reports of the UUA President, Moderator, and Financial Advisor, as well as reports from task forces and working groups. Contact information is also there for all UUA Trustees. Board members will welcome your input!

### **News from the UUA**

#### **General Assembly Update**

(Boston, July 1, 2003) The Unitarian Universalist Association concluded its largest-ever General Assembly on June 30th by passing a Statement of Conscience on economic globalization that calls upon congregants "to bring our Unitarian Universalist principles to our understanding of economic globalization and to help mitigate its adverse effects."

More than 7550 Unitarian Universalists from around the world attended the five-day General Assembly in Boston, site of the UUA's national headquarters and the historic birthplace of American Unitarianism and Universalism. On Sunday, at the largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists in history, more than 9,000 heard the Rev. Gary Smith, senior minister of the First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts, preach at the Service of the Living Tradition held at the Fleet Center, the Boston sports arena.

In addition to the statement on globalization that had been studied by Unitarian Universalist congregations for two years, delegates passed five Actions of Immediate Witness intended to address recent events. The General Assembly called for the United States Congress to conduct open bipartisan hearings to examine the justification for the invasion of Iraq; to restore funding for AmeriCorps; to pass proposed legislation that would mandate studies of the effects of depleted uranium on the environment and the health of those exposed to it; and to appropriate complete funding for studies of global HIV/AIDS. The final action

called for continuing support for women's rights and reproductive freedom, including participation in the March for Reproductive Freedom scheduled for April 25, 2004, in Washington, DC These actions, along with the new statement of conscience on economic globalization, will be posted at <http://www.uua.org/actions>.

Delegates also discussed the meaning and impact of the Association embracing a 'vocabulary of reverence,' which has received much conversation since the issue was raised by UUA President William G. Sinkford in early January, 2003. A Web site with sermons, related articles, and a discussion board allowing individuals to post their views on this topic, is available at <http://www.uua.org/news/2003/vocabulary/>.

Speakers at the General Assembly included Robert Reich, Wendy Kaminer, Jonathan Kozol, and Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP, who delivered the annual Ware Lecture. Harvard professor Diana Eck received the Melcher Lifetime Achievement Award for her pioneering work in exploring religious pluralism in American culture and its implications for people of all religious traditions. Major programs included one on the abolition of modern-day slavery and several programs in honor of the bicentennial of the birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson, a major figure in the Unitarian movement.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 27 at 4:30 PM at Bob Huff's house.

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) will meet on August 19, 11:30 AM at Lone Wolf Café.

The Theology Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, July 27 after the service. The topic of evil has been held over, since our June meeting was preempted by lunch. The group will not meet in August, since we will be at the Great River Folk Festival on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Fellowship Retreat for board members and committee chairs will be held on Saturday August 23. Contact Madeline Kepner, \_\_\_\_\_, for information.

*The Program Committee reminds you to please collect water and rocks from your summer travels for use in the September 7 service.*



### **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 July Caregiver is Patty Martin,*

*The August Caregiver is Ellen Severson*

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

### **Summer Volunteers**

We do need volunteers to bring snacks, do setup and cleanup, and be greeters for the summer programs. Unfortunately I can't find the sign-up sheet that had already been started for this.

We do not need any volunteers for the July 13<sup>th</sup> program at the Long's house, or for the August 24<sup>th</sup> program, which will be held at the Great River Folk Fest, but we will need volunteers for the July 27 and August 10.

If you would like to volunteer for one of those dates, or confirm that you had already signed up for one of those dates, please contact Christopher Townsend at (608) 783-2735 or chrstphr@centurytel.net.

### **Member News**

Last week Liz \_\_\_\_\_ had a stent put in, to relieve a blocked blood vessel. The operation went well and she is doing fine, other than being very tired of having to "take it easy."

Jean \_\_\_\_\_ reports that husband, Phil \_\_\_\_\_, started back to work on June 30, after completing a round of radiation treatment earlier this summer.

Matt \_\_\_\_\_ family suffered a terrible loss when his 2-½ week old nephew (born prematurely) died. We extend our deepest sympathy to Matt, and his family.

Louise \_\_\_\_\_ mother died in mid June, and we extend our sympathy to Louise and her family as well.

On a brighter note, congratulations to Amanda who is scheduled to begin nursing school in Rochester MN in the fall.

### **Want A Free Car?**

The Seversons' 1991 Plymouth Acclaim, a contender for "most liberal bumper in La Crosse," is languishing in their La Crosse back yard, hoping for a new owner who likes to tinker (or would use it for parts). Price: FREE.

The Acclaim, with 230,000 miles, suffered a snapped shifter cable two weeks ago and is temporarily stuck in reverse. Yes, it can be towed.

This car has "teen-ager's car project" written all over it. If you know someone who might want it, please ask them to call Ellen or Eric at \_\_\_\_\_.

We have looked for a charity to donate it to, but most require that it be drivable -- in forward, not just reverse. Can you believe that?

Ellen and Eric

### **AdventUurers News**

The AdventUurers are planning to attend the play "Jesus Christ Superstar" at UWL on Friday July 11. Contact Liz at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to reserve a ticket.

### **Our Shared Vision**

Again this month we share vision statements that were provided in last summer's planning survey. As you read these vision statements, think about your own vision for the Fellowship. What elements do share in common with these visions? In what ways do you differ? Do the differences lead you to consider things you had not thought of before?

- j *Larger membership, less emphasis on "how I escaped from traditional religion", more positive and informed attitudes about UUism, including feminism Fuller and beyond.*
- j *Locate in a lower socioeconomic area of city, community service to the neighborhood and Sunday services, and passages celebrations for children and adults.*
- j *In five to ten years I would like to see a fellowship that balances spirituality and intellectualism in an exciting place for families with children and where I would feel proud to invite relatives and friends to my daughter's wedding.*
- j *Our fellowship has well over 100 members, each of whom pledges at least the UUA average for our size, each of whom provides a service to the fellowship and thereby feels enriched, each of whom gladly proclaims their UU identity in the community at every opportunity. We have a permanent facility adequate to our needs and more. Every facet of congregational life is vibrant and fulfilling. Our children will become committed to UU principles for life.*

We hope you find these statements both inspirational and thought provoking. Watch for additional statements in upcoming newsletters.

**Update from the Long Range Planning Committee**

In May of 2003 the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) surveyed Fellowship members to identify the most deeply held values of our congregation. Participants were asked to select the ten most important values from a list of values that had been identified at the Focus Dinners held during the winter of 2002-03 and the Envisioning Our Future retreat that was held in September of 2002. 28 members filled out the values ranking survey with the following results: (Value is listed first, followed by the number of votes received)

1. The UUA’s Seven Principles .....	23
2. Emotional support and sense of caring .....	20
3. Being of service to those who need help in fellowship and community.....	19
4. Educating and nurturing our children .....	18
5. Support for life transitions, rituals, births, graduations, weddings, memorials.....	17
6. Social responsibility, peace, justice, human rights, positive change agent.....	17
7. Tolerance, openness, and acceptance of variety of religious beliefs .....	14
8. Valuing youth/intergenerational activities .....	14
9. Respect for one another, all humanity, individuality, and diversity.....	14
10. Spiritual growth .....	14
11. Education, critical thinking, providing a framework for transmission of values .....	13
12. Intellectual growth and stimulation.....	12
13. Humor, joy, and light heartedness.....	11
14. Curiosity, questioning, search for truth(s) and new ideas ...	10
15. Presence and recognition in the community .....	8
16. Integrity.....	8
17. Leadership in the community on issues of spirituality.....	7
18. Friendliness .....	7
19. Sharing knowledge and human experience.....	7
20. Peaceful discussion .....	5
21. Artistic expression of religious beliefs.....	4
22. Compassionate .....	3
23. Respect for all life and especially animals .....	1
24. Thoughtfulness.....	1
25. Listening .....	0

**Our Covenant**

Based on the response to this survey, the LRPC believes our current covenant, which was adopted by the membership in 1995 still reflects the values of our current membership. The only change the LRPC is recommending to our current covenant is to remove the reference to “our mission” from the last line of the covenant. With the proposed change, our covenant would read:

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse, gather together to:

- ◆ Sustain a caring community that nurtures, empowers, and challenges;
- ◆ Foster respect for individuality and diversity;
- ◆ Promote an active and ongoing quest for truth, meaning, and justice;
- ◆ Explore and celebrate the mysteries and interconnectedness of life;
- ◆ Nurture our children, teach them our religious history and traditions, and encourage them to develop ethical and spiritual values.
- ◆ Live this covenant as a positive influence for ourselves and our community.

**Our Mission and Vision**

Planning consultants tell us that a *Covenant* states the values that an organization is based on, a *Vision* states where those values are leading us, and a *Mission* states how we will get there. Having a clear understanding of our shared values, vision, and mission is important to our community, because it is the common ground on which we will base future decisions of all kinds.

Every planning or growth consultant that we have talked to in recent years has emphasized the importance of having a succinct independent mission statement. While the values survey shows that our covenant does reflect our current values; our current mission statement: “Our mission is to live this covenant as a positive influence for ourselves and our community,” does not stand on its own.

Therefore, the LRPC has recommended removing the mission statement from the covenant as noted above, and will be holding another series of Focus Dinners over the summer to help clarify mission and vision statements for the Fellowship. The goal of the LRPC is to present complete covenant, vision, and mission statements to the membership in the Fall for their approval.

**Member Participation Matters!**

Your participation is important in this process. The statements of values, vision, and mission are only useful if they truly reflect the feelings of our membership. These statements are not exercises in theory. They are intended to provide practical guidance to our Fellowship leaders as they make decisions on our behalf.

Please read the **Summer Focus Dinners** article on page 1 of this newsletter, and call Kathy Schnitzius to schedule yourself for a dinner.

In preparation for the Focus dinners, you might also want to review the visions shared in the **Our Shared Vision** column which has appeared the last several months, and think about your vision for the Fellowship.

## OUR COVENANT AND MISSION

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of La Crosse, gather together to:

- ◆ *Sustain a caring community that nurtures, empowers, and challenges;*
- ◆ *Foster respect for individuality and diversity;*
- ◆ *Promote an active and ongoing quest for truth, meaning, and justice;*
- ◆ *Explore and celebrate the mysteries and interconnectedness of life;*
- ◆ *Nurture our children, teach them our religious history and traditions, and encourage them to develop ethical and spiritual values.*

*Our mission is to live this covenant as a positive influence for ourselves and our community.*

*Adopted May 25, 1995*

*Note: see page 4 of this newsletter for information about this covenant, our vision, our mission, and more!*

## Important Notes!

- i Please note that the program on July 13 will be held at the Longs house!
- i The Program on August 24 will be held at the Great River Folk Festival at UWL!

See page 1 for more details about these programs.

