

March, 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)

## Upcoming Programs

**March 2 – “A Time of Testing: UUs and Civil Liberties.”** Consistent with the Unitarian Universalist Association’s current emphasis on civil liberties issues, fellowship member Matt Bosworth will survey various questions of civil rights and liberties in the wake of September 11, 2001, and ask what possible UU responses could be. Program Committee meeting to follow.

**March 9 – “When the Bell Tolls: Considerations for the Dying and Those Left Behind.”** Death is something we do not want to face, but knowledge and thought ahead of time is beneficial. This requested service will focus on what to expect at the time of death -- what emotions, what practical considerations, what we know about the grief process, and how we may come to meaning. As a chaplain and educator of Clinical Pastoral Education, the Rev. Dean Staffanson has information and resources to share. He will include personal story and reflection, along with current theory and information. **Choir Sunday.**

*Fellowship potluck to follow service. Please bring a dish to pass.*

**March 16 – “At One with the Earth.”** We are facing major environmental challenges. “At One with the Earth” explores our interconnectedness and offers some reflections on how we can align ourselves in right relationship and cut through the illusion of separation. Penny Andrews, a chaplain, Interfaith Minister, Doctor of Ministry, and founder of the MinGei Center in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, will speak.

**March 23 – “The Magic of Spring.”** Celebrate the coming of Spring by learning more about the holiday Ostara, the pagan celebration on the Spring equinox. We will also focus on new growth, both literally and figuratively, and foster potential growth in our own lives. The Rev. Shel Skau will speak. Rev. Shel Skau is a psychotherapist, instructor, and ordained minister at Circle Sanctuary in Mount Horeb, WI. Shel conducts

rites of passage and ritual incorporating music, chanting, dance, and performance ritual. **Choir Sunday.**

**March 30 – “Isn’t That Amazing?”** A series of recent events -- from the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to the disaster of the space shuttle Columbia -- have given new currency to speculations about the role of “larger forces” in our lives. Some people point to coincidences surrounding these events as signs of the hand of fate. Others claim to see the will of the divine acting in the world. This Sunday, Mark Ward, intern minister at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, will share some thoughts on how liberal religion might respond to these turns of events.

## Religious Education News

*By Kim Cobb*

### **Youth “Cons”**

There are several youth conferences coming up within easy driving distance. These conferences are open to 7th-12th graders. They are as follows:

- j MuzaCon 3, March 7-8, 2003, First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis, MN
- j “Put Your Clothes Back Con,” April 11-13, 2003, Unity Church UU, St. Paul, MN.
- j Social Action Con, coming in March 28-30, 2003 (Cedar Rapids)
- j PSD Annual Conference and Youth Caucus April 4-6, 2003 (Rochester, MN)
- j Prairie Star Youth Annual Meeting and Conference May 17-19, 2003 (Boone, IA)

It would be great to have youth delegates to the annual conference this year! Please contact Kim Cobb if you are interested in any of these.

### **Inquiring Group - March Teachers**

- March 2 - Connie Long
- March 9 - Laurie Rogers
- March 16 - Lisa Metz-Belzer
- March 23 - Kim Cobb
- March 30 - Liz Ash

### **The Family Non-Violence Pledge**

This intriguing pledge is on the UUA Web site, and it seems most appropriate in our year on “Peace and Social

Justice.” Here’s a blurb from the page, and the pledge itself.

“Why Take the Pledge? We are surrounded with so much violence. We are families and those who care about families who join together to say: ‘Enough! No more violence! We can do better!’ We are families of faith who are involved because of our belief in humanity. We join together as peacemakers in advocating for alternatives to violent behavior and in promoting violence prevention. We are committed to nonviolence and are convinced that what we do matters. Together we can make a difference.”

**Pledge:**

*Making peace must start within ourselves and in our family. Each of us, members of the \_\_\_\_\_ family, commit ourselves today, \_\_\_\_\_, as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people.*

**To Respect Self and Others**

*To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks, and self-destructive behavior.*

**To Communicate Better**

*To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully.*

**To Listen**

*To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others' feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way.*

**To Forgive**

*To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.*

**To Respect Nature**

*To treat the environment and all living things, including our pets, with respect and care.*

**To Play Creatively**

*To select entertainment and toys that support our family's values and to avoid entertainment that makes violence look exciting, funny, or acceptable.*

**To Be Courageous**

*To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work, or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.*

*This is our pledge. These are our goals. We will check ourselves on what we have pledged once a month on \_\_\_\_\_ for the next twelve months so that we can help each other become more peaceable people.*

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[http://www.uua.org/families/pledge\\_sign.html](http://www.uua.org/families/pledge_sign.html)

**Choir News**

By Becky Post

The choir's next evening rehearsal will be Wednesday, March 5, 7:15 PM at

We will be singing on March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The UU choir also rehearses on the Sundays we sing at 9:00 AM on the second floor of our meeting place.

New singers are always welcome to join us. For more information, call either of the directors, Eric Kraemer ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), or Becky Post ( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

**Fellowship Book Group**

By Kim Cobb

Come join us March 20 (the first day of spring!) to discuss “the Priestess of Avalon,” by Marion Zimmer Bradley and Diana L. Paxson. We’ll meet at Cobb’s house, \_\_\_\_\_, Call \_\_\_\_\_ for directions. Here’s a summary of the book:

In this stunning prequel to *The Mists of Avalon* (1982), 10-year-old Eilan, whose greatest wish is to serve as priestess for her goddess, is brought to Avalon for training. From a prophetic vision, she knows she is destined to love one man and to bear his son. When the man of her vision, a young Roman soldier, comes to Avalon, Eilan is compelled to follow her heart, which means defying her high priestess, the Lady of Avalon. For that, she becomes an outcast from her spiritual family and embarks on a lifelong path of love, treachery, heartbreak, and fame in the outside world. Her Roman soldier is to become the emperor Constantius, and their son, Constantine, will succeed him on the imperial throne. When Eilan, her name Latinized to Helen, becomes the empress mother at the heart of Constantine's flourishing Christian empire, she quietly continues to worship the goddess on her own while seeking the truth in the sacred teachings of all people. Thus, she becomes a powerful force for union between her people's pagan beliefs and the new religion of the Christ. Completed by Paxson after Bradley's death in 1999, this rich and moving novel merits its place beside Bradley's fantasy classic. - Paula Luedtke, Copyright © American Library Association

**Upcoming Meetings**

The Program Committee will meet on Sunday, March 2 after the service.

The Building Committee has a tentative meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 1, if needed. The meeting with the PSD consultant will be on Saturday March 15. Details to be announced.



**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 March Caregiver is Eric Severson,*

**February Volunteers**

**March 2**

Food: ..... Celine Donofrio  
Setup/Cleanup: ..... Goodes and Ellen Severson  
Greeter: ..... Ann Beechler

**March 9**

Food: ..... POTLUCK  
Setup/Cleanup: ..... NEED TWO VOLUNTEERS  
Greeter: ..... Liz Spangler

**March 16**

Food: ..... Chris Bryan  
Setup/Cleanup: ..... NEED TWO VOLUNTEERS  
Greeter: ..... Madeline Kepner

**March 23**

Food: ..... Ann and Oliver Beechler  
Setup/Cleanup: ..... Randy Krainock/Kristie Shappell and  
ONE MORE VOLUNTEER  
Greeter: ..... Louise Randall-Winger

**March 30**

Food: ..... Kate Bain  
Setup/Cleanup: ..... Sara Boehm and ONE MORE  
VOLUNTEER  
Greeter: ..... NEED ONE VOLUNTEER

**April 6**

Food: ..... Kristie Shappell  
Setup/Cleanup: ..... NEED TWO VOLUNTEERS  
Greeter: ..... Ann Beechler

**Member News**

*By Liz Spangler*

**Jacob** is out of the hospital and back at home where he will continue his recovery. Way to go Jacob!

**Lisa** graduated from UW-L. Congratulations!

**Phil** is doing his radiation treatment for the next six weeks. Hang in there, Phil!

**Welcome New Member**

*By Ellen Dodge Severson*

first heard about the Unitarian Universalists when she was in grade school in La Crosse. A history teacher here pointed out how many significant historical figures were UU. attended Madelon Wise's Cakes for the Queen of Heaven class not long ago, and recently showed up for fellowship one Sunday and signed the membership book.

a La Crosse native, was brought up Catholic but also has spent time exploring Episcopalian and goddess traditions. She's lived in Door County, Wis., Panama City Beach, Fla., and Phoenix, Ariz.

Currently works as safety trainer and supervisory assistant at , in La Crosse's industrial park. Her partner, , and she live in La Crosse, where they share their lives with two children – 14-year-old and 12-year-old former director of development at the , recently began a new job as administrative assistant in the

interests include social justice, photography, art, reading, spirituality, and music (she sings and plays the flute).

She cited several reasons for coming to the UU fellowship. Although she's interested in Dianic Wiccan traditions, she also likes to be in mixed-gender groups. "People's experiences are different but also honored here," she said, adding that people can learn a lot when people don't agree on everything but agree to respect each other.

can be reached at (home) and (cell) and at

**UU Sweatshirt for Sale**

*By Jean Novack*

I have one unclaimed UU sweatshirt left over from the T-shirt/sweatshirt sale. It is a size men's medium. Cost is \$24.00. If you are interested, contact me, Jean Novack, at or email me at or see me at Sunday service.

**Seeking Creative Uses for Old Hymnals**

*By Jan Wulling*

How can we dispose of 25 discarded 1964 hymnals in a manner in keeping with the 7th principle? The hymnals are taking up valuable RE storage space. Ideas? Call Jan Wulling, , or

*Please join us for our monthly potluck on Sunday, March 9 after the service.*

## **AdventUUrers News**

By Liz Spangler

On March 20<sup>th</sup> the AdventUUrers will meet for a movie at the Franciscan Spiritually Center. There will be a soup/sandwich supper at 5:30 PM followed by the movie (videotape) "Equus," a British adaptation of Peter Schaffer's award winning play, at 6:00 PM.

If you come for supper they would like a call (608-791-5295) so they make enough soup etc. Fee is \$6.00

## **Building Committee to Meet with District Consultant**

The Board has approved a recommendation from the fall retreat and the Building Committee to hire a consultant through the Prairie Star District of the UUA. Our goal in hiring a consultant is to have accomplished enough planning, consensus building, etc. that we are prepared to **act** if in the future another building or building lot becomes available to purchase or lease. We have scheduled Saturday, the 15th of March for meetings with the consultant, Kathy Burek. Preliminary plans are for the meeting to be held at the Franciscan Spirituality Center, and to involve members of the Board, Building Committee and Finance Committee. Watch for more details to be announced

## **Long Range Planning Committee**

The Vision Task Force is transforming into a Long Range Planning Committee. Originally formed to carry out several specific recommendations coming from the reorganized building committee, the Vision Task Force has been involved in starting our Finance Committee, improving our Annual Campaign and carrying out some long range planning activities, including last September's Envisioning our Future retreat, and this February's Focus Dinners. While the original goals of the Task Force have been completed, the board has recognized the need to have a committee devoted to ongoing long range planning and goal setting, so the Task Force will begin meeting as the Long Range Planning Committee to try to meet this need.

## **Get Info about PSD Events Online**

- i The brochure and flyers for the **2003 PSD Annual Conference** have been posted on the district Web site: <http://www.unitarian.org/pstar/conf.html>. The brochure is in PDF format. It contains a registration form that can be printed and mailed in.
- i The February issue of the District newsletter, **The Prairie Star**, is now online: <http://www.unitarian.org/pstar/newsletter.html>.
- i The program for the 2003 season of **Camp UniStar** is available online: <http://www.unitarian.org/pstar/unistar/index.html>.

## **Honor the Separation of Church and State**

By Ron Malzer

A small committee of three—Liz Ash, Matt Bosworth, and I—have been working to develop a lawn sign regarding government/religion issues. We have come up with a wording we are comfortable with: "Honor the Separation of Church and State." Liz Ash has done a prototype for us. We hope to work out the printing and financing details over the next month. We'll keep you posted.

## **For Writers**

Skinner House Books is currently seeking proposals on these topics:

- ☐ how to nurture tolerance in our children
- ☐ how to talk to children about spiritual subjects
- ☐ spirituality in the workplace
- ☐ spirituality and/or spiritual practice in everyday life
- ☐ aging and spirituality
- ☐ young adulthood and spirituality
- ☐ prayer collections
- ☐ how to become a social justice activist
- ☐ nature and spirituality
- ☐ interconnectedness; living the values consistent with our "small planet"
- ☐ collected stories for children
- ☐ cultural appropriation vs. cultural diversity: how to strike a balance
- ☐ stories about congregational life that focus on a particular theme, such as welcoming blended families, nurturing diversity, nurturing social activism, managing grief, managing conflict, nurturing intergenerational contact

To submit a proposal to Skinner House or to contact us for more information, send an email to [mbernard@uaa.org](mailto:mbernard@uaa.org).

## **Now All Kids Can Subscribe To UU&Me!**

The Church of the Larger Fellowship, which has been bringing UU principles home for over 50 years, is proud to offer subscriptions to this 16-page quarterly publication for children ages 6-12. **UU&Me!** strengthens Unitarian Universalist identity and creates a link between home, church, and children's developing UU faith. Regular features include stories about the real-life decisions kids make, holiday celebrations, famous UUs in history and today, religious beliefs around the world, nature activities that nurture good relationships with the earth, plus reproducible games, puzzles and crafts. Check out the public archives at [www.uuclf.org](http://www.uuclf.org). If you are interested in subscribing for your family, go to [www.uua.org/uume/subscribe](http://www.uua.org/uume/subscribe).

## **UU Women's History**

The Women's group of the MN Valley UU Fellowship, 10715 Zenith Ave. S, Bloomington, MN, invites you to attend a free afternoon of inspiration and fun on Sunday, March 9, noon to 4 PM. Learn about UU women who contributed to the reform of society, religion, education, peace, and justice. Standing Before Us, the UU Women's Heritage Society's Traveling Exhibit of 70 museum quality panels will be on display. Plus, the Rev. Sarah Barber-Braun, historian, scholar, and one of the contributors, will be with us. Soup, salad, and bread (donation) offered by UU restaurateur, Jeanne Inglehart (Cafe of the Americas). For more information call (952) 884-8956 or visit <http://www.unitarian.org/bloomington/> for driving directions. More information about the exhibit is available at <http://www.uuwhs.org/traveling.html>

## **Participation Leads to Happiness**

*By Christopher Townsend*

It is that time of the year when the nominating committee begins to look for candidates to fill the elected positions on the board. This year our Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13. One of the important things that happen at the Annual Business Meeting is the election of members of the Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for conducting the business and administration of our Fellowship, and is directly elected by the voting membership.

As members of this congregation, we all share the right, as well as the responsibility to participate in the life of the congregation. If you were able to attend Rev. Landon's program, "Cultivating Authentic Happiness" you heard an excellent description of the importance of participating in the world around you to living a happy life. I would just add, that if you are currently very satisfied with the direction of the Fellowship, and your place in it, you might want to consider a role on the Board as a way to assure your continued satisfaction, and to assume your fair share of the duties associated with keeping the Fellowship going. On the other hand, if you are feeling disconnected from the Fellowship, or are dissatisfied with its direction, more active participation on the Board or a committee might help you feel more connected, or give you a chance to give leadership to the Fellowship in directions that are important to you.

This year there are a number of positions open on the Board. These include:

<i>President-elect</i>	two-year term (becomes president in second year)
<i>Treasurer</i>	two-year term
<i>Secretary</i>	one-year term (filling a vacated position)
<i>Member at Large</i>	two-year term
<i>Member at Large</i>	one year term (filling a vacated position)

Non-board, elected positions include two one-year terms on the *nominating committee*.

The nominating committee is also seeking a *new chair for the program committee*, and new committee members for any committee are also always welcome. See the back of the calendar for a listing of all our committees and contact info for the current chairpersons.

If you have any interest in any of these positions, or just would like more information please contact any nominating committee member (Jean Novack, Kathy Schnitzius, or Christopher Townsend) or any Board member (See the back of the calendar for complete listing).

We recognize that there are many ways to participate in the life of our congregation, and not everyone is able to do board or committee work. Other ways to participate include setup and cleanup, greeting, being a caregiver, bringing Sunday morning treats, teaching an RE class, contributing an article to the newsletter, distributing our brochures around town, writing letters to the newspaper, providing a Sunday program, leading a class or workshop for adults, and many other things. In the autumn, we focus on the Annual Campaign, and the importance of supporting the Fellowship financially, while in the spring we focus on elections and supporting the congregation through time and energy. The continued growth and even survival of the Fellowship depends upon your willingness to find appropriate ways to share both your financial resources and your time and talents.

I encourage everyone to give serious consideration to the ways that they support the life of our Fellowship, and if a nominating committee member does corner you while you are drinking your coffee, please give serious consideration to their request.

## **Preprinted Letterhead in Use**

*By Christopher Townsend*

I'm sure you have already noticed the new colored design on the front page of this newsletter. The new preprinted paper, for use with the newsletter, orders of service, and Fellowship stationery, follows the design used on our Fellowship brochures, created by Kim Cobb several years ago. The idea to incorporate this design into some of our other documents, the time and effort to modify the design for various formats, and the time involved in making arrangements for printing, were provided by Eric Severson. Thanks to both Eric and Kim for creating this attractive and consistent look for our Fellowship publications.

## **Rev. Anita Hill to Speak**

On Thursday, March 6, at 7:00 PM, Rev. Anita Hill will give a talk on "Hope and Resistance: a Lesbian Pastor's Story" at UW La Crosse's Cleary Center (corner of La Crosse Street and East Avenue).

Rev. Hill was ordained to Lutheran Ministry in April 2001. Her ministry includes community organizing and anti-racism efforts.

Her talk is sponsored by PFLAG (Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and Crossroads United Campus Ministries.

# *Congregations in Changing Times:* *40 years in the Prairie Star District*

Prairie Star District Annual Conference

**April 4-6, 2003**

Holiday Inn City Centre  
Rochester, Minnesota

Hosted by First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester

**Highlights:**

- a Keynote Address: "The Enduring Frontier: Continuity and Change in Prairie Unitarian Universalism" by Rev. Stefan Jonasson
- a Judy Lecture: "The Place of Ethical Faith" by Rev. Carol Hepokoski
- a A choice from a variety of workshops, a labyrinth available at First UU Church, the chance to eat and socialize with UUs from across the district, and the opportunity to share a worship service with more UUs than you have ever seen in La Crosse!

*If you have not already received a registration form from the District you can get on online at <http://www.unitarian.org/pstar/conf.html> or contact Christopher Townsend and I will provide you with a copy. I have attended several District Conferences in the past always really enjoyed them. Having the conference located so close to La Crosse is a really opportunity that I encourage everyone to take advantage of.*