

May, 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

Religious Education News

By Kim Cobb

May will be our wrap up for RE this year, and we'll be celebrating in several ways.

The children and youth will join the adults (or play!) at the May 4th service at Perrot Park. On Mother's Day, we'll share with you some things we've learned over the past year. May 18th, the classes will have their own end of year celebrations. This year we've had some great, reliable volunteer teachers again: Lisa Metz-Belzer, Ingrid Iverson, Connie Long, Laurie Rogers, and Liz Spangler for the Acquiring Group. Our high school group has been supported by Keith Belzer, Mikel Cobb, Bill Katra, Ron Malzer, and Phil Sandberg. Please join me in thanking them for their commitment and service to our RE program!

Thanks and good luck!

A special thanks goes to our two Viterbo students who've been teaching this year: Amy LaFleur (2 years with the Caring and Sharing Group) and Kim Eriksen, one year with the Inquiring Group. Both will be graduating Mother's Day-congratulations and best wishes to both of them.

Choir News

By Becky Post

The choir's next evening rehearsal will be Wednesday, April 30th, 7:15 PM. at



In May we will be singing on the 4th (at Perrot Park) and on the 18th.

The UU choir also rehearses on those Sundays we are singing. Sunday rehearsals are on the second floor of our meeting place.

New singers may join at any time. Just come to a rehearsal, or phone one of the directors: Eric Kraemer () or Becky Post ().

Important notes:

- a The May 4 service starts at **10:00 AM** at **Perrot State Park!**
- a Please join us for a potluck after the service on May 11.
- a There is no service on May 25, but join us for a potluck at Liz Spangler's house.

Upcoming Programs

May 4 – “In a Pig’s Ear: Answers to Life’s Persistent Questions.” Where is wit's end? When is a penny saved not a penny earned? Can a dead heat be resurrected? Find answers to these and other persistent questions of life at our **joint service with the Winona UU Fellowship at Perrot State Park**, Trempealeau, at 10:00 AM. Be prepared to relax and have a good time. The La Crosse choir will sing. Discount day passes are available for large groups (\$3 per car, minimum 20 cars), so please let Eric Severson know if you'll be part of the fun, need directions, or have questions, at . See an expanded description of the program on Page 2.

May 11 – “Mother's Day Intergenerational RE & Youth Service: Sharing our Religious Education.” What do you think of when you consider Mother's Day? Standing in a crowded card aisle on Saturday afternoon, or joining a peace rally? Our Acquiring and Inquiring Groups will wrap up their peace unit by sharing some history of Mother's Day. You may be surprised! Our high school groups will share some of their thoughts and experiences as a culmination of their Coming of Age group, which has been led by Keith Belzer.

Potluck follows the service. Please bring a dish to share. Everyone welcome!

May 18 – “Honoring Our Founders and Teachers.” The UU Fellowship of La Crosse has a considerable history; a La Crosse Tribune article indicates that we have met continuously since 1951. Join us today as we pay tribute to members, past and present, who had key roles in the growth of our congregation! **Choir Sunday.**

May 25 – No Service. There will be no program for the Memorial Day weekend, however Liz Spangler will host a picnic potluck at here home on this Sunday. See page 2 for more details. Enjoy your holiday and watch for upcoming details on the summer program schedule.

Fellowship Book Group

By Kim Cobb

May 1, 7:00 PM, Cobb house

Are you a follower of "Best Sellers"? If so, you may well have read our book this month, "The Lovely Bones". Please join us to discuss the book, and consider the possibilities of an "afterlife" and its relationship to this life. Here's a bit from a review from Amazon.com:

Alice Sebold's haunting and heartbreaking debut novel, *The Lovely Bones*, unfolds from heaven, where "life is a perpetual yesterday" and where Susie narrates and keeps watch over her grieving family and friends, as well as her brazen killer and the sad detective working on her case. As Sebold fashions it, everyone has his or her own version of heaven. Susie's resembles the athletic fields and landscape of a suburban high school: a heaven of her "simplest dreams," where "there were no teachers.... We never had to go inside except for art class.... The boys did not pinch our backsides or tell us we smelled; our textbooks were *Seventeen* and *Glamour* and *Vogue*."

A PREVIEW ON OUR JOINT MEETING

AND A CHALLENGE

In a Pig's Ear: Answers to Life's Persistent Questions

Where is wit's end? When is a penny saved not a penny earned? Can a dead heat be resurrected? Find answers to these and other persistent questions of life at our joint service with the Winona UU Fellowship at Perrot State Park, Trempealeau, at 10:00 AM, Sunday May 4th. Be prepared to relax and have a good time.

Below is a list of questions needing answers. Specialists suited to address particular idioms are urged to come forward, e.g., the animal ethicist who will speak to issues such as "cat in the bag" or "curiosity killed the cat" or "how sick is a dog" and so on. We also need opposing "experts" with very different answers! And this list is just a start. If you all think up more silly questions, all the merrier.

Idioms for May 4 Service

As far as the eye can see is how far?

When does six of one really equal half a dozen of another?

What if time WAS money?

If a person can't cut the mustard, why not?

Which is the wrong side of the bed?

How did curiosity kill the cat?

How sick is a dog?

Who first let the cat out of the bag?

When people tie the knot, what knot is it?

Why do people beat around the bush?

Why not put all your eggs in one basket?

How mad is a hatter?

Is the sky really the limit?

The writing is on which wall?

A dime will buy a dozen of what?

Where is wit's end?

What's the difference between first and second nature?

Why would I pull your leg?

Could two wrongs ever make a right?

Where in the details is the Devil?

Which is the right foot? Which is the wrong foot?

When you're off the hook, which hook is it?

Why shake a leg?

What's wrong with being in the woods?

Is it true that to err is human and to forgive, divine?

Is blood really thicker than water?

How exactly are idle hands the Devil's tools?

When is a penny saved not a penny earned?

Do some actions speak more softly than words?

What is the method to one's madness?

What's wrong with raising Cain?

Just what is a dry spell?

How do we know when "what they don't know won't hurt them"?

How hot is the heat of the moment?

When is it all right not to let sleeping dogs lie?

When is your guess not as good as mine?

Which is your last leg?

How much room is there between a rock and a hard place?

Can a dead heat be resurrected?

When do the ends justify the means?

Is it possible to prevent hell or high water from coming?

Who has skeletons in their closet, and why?

If two is company, why is three a crowd?

How much interest could be charged for lending one's ear?

Memorial Weekend Potluck

Feeling disappointed that there is no service scheduled for May 25? Thinking about how much you will miss seeing all your UU friends that weekend? Wish there was something you could do about it? Well, despair no more! On Sunday May 25, Liz Spangler will host a potluck cookout at her home. Come to socialize and share a meal with your friends from the Fellowship. Liz will provide the grill and meat, please bring a side dish, or desert to share. Croquet or other outdoor games are possible, and this year there may be karaoke. Meet at 11:30 AM. Everyone welcome! To get to Liz's place,

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 May Caregiver is Madeline Kepner,

February Volunteers

May 4

Joint service with the Winona UU Fellowship at Perrot State Park in Trempealeau.

May 11

Food: POTLUCK
Setup/Cleanup: Bill Katra and ONE MORE VOLUNTEER
Greeter: Cindy Ericksen

May 18

Food: Ann and Oliver Beechler
Setup/Cleanup: NEED TWO VOLUNTEERS
Greeter: NEED ONE VOLUNTEER

May 25

No Service

AdventUUrers News

The AdventUUrers will get together to attend the play "The Trip to Bountiful" at Toland Theater at UW La Crosse on Friday May 2. Contact Liz Spangler (or) as soon as possible if you are interested in a ticket.

On May 25, Liz Spangler will host a picnic potluck at her home. See page 2 for details.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for June 13 at 11:30 AM. Location to be announced.

The next Long Range Planning committee meeting is May 6, 7:00 PM at Madeline Kepner's house.

Historian Wanted

Would you like to take pictures of fellowship activities and events, and keep them in an album for the use of fellowship members? A record of people, dates, times and places would help us all remember the great things we do together. Others could contribute pictures as well. If you are interested, contact Jean Novack or any other Board of Trustees member.

Member News

By Liz Spangler

This month of April has brought sad news and glad news. passed away. I sent our condolences to , her son, and the family. mother also passed away and many of us have sent our love and support. beautiful corn snake, "Bear" also died. mom has been ill. We wish her well. broke her hip and had hip replacement surgery. Speedy recovery, ! had her long awaited arm surgery. We welcome to the world. and are the proud parents. is now a BIG brother. continues his recovery. Keep up the good work, . is again an uncle with the arrival of his new nephew. That makes six to call him "Uncle." Congratulations. Our high school grad, has chosen Vassar as her college destination. We have some other studious UUs graduating in May and all will be recognized for this wonderful accomplishment. Be proud! And last but not least I wish to report that we have three members who have made offers on new homes. . So guard your rakes, shovels and mowers!!

Lawn Sign Project:

Lawn signs bearing the words "Honor the Separation of Church and State" will continue to be available for purchase at the Social Justice Table following services.

There are a number of issues that prompted these lawn signs. Some members are concerned about the decision of the state of Wisconsin to require public school children to recite the 1950's-modified Pledge of Allegiance that includes the words "under God". Others are concerned about public funding being utilized to support private religious schools. Still others see problems with giving federally funded faith-based charities increased privilege to proselytize specific religious doctrines. And finally, some of our members would like to show support for the challenge to the placement of the Ten Commandments Monument in Cameron Park.

The lawn signs are the work of individual members of the Fellowship, rather than a Fellowship-endorsed activity. The signs may be purchased at \$10 each; \$15 for two; \$7 each for three or more signs.



Our Shared Vision

By Christopher Townsend

In the summer of 2002 Bob Huff surveyed members about their hopes, dreams, and concerns for our Fellowship. As part of that survey, respondents were asked to write about their vision for the Fellowship. The Long Range Planning Committee recognizes understanding and naming our shared vision for the Fellowship as a basic step in being able to generate long range plans that will be meaningful and useful to our congregation. We were very impressed by the vision statements provided in the survey, and in the next few newsletters we would like to share some of the responses received in that survey.

- i *My vision for the fellowship for the future would have us in an attractive, earth-friendly building of our own. Here we could have Sunday programming, forums, religious education, and social events. Other progressive groups in the area could use this space. Our membership would be larger and more diverse We would have a legitimate and dignified presence in the community. People would take us seriously and would know who we are. We would be serving the people in our congregation and we would be interacting with other groups of faith on matters of social and ecological importance. Our fellowship would be the hub of progressive thinking people in the Coulee Region area.*
- i *I see the fellowship with a dedicated space (either rental or own), guided by a part-time minister. The congregation has doubled or nearly, with a wide range of ages and backgrounds represented. The program mix (intellectual and spiritual) is very similar to the present. The group has an increasing presence and voice in the community.*

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?

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

Newsletter Editor Seeking Assistance

By Christopher Townsend

I have found many of the ways that I have been involved in the life of this Fellowship to be rewarding, inspiring, and often challenging and growth producing. I have found the time I've spent editing this newsletter to be particularly rewarding, and I feel like I have been able to make a real contribution to our Fellowship in this role. For these reasons, I wish that I could continue editing the newsletter as I have been indefinitely. However, (Isn't there is always a however after a sentence like that?) *however*, somehow the months seem to have gotten shorter recently, and I'm finding myself less able to keep up with the monthly commitment than I was in the past.

Ideally, I would like to find someone who would like to edit the newsletter every other month, to share the editing duties with me, but I would gladly consider any other sharing arrangement that anyone would like to suggest. I am not locked into any specific plan for how shared editorship would work, so if one (or more) people have ideas about ways that they would be willing to assist, I would be like to hear your suggestions. If you are interested please contact Christopher Townsend.

Business Meeting Update

At the Annual Business Meeting on April 13, the slate of nominees for Board and nominating committee was elected unanimously. The Building Committee's proposed bylaws amendment was adopted unanimously, and the resolution to create an endowment fund was also passed unanimously. (See the April newsletter for details on these items.) Committee chairs reported on their committee's activities. David Goode was honored as our congregation's nominee for the PSD's "Keeping the Faith Award" and Becky Post and Eric Kraemer were honored for their musical leadership in the Fellowship. No new business was brought up. Afterwards we all enjoyed making and eating our own ice cream sundaes.

The Building Committee Needs Your Help

The Fellowship Building Committee needs your help. Please clip out the card below, fill in your suggestions for buildings or lots for the Building Committee to check out, and return the card to the Fellowship either by mail or at a Sunday service. We need lots of eyes searching to make sure we don't miss any possibilities. Thanks!

Hey Building Committee, check-out this building/lot:

Street

City/Town

Type of building/lot

Realtor/phone/MLS#

Your name and phone number so we can contact you if we can't find the place:

Keep in mind that we are searching for a building AT LEAST the size of our current space.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- j The inherent dignity and worth of every person;
- j Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- j Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- j A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- j The rights of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- j The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- j Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Watch for these schedule changes!

Our May 4 program will be held in **Perrot State Park** in Trempealeau WI, and begins at **10:00 AM**.

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There will be no program on Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend) however; there will be a potluck cookout at Liz Spangler house. See details inside.

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Summer programming will begin after Memorial Day. Schedule details will be announced, as they become available.

