

**The Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of La Crosse Newsletter  
October, 2004**

Sunday Services: Program at 10:00 AM Refreshments at 11:15 AM

**Services Site: The Pump House 119 King Street**

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)

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>: “A Meditation on Generosity.”**—The Reverend Dean Staffanson, UU Community Minister, will lead this service, drawing on the 12<sup>th</sup> Century wisdom of Rabbi Mosesben Maimon (Rambam). His eight-step Ladder of Charity charts an elegant system of giving ‘with compassion and common sense’—and shows us what giving can give us in return. **Following the service, the “Celebrating Our Abundant Gifts” luncheon is scheduled from 11:10 AM to 1:01 PM.**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>: “Julian Bond on Social Justice.”**—For more than four decades, NAACP President Julian Bond has worked on social justice issues. Elected in 1965 as a state representative in Georgia, he was denied his seat due to his opposition to the war in Vietnam, until a U.S. Supreme Court ruling seated him in late 1966. On videotape, you will see and hear him deliver **The Ware (keynote) Lecture at the 2003 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Boston.** Issues addressed include racism and war, with Mr. Bond speaking personally as well as politically. The Dihlmann-Malzer family attended, and they describe this address as “very stimulating and important”.

**October 17<sup>th</sup>: “Praying Outside the Box.”**—The Reverend Michael Schuler, Minister, First Unitarian Society in Madison. The Rev. Schuler writes: “Unitarian Universalists, an old joke insists, pray ‘to whom it may concern’. That observation could mean two things: that we don't take God seriously, or we don't put much stock in the power of prayer. For a good many of us, neither is the case. We are, however, quite skeptical of the more conventional notions of divinity, as well as standard approaches to prayer. Some of my own thoughts on the ‘power, practice and potential’ of prayer might surprise you!” **Our UU Involvement Fair follows the service.**

**October 24<sup>th</sup>: “Doubt: A Unitarian Universalist Practice.”**—The Reverend Eleanor Rice, Minister, UU Society of River Falls (WI). The Rev. Rice declares: “Unitarian Universalism is a ‘bare’ religion. We have one short statement of principles, one simple ritual of lighting the chalice, and four basic practices of community, doubt, reflection, and action in the world. Let us reflect upon and celebrate the important place doubt plays in our faith journeys.”

**October 31<sup>st</sup>: “UN Sunday: UU Sponsored Global Partnerships.”** Fellowship member and UN Envoy Ray Starrett will describe the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office (UU-UNO) facilitated partnerships between some UU congregations in this country, and Second or Third World communities; current partnerships with communities in the Philippines and in Romania will be used as illustrations. **Please Note: Today is one of the Fellowship's special collections, with an envelope whose proceeds will support the work of the UU-UNO. Please Also Note: There will be a new member recognition during the service for all members who have joined during this past year.**

## Religious Education News

**Ann Beechler, DRE**



### Music News

**Becky Post**

**Choir News:** Our UU choir sings twice a month. Rehearsals are the fourth Wednesday at 7:00 PM, and at 9:00 AM the Sundays we sing. All rehearsals are at the Pump House, in the conference room in the basement. Below is the choir schedule for upcoming weeks:

**Sunday, Oct. 3** – Choir will sing “This Little Light of Mine”, “Elijah Rock”, and “We Shall Not Give Up the Fight.” Rehearsal at 9:00 AM.

**Sunday, Oct. 17** – Choir will sing “The Lone, Wild Bird”. Rehearsal at 9:00 AM.

**Wednesday, Oct. 27** – Evening choir rehearsal at the Pump House, 7:00 PM.

**Sunday, Nov. 7** – Choir will sing “There’s a Man Goin’ Round Takin’ Names.” Rehearsal at 9:00 AM.

**Sunday, Nov. 21** – Choir will sing. Rehearsal at 9:00 AM.

For more information, call Becky Post or Eric Kraemer at .

### **Wanted: UU Musicians**

We are inviting interested musicians in our congregation to provide meditative music in our services. The piece should be two to three minutes long, and would be performed just before the “Time of Silence, Meditation and Prayer.” We would like to have such music on the Sundays the choir is not singing.

If you would be interested in sharing your music with our fellowship, please contact the music director, Becky Post. Phone , e-mail , or talk to her after a service.

Our students have begun the year studying stories from the bible, diverse religions, The Power of Myth, and have been encouraged to ask questions about the importance of understanding other religions.

We appreciate the volunteers that have led our groups so well on the journey. We would like to thank Liz Spangler, Laurie Rogers, Ingrid Iverson, Lisa Metz-Belzer, Kevin Kenow, Randy Krainock, Kim Cobb and Mary Ellen West. This month we are planning to carry on with these topics. The study of diverse religions will include a trip to the La Crosse Synagogue. If there are any interested chaperones, please let me know.

The profits from our bagel sales each Sunday are helping to build the fund for field trips for each group. Thank you for your support.

We are still looking for permanent teachers in the middle school and nursery groups. Tell all your friends.

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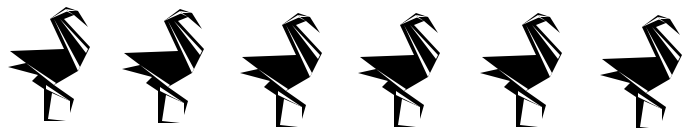
**Notes from Liz Spangler:** New in the UU Kids Library: *Children Just Like Me*. Thank you, Elise Dihlmann-Malzer, for your thoughtful donation of this UNICEF-fundraising book to our Kids’ Library. Check it out.

The class of Grades 2-5 is studying Bible stories. We have many bibles to check out, including two children's bibles and the new Revised Standard Edition (1989). Ask your teacher about them.

### **New Horizons Update**

Our fellowship has had a long relationship with New Horizons, a local shelter for women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse and constructing healthier paths through their lives. A donation box is available each Sunday at the front of the meeting room.

This month, please consider contributing one or more of the following items that are especially needed: markers; plain M&M’s; microwave popcorn; mops; napkins; nightgowns nonperishable food; and office supplies. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Severson at .



## Membership Committee News

*Madeline Kepner, Chair*

- **Involvement Fair:** Have fun at our Involvement Fair following the October 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service. Each committee and activity will have a space (and often a snack) to entice you to discover how you, too, can participate in the Fellowship. Prizes will be awarded for the best display and the best snack.
- **UU Directory:** If you have any changes please fill in a form that is at the Membership Table. If you are a newcomer and want to be included in the directory, please let us know and fill in a form, also.
- **Card Table needed:** Do you have a card table that Membership can use on Sunday mornings?
- **Joys and Sorrows Forms available,** either by the Sunday bulletins, or at the Membership Table. Please help the Caregiver of the Month be informed about members and friends who should be contacted so we can be a caring church family. Contact: Madeline Kepner:
- **Caregiver of the Month for October:**  
Dawn

## Social Justice News

### **CROP WALK—SUN. OCT. 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Patty Martin*

The annual CROP Walk to fight hunger will take place on Sunday October 10 at Myrick Park. Registration begins at 12:45 PM. Walker pledge forms are available October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup> downstairs at the Pump House after services for those wanting to walk or pledge money. One fourth of the money raised goes to fund local agencies, WIC, WAFER, Hmong Mutual Assistance, and the Onalaska Food Bank. The remainder is used to address hunger needs world wide. Please join fellow UUs at the park to walk or give us a rousing send-off!

## AdventUurers News

*Liz Spangler*

### **\*\*\*\* AdventUurers plans for October\*\*\*\***

#### **\* Ann Reed Concert Saturday October 9.**

At: Di Sciascio's Restaurant,  
110 Central Avenue.  
Coon Valley, Wisconsin

Ann Reed is the artist who sings the song "Heroes", which has been featured in past Women's History Month programs at our fellowship.

Tickets are \$10 with Italian dinner an option. Talk to Ann Beechler for details.

#### **\* Music Man at UW-L's Toland Theatre.**

Friday October 15<sup>th</sup>, call Madeline Kepner for details or reservations:

#### **\* Soup, Sandwich & Cinema at Franciscan Spirituality Center, 920 Market St., in La Crosse. Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. "Winged Migration"**

is the offering. "Ecologically important" says Newsweek. Call (608)-791-5295 for supper reservations. Want details? Want to carpool? Call Liz Spangler at (507)-643-6182

Do you have something you would like to attend? Want good company? Call Liz S. at (507)-643-6182 and we will get interested folks together to go with you. Be sure to check out our table at the Involvement Fair on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be sign-up sheets and suggestion sheets.

## Member News

*Liz Spangler & Ron Malzer*

**Lucas** is recovering well after recent surgery at Gunderson Lutheran. **Wendy Mattison** is a grandma; the new dad (John) is recently back from military duty in Iraq and glad to be home to welcome his new baby. Wendy had a shoulder injury, and is now doing well. **Jan Bohn** also is a new grandmother. Her new granddaughter was born on Labor Day. **Ron Malzer** completed the Devil's Lake Triathlon on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Congrats to **Randy and Sandy Paine** on swift runs in the Applefest 5K "Run to the Edge"; Sandy took first place in her division.

## UUF Fire Drill Report

**Jean Novack**

A fire drill was held on September 19, at the Pump House, at the end of services. Overall, this was a valuable exercise. We learned that there were a few safety measures that we missed: making sure exits are not blocked, and making sure that our communicators are charged. Also, there was a person left inside, but no one noticed her missing outside. We need to increase our awareness in this area. The firemen thought things went smoothly, and that people seemed to know where to go. Thank you all for participating and helping to make our space safer for everyone. If anyone has any comments or concerns, please contact Jean Novack.

## UUSC Message: Guest at Your Table

“Dear Friend,

For 65 years, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has protected human rights and promoted justice. Through Guest at Your Table UU congregations nationwide help sustain this rich legacy. I hope you have set aside the Sunday before Thanksgiving for Guest at Your Table (Nov. 21, 2004), and the second Sunday in March for Justice Sunday (March 13, 2005).

For nearly 30 years, Guest at Your Table has helped UUs make lasting linkages between UU principles and the work of the Service Committee both at home and abroad. By reserving the Sunday before Thanksgiving for your Guest at Your Table opening service, you can connect your congregation to this enduring in a tradition of learning and sharing for justice. Guest at Your Table forges lasting connections to UU principles. ...

For 2004, the Guest program will shine a light on pressing human rights issues in Burma, Guatemala and the United States. Congregants of all ages will learn how we can combine our resources to effect positive change on these issues. It is also a time to encourage all members of your congregation to become UUSC members so that we can accomplish together things it would be hard to do as individuals - what we call “The Power of You & You.”

Last year, UU congregations contributed \$455,000 through Guest at Your Table, fostering greater collaboration between the UUA, UUSC's programs, and congregations. An example is the Action of Immediate Witness that we sponsored at the 2004 General Assembly--sending a strong

message to the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorney General that we intend to hold corporations accountable for human rights abuses abroad by preserving the Alien Tort Claims Act, a U.S. law that dates from 1792.

I hope you will work with your UUSC Local Representative to help us continue to strengthen our work for justice by participating in Guest at Your Table. Your congregation and your UUSC Local Rep will soon receive the Guest at Your Table 2004 resource packets. Rachel Binderman, our associate for member development, can help you to recruit a UUSC Local Rep and is available to assist in any way. Contact her by calling 617.868.6600 or e-mailing [volunteerservices@uusc.org](mailto:volunteerservices@uusc.org).

Thank you for what you do to support our work. I believe our collective efforts to defend human rights affirm the belief of James Luther Adams that ‘the holy thing in life is the participation in those processes that give body and form to universal justice.’

Sincerely,  
**Charlie Clements,**  
President and CEO

[P.S.] ...Please don't hesitate to give me feedback, suggestions or just say hello. My telephone number is 617.868.6600 and my e-mail is [cclements@uusc.org](mailto:cclements@uusc.org).”

## UUA News (from www.uua.org):

*Boston, MA. 9/03/04*

### **The UUA Continues Its Get Out The Vote Efforts With The "Have Faith And Vote" Campaign--**

UU congregations throughout the country have answered [Bill Sinkford's call](#) to increase participation in this year's election. Over two hundred congregations have reported on their unique voting projects aimed at registration, mobilization, and advocacy, and the reports are still coming in! The UUA has supported Get-Out-The-Vote efforts by creating and distributing resources (available at [www.uua.org/voting](http://www.uua.org/voting)) and by helping congregations form partnerships on the local level with organizations already involved with voter mobilization. The UUA has also been an active member of the [Faithful Democracy](#) coalition, which this summer announced its [Have Faith and Vote campaign](#). The campaign includes advocacy resources, a covenant for people of faith to make pledges to get to the polls on Election Day, and a number of fun, interfaith, non-partisan materials, available to congregations for their voting work during this election year.

## Photo from Religious Education Acquiring Class Spring 2004 *Louise Randall-Winger*



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### Message from Program Committee Regarding Announcements, As Well As Joys and Sorrows *Cindy Ericksen, Chair*

The Program Committee continues to work toward improving our Sunday services. This summer at our retreat we looked at the various elements of the service and how each could be improved. One area that continues to be problematic is announcements. We feel that announcements are an important part of keeping everyone informed and building community. However, we also realize that when done during Joys and Sorrows, or at the end of a moving service, they can negatively impact the mood of the service. In consultation with the Board, we have developed a policy that we hope will meet all these needs.

Starting in September, the facilitator will make announcements while the collection basket is being passed around. Each week we will have time for two to three announcements. All announcements need to be sent to our coordinator, Greg, ahead of time, to ensure that we do not have too many in any particular week. E-mail: [coordinator@uulacrosse.org](mailto:coordinator@uulacrosse.org); phone #: (608)-796-9993. We would also like the announcements to be in the bulletin, so we encourage you to e-mail them to Greg by Wednesday night. If, on day-of-service you feel there is an urgent message, please review this with the facilitator for guidance before the service.

We have also realized that sometimes it is confusing whether something is a Joy/Sorrow, or an announcement. Our consensus is that Joys and Sorrows are things that affect us personally. Sometimes world events or actions of politicians affect us personally. On those occasions we feel it is appropriate for a Joy or Sorrow. On the other hand, if it is an announcement about a political rally or action, it is an announcement. We hope this new policy will help all of us stay better connected and enjoy the service more. As always, feel free to offer your input to anyone on the committee.

### October Calendar Highlights

*“Celebrating Our Abundant Gifts”  
luncheon Sunday October 3  
following the service*

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*Crop Walk Sunday October 10,  
12:45 PM Myrick Park*

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*UU Involvement Fair, Sunday  
October 17 following the service*

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*New Member Recognition  
Ceremony during the service on  
October 31*



## THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

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

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

*Adopted by the Unitarian Universalist Association  
at the 1985 General Assembly*