



The Banner

October 2005
625 N. 6Th. Street
Burlington, Iowa 52601
Phone:753-1895

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Burlington

Sunday Services

October 2: *What Baby Suggs Taught, and How*, In the powerful novel, *Beloved*, Toni Morrison introduces us to one of the enduring spiritual characters in American fiction, Baby Suggs. She can preach. She has important things to say. Before she speaks, however, there is movement and ritual, remembrance and hope, resistance and rest. We'll explore a powerful image of what the church is about, using the words of a fictitious wise old woman. *Minister Roger Butts*

October 9: Guest Minister Rick Koyle (from Peoples Church in Cedar Rapids)

October 16 : *Let there be light!*, From Puja to Diwali to Hanukkah to Christian advent to Buddhist Lent on of the central physical features is the simple, but still fascinating, candle. Both figuratively and literally the concept of light is a recurring theme in many religious beliefs and their rituals. We hope to illumine everyone about some of their traditions. *Karla Mundt*

October 23: *FORUM La Vida de la Frontera* , In January and February of 2004, Steve Buban, Profesor of Sociology at Monmouth College, visited the border city of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. As part of a travel seminar under the auspices of BorderLinks, an organization providing experiential education, he got a close-up look at significant border issues such as low-wage industry and illegal migration. His experiences are not only timely but are specifically important to our geographic area and its economy. *Steve Buban, Profesor of Sociology, Monmouth College*

October 30: Come join the pagan group to celebrate Samhain (Halloween) as it was meant to be celebrated. A remembrance of those on the other side will be part of this service. Jane Edwards

Thoughts of Jim Cisco

I'm not sure exactly how to write this. Jim Cisco was a long time BUUF member and a personal friend of mine. When I learned of his death, I was deeply troubled. Such a man should have been allowed a long and peaceful life. Instead, he suffered. Why is it that the richest, most powerful nation on earth can't cure these diseases? Perhaps one day we will.

Jim and I seemed to hit it off from the start. We served on several committees at the same time and shared many common goals at the Fellowship. He never seemed to run out of ideas and ways to improve whatever the immediate concern was. In fact, some of his ideas became part of the routine we use today. We will miss his insight and enthusiasm.

I prefer to remember Jim as a robust, young at heart, dedicated UU who loved a good discussion. It hurts less that way.

Rest in peace my friend.
Ray Ward



The Prez Sez...

Contributions...

No. Not the money kind; although money is very important. I'm talking about the time and effort kind. The kind that keeps our Fellowship strong and keeps our members and friends involved. The kind that makes you feel like you've done something good. The kind that goes that one step beyond just coming to Sunday service.

The next time you enter the building, notice – really notice – how the chairs are nicely arranged, how the bulletin board is orderly, how the pictures are arranged on the walls, and lately how the walls are starting to change colors. In fact, even before you enter, take a good look at the windows and siding. Notice that they are being redone and the bad wood is being replaced with new. Look at the shrubbery along the walkway and around the building. Looks pretty darn good doesn't it. Is it magic? Is there a genie that appears when something needs done? It's not magic and there is no genie. All these things are possible because of the contributions of a few dedicated people. They are willing to contribute, not money, but the time and effort to accomplish what needs to be done.

There are other things that while maybe not so obvious or noticeable still have to be done for the betterment of the Fellowship. Fortunately, we have quite a few dedicated members and friends so most of the tasks do get done. A lot of the hidden work is done by committees which in some cases consist of only one person. Also, in some cases, one person may be on several committees which spreads the time and effort rather thin.

And that brings me to the subject of this column. We need, really need, your time and effort contribution. Some of our standing committees have fallen on hard times and badly need volunteers. In some cases, the committee members have given so much of themselves that they are getting burned out. We even have some committees that have disbanded because no one is on them. The Board is starting to realign and reorganize some of the standing committees and we are asking, pleading even, for volunteers. We also have need for people to help with specific projects and to be on special one-time committees.

To help get things rolling and to keep everyone involved, the Board has reinstated Committee Night. It starts as a potluck meal at 6 PM and at 7 PM the various committees meet. In this way, there can be live communication between the committees and hopefully some fun too. For right now, Committee Night will be on the third Wednesday of each month. This will also enable any item from a committee to be presented at the next Board meeting.

I hope I have gotten your interest and awakened your desire to do just a little extra to support your Fellowship. Having served on several committees over the years, I can appreciate all the time and effort our current committee members put in. It's time we give them a little help.

Have a GREAT day,
Ray

Here is a list of the current committees:

Building & Grounds - This committee keeps track of repair projects that are needed at the Meeting House for good maintenance. The committee may complete the repair work on smaller projects themselves, ask for volunteers, or make recommendations to the Council for professional assistance. They may be asked to research options and seek bids for major capital improvements. They recommend projects for the annual clean up workday, such as yard work, annual cleaning of kitchen and closets, washing windows, painting, light construction, etc.

Finance - This committee makes recommendations to the Treasurer and Council regarding the investment of money in the Endowment Fund. The members also assist in the preparation of the proposed budget for the Annual Meeting by seeking budget requests from the various programs and committees. They provide support for the annual Stewardship Drive. They may recommend appropriate computer software for the Church's financial records.

Hospitality - This committee recruits volunteers to make coffee, set out juice, cookies, etc., for the coffee hour after Sunday services and the cleanup afterward. The members may coordinate special social events, such as potluck dinners, soup and sandwich lunches, etc.

Membership - This committee welcomes new and prospective members and helps them to become involved in the life of the Fellowship. They present a new-member packet at the signing-in ceremony. They provide greeters on Sunday mornings, occasionally phone members to keep in touch, and contact inactive members to personally invite them to return. They plan events to increase awareness of UUism in the community and attract prospective members.

Ministry - The Committee on Ministry works with the minister on issues of importance to both the congregation and the minister. They provide valuable feedback to the minister regarding congregational opinions and concerns. They evaluate the congregation's ministry annually and submit an annual salary recommendation for the minister to the Council.

Communications - This committee is responsible for gathering information for articles, publishing, collating, and distributing our monthly newsletter and for the content of our web site and yahoo group.

Nominations - This committee selects candidates for the annual election of officers-President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Members-at-large. They present a slate of prospective officers at the Annual Meeting.

Religious Education - This committee plans the curriculum for the religious education of our children, youth, and adults. They also recruit volunteer teachers, plan special events and field trips, and invite outside guest teachers.

Social Concerns - This committee organizes the social outreach of the congregation. Projects include serving evening meals at the Salvation Army, hosting UU Coffee Houses to fund local service organizations, coordinating with the UUSC, raising consciousness about social justice issues, accepting donations for local food pantries, and organizing our participation in the Crop Walk.

Stewardship - This committee promotes the congregation's stewardship throughout the year. The members spearhead the annual Stewardship drive. They provide the leadership, set the goals, select themes, strategies, and timetables of the campaign. They work with the Finance Committee for the preparation of the proposed budget for the Annual meeting.

Sunday Services - This committee plans programs for Sundays when the minister is not in the pulpit-once a month from September through May and twice a month during the summer months. These may be lay-led traditional church services or forums with outside speakers.

Caring Committee - This committee was formed to make sure that are shut ins and sick have visitors, since we are minus a minister for the time being.

Fund-Raising - This committee plans and organizes fund-raisers to raise money for the fellowship.

Caring Committee

Below is a list of some of our members fell free to keep in touch. I will provide more information in the coming months

Marek

Doris Dahl
Prairie Ridge
608 Prairie St
Mediapolis, IA 52637
319-394-9436

Doris is accepting visitors, calls and cards

Al Christensen
6 Cascade Terrace
Burlington , IA 52601
319-752-5791

Al is accepting visitors, calls and cards.

Leon & Beryl Shahan
705 S Adams Pl
Mt Pleasant IA 52641

Leon & Beryl are accepting visitors, calls and cards. Also a few people have offered To drive the Shahans to Sunday Services.

Lillian Snyder
530 Winchester St
Nauvoo IL 52685
217-453-2437
217-453-2537 *Bev Lillian's sister*
Lillian is accepting cards.

Ann White
Rose Bush Gardens
4925 West Ave
Burlington, IA 52601
319-758-1162

Ann is accepting visitors, calls and cards. Call before you stop in to make sure Ann is at home.



Communications Committee

The new communications committee includes the banner, our fellowships web site, our yahoo group and fellowship directory. Our yahoo group can be used for a lot of things including getting information out about items that do not make it into the Banner. This month work will begin on the new member's directory. If your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed in the past year, please let the committee chairperson, Lori Strait, know.

Treasurer's Report

As per instructions from the congregation, the Council is using the surplus from our budget to build a "nest egg" in anticipation of the return of full- or part- time ministry to our fellowship. If current generous giving levels are sustained, we should be able to set aside \$5,000 by the end of October towards this goal. The money will be placed in our savings account where it will gain virtually no interest but will remain easily accessible in the event of an emergency.



Religious Education

1st Things First

The first of the seven principles that we agree to affirm and promote is the inherent worth and dignity of every person! Respecting others, appreciating differences and listening with an open mind is a pretty tall order, even for adults, but this is what the kids will be learning about in RE October 16 and 23. We can all help them with this in our own way, but Kelly and/or John Knox have agreed to take on this lesson. Oh yeah, I did say 1st things 1st. On October 2 and 9 the kids will be exploring UU History with Detra and/or Shawn Dettmann. *Karla Mundt*



Youth Group

On September 14, the youth group had a rousing, rollicking game of football (all four of them) followed by banana splits.

In October, we will continue with meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays (October 12th and 26th) at 6:45 to 8-8:45pm.

We do not have a definite plan for the youth group yet. We would like a regular leader or a small group of volunteers or does anyone have any other ideas?

Questions? Answers? Call Karla



Hospitality Organizer

The ritual and pleasure of sharing food is part of what makes each Sunday at the Fellowship valuable. As we nibble refreshments and sip coffee or tea together, we enjoy each other's conversation, catching up personally, sharing thoughts and feelings on the program just shared. We become more connected individually and collectively, a true communion.

So many people have contributed over this past year with hospitality responsibilities- making coffee, putting out food, making treats and cleaning up afterwards. An informal goal has been for each household unit to contribute in this way 3 or 4 times per year.

People who are called on for a particular Sunday can volunteer to either act as greeters or as refreshment providers. The job can be as simple as putting out store-bought cookies from the cabinet to baking a batch of cookies. Danny often has jumped in and made coffee before people arrive and when he does, the job of

Hospitality volunteer is even easier. In the other role as greeter, as people arrive, a friendly tone is struck for everyone, regulars and newcomers alike. This is an easy way to participate in making our Fellowship a Welcoming Congregation.

Fall marks the beginning of a new year at the Fellowship and it is time to pass the position of Hospitality Organizer on to the next person. The role of the organizer is essentially that of a dispatcher; holding the calendar and asking everyone to take turns in helping out, one Sunday at a time. Many hands make for light work, but someone needs to lead the way or the job does not get done- and then we all miss that social connection.

The weekly sign-up calendar will be left on the table by the front doorway. If we want to be able to count on sharing this communion and tradition every week, someone should step up and take on this task. When we rotate our commitments we learn to appreciate what others have done for us and we in turn assert that this Fellowship belongs to us, individually, too.



Department of the Interior

Judy Smithson is steadily working away at painting the interior of the Fellowship. Anyone is welcome to talk to her about helping with this project. However an important element of this facelift is needed — PAINT. She is looking for people who are willing to donate a gallon of paint. Actually Judy will gladly purchase the paint if you provide the money. A gallon of this good quality paint is about \$25. Your help will be appreciated.



Calling all ghosts, goblins, witches, warlocks, trolls and anyone who cares to wear disguises including adults. We hope to gather together for a most important event, a Halloween Party. It will be A) Spooky, B) Fun, C) Exciting, D) Appetizing, or E) All of the above. It will be A) Oct 22 or Oct 29. It will be a pot-luck beginning at 6pm. Call Karla for details



Old series night at the Montrone place will be at 6:30 on October 15. Come and enjoy some vintage television from the past. We will have traditional favorites, drinks and popcorn, for refreshments.



List of Council Members

Ray Ward	President
Marek Patejak	Vice President
Rick Johnson	Treasurer
Mim Van Winkle	Secretary
Dev Kiedaisch	Council Member at Large
Ben Moser	Council Member at Large
Carolyn West	Council Member at Large

Women's Book Discussion Group

The next meeting will be on Saturday Oct. 29th at 3pm. Our book will be "The Harvey Girls: The Women Who Opened the West" by Lesley Poling-Kempes. The back cover says: "From the 1880's to the 1950's, the Harvey Girls went west to work in Fred Harvey's restaurants along the Sante Fe railway....they came as waitresses, but many stayed and settled." The Harvey restaurants were the first standardized chain, with identical menus and preparation routines for cooking all along the track.

Call Mim for more info: 754-1176.



From the Prairie Star District Unitarian Universalist Association

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Now is the time to nominate your stellar congregational volunteers for Prairie Star District, and perhaps even UUA recognition! Nomination forms are at WWW.PSDUUA.ORG . Please download and distribute any appropriate form for submission to the Prairie Star District. Nominations are due by January 31, 2006.

PSD SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS pay tribute to those who witness to the ideals of social justice and responsibility so important to our UU heritage (youth and adult).

UNSUNG UU AWARD affirms those UU's whose actions inspire, support, and express Unitarian Universalism, but 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.

O. EUGENE PICKETT AWARD is presented annually to a congregation which has made an outstanding contribution to the growth of Unitarian Universalism. This and the Unsung UU winner will be nominated for the UUA award.

KEEPING THE FAITH AWARDS were established to recognize people who live by UU principles. They are presented to persons in large and small congregations who have worked to keep Unitarian Universalism alive in their community and who touch the lives of congregation and community members in a positive way.

ELLIE MORTON AWARD honors a person or group which has made a significant contribution to religious education in our District.

BETTY GORSHE HERITAGE AWARD recognizes an individual or group who have made a significant contribution to preserving, understanding and celebrating our Unitarian Universalist history.

The Prairie Star District Awards Committee of Ted Downey teddowney@aol.com , Nancy Miller nanmilr@presenter.com , Kelly McKown kelmckown@charter.net and Karen Hirsch hirschkt@charter.net can answer questions.



Calendar for October 2005

October 2	Choir 9:30am
October 2	Services 10:30am
October 4	Council 7pm
October 6	Weight Watchers
October 9	Choir 9:30am
October 9	Services 10:30am
October 11	PFLAG
October 13	Weight Watchers
October 16	Choir 9:30am
October 16	Services 10:30am
October 19	Committee Meeting 7pm
October 20	Weight Watchers
October 23	Choir 9:30am
October 23	Services 10:30am
October 27	Weight Watchers
October 30	Choir 9:30am
October 30	Services 10:30am

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