



The Banner

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

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Burlington

Sunday Services

Nov. 6 : *"The True Center of Human Nature is Compassion"* What is this thing compassion? That is what I would like us to consider. Compassion is the ability to see me in you and you in me. There was a Sufi mystic who wrote about Jesus, to teach his people what Jesus was all about. And the story is that Jesus was yelled at by a group of folks who decided that they were the moral guardians of the law. And he, as was his way, turned the other cheek. Later, his disciples said to him, "Wait a minute. We would have been all up in that guy's face. Why didn't you yell back?" And Jesus said, "I can only pay with the coins that are in my pocket." I've thought about that a lot since I heard that story, and I've looked long and hard at what coins are in my pocket. What coins are in your pocket? *Minister Roger Butts*

Nov 13: *"Kicking Out the Devil"* We've pretty much dispensed with our old notions of God, but what about those of the Devil? During this Fall season when Halloween themes of death and fear abound, it is a good time to look at the concept of an evil personage. That is what we will do, when we "Kick out the Devil".
Minister Ron Green

Nov 20: *FORUM "Wise Use of Nature's Gifts"* A discussion of the early settlers of Southeast Iowa--Native American Indians--and how they used the gifts of nature, such as animals and their parts, plants, and rocks to meet their household needs. *Kathy Dice from Louisa County Conservation Board*

Nov 27: *Rick Johnson, TBA*

The Prez Sez...

For the past several months Betty and I have been serving as campground hosts at Geode State Park. We have met many people from many places, all with a story to tell. Campers, by their nature, have a tendency to be outgoing and friendly. Most are more than happy to tell about their homes, travels, interests, and hobbies. Some will even editorialize about current affairs, politics, and sports. I feel privileged to sample this little cross section of humanity.

We enjoyed meeting the couple from New Zealand who are taking a full year to explore the United States. They have no particular itinerary. When they find something of interest as they work their way across the country, they stop. They had never seen a geode.

Or the family group that had been planning their reunion for the past year, since the last one, and favored us with their presence. They had come from Michigan, New York, Texas, Florida, New Mexico, and Iowa to attend. Can you imagine what 30 little kids sound like as they renew family friendships?

Or the two brothers, one from Alaska and the other from Texas, who decided to get together for the first

time in several years. Oh, the stories told around the campfire that weekend.

Or the family from Colorado who come here every year to celebrate his mother's birthday, this was her 104th, and watch her ride on a motorcycle in the God's Portion Day at Denmark. Another son and his family decided to join them and they all enjoyed a week or so of love.

I could go on and on but you get the idea. What makes it so enjoyable is that we never know what the next weekend will bring. Our time will be done in a couple weeks, but we will have enough memories and laughs to last us till next spring. Yes, we have volunteered to be hosts next year.

This volunteering is habit forming. Once you try it, you like it. Whether it's for leisure, social justice, helping at the Meeting House, or being on committees.

Speaking of committees, have you given any thought to joining one or more at the Fellowship?

Have a GREAT day,
Ray



From the Safety of Burlington

The name William Nieves may not be a household word, but it should be. He died this past Saturday at age 39 from complications resulting from a liver disease. That in and of itself may not be newsworthy outside of his neighborhood. After all, people die every day from complications of some sort. However Mr. Nieves' case is different, because he spent 6 years of his life in jail for a crime he did not commit simply because the prosecution in that case withheld evidence that would have proven his innocence. It was during this time that his illness manifested and, thanks to the wonders of prison health care, went untreated.

The questions that must be haunting Mr. Nieves' family right now is what would have happened if a) the prosecutor had brought forward the exculpatory evidence at the time of the 1994 trial, and b) the prison had provided needed healthcare for the innocent prisoner. Indeed, is the prosecutor in this case, or more importantly the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, responsible for the death of an innocent human? More importantly, did those responsible know what they were doing (premeditation)?

If so, that is premeditated murder, and it is a capital offense in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania punishable by death.

Of course, nothing will happen. There are those who will trumpet cases where released felons rape, abuse or kill again, all with the hope of punishing those who advocate for a just criminal system. Where are these voices today as the family of William Nieves mourns his death? Should we expect those in power to address issues that might weaken their hold on the power they treasure?

Many activists have called for the abolition of the death penalty as well as many other reforms that would make our criminal justice system not only more effective in punishing violent criminals but also more just in dealing with those who are innocent. In cases such as the 1994 conviction of William Nieves where prosecutors knowingly withhold evidence, justice demands that the prosecution be punished, and one way to punish is to reform the system and take power from their hands. Ending capital punishment would be one such tool, but more must be done.

Nobody should have the power under our legal system to take the life of an innocent person; neither the murderer nor the prosecutor.

Treasurer's Report

At the last Council meeting the need for an assistant treasurer was discussed. Rick's term as treasurer ends in June of 2007. Adding an assistant treasurer at this time not only provides training for the person should they decide to take over as treasurer in 2007, but it also fills a need to have someone responsible for collecting and depositing the offering given Rick's increased travel schedule.

The duties of the assistant treasurer would work with the treasurer to collect the Sunday offering, prepare the deposit and take it to our bank, and prepare the list of checks and deposit receipt for the week. This person would report to the treasurer and meet with the council on a regular basis.

If you have any questions please contact Rick at 319-754-7376 or RJohnson64@yahoo.com



Communications Committee

The committee wants to thank Morgan for updating the website that includes a link to a calendar of events for the fellowship and current banner issues. Also, if there are any events going on at fellowship let Lori know about them, even if it is too late to get it in the bulletin. She can always put it on the online calendar and announcements on Sundays. You can contact Lori at 985-2273 or through



Women's Book Discussion Group

There is no Book Discussion Group in November, but December 3rd will be the final book discussion for the year. People will meet at 2 pm at Mim's house, 2741 Sunnyside. The book to be shared is *The Island of the Bicycle Dancers* by D. Adachie. One book review from the Amazon.com website says, "A 20-year-old Korean-Japanese woman comes to New York City to work at her Korean uncle's grocery for one dramatic summer in Adachi's sometimes awkward but energetic debut... A triple-tiered finale of tragedy and violence overwhelms the most rewarding thread of the novel: Yurika's fascination with the English language, "a huge octopus... with so many wild and beautiful limbs writhing about" and her gradual assimilation into a new and heady culture."



New Youth Group Leader

We are very pleased that Chris Cowles has accepted the position of youth group leader. She is approaching this job with much enthusiasm and energy. We feel fortunate to have her working with our youth. We will be changing the day the youth group meets to the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, but will still meet from 6:45 to 8:15pm. All youth are encouraged to join and bring a friend.



A new blog from our once a month visiting minister, Rev. Roger Butts, is available. Visit www.qcuu.org and click on Roger's Blog. Of special interest: theology and the public square, liberal religion, social justice, the arts.

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



From the UUA



CLF: The Church of the Larger Fellowship

Connecting UUs – Spiritually, Humanly, Globally ~ www.clfuu.org

You may know someone who would enjoy the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), a congregation that provides a ministry to isolated religious liberals around the world – from Texas to Timbuktu. CLF, the congregation by mail and cyberspace, offers a spiritual home within the Unitarian Universalist movement for all kinds of people.

Our members receive mailings of our monthly worship publication (*Quest*), and the UU World, and can access our loan library of UU materials, including R.E. and worship resources. Our members participate in online covenant groups, online courses, and electronic discussion groups, and have access to pastoral care by CLF’s Senior Minister, Rev. Jane Rzepka.

Our Pen Pal program connects “free world” UUs with incarcerated men and women who have joined CLF, and is a powerful way for UU congregations to learn more about the prison system by connecting with fellow religious liberals. The CLF also supports many small congregations with worship and programming resources through the Church-on-Loan program.

Nearly half our members are active contributing members of local congregations who appreciate the connection to the wider UU world.

Young adults you know may be interested in the **Church of the Younger Fellowship** - a unique Unitarian Universalist spiritual community and worship space designed by and for UU young adults, ages 18-35. The CYF is a part of the CLF and can be found at: www.uucyf.org

For more information, contact the Church of the Larger Fellowship:

25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

(617)-948-6166

clf@clfu.org, or visit our **new website** at: www.clfuu.org

See Chicago!

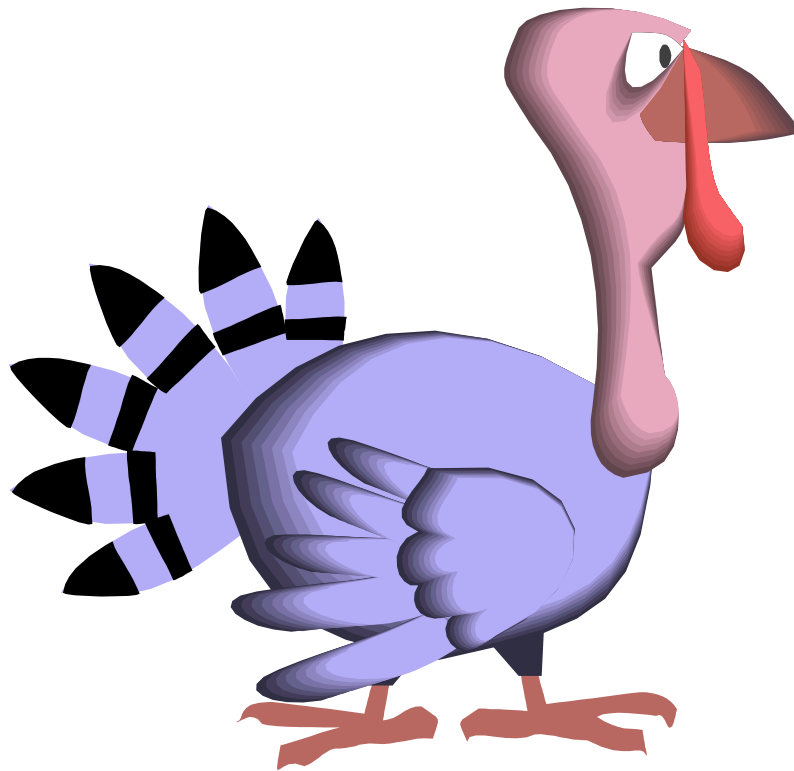
The congregation of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist invites you to join us for a weekend getaway to the city of Chicago, **June 2 – 4, 2006.**

For the two nights of your stay, you'll be hosted by members of Countryside's friendly and welcoming congregation in the northwest suburbs. Your weekend includes hearty dinners with entertainment, breakfast at your host's home, and a full-day visit to the city.

The highlight of the weekend is the city's celebrated architecture. Countryside has arranged for our guests to enjoy two of the best architecture tours the city has to offer. See the soaring towers of the downtown area, acclaimed landmarks, and the new Millennium Park, which features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists, and designers.

After a busy Saturday in the city, you'll appreciate the peaceful setting of Countryside's award-winning building and prairie garden. For details on this unique opportunity, email ccuu@ccuu.org or call 847-359-8440, xt. 1.

Happy Thanksgiving



Remember the Deadline for the Banner is the 20th of the month

Calendar for November 2005

- November 1 Council Meeting 7pm
- November 1 Bullying program at James Madison MS
- November 3 Weight Watchers
- November 6 Choir Practice 9:30am
- November 6 Services 10:30am
- November 8 PFLAG 6:45pm
- November 10 Weight Watchers
- November 13 Choir 9:30am
- November 13 Services 10:30am
- November 16 Committee Meeting 7pm
- November 17 Weight Watchers
- November 20 Choir 9:30am
- November 20 Services 10:30am
- November 24 Weight Watchers
- November 27 Choir 9:30am
- November 27 Services 10:30am

All Events are at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

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