



Our reach should exceed our grasp.

# REACH

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield  
A WELCOMING CONGREGATION



*Services are held at Fellowship Hall, corner of West 2nd & Linden Streets in Northfield. Babysitting and children's religious education are provided.*

## September Services & Events

### President

Ed Frost 664-3865  
frostupnorth@gmail.com

### Vice-President

Chris Broughten 645-4572  
chris@broughtenappraisal.com

### Treasurer

Linda Erlandson Frost 664-3865  
frost@stolaf.edu

### Secretary

Pam Horwich 507-263-0013  
tpstead@earthlink.net

### Program

Marcia Jacobs 507-455-2053  
momjacobs@hotmail.com

### Religious Education

Kristen Lucas 645-9098  
welucas4@charter.net  
Heidi Welsch 664-9394  
heidi.welsch@gmail.com

### RE Coordinator

Kathy Kluth 645-8237  
kathykluth@earthlink.net

### Membership

Bev Topp 952-469-4859  
bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net

### Facilities

Bill McGrath 645-7660  
mcgrath1@rconnect.com

### Social Justice

Mera Colling 645-9174  
eimalou@gmail.com

### Reach Editor

Bob Ciernia 663-7876  
bobciernia@msn.com

### UUFN

P.O. Box 363  
Northfield MN 55057  
507 646-3366

[www.uunorthfield.org](http://www.uunorthfield.org)

**Wednesday, September 5: First meetings of the Social Justice Committee and the Choir** (see inside for details)

**September 9, 2007, 10am, Opening Service with Rev. Laurie Bushbaum**

Perhaps you took a journey this past summer to a new location or a favorite lake. Maybe your farthest trip was to your own backyard. Regardless, we invite you to partake in a UU tradition, the practice of "sharing the waters" as we come back together each fall after a summer spent in nature and water with our friends and families. Please bring a small vial of water (actual or symbolic) from the places you have been and they will be used in the ceremony.

**Sunday, September 9, noon: Board Meeting**

**Sunday, September 16, 10am • Meet Rev. Dawn Cooley "Companions on the Journey"**

The Ministerial Search Committee is excited to introduce its choice for our new ministerial leader. See inside for more information.

**Immediately following the Social Hour • UUFN Special Meeting**

The Ministerial Search Committee did its job, now it's time for you to do yours. To accept Dawn as our Minister, a vote must be taken to formally accept her ministry. All Members of the Fellowship are encouraged to participate.

**Sunday, September 16, 3pm • Chili and Cornbread Chowdown at the Topp's**

Enjoy a second opportunity to talk to Dawn Cooley and her family on an informal basis! Our annual chili/cornbread outing to the Topp's will be held on this afternoon, starting any time after 3:00. Lee will give hayrides with the horses and kids can ride Chiquita and Red in the arena (both kid friendly horses). Bring chili, cornbread, salad, or a dessert to share. Beverages and tableware will be provided. In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule.

**Monday, September 17, 7pm: Program Council Meeting** (Board in attendance)

continued on page 3

## Meet Rev. Dawn Cooley

The UUFN Ministerial Search committee would like to announce the selection of our recommendation for the quarter-time minister position.

Her name is Dawn Cooley and she will be leading the services on September 16. We hope you will all take this opportunity to welcome Dawn and her family (see article on Dawn) and stay for the congregational meeting after coffee hour to formalize (vote on) UUFN acceptance of the Search Committee's choice.

When the Search Committee first met after the Annual Meeting in May, we contacted Nancy Heege from Prairie Star District and asked for guidance on how to conduct our search. She was very helpful and we followed the PSD Call Process that she provided as closely as possible.

In June, we developed our "call" document that went out to candidates looking for positions. It contained a description of the responsibilities of the minister and the congregation in our relationship to one another and gave a salary range from which we would draw, to match the experience of the candidate. An excerpt from it reads:

### Participating Minister:

Plan and lead two Sunday services per month (the first and third Sundays preferred), plus two additional services during the year; Participate in four after-service activities over the course of the year (two new member orientation sessions and two community programs on Unitarian Universalism); and Participate in one additional fellowship activity each month (such as the monthly all-fellowship pot-luck dinner, quarterly meetings of the Board and Program Council, and/or a Coming of Age program or other themed retreat for youth or adults).

The Fellowship will shape the final position and negotiate a detailed ministerial service agreement in response to the needs and abilities of the final candidate. In both cases, the position will be a contract-for-service agreement.

To support the work of its minister, the Fellowship pledges:

To work openly and closely with the minister to promote the healthy growth of the membership; To be as clear and fair in our expectations as humanly possible; and To live the principles of Unitarian Universalism in the conduct of the Fellowship.

We were thrilled to receive responses from five candidates, four of whom had a Masters in Divinity from various UU seminaries and had either internship or interim ministry experience in UU churches. All were excellent. We narrowed our choice down to two final candidates and then the committee had the "awful/ wonderful" task of choosing one person to recommend on to you.

Honestly, we felt it was a win/win with whichever person we chose and, in the end, we sincerely look forward to introducing you to Dawn Cooley!

You can learn more about Dawn by visiting her website at: [webuus.com/dawn](http://webuus.com/dawn) And, thanks to the marvels of the Internet, you can even listen to one of Dawn's sermons, winner of this year's "Commission on Social Witness/UU Ministers Association Sermon Award" which she presented at the General Assembly in Portland. You can see the video at [www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2007/27648.shtml](http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2007/27648.shtml) [Ed. note: Just scroll down and click on the video for Saturday morning's worship: "Worshipping Together, Witnessing Together." There's about four and a half minutes of 'dead air' before the service starts so be patient or fast forward.]



## A Brief Bio

After starting her working life as a computer programmer, Dawn heard a different call and began the work it takes to become a UU minister.

This new direction started at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, VA, where she was a senior high youth advisor and also a campus minister at George Mason University.

Moving to Minnesota in 1999, Dawn graduated from United Theological Seminary in 2004. Following a field placement at First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis, she became the director of Stonetree ([www.stonetreeuu.org](http://www.stonetreeuu.org)), our District's resource for speakers and ministers, in 2005.

She moved to Iowa last year so that she could do an internship with the UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa, and this year she will be a chaplain at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina. She is glad to be back home and is excited about working with us in this new ministry.



Dawn, Josephine (3.5), John, Evelyn (6)

## September Services & Events *(cont.)*

### **Sunday, September 23, 10 a.m. • Guest Minister, “What If We Win?,” Rev. Nancy Holden**

In 2008 the American voters will elect a new President. Rev. Holden believes that no matter who this turns out to be, big changes are certain. She believes that religion and politics cannot be separated, so each President creates his or her own religious/political model, and that becomes the prevailing attitude of the public. Has there ever been a UU President? Rev. Holden will explore what that might mean.

Nancy lives in River Falls, Wisconsin, with her husband, Doug, a university history professor, and worships at the Unitarian Universalist Society of River Falls UU. She is an ordained Methodist minister who is a candidate for UU ministry and will be meeting with the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee in March, 2008.

### **Friday, September 21 • Friday Feature Films: “Beyond the Call”**

See inside for a description of this award-winning documentary.

### **Wednesday, September 26 • 4th Wednesday**

Bring your favorite foods and beverages to share. We count on the “magic of potlucks” to provide us with a balanced meal. After supper, it's “Game Night.” Bring along a board game or two for a fun, informal way to get to know other UUFNers. Bring along a friend or neighbor. Everyone is welcome to a night of inter-generational play.

### **Sunday, September 30, 10 a.m. • Lay-led Discussion, “The Seven Principles and How We Live Them”**

As Unitarian Universalists we call ourselves a ‘creedless’ faith. Does that mean we don't “believe” in anything? Hardly! UUs are among the most passionate, values-driven people anyone is likely to meet... and many of us use our Seven Principles to guide our decisions and actions. Join Marcia Jacobs as we look at questions such as: Which of our Principles is most important to you as an individual searching for meaning in your life? How do you live your life in a way that shows ‘the world’ what you believe? Come and share your journey and hear the stories of others.

## Welcome Back!

*Bev Topp*

We hope you all have had a good (and long) summer and are ready to re-connect for the 2007/08 church season.

The Membership Committee for 2007/08 consists of Bev Topp, Janet McGrath and Pam Horwich.

The Caring Committee, a sub-committee in Membership, will be Pam

Horwich and Suzannah Ciernia. This committee tries to stay informed of the events in members lives, joys or concerns, that are cause for either celebration or a need for a helping hand from the congregation. When events arise that you would like to share with our church community, please call either Pam or Suzannah so that we can coordinate a response.

We would like to make a stronger attempt in outreach to our college students in Northfield this year. The Carleton UU students have weekly services at which we would like to have a UUFN presence, letting them know we are there if they desire to be a part of a larger community in town. The St. Olaf students do not have a UU organization, to our knowledge, and we will explore ways in which we can welcome them into our church community when they visit. If there are members who have an interest in this outreach, we would love to hear from you, your ideas, your desire to help, etc.

The UUFN plan for coffee hour hosting worked very well last year. Thanks to all who participated and provided us with food and beverages. It certainly facilitated a warm and welcoming fellowship hour after services.

Our greeters are so important to the short time before services where our visitors (and potential members, in some cases) get their first impression of UUFN and its members. If you were one of those people, we would like to thank you. Many comments



were overheard about our visitors feeling welcomed and included and we know your contribution to their perception was invaluable.

## GREETER LIST

The greeters named are asked to serve for a month of Sundays. In the event there is a Sunday in your month that doesn't work, please just contact a Membership Committee member and we will find a fill-in for you. We were able to contact most people to check on the following list, but could not reach a few members. If there is a problem for you about doing this or when, please contact Bev Topp at [bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net](mailto:bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net).

September - Ed and Chris Broughten

October - Lois Burnes and Nan Just

November - John and Paula Case

December - Roger and Kate Southwick

January - Randy Jennings and Mary Griep

February - John and Pam Horwich

March - Mera Colling and Mary Doerr

April - Greg and Natalie Marfleet

May - Klaus and Susan Huehn



## Choir Kick-off

The choir will be starting its 3rd (or is it 4th?) season (how time flies when we're having a good time!) on September 5th at Bev and Lee Topp's house. We will start with a potluck supper, good visiting, and end the evening in song.

If you have been thinking about joining our choir, we would love for you to take this opportunity to see what it is all about.

Our goals are to provide Sunday Services with music pertinent to the message of UU principles

and the theme of the day, and to have fun while doing it. (Yes, that is the right order, right choir members? :) ) If you have questions, please call Bev Topp at 612-702-6127 or 952-469-4859. We would love to hear from you!



## Getting to Know Each Other

Ed Frost

[This is the first of a series of articles modeled on the columns in the Star Tribune that appear in Saturday's Faith section of the newspaper. As our new President, I thought it appropriate to have Ed Frost be our first columnist. If you'd like to see other questions asked in future columns, just let me know. – Bob]

**What you do, used to do, or are working on doing, with your day:** I've been a radio announcer, communicable disease specialist, public school teacher, and community college teacher (in that order). I retired in 2003. I spend my retirement harassing my wife and also playing country music (which is the prime source of harassment). I'm on the board of Just Food Co-op. I attend just about every event at St. Olaf and the Friday morning convocations at Carleton. Life is good.

**How long you've been a UU:** I've been a UU for three years.

### First UU Congregation

**you joined:** UUFN is the first. In the past, I attended UU churches in Knoxville, TN, and Asheville, NC, as a visitor.

**Favorite piece from our Hymnal:** # 660 "To Live Deliberately"

**Favorite piece of religious music:** From my Baptist days: "How Great Thou Art". From *Singing the Living Tradition*: # 361 "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

**Favorite "Scripture" passage or reading from our Hymnal:** #642, Psalm 23

**What is your favorite UU Principle?:** "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

**If you suddenly found you had the ear of the President and s/he promised that any piece of legislation you cared to write would be passed by Congress, what would that law be?** Every man, woman and child in America would have good, free health care.

**If aliens landed in your backyard and promised to answer truthfully any questions you cared to ask, what would be your first three questions?** Where are you from? What are your intentions? My third question would depend on the answer to question #2.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

## Lots of Things in the Works

Mera Colling

On September 5 at 7pm, the Social Action/Social Justice committee will hold a meeting at James Gang Coffeehouse on south Highway 3. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend!

We have a list of goals for the current year, and a few team projects too. Youth are very welcome and encouraged to come to the meeting!

If people need a ride, send an email to [uufn-sa@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uufn-sa@yahoogroups.com). If you are not receiving mail from the Social Justice list, let me know and I'll see that you are added to the list.

Some of the projects we are already working on for the coming year are:

- Crop Walk, September 30
- UUSC Guest at Your Table, starting November 18 and ending January 6
- UUSC Justice Sunday, March 30
- Park Cleanup Sunday, Spring 2008
- Monthly Social Justice topics and special collections during the service
- Friday Film Forums
- Green Sanctuary program

Other ideas are welcome. The Green Sanctuary program is new to our fellowship, so watch for an article on this program in the October *Reach*. Many hands will be needed to achieve the goal of gaining Green Sanctuary Accreditation.

If you are unable to attend the meeting on September 5 but are interested in helping with any of the projects above, please contact me at [eimalou@gmail.com](mailto:eimalou@gmail.com).



## News from the R.E. Room

*Kathy Kluth, RE Coordinator*

Hooray! Fall is here. Our RE program has grown in exciting ways in the past few years. This year we will be offering more opportunities for youth activities and for adults to share their interests, talents and passions with the children.



Kristin Lucas, Heidi Welch and I working together on the planning the year for Religious Education and Youth Group. Our first RE gathering is September 9. I look forward to seeing all the children. Also, watch for information to be coming soon announcing a parent meeting.

Hope you are enjoying each of our lovely days as much as I am!

### Unitarian Universalist Principles

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

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

## Friday Films Continue

*Pam & John Horwich*

The Social Justice Committee will continue its monthly Friday Films series beginning Friday, September 21. The series runs from September through May and features independent documentaries, movies, and shorts on subjects both social and metaphysical. These are thought-provoking films that rarely make it to conventional movie theaters.

Movies will be shown starting at 7:00 p.m. on selected Fridays of the month. Each movie will be followed by an informal discussion. The movie series is free and open to the public.

The first movie in the series will be *Beyond the Call*, a 2006 release chronicling three middle-aged men who travel the world delivering life-saving humanitarian aid to civilians and doctors in some of the most dangerous yet beautiful places on earth, including Afghanistan, Chechnya, Burma, and the Philippines. These guys are not conventional activists—they're grey-haired, pear-shaped, beer drinking military guys who accept a personal call of conscience to make a difference. Think Mother-Teresa-meets-Indiana-Jones and you will not be far off. Following this band of humanitarian renegades, the film takes us on a journey into the heart of humanity and the soul of courage.



### Who Knew?

The production and transport of bottled water unnecessarily uses large amounts of fossil fuels. (Fiji-brand water, for example, is transported to the US from Fiji, over 6,000 miles away.) and the plastic water bottles Americans use and toss in one year use up more than **47 million gallons** of oil, the equivalent of taking 100,000 cars off the road and removing 1 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, says the Container Recycling Institute. Sadly, about 84% of those bottles aren't even recycled.

– from Co-op America's *Real Money*, July August 2007

[www.coopamerica.org](http://www.coopamerica.org)

## Social Hour Preparation

The Membership Committee is asking families or two member teams to be in charge of all the duties for coffee hour after services for a couple of Sundays each year. This involves bringing treats, making coffee and tea, setting out cups, tablecloths etc. plus cleaning up afterward.

Coffee hour is meant to be a snack rather than a brunch. The average number attending has been 35 adults and 10 children. Occasionally others make a surprise food donation.



Feel free to exchange with someone else if another date works better for you and please let Janet McGrath or Bev Topp know about the changes.

- Bev Topp, **952-469-4859** or **bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net**
- Janet McGrath, **507-645-7660** or **janetmcgrath@gmail.com**

Sunday	Social Hour Hosts
September 9	Bev & Lee Topp
September 16	Janet & Bill McGrath
September 23	Pam & John Horwich
September 30	Marilyn Prevost & Mera Colling
October 7	Natalie & Greg Marfleet
October 14	Suzannah & Bob Ciernia
October 21	Mary Griep & Randy Jennings
October 28	Heidi Welsch & Joe Hunter

## Attention, Sewers!

Northfield Community Action Center is in need of pajama sewers for United Christmas Sharing.

Ready-to-sew kits are available for you to pick up at the Northfield CAC Clothes Closet - Monday through Friday 9:00-5:00 pm. Thursdays till 7:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00-12:00 noon.

The kits contain pre-cut fabric and sewing instructions.

## CROPWALK

*Suzannah Ciernia*

Save the date of September 30, 2007 to join this fall's Cropwalk.

This annual event brings together Northfielders from different churches, businesses, colleges, and service agencies to march together against hunger and poverty. There will be music, games, balloons, animals, and hands-on learning activities for everyone. The walk will begin at St. Dominic's Church and proceed along a specially marked route to the Moravian Church and back.



Pledge envelopes will be handed out in the weeks prior to the march, beginning with our first service on September 9. Kids and adults are encouraged to ask friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers to sponsor them with a donation towards this worthwhile inter-faith outreach. For folks who may prefer certain charities over others, checks can be designated for a specific organization from the list on the back of the envelope, for example UU Service Committee.

As in the past, 75% of the money raised will address hunger and hardship in the US and abroad, and 25% will stay in the community. Last year the local 25% went to the "Healthy Waters Project" and helped the Cannon River Watershed Partnership educate county residents about keeping our waters clean, provide well-testing kits for WIC participants, and supply the Food Shelf with Pedialyte (oral hydration for sick children). This year's hunger relief will also focus on children and be administered by the Northfield Community Action Center.

Cropwalk represents three wonderful opportunities: first, to assist our neighbors in need, here and abroad, via an outstanding charitable organization; second, to give us a chance to work with other churches so they can get to know us; and third, have a lot of fun as a congregation and community doing a good deed. Gathering time is 12:45 at St. Dominic's parking lot on Linden Street — Let's have a crowd of UUs march for Cropwalk!

# Want to help our congregation and our denomination grow? Attend one of these workshops and it will happen!

The people who attend PSD workshops consistently give them high marks...  
*this is information attendees put to use!*

## Prairie Star District — Workshops 2007-08

### Fall Leadership Conferences

Friday & Saturday, September 28-29, 2007 **Cedar Falls, IA**

Friday & Saturday, October 5-6, 2007 **Arden Hills, MN** (Twin Cities)

Leadership Conferences are weekend conferences offering workshops and networking opportunities for congregational leaders. Two locations are available; choose the most convenient. Choose the one track you prefer. Tentative tracks:

- **Presidents Track** for current Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Presidents Elect.
- **Treasurers Track** for Treasurers, Finance Committee members, bookkeepers, anyone with an interest in tracking the congregation's finances.
- **Membership Track** for Membership Chairs, Hospitality Chairs, anyone with an interest in membership and growth in UU congregations.
- **Leadership Skills Track** for congregation leaders (officers, board members, committee members) who have already attended a Leadership Conference track for a specific position and/or are interested more advanced leadership skills.

*Deadline to register: September 21 (for Cedar Falls) or 28 (for Arden Hills)*

*Registration fee: \$40*

### OWL Training

Friday to Sunday, October 5-7, 2007 **Rochester, MN**

Training for adults to lead OWL (sexuality education) sessions for Jr. and Sr. High students. Session held jointly with United Church of Christ.

*Deadline to register: August 31 unless space remains available.*

*Registration fee: \$150 by Aug. 31, \$180 after Aug. 31, if space available.*

### Bringing Our History to Life

Saturday, October 20, 2007 **Bloomington, MN**

Saturday, November 10, 2007 **Des Moines, IA**

Fascinating stories and rich visuals make for good documentaries. PSD's Heritage and Archives Committee is now working to record the District's past on video. You can learn how to do this for your own congregation!

*Deadline to register: October 10 (for Bloomington) or November 1 (for Des Moines) Registration fee: \$25*

### Welcoming All Children and Youth

Saturday, October 27, 2007 **Minneapolis, MN**

This Involve workshop will train religious educators, ministers and lay leaders to minister to children with special challenges and insure their successful inclusion into the life of our UU congregations.

*Deadline to register: October 19 Registration fee: \$50*

### Radical Hospitality Workshop

Saturday, November 3, 2007 **Hanska, MN**

Radical Hospitality explores ways of attuning your congregation to break through barriers to growth.

*Deadline to register: October 26 Registration fee: \$30*

### Stewardship Workshop

Friday & Saturday, January 25-26, 2008 **Ames, IA**

Learn how to make your congregational fundraising more effective. This workshop will provide the tools for each congregational team to go back to their congregations and raise the money needed to support their mission.

*Deadline to register: January 18, 2008 Registration fee: \$125 for team of 3.*

More information and registration forms are available at [www.psduua.org](http://www.psduua.org) or by calling 612-870-4823

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Free Parent & Child Program

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. is now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 Head Start Program.

- A quality child development program
- Serves pre-school age children and their families (child must be 3 by September 1)
- There is *no cost* to families who meet income guidelines (income guidelines may be waived for children with special needs)
- Nutritious family-style meals are provided
- Transportation *may* be provided
- Experienced, caring and professional staff
- Field trips, creative arts, math, science and literacy
- Parent participation and parent board

Serving Goodhue, Rice and Wabasha Counties. For an application or more information, call 1-800-277-8418

### Donated Vehicles Needed

Do you have a roadworthy car you do not need any longer? The Northfield Community Action Center accepts cars that are in good working order as charitable donations.

Unlike many used car programs, the CAC doesn't sell the donated vehicles that they receive. This means that donors may use the fair market value of the vehicle they donate for tax purposes. Donated cars are matched with CAC income eligible clients that have critical transportation needs.

If you would like further information on how to donate your vehicle please call Judy at the CAC, 664-3558.

## What we've been up to this summer.

As editor of Reach, I asked our Members what they'd been doing during the summer break. A number of people responded and here's what they had to say...



Bill McGrath

During July and August, I spent 28 days near the Palestinian West Bank city of Bethlehem. This experience was made possible by the Siraj organization, which allows international visitors to live, work, eat and learn among the Christian and Muslim people of the area.

Each morning I learned Arabic at the University of Bethlehem. Each afternoon I worked as a volunteer journalist at the International Middle East Media Center. On weekends, we journeyed to Palestinian cities including Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho, Jerusalem and Hebron. We visited Bedouin tribes who have lost their land, and Palestinian refugees who have lost their homes.

Among the most helpful people I met were Israeli Jews who are motivated by their convictions regarding what they see as selective abuses by the Israeli government. I always felt safe in Palestine.

I will be giving some talks about my experiences, and some of my photographs are available at : [www.flickr.com/photos/billmcgrath52](http://www.flickr.com/photos/billmcgrath52)



Mary Weck & Rollie Davidson

I have started my new career as a traveling temp (hospital lab tech) in Overland Park, KS and Rollie is working part-time at Sears. After spending the first 7 weeks in a hotel we have a nice apartment now with ducks to feed every morning off our porch. We have been attending Shawnee Mission UU Church and have made several friends there. We help in the nursery once a month too. We will move on to a new assignment the end of September but don't know where yet. We are getting a 10-month-old Shiba Inu dog Labor Day weekend to keep Rollie company as he has decided not to look for employment every time we move. And I got my dream car, a green Prius!



The Griep-Jennings family saw Claire graduate from high school and leave for a service project in the Dominican Republic, Mary have a show at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Max get involved in civic issues as a youth board member of the Key, and the whole family enjoy another week at Unistar.

HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT WE OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT?  
A GOOD BOOK WE MIGHT LIKE TO READ?  
OR A QUOTE OR POEM YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

SEND YOUR EPISTLES TO BOB CIERNIA  
[bobciernia@msn.com](mailto:bobciernia@msn.com)



Roger and Kate Southwick

Alaska: We explored Vancouver for a few days, then spent a week on a cruise through the Inside Passage from Vancouver to Seward, then took a train to Denali National Park and Fairbanks. In the photo, we're hiking on the Mendenhall Glacier near Juneau after flying up in a helicopter. We also kayaked, snorkeled, went whale-watching, and toured the Kenai Fjords by boat, getting a close view of some glaciers calving.

Diving: Two friends and I chartered a boat to dive at Isle Royale on some deep wrecks (200-240'). The photo is of a "shallow" dive (140') on the 3-story tall steam engine of the Henry Chisholm, which sank in 1898. We spent 40 minutes on the wreck (41 degrees F) and then another 50 minutes decompressing. Fortunately the last 20 minutes was in 60F water. (I've uploaded some more photos you can view at: <http://webpages.charter.net/rsouthwick/IsleRoyaleAug2007/>)

Kate's performance at Cornstalk: On August 4 I performed (belly dance) at Cornstalk - a Peace, Music, Art festival in Dunnell, MN. That week, I also performed at the Fringe Festival with the troupe Basimah Kamar. We had a total of 5 shows during the Fringe & had good audience reviews. Additional pictures taken at the Fringe are available at: [www.flickr.com/photos/dstagner/1037081582/in/set-72157601271214174/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dstagner/1037081582/in/set-72157601271214174/)



Mera Colling

We've had an exceptionally busy summer this year, with two trips each to South Dakota and Wisconsin to visit relatives. In June, after school got out, we did escape to Frontenac State Park for a couple of nights. Here is a photo of Rachel enjoying the view, and my dog Charlie having fun in the water.



Lois Burnes

My summer has been full of gatherings.  
My Macalester 50th reunion was a joy.  
With family and friends, both near and away  
I've had lots of good times to enjoy.

## Looking for a book club?

The inaugural meeting of the Social Science Book Club will be September 11 at 7pm in the basement meeting room of River City Books.

The September selection is "The American Soul: Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders" by Jacob Needleman. In October, the reading is "Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder" by Ken Nerburn.

The club will be led by Paul Elliott Dahl, a Library Director and avid reader in the social sciences. Please contact Paul at [dahlhouse222@yahoo.com](mailto:dahlhouse222@yahoo.com) if you have questions or need more information.



Bob and Suzannah Ciernia

We spent the better part of a week backpacking in the Cascades. Hiking on snowfields, fording streams (twice taking our boots off), stringing our food between trees to avoid the bears (never saw any, thank goodness), and wishing we knew the difference between morels and poisonous lookalikes. For the middle of July, it was quite cold, the weather unsettled, and the run-off very, very chilly.

## Why not Northfield?

In a move that experts say will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 9.2 million pounds annually, San Francisco became the first city in North America to ban plastic grocery bags.

Passed into law by a 10-1 vote on March 27 by the city's Board of Supervisors, the bag ban prohibits large grocery stores and drugstores from using non-biodegradable, petroleum-based plastic bags. Major supermarket chains will have six months to find compostable plastic, reusable cloth, or recyclable paper alternatives to give their customers, while drugstores and retailers with at least five stores inside city limits will have a year to comply with the law.

Each year San Francisco's 54 largest supermarkets hand out an estimated 125 million plastic bags, accounting for 1,400 tons of landfill waster annually, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who introduced the bill, told the Los Angeles Times.

South Africa, Taiwan, Bangladesh, and Paris have enacted similar bans, notes the Times, while Ireland imposed a plastic-bag tax.

Mirkarimi says he has heard from other cities nationwide that are interested in following San Francisco's lead.

To find reusable shopping bags even if you live in San Francisco, consult the "Bags/Baskets" category of the National Green Pages at [www.greenpages.org](http://www.greenpages.org)

- From *Co-op America Quarterly*, Summer 2007

## With This Ring

Gold mining today resembles dismembering mountains more than panning for nuggets; most mines never unearth a single visible flake. Instead they crush vast amounts of rock, pile it up, and leach out the gold molecules with cyanide.

Mining gold to create a single **1/3-ounce 18-karat** ring produces at least **20 tons** of waste and **13 pounds** of toxic emissions.

Those emissions contain **5.5 pounds** of lead, **3 pounds** of arsenic, almost **2 ounces** of mercury, and **1 ounce** of cyanide.

Across the globe, Newmont Mining (just one of many large mining companies) crushed and disposed of more than 700 million tons of rock in 2004.

In 2005, Route 766 in Nevada was partially buried by an avalanche involving **10 million tons** of waste from a Newmont mine. In Romania, more than **100,000 tons** of toxic waste spilled from the Aurul gold mine in 2000, contaminating the drinking water of **2.5 million** people and killing at least **1200 tons** of fish.

In 2002, the Bush administration changed regulations to allow mine and other industrial waste to be dumped in waterways.

The world's **top gold producers** (in descending order): South Africa, the U.S., China, Australia, Peru.

**Top Consumers:** India, China, Turkey, Italy, the U.S.

According to the No Dirty Gold campaign, which signs up jewelers to demand better mining practices, the only way to buy "**clean**" gold is to opt for vintage or recycled jewelry.

- From *Mother Jones*, September/October 2007



**UUFN**  
P.O. Box 363  
Northfield MN 55057

---

## The Wayside Pulpit

*There can be no happiness  
if the things we believe in  
are different from  
the things we do.*

Sri Ganeshaswami Hanumanakrishna