

Our reach should exceed our grasp.

REACH

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield
A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

April 2010



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

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April Services & Events

Sunday, April 4 • 10 a.m. • “Love Lives On” • Rev. Kristin Maier

Join us for an intergenerational service with singing, storytelling, a return of the pomegranate communion, a celebration of Easter and recognition of Passover.

Sunday, April 11 • 10 a.m. • “Ethical Eating in a Post-Peak Oil World” • Angel Dobrow and Mera Colling (initiating group members of Transition Northfield)

What is peak oil? Does that have anything to do with climate change? What does that have to do with food and ethical eating? Join us for a presentation on another perspective on ethical eating, with a focus on local food, CSA's, and how your daily eating decisions will be affected in a future with less oil. Angel is also a member of the Sustainable Farming Association and was a presenter at the recent SFA conference.

Sunday, April 18 • 10 a.m. • “Keep On Keepin’ On” • Rev. Kristin Maier

Sustaining a spirit for social justice is no easy task in light of the sometimes overwhelming pain and injustice in our world. Where can we find that which will help sustain our caring heart and our work for a more just and compassionate world?

Sunday, April 25 • 10 a.m. • Highway Clean-Up

In honor of Earth Day and to keep up with our 7th principle, not to mention our obligation to MNDOT, we will gather at church parking lot at 10am to receive instruction on crew assignments. Kids are not allowed on highway crew, but will be doing a supervised activity at church. NOTE: If weather is bad, we'll go inside for a casual intergenerational gathering featuring World Religion Jeopardy with cool prizes! Highway Cleanup will be re-scheduled to May 23.

Ordinary Miracles, Sacred Responsibility

Kristin Maier

After decades of watching spring arrive, you would think that the simple changing of the season would have become blasé, ho-hum. And yet, after months of winter's icy winds and snowy desolation, I find myself surprised that Nature had it in her one more time. While completely predictable on a rational level, spring is always somehow astonishing. It is the most ordinary of miracles.

The Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh writes of walking alone on country paths, surrounded by plants and wild grasses, putting each foot down on the earth mindfully. "People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle we don't even recognize; a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black curious eyes of a child – our own two eyes. All is a miracle."

Each and every one of us has been blessed by this wondrous creation. That we might understand the creator of this beautiful earth differently from one another pales in comparison to the astonishing beauty we witness again and again and again.

Seeds sprout from what was frozen soil. Trees bare just weeks ago are showing their buds. Bit by bit the world is becoming green again with life we humans would perish without and yet cannot fully control despite our best efforts. We are recipients of a miracle each and every day.

Because of the impact that we humans have had on nature, keeping this earth beautiful requires our participation in the miracle of our ecosystem. This April 25th the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will gather to pick up trash and debris that litters the section of Highway 35 that we have adopted. Picking up trash is a very mundane task, but one



that is symbolic of our effort to be a part of the larger movement to care for creation. It is a religious act, just as is turning off a light when leaving a room, using less fossil fuel, recycling or composting.

Caring for creation is an act of gratitude for having a life and a world to enjoy. It is an acknowledgment of our sacred responsibility to one another, to our children and their children, and to all the inhabitants of this earth. It is an act of faith that what we do matters; even our smallest actions contribute one way or the other to the future of this planet.

Why I Pray for Others

By Anita Farber-Robertson

When I was in my thirties, still early in my ministry, I was stricken with a mysterious illness. My world turned upside down. I was hospitalized while the doctors ran tests, and my body did its own thing, separate from what I wanted of it. I was frightened, too frightened to pray.

For the first time in my life, I understood intercessory prayer. I needed the connection, and I was not strong enough or grounded enough to establish it for myself. I needed someone to keep the lines open and clear, to maintain them and make sure they were secure in the turbulence that was ahead. I couldn't do that. It was all I could do to get through one day at a time, not knowing what was happening to me, a prisoner of a body that was becoming my enemy, rather than my connection to the sacred.

I asked my friend to pray for me. He did. I was astonished at its power. I felt the tears, the release, the comfort, and the assurance that the world and all that was sacred would wait for me, would hold a place for me, when I could not do the work of holding it for myself. In that moment I could feel that the spirit of the universe held me, as it held every living creature. My friend's prayer had touched that spirit as surely as it had mine, and it had done so in my behalf.

I pray for people now. Every day. It is one of the most important parts of my prayer life. When all the rest of it falls away out of busyness or distraction, I can still, each morning, lift up those I love and those in pain, through prayer. And fortunately, there are those I know who pray for me.

Excerpted from the pamphlet UU Views of Prayer, edited by Catherine Bowers (UUA, 1999).

New Member Spotlight

Dick Van Korff

Dick Von Korff joined our fellowship in July of '09. Prior to 31 years in Midland, he lived in Baltimore, MD, Minneapolis, Peoria IL and was born and raised in Davenport, IA. He now lives in the Village on the Cannon. Dick graduated from high school in 1934, spent a year at St. Ambrose College leaving to work as an analytical chemist for John Deere Co. in Moline IL. He applied for a job at the new Northern Regional Research Labs (NRRL) in Peoria and was accepted. He was thrilled to be working alongside PhD investigators. Involved in analyses of corn, wheat, soy bean oil and water chestnuts and on occasion, doing experiments not on his superior's program, he was transferred to another Division.

Again, thrilled to be doing organic syntheses and research on methyl furan, xylan and working with a group collaborating internationally in attempts to synthesize penicillin. Although commercial penicillin production was developed at the NRRL, its availability came too late to save Dick's first wife, Lois who died as a result of rheumatic fever, often fatal then (1943).

Crushed by this loss Dick had no idea that three months later he would meet and in another 5 months marry Jane Rehn initially of whom he was unaware worked on a floor above at NRRL. They had three children, Jerry of St. Cloud, MN, Michael of Seattle, WA and Lynn of Minneapolis.

Jane died in 1990 as a result of a melanoma. She was a pacifist and a major influence on Dick's views with respect to wars as a means of settling disputes. He always thought wars were a stupid way to settle disputes but what could anyone do about it? He would perform any service except in the military.

Although he had a deferment as a chemist, the Department was told deferments temporarily could not be renewed. This led to a political problem as the lab was refusing to release a dozen employees to accept offers of deferment in war related industries. Dick wrote and visited his draft board requesting consciences objector status.

After visiting the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia seeking deferrable work,

he found nothing was available. He received an induction order and refused to report. He told the draft board and FBI if an arrest order were issued he would report voluntarily which he did. Jane went with him and delivered Jerry five days later on, June 27, 1945.

At the trial in October he was sentenced to 18 months by a judge who before the war gave five-year sentences. Dick spent 6 months in the penitentiary at Sandstone, MN and was paroled six months later on the first day any Selective Service violator was paroled. Jane had found him a job as an orderly at the U of M Hospital where he worked from 3 until 11 pm as the only orderly on that shift during the severe polio epidemic of 1976.

He was pardoned by President Truman on Dec 23, 1947 one of one thousand of nine thousand SS violators. Dick received a BA in December of '47 and a PhD in Physiological Chemistry in June of 1951 at which time he was busy making discoveries as a National Heart Institute Post Doctorate Fellow at the Enzyme Institute U of WI, Madison. He didn't bother to attend the graduation ceremonies at the end of the year. Although he was encouraged to stay, he returned to the U of M and the Variety Club Heart Hospital where he worked for Dr. Lewis Thomas.

In 1966 he resigned a tenured Associate Professorship in Biochemistry to become Director of the Department of Biochemistry at a planned Maryland Psychiatric Research Center in Catonsville, MD. After a years delay, construction began and was completed in 1969. In 1973, a political crisis involving four employees erupted and ultimately led in 1977 to a complete reorganization of the Center with changes in priorities. Dick was retired on a small pension, still in effect after 32 years.

Out of work for 3 months, Dick accepted a job (at a third of his former salary) at the Michigan Molecular Institute in Midland, MI to aid in establishing a Dept of Biochemistry, which in the absence of a University in Midland was next to impossible. Fortunately after a year his salary was increased to the previous level. In 1985 the lab decided to restrict work to technical polymer

research. Dick at 68 decided to take a second retirement. It was welcome because of Jane's illness beginning in 1988.

His global outlook is an important factor in his CO position he says. First I'm a citizen of World then I'm an American!

After 19 years as a housekeeper, 700 miles from a family member, Dick took Michael's advice to move before it was a must. Because of the combined effort of all three children, Dick made a trip to Northfield and said without question, "this is it." Again all the children helped. Lynn deserves extra credit for all the packing she managed to do. Dick is very happy and greatly appreciates the Village and UUFN.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New Member Spotlight

Jeanne and Phil Agee

We moved to Northfield in October, 2009, in order to be closer to members of our family. We moved from Fairfax, Virginia, where we had lived for thirty-eight years. Both of us were born in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1928 and, as babies, lived a few blocks apart, though our parents did not know one another. When Phil was four his father died necessitating a family move to the small town of Brock, Nebraska, to be near their extended family. He moved to Lincoln at the beginning of his junior year in high school, staying with his great aunt and uncle where he enrolled in the same high school that Jeanne attended. That is when we met and began dating. We continued as a couple throughout high school and college.

Phil moved to Philadelphia to be with his mother and stepfather following high school and to work as a carpenter for 1 ½ years in order to earn money for college. He returned to Lincoln in 1948 and attended the University of Nebraska majoring in biology. We married in 1951 and lived in Lincoln until Phil's graduation in 1952.

Following his graduation we moved to Columbia, Missouri, where Phil earned a MS degree in 1954 from the University of Missouri., his major studies being in wildlife management and research. He worked as a research biologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for 19 years. We moved to Fairfax, Virginia, in 1973 where he provided oversight of wildlife research carried on by 50 states and 5 territories for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. He retired in 1991. We have two sons, Allan, who lives near Webster, Minnesota, and Mike who lives in North Adams, Massachusetts.

Phil always had an interest in animals and nature. As a small boy he spent many hours fishing in a small creek that ran through the village of Brock, Nebraska, where he grew up. Since retirement he has remained active as a wood sculptor depicting wild animals in various surroundings and activities. His favorite book is Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold.

Even as a child music was Jeanne's great interest. She began piano lessons at age four and began singing at local venues at an early age. She began studying voice at the University of Nebraska during her junior year in high school. She attended the University of Nebraska following her graduation from high school in 1946 where she received a Bachelor of Music in Education Degree with a major in vocal music. She taught public school music in Nebraska and Missouri and was a "stay at home mom" following the birth of their two sons. Throughout the years, she continued to be involved in music by directing church choirs, singing in choruses and small groups and teaching private music lessons. She served on the Commission on the Arts of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, for many years, having served as chairperson for about ten years. Her favorite types of music are choral, pipe organ, vocal art songs and Broadway musicals.

We enjoy singing duets, gardening, hiking, and observing wildlife and the natural environment. We have participated in environmental protection activities over the years. In our earlier days we were tent campers, often coming from Nebraska to camp with our sons near lakes in Minnesota.

We became UU's in Lincoln, Nebraska, in the early 1960's after being members of the Christian Church. We have always known that one of our greatest decisions was joining the UU Church. Our favorite U.U. Principles are: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" and "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning".



RE COLUMN

World Religions Continued

Nancy Huppert

During April, as many of us prepare to celebrate the springtime holidays, we will look more closely at Judaism and Christianity and their influence on Unitarian Universalism.

Looking ahead, the Youth Group will host a World Religions Jeopardy Game during the Sunday Service on May 23rd. We have spent the year in RE engaged in a broad overview of Buddhism,



Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Our game will offer a recap of all that we have learned about these major world religions. If you are familiar with the 7 Principals, the 10 Commandments, the 4 Noble Truths, the 8-Fold Path, the 5 Pillars, and the Beatitudes, then you are ready to play. If you missed the RE Open House and have not reviewed the official "World Religions Jeopardy Study Guide," let me know and I'll be happy to provide you with a copy.

Sunday, April 4

No RE – Multigenerational Service

Nursery: Theo Lucas

Sunday, April 11

World Religions – Passover, Palm Sunday & Easter

Teacher: Nancy Huppert **Nursery:** Claire Paulsen

Sunday, April 18

World Religions – Abraham & Isaac

Teacher: Natalie Marfleet **Nursery:** Olivia Paulsen

Sunday, April 25

No RE – Highway Clean-up Activity Sunday

Nursery: Will Marfleet

Campus Group Awarded Rainbow Dinner Donation

UUFN presented representatives from the St. Olaf campus group GLOW! (Gay, Lesbian, or Whatever) with a check for 170\$. The funds were raised at our annual Equal Rights Rainbow Dinner and will be used to help in the group's work to educate on, and support equal rights for, all persons regardless of sexual orientation. Because of GLOW's energy and efforts in raising awareness on campus, it was determined they represent a positive role model for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgendered youth and are a great asset to the Northfield community. The group was very pleased to be the recipient of the dinner's proceeds.

Come Rally with the UUs

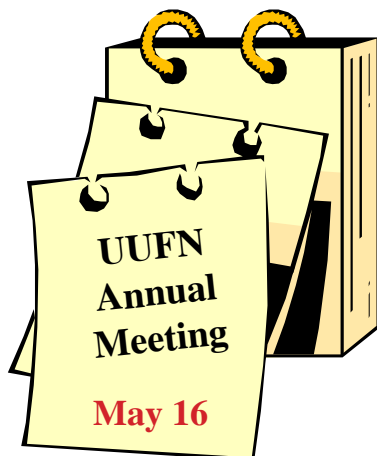
OutFront Minnesota's ustFair Lobby Day will be held at the Minnesota State Capital on Wednesday, April 21st, 2008. Equality in 2011 begins with your actions in 2010. Join the movement to let our leaders know that Minnesota's faith-based organizations, churches, synagogues, mosques and temples care about equality for our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people and their families. Attend lobby day on the 21st and help create a powerful multi-faith voice for justice, fairness and equality. Educational sessions will be held in the morning followed by a rally on the front lawn of the capital from 1-2pm. Appointments with lawmakers scheduled throughout the day. Please register and find out more information at www.outfront.org. Questions? Contact Jennifer Hyk at jhyk@outfront.org or call 612-822-0127 x4652.



Camp Unistar Awaits

"Camp Unistar is a place of natural beauty and serenity on Star Island in northern Minnesota. Come spend a week with UU's from around the 8 state Prairie Star UU District. Individuals, couples and families are welcomed to gather to relax and regenerate. From Saturday to Saturday all meals are deliciously provided. You may enjoy kayaking, sailing, canoeing, hiking Chippewa National Forest trails, swimming, visiting on Unistar's lakefront porch swings, and enjoy a fascinating program by talented individuals. There are special activities for children and youth. Camp Unistar is located 4 hours north of the Twin Cities, on an island, in rustic settings with housing options of lodge, cabin, or tenting. If you would like more information please look for the bright yellow brochures on the table in the coffee area or visit www.campunistar.org Unistar still has openings, particularly for the following weeks: June 5-12 (Work Week repairs and a facilitated discussion with SALA Architects on envisioning Unistar for the next 50 years); June 26- July 3 (UUSC President on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights); July 3-10 (Science and Religion with Kelli Clement and Dr. Mike Potegal); August 14 (Chris Lutter on Spirit of the North - Masks and the Island); and August 28 - Sept 4 (David Wallbridge on Comedy and Humor). Come join us!!

Mark your calendar



Breakfast at the Ole Cafe 9:00 a.m. on...

Third Saturday of each month

April 17

A chance to chat in an informal setting.

Let's coffee!!! Breakfast until 11:00 a.m.

arranged by Beth Robb

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Coffee Hour

Below is the list of those who have volunteered to set up, bring treats, and clean up for Social Hour. Thank you all!

Whatever type of food you'd like to bring will be appreciated. The average number attending has been 35 adults and 10 children.

Feel free to exchange with someone else if another date works better for you and please let Kate Southwick know about the changes at kate-kok2001@yahoo.com or 507-645-8790



Thanks to everyone!

Sunday Social Hour Host

April 4 Janet & Bill McGrath
April 11 Lucas Family
April 18 Lois Burnes & Emma Onawa
April 25 Jeanne & Phil Agee

GREETER LIST

April - Marcia Jacobs & Mera Colling

We need one person to be greeter on April 11

Numbers that Count

Total profits earned by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank last year: \$46,100,000,000

Rank of 2009 among the bank's most profitable years on record: 1

Number of U.S. banks receiving federal bailout funds that have missed at least one interest payment to the government: 63

Estimated amount that all U.S. banks charged their customers last year in overdraft fees: \$38,900,000,000

Number of states where the unemployment rate for African Americans is at least twice that of white Americans: 16

Estimated value of all bribes paid each year in Afghanistan, expressed as a portion of the country's legal GDP: 1/4

Expressed as a portion of its opium, morphine, and heroin trade: 9/10

Amount of money misused or embezzled by Chinese officials last year, according to a government audit: \$34,400,000,000

Percentage of cell phones made by Chinese companies that are unlicensed knockoffs of Western models: 42

Chance that a U.S. automobile accident occurs when at least one of the drivers is texting or talking on a cell phone: 1 in 4

Percentage change since 2008 in the average speed of an Internet connection worldwide: +13

Percentage change in the United States: -2.4

Average number of hours a U.S. child aged 8 to 18 spends using an electronic device or watching television each day: 7.6

Average number of snacks eaten per day by a U.S. child in 1977 and today, respectively: 1.2, 2.3

Average number of arrests made each year since 2001 by all 4,000 Federal Air Marshals combined: 4

Federal spending this represents per arrest: \$200,000,000

Minimum percentage of Arctic warming that has been caused by commercial-airline emissions: 10

Percentage of the 84,000 chemicals used commercially in the United States that are kept secret under federal law: 20

Percentage of filings to the EPA last year about "substantial risk" from compounds that involved these secret chemicals: 50

Chance that an American adult claims to wash his or her hands at least ten times a day: 1 in 2

Percentage of Protestant pastors in the United States who believe that Islam is "dangerous": 66

Percentage of American Muslims who believe the 9/11 attacks were carried out by Arabs: 40

Percentage change in the per-capita consumption of alcohol by Britons since 1960: +102

Percentage change since 1900: -19

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www.harpers.org



UFN
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The Wayside Pulpit

*I am a Christian and a Hindu
and a Moslem and a Jew.*

Gandhi