

Our reach should exceed our grasp.

March 2011

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.

Kristin Maier 651-647-5699
kmaier@q.com

President

Bob Ciernia 663-7876
bobciernia@gmail.com

Vice-President

Pat Tullo 651-258-4735 Tullo@Sleepytel.net

Treasurer

Mike Jonas 507-649-0001
michaeljonas@gmail.com

Secretary

Janet McGrath 645-7660
janetmcgrath@gmail.com

Board Member-At-Large

Mairi Doerr 507-789-6606
dancingwinds@frontiernet.net

Director of Religious Education

Nancy Huppert 507-581-6437
nhuppert@gmail.com

Religious Education

Kristin Lucas 645-9098
welucas4@charter.net

Sunday Services

Suzannah Ciernia 663-7876
syciernia@gmail.com

Membership & Music Topp 952-469-4859

bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net

Facilities

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

Social Justice

Mera Colling 645-9174
eimalou@gmail.com
Marilyn Prevost 645-0285
marilyn57@vitalityforlife.com

Stewardship

Greg Marfleet 645-4035
gmarfleet@charter.net

Ministerial Liaison

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

Reach Editor Hortense MacLeod
645-4572 turhanz@gmail.com

March Services & Events

Sunday March 6 • 10 a.m. • “A Hindu Perspective” • Sujata Owens [RSHom, CCH, HM] • Sujata will share her personal journey as a woman born and raised Hindu in India, who moved to this country as a newlywed, and her experiences maintaining this spiritual tradition in a very different culture. Sujata is a local homeopathic physician who helped start the MN Homeopathic Association.

Sunday March 13 • 10 a.m. • “Moving Forward with Love” • Rev. Kristin Maier • What is at the core of our calling to “Stand on the Side of Love” and to give of ourselves to make our world more just? How might we live into that calling together as a congregation and as individuals? Join us for the last service in our Welcoming Congregation series when we will reflect together on where we have been and where we will go into the future.

Sunday March 20 • 10 a.m. • “Come See Who We Are Now” • A Celebration of the 45th Anniversary of UUFN • Our minister will preach on the theme of “Beloved Community, Human Community.” We will welcome our new members for this year. We will enjoy a special hymn from one of our founding members, Joan Prefontaine. And, we will take a group photo of UUFN members and friends after the service

Sunday March 27 • 10 a.m. • “Ecstasy, Ethics and Environmental Activism ” • Chuck Dayton [Co-Chair MN Interfaith Power and Light] • Deep personal experience in nature is essential to understanding and love of Earth. Climate change is a moral issue, because we are imposing our burdens on all of creation, and less developed societies. How do we integrate the 7th Principle of caring for the earth, not just in our spiritual lives, but in our church? Non-action is not an option.



“Co-creating UUFN”

by Kristin Maier

I am always impressed by the incredible talent and energy that the members routinely give to our fellowship. So many of you give of yourselves in little and big ways and the result is this beautiful religious community, one that is celebrating 45 years this March.

In this 45th year, you continue to maintain and even improve this fellowship and all that it offers to its members and the community.

Between September and May your Sunday Services Committee puts together at least two lay-led or

guest speaker service each month. Your choir, the lovely pianists, and your other talented musicians create the music for every one of those services. Your Religious Education committee, your Director of Religious Education and your many teachers create wonderfully nurturing and age appropriate religious education for your children, teens and the little ones in the nursery.

Others of you put your considerable talents and energy into making sure that the fellowship's bills get paid, the walk gets shoveled, treats get served, and people get cared for. Still others arrange social justice actions, Rainbow Dinners and Welcoming Congregation programs that give all of us an opportunity to live our values.

I sincerely hope you all feel some sense of pride. I also sincerely hope you experience some fun doing all that you do for UUFN. I know that many of you take care of things for our congregation that wouldn't instantly spring to mind as being fun. And yet, when I watch you join together in some task, be it “masonizing” (preparing the meeting room for the Mason's monthly meeting), or putting together a “stone soup,” or sewing pajamas, or holding a board meeting, you are doing all of these things with a kind of joyfulness that feels fun.



Good for you, all of you! Having fun and playing are essential parts of the human experience. Dr. Stuart Brown, renown researcher on the subject of play, tells us that having fun for the sake of having fun is absolutely essential to our well-being as humans. In his book, *Play*, Brown tells us:

Of all animal species, humans are the biggest players of all. We are built to play and built through play. When we play, we are engaged in the purest expression of our humanity, the truest expression of our individuality. Is it any wonder that often the times we feel most alive, those that make up our best memories, are moments of play?

In fact, not being allowed to play as children or not allowing ourselves to play as adults can have a soul-stealing affect on our lives. We need to play.

Play, according to Brown, can take many forms. It can be found in reading, in movies, in dance, in playing sports, for little kids it is often found in the rough and tumble wrestling that we adults seem to always be trying to stop. Play can also be found in running a fellowship, at least the way I see you all do it. Even mundane tasks, done with friends, as part of creating a community, can be joyful.

There is a certain joy in knowing that because of what you do, all of you, this amazing religious community exists and even thrives. It couldn't do either without you. In a way, each of you is involved in a very creative exercise, co-creating a religious community. I sincerely hope that each of you finds ways to co-create this community in ways that are life-giving and fun for you. Life is too short and religious community too precious not to have fun along the way.

New Member Sunday

On Sunday March 20th the members of UUFN will joyfully acknowledge the new members who are joining or have recently joined our congregation. (This was rescheduled from the original January 23rd date.) If you, too, would like to join UUFN or are considering joining, feel free to talk with Membership chair Bev Topp (952-469-4859, bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net) or our minister, Kristin Maier (651-647-5699, kmaier@q.com). The more the merrier!

Standing on the Side of Love

by Bob Ciernia

As I write this, we have had three of the four Sunday services that along with our Rainbow Dinner and Standing on the Side of Love Workshop have been the core events as we work through the process of our renewal as a Welcoming Congregation. Each of the services and events has been meaningful and thought-provoking; each has challenged us to take a closer look at what we value... and what we're willing to do to bring those values into being in the wider culture in which we live.



Rev. David Breeden asked the provocative question: do you have the right to be who you are? And its mate: does anyone have the right to demand you be someone else? The UUA's Coordinator for LGBT programs, Delfin Bautista, helped us think through what we might do to educate ourselves and our neighbors. And the student panel from the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) at Carleton showed us what our collective future might look like if intelligence, compassion, and true acceptance of one another (and ourselves) were to become the norm. I expect ministers and national program directors to be composed, insightful, self-aware, and to demonstrate loving kindness; to hear three young adults express themselves in such a manner truly provided a spiritual uplift.

I am a Unitarian Universalist because we have many more good questions than certain answers. I am a UU because we don't shy away from asking ourselves if we are living up to our professions of principle and right relationships. And I am a UU because our species has a future in this place, on this earth, if we will stand on the side of love in all we do. I do believe someone(s) has to take the lead and point in the right (albeit somewhat vague) direction. That's what the liberally religious have always done, and we are the beneficiaries of their courage and faith. They helped to create the space in which we now live. I believe it is our work to make a broader and more livable space possible for the inhabitants of the earth's future. I have faith that our work today will make that possible.

How to do that is always worth talking about. Over half of the Fellowship's Members attended the workshop facilitated by Delfin following the service on February 13. Here are some of the things we thought we might do. If one of them is something you'd like to work on, please let me, another member of the Board, or Kristin know about your interest.

- The Trevor Project is a "national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth." It was suggested we might look at how to support the work of this group.
- Support scriptural studies; invite other Northfield churches to share and explore their sacred texts. Consider asking someone from United Theological Seminary to lead/facilitate this study. Continue to support this kind of work in our Fellowship's religious education for children.
- Look into foster care for LGBT youth.
- Put rainbow flags out front of our church on Sundays so that the community has a visible reminder of who we are and what we're about.
- Buy a bunch of Rainbow pins (or make Rainbow ribbons) and offer/sell them in the community, perhaps over the Defeat of Jesse James Days weekend. Suggested t-shirt: What else can we defeat? How about prejudice? Ignorance? And Fear? This message brought to you by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield.
- Coordinate/partner an activity with PFLAG, UCC, or the Moravians. Perhaps teaming with them on next year's Rainbow dinner. Perhaps establishing a local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) which "strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression;" or, perhaps that means working with existing groups at the high school or colleges. Exploring relationships and sharing materials/resources moves all of us forward.
- Coordinate articles by ministers so that there is a series of articles on LGBT concerns, each from a different perspective but all offering affirmation and support.
- Look for opportunities to do strategic, faithful lobbying (and be progressive voices of faith). Supporting diversity includes supporting cultural, racial, and religious diversity.

- Remember that narratives are more compelling than facts. By sharing our life experiences, we invite others into our lives. The idea is to be more collaborative, and less confrontational. To start dialogues and create linkages across justice movements.

In all of this work, the outlook we want to embody is that all this is a Part of Life. This isn't just the work of the Social Justice Committee, or simply relegated to holidays or Holy Days (useful as they may be to remind us of what we're about). The goal is to bring this into our normal consciousness. One way we do that is by making personal invitations to the people we know to participate in the activities UUFN sponsors; one-on-one invitations, particularly in person or on the phone, are strong, supportive acts that provide legitimacy and context.

We've got a lot of good ideas here. We can't do all of them but the reading by Edward Everett Hale from our hymnal (#457) looks appropriate:

I am only one
 But still I am one.
 I cannot do everything,
 But still I can do something.

And because I cannot do everything
 I will not refuse to do
 the something that I can do.

May it be so.

BOARD MEETING

Board Bits

by Janet McGrath

- With four months of the UUFN fiscal year remaining, 61% of the pledges are in and 57% of the budgeted funds have been spent.
- This year's Nominations Committee members will be Bob Ciernia, Mairi Doerr and one other person not yet selected. Positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-president and President will be open for 2011-12. The Annual Meeting will take place in May.
- A team is being formed for the summer archive project. If you are interested in helping to sort and organize historic UUFN documents, please contact one of the board members.
- A sound test has been done on the room next to the office. Plans had been made to remodel it for use by the youth, but it was decided that the room could not be used during a service because sound would be audible by those attending the service.
- A library cart in memory of Joy Wolf and new sound system are still on the special donations list. If you would like to make a contribution to either of these projects, make the check to UUFN with a note designating the project.

If you have questions about UUFN, please contact one of the Policy Board members: Bob Ciernia, Pat Tullo, Mike Jonas, Mairi Doerr or Janet McGrath.



Circle Supper at the McGraths'



(L to R): Nan Corliss, MN Valley UU; D'Ann Prior, 1st U, Minneapolis. Standing (L to R): me; Delfin; Jane Bacon, White Bear UU; David Breeden, MN Valley UU; Ralph Wyman, MUUSJA Director

March Religious Education

by Nancy Huppert

Sunday, March 6

K-4 Picture Book UU – Henry Hikes to Fitchburg

Teacher: Bev Topp

Nursery: Ben & Theo Lucas

Inspired by a passage from Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," this story follows two friends who agree to meet one evening in Fitchburg, which is 30 miles away. Henry decides to walk while his friend plans to work all day to earn the fare for the train. Henry David Thoreau thought that people could spend less time working to earn money and more time doing things that interested them.

Youth Group: The Gospel According to the Simpsons

Teacher: Lee Topp



Sunday, March 13

K-4 Picture Book UU – The Everything Seed

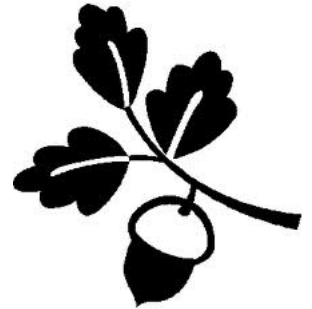
Teacher: Nancy Huppert

Nursery: Will & Nick Marfleet

The facts of science and the wonder of myth combine in this unusual creation story written by a UU minister that finds the universe in an acorn. The story moves from a plant's origins in a seed to how the universe began. The words offer a unique, cosmic view that celebrates the divine without rejecting science.

Youth Group: The Gospel According to the Simpsons

Teacher: Bev & Lee Topp



Sunday, March 20

K-4 Picture Book UU – All I See is Part of Me

Teacher: Nancy Huppert

Nursery: Olivia & Claire Paulsen

In a journey that carries the reader far beyond the printed page, different children discover their common link with all of Life. Inspired by Sister Star, they find the light within their hearts and as their vision expands, they see that same light in all other things.

Youth Group: Attend worship service

Sunday, March 27

K-4 & Youth – Activity Sunday: Seed-Starting

Teacher: Kristin Lucas

Nursery: Ben & Theo Lucas

This Sunday all K – 4 children and youth will start seeds to take home and tend until we can plant them in the front garden later this spring.

**Standing on the
Side of Love
Rainbow Dinner**



Room for Different Beliefs. You
Unitarian Universalists
The Uncommon Denomination
uuu.org



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! We are trying to simplify for the hosts this year so are asking that you provide just one sweet and one savory treat.

Feel free to exchange with someone else if another date works better for you and please let Bev Topp know about the changes at bevorleetopp@frontiernet.net or 612-702-6127

Thanks to everyone!

Sunday Social Hour Host



Mar 6 - Ed Frost and Carol Marshall

Mar 13 - Marcia Jacobs and Terry Stead

Mar 20 - Jeanne & Phil Agee

Mar 27- Roxanne & Scott Davis

GREETER LIST

March- Bill McGrath

Greeters 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 Bill McGrath at billmcgrath52@gmail.com (or 645-7660) and we will find a fill-in for you.

Highway Clean-Up

UUFN will be out cleaning up the ditches of our stretch of I-35 in April — look for additional details in the April Reach.

Spring Equinox

Now day and night sit balanced.

From a silence that seemed forever,

the first booming crash of break up

thunders from the river. Smiling,

an elder oils the handle of a hoe

and listens for that great, warm wind.

Creation is a song, a trickling became

a gurgling, chuckling water voice.

Winds which bend the snows to melting

carry clouds of rain storms on shoulder.

Green islands appear on Turtle's back

grasses long asleep beneath the snow.

Dawn of a glorious season, flowers

in merging, undulating waves of color.

The taste of strawberries, anticipate

in the their blossoms, the rich and fertile

smells of the soil we bend to,

breaking the ground for summer's corn.

Peter Blue Cloud

Mohawk



OUTSIDE THE BOX

Numbers that Count

Estimated percentage change since 2000 in the U.S. defense budget, not including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: +80
Number of American civilians who died worldwide in terrorist attacks last year: 8
Minimum number who died after being struck by lightning: 29
Estimated spending by Afghans on bribes last year: \$2,500,000,000
Portion of the country's GDP to which this figure is equivalent: ¼
Average bribe: \$158
Number of companies in which Senate Armed Services Committee staffers are prohibited from owning stock: 48,096
The senators themselves: 0
Date on which student loans first passed credit cards among the largest sources of private debt in the United States: 6/30/10
Portion of single or widowed Americans over 65 who receive all their income from Social Security: ¼
Amount the U.S. economy loses for each murder committed, according to an Iowa State University study: \$17,000,000
Pounds of antibiotics produced in the U.S. in 2009 that were consumed by humans: 7,275,254
Pounds consumed by animals raised for human consumption: 28,808,023
Percentage of all global IPO money last year that was raised in the United States: 17
Years since recordkeeping began in which this figure has been lower: 0

Harper's Magazine, March 2011
www.harpers.org

Of the eight most highly ranked leadership qualities, number of qualities survey respondents listed as truer of women: 5
Number of qualities respondents said were truer of men: 1
Percentage of respondents who said women make better leaders than men: 6
Percentage of respondents who said men make better leaders than women: 21
Number of U.S. private military contractors who died in war zones during the first six months of 2010: 250
Number of U.S. soldiers who died in war zones during the first six months of 2010: 235
Percentage of voters who think the current regulations controlling the influence of large corporations on legislation are working well: 5
Percentage of voters who support the passage of a Constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case: 79
Average number of ingredients found in fragrance products that were not listed on the label: 14
Percentage of those chemicals that have not been tested for safety: 66
Percentage of all Americans who say they are satisfied with the school system: 45
Percentage of American parents who grade their own child's school with an "A" or a "B": 76
Percentage of farmers in the United States who did not collect subsidy payments in 2007: 62
Percentage of subsidies collected by ten percent of farms from 1995-2009: 74

Yes! Magazine, Spring 2011
www.yesmagazine.org

