



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames

April 2011

Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am

1015 N. Hyland Ave.
Ames, IA 50014
515-292-5960
www.uufames.org
uufa@uufames.org
Vol. 18, No. 04



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3 Sacred Spaces

UUFA Small Group Ministry Implementation Team

We all have places that have been important in our lives and remain significant in our memories. Our connections to one another are enhanced, our understanding of the sacred is clarified, and acceptance of ourselves and each other is a gift we receive when we understand that the space we share now is sacred. Experience small group ministry today as sacred space. Learn how to become part of the renewed and reclaimed UUFA Small Group Ministry Program.

10 Gender Identity

Joni Stacy, Guest Speaker

Sharing the unexpected journey of finding out that gender isn't always as it appears. Join us to explore how our children can be the best messengers of God's unconditional love for all of us....if we just take the time to listen and learn from them.

17 Interdependent Web

Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

Special Music: Family Choir

In honor of Earth Day, we will look at the 7th principle that Unitarian Universalist congregations have covenanted to Affirm and Promote: The interdependent web of existence, of which we are a part.

24 Easter Sunday

Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

Potluck Brunch

This Sunday we will celebrate the miracle of the earth awakening from its winter slumber. We will also have a Child Dedication Ceremony to celebrate new life in our congregation and to commit ourselves to nurturing these children as they grow.

May 1 Peace, Liberty and Justice for All

Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

Child Dedication Service April 24

Rather than holding Christian-style baptism ceremonies, most Unitarian Universalist congregations have child dedication services for infants, adopted children, and children whose families have recently joined the congregation.

The dedication ceremony is a celebration of the blessing of new life, an expression of the parents' hopes for their child, and a call to the parents and the congregation's members to lead and nurture the child's spiritual life as it grows.

There will be an informational meeting with participating parents at 10:45 am on Sunday, April 17. If you would like to include your child/ren in this ceremony, please contact Lori Allen (dcym@uufames.org).

Charlotte's Web

I left the Anglican church in 1958 vowing never again to set foot in a church that asked me to lie (they wanted me to swear I believed things that I didn't). On Easter Sunday, 1959, my mother and I visited the Winnipeg Unitarian Church where I was born again! My old understanding of organized religion died and I found my religious home. I've never left. Religion had meaning for me again!

That Easter Sunday the Rev. Phillip Petursson spoke about the power and beauty of new life rising from seemingly barren soil. Resurrection, he said, occurs whenever that which has died is transformed into new life – literally or metaphorically. All growth, all learning, all things new are born from the death of some earlier way of being.

Many years later, the Rev. Emil V. Gudmundson, District Executive for Prairie Star and Western Canada Districts, and an important mentor to me during my journey to the UU ministry wrote:

I believe I am born again, not just once, but over and over again. I am born again when I discover I can achieve the goal I thought was impossible. I am born again when the good earth is warm enough to feel good under my fingernails. I am born again when I really hear the expressions of love, whether uttered or not, from a loved one. I am born again when I experience justice in the cold, cold world.

Yes, I am a born again Unitarian. But I need not say born again – that is implicit in being a Unitarian.

The death of my old religious beliefs and the resurrection of faith I experienced on Easter Sunday, 1959 changed (and likely saved) my life.

May each of you experience the joy of being born again this Easter season.

Faithfully,
Rev. Charlotte Cowtan
Interim Minister

Endowment Revenue Distributed to 4 UUFA Projects

The UUFA has an Endowment fund, which is set aside to nurture our congregation today and into the future. One provision of the Endowment policy is that a portion of the annual revenue (interest and/or dividends) from the investments can be distributed to worthy needs of the UUFA, such as programming, equipment, and maintenance. The UUFA Endowment Acquisitions and Disbursements Committee met in March and agreed to distribute \$1,650 to support requests from four committees that applied for funds for the following projects:

- Sunday Program Committee: \$400 for a new microphone.
- Lawn Care: \$500 for a new lawn mower.
- Music Committee: \$500 for professional development for the music coordinator.
- Membership Committee: \$250 for permanent name tags for new members.

During the past 15 years, more than \$7,500 of revenue from the Endowment fund has been distributed to enhance the programs and facilities of the Fellowship. In addition, funds from the Cook Endowment have been used to pay down the mortgage (>\$10,000) and funds from the Berger Endowment will be distributed this year to support the library. The Fellowship is grateful for the contributions that help our Unitarian Universalist community in Ames build a strong foundation for tomorrow and a reliable source of funding for new ideas and unexpected expenses. For more information about the UUFA Endowment, pick up a brochure in the literature rack or contact one of the members of the Endowment Acquisitions and Disbursements Committee: Bonnie Bowen, Ginny Huntington, Duffie Lorr, Rosa Ünal and Suzanne Zilber.

April Showers In a Season Of Change

It always amazes me that there is much going on at the UUFA, yet to be settled, when the next news article is due (this one on March 21st). I'm left feeling less than current, as I must assume that the Special Congregational meeting went off without a hitch and that our new Vision Statement and Ministerial Search Committee are in place. If not, all will be remedied soon.

This ambiguity is something I have felt a lot this year, beyond the several days unknown between writing and receiving the newsletter. The theme is the same: what will happen...? The big question mark. To ease my own anxiety, I breathe deeply, attend to the present moment, and trust that when the future reveals itself, I will be okay, whatever it brings. I use this approach in my home life, my work life and in Fellowship life.

This is easier to do if I look at the big picture. For example, take the seasons. They come and they go. Summer, autumn, winter and spring, all have dichotomy between my most and least favorite things. Summer: sun/warm (yeah!), bugs/humidity (boo!). Autumn: fall colors (yeah!), wind gusts (boo!). Winter: early snow/holidays (yeah!) ice/late snow (boo!). Spring: buds and greening (yeah!), rain and mud (boo!). Because there is no one perfect season for me, I focus on the positive of each and know that the negative is temporary. I can also rejoice when I am scraping the ice from my windshield that no bugs are biting me! Mother Nature is what she is, regardless of my likes and dislikes. It is up to me to create the outlook that maintains my well-being, whatever she brings.

I see change at the Fellowship in much the same way. Change, like the seasons, has four cycles: anticipation/excitement, confusion/anxiety, processing/new understanding, and resolution/satisfaction. If satisfaction is not reached, things circle back to confusion/anxiety until the cycle is complete. This is true in the larger pattern of overall change, as in our two-year interim period, as well as within each small change that takes place, as in every new policy and procedure, vision statement, or Search Committee that we create together. Knowing that anxiety is part of the natural change cycle, even though it's not my favorite thing, I can acknowledge it as temporary and focus on the bigger picture. It is up to me not to get lost in the shuffle of potential negativity. I keep positive by following the recommended guidelines for *Healthy Congregations*, by Peter Steinke (a workshop provided through the Prairie Star District). As best I can, I manage my own anxiety and allow others to do the same, I talk directly to the people I have concerns with and not about them to others, I assume best intentions, and I make my own communication as clear and transparent as possible. These are a few of the skills listed as essentials for leaders and members of congregations to establish and maintain health in community together.

Perhaps the anxiety I feel with change can be equated to the spring rains. As the saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers." Seasonally, I hear tell, the UUFA has gone through many change cycles and has always come out the better for it. We need the rain for the flowers to bud and bloom. Change cycle: anxiety (boo!), completing the process for our benefit and betterment (yeah!).

We are already a healthy congregation. Even so, the change cycle pattern remains the same. It is what we do with our anxiety and discomfort when it arises, and how we respond to it within ourselves and in each other that indicates how healthy we are. Let's continue to manage our personal anxiety as individuals, talk directly to each other, assume best intentions, and communicate in clear, transparent ways. Let's breathe deeply together, attend to the present moment, and assume that whatever the future reveals for us, we will be okay. I, for one, think we will be better than okay. The "A" in UUFA will stand for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of AWESOME!

Deb Kline
UUFA Board President

2011-2012 Budget Process

The Finance Committee is working on a final draft of the 2011-2012 budget for review by the Board at its April 13 meeting. The Board will post the proposed budget on the website and will hold Budget Hearings on Sunday, May 1, 10:45 - 11:20 am, and Tuesday, May 3, 7:00-8:30 pm, to answer questions and receive congregational input. The final budget will be submitted to the Annual Meeting on May 15 for congregational approval.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to the following members, friends, and contributors who have already made a commitment to the 2011-2012 fiscal year. If we have mistakenly missed your name, please contact the office so we can correct our records. To date, we have received \$275,608 from 165 pledging units. We are still waiting on almost 40 pledges, with a projected additional amount of \$26,761. Information current as of March 29, 2011.

Barb Abbott	Diane Debinski & James Pritchard	Mark & Lisa Harmison
Janet Alcorn & Paul Ferrone	Sue DeBlicek	Bob Haug & Anne Kimber
Linda Ambrosio	Krysta Deitz & Justin Sencer	Carolyn Heising
Bob Anders & Deb Anders-Bond	David DenHaan & Carolyn Myers	Marty Helland
Greta Anderson & Mark Harris	Delphine Douglass & Jim Werbel	Isabel Hendrickson
Martha Ann Atkins & Joe Rippetoe	John Dresser	Stan Henning & Kay Puttock
Linda Barnes & Mark Runquist	Bart & Jane Dupuis	Kathy Hickok
Sue Barry & Erik Vollbrecht	Don Durand & Pat Trimbell	Mary Hicks & Jack Vas
Tom Barta	Peggy Earnshaw & Paul Tanaka	Charles & Jessica Higgins
Christian & Lyric Bartholomay	Chad & Jean Eells	Andrea & Rick Hill
Karen Bates & David Brown	Carol Elbert	Christopher Hopkins & Sandra Norvell
Anita & Wayne Beal	Lisa Enloe & Steve Sapp	Jon Hunstock
Gwyn Beattie & Larry Halverson	Chris & Sarah Evans	Ginny & Stuart Huntington
Kay & Roger Berger	Barb Evenson	Roger Jacobson
Bonnie Bowen & Rolf Koford	Toby Ewing	Sue Jarnagin
Jeanne & Roger Boydston	Amanda Fales-Williams & Bill Williams	Susan Jasper
David Brenner	Lynn Fawcett	Lena Jennings
Joyce & Rod Brink	Kitty Fisher	Jane Johnson
Mary & Patrick Brooks	Tom Flack	Mark Kassis & Terry Lowman
Cathy Bullock-McCalley	Virginia & Lynn Fletchall	Betty & Dennis Keeney
Bob & Rosemary Bulman	Rilla & Dave Fox	Fritz & Ria Keinert
Lee Burchinal & Donna Newbrough	Fritz & Susan Franzen	Clair & Marilyn Keller
Laurence Burkhalter	Julie & Rich Freed	Dorothy & George Kizer
Steven Cannon	Ron & Holly Fuchs	Erv Klaas
Sarah Carlson & Larry Hanft	Michelle & Greg Fuqua	Deborah & Kendal Kline
Margy Chamberlin	Kathy & Ralph Gandy	Nikki & Todd Krueger
Bev Clark & Richard Floss	Debby Garwood	Sarah & Jan Laaser-Webb
Laurie Connolly & David Ohrt	Joel Geske	Andy & Kate Larson
Rev. Charlotte Cowtan	Mark & Winnie Gleason	Nick Lauter & Adrienne Moran Lauter
Stanley & Sue Crull	Helen Gunderson	Forrest Laws
Carolyn Cutrona & Daniel Russell	Peggy Gurau	Cheryl Lawson & Sam Wormley
Dennis & Dorothy Dake	Clay & Jamie Gurganus	Semakaleng Lebepe-Mazur
Sally Daub & Janet Vine	Andrew Hanft	Ada Mae Lewis
Jennifer Davidson	Kate & Steven Hardy	

Dennis & Ronell Lindeman	Melissa & Mike Murray	Andrew & Rebecca Severin
Freda Line	Cynthia & Ron Myers	Wesley Shank
Jane Lohnes	George Naylor	Cathy & David Slade
Heather Long	Paul Nelson	Amy & Mark Slagell
Duffie & Bob Lorr	Steven Wayne Newell	Barbara & Don Sorlie
Donna & Monte Lutz	Claus & Melissa Niesen	Dorothy Stagner
Adin Mann & Suzanne Zilber	Phil & Terri O'Berry	Nancy Tepper
Doug & Laura Marek	Sarah Orley	Shawna Thompson
Cynthia Marten & Dallas Thies	Sue Ann Peck	Crystal Tice
Kerry & Steve Martens	Erin Pederson & Tom Schultz	Rosa & Ozer Unal
Christopher & Tamara Martin	Jean Peterson	Fred & Jane Vallier
Jo Ann Masterson & Tom McGiverin	Ann & Clay Pierce	Lynne & Rich Van Valin
Don & Joan Mathews	Shelli Pitner	Mimi Wagner
Betsy & Scott McLeod	Ann Predgen	Bobbie Warman
Lotus & Wilmer Miller	Mary & Raj Raman	Bethany Weber
Ginny & Lee Molgaard	Sue Ravenscroft	Chris & Jeff White
Judith Mongin	Mary Richards	Mark Widrlechner
Tom Muhlenbruch & Alice Welch	Don Roberts	Andrew Williams
Dianne & Dick Mumm	Jeanne & James Roth	Jennifer Williams
Jim Murdock & Cathy Scott	Cindy & Dirk Scholten	Faith & Michael Winchester
Amy Murphy	Bert & Nancy Schroeder	Brenda & Mark Witherspoon
	Charles & Pam Schwab	Tracey Yates

March Board Highlights:

Key decisions:

There was no quorum for the March 9th Board meeting. As a result the later two action items occurred outside of the regular Board meeting.

- Farm-to-Folk Rental Agreement was approved, as forwarded by the ELT. The two absent ELT members were counted in favor, as forwarders of the action, so as to obtain a majority vote.

- Ministerial Search Action: An additional meeting was scheduled on Tuesday, March 15, with a quorum to approve the four Ministerial Search Committee candidate recommendations from the Nominating Committee and to appoint the additional three members by the Board, also recommended by the Nominating Committee. Approved for congregational vote at the Special Congregational Meeting was the slate of Linda Barnes, Peggy Earnshaw, Jamie Gurganus and Mark Harmison. Approved for appointment by the Board were Sarah Carlson, Andrew Williams and Brenda Witherspoon.

- Vision Statement Action: Upon request of the Vision Statement Writing Team, the Board voted to include the Vision Statement (as revised after Board feedback at March 9th meeting discussion), on the Special Meeting agenda. The Board agenda approval vote was taken via email on Tuesday, March 22nd.

Upcoming Considerations:

- The Board will discuss the Interim Ministry Evaluation further, as postponed by no quorum.
- The Board will vote on the recommended staff positions from the Personnel Committee, as postponed by no quorum.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Fellowship continues to change and evolve to meet the needs of our members and friends. Starting in April, the projects coordinator will be scheduling volunteers to help with the Sunday morning tasks and the Tuesday night dinners at the men's shelter. One 'new' idea is to invite groups (re classes, discussion groups, small group ministry, crafters, book readers – you get the idea) to sign up for some of these tasks (like chair set up, making treats, or cooking together at the Fellowship to provide a meal at the shelter). Think about how you – as an individual or as part of a group – could make a difference here at the Fellowship. Check out the bulletin board in the Fireside Room or contact the office to get on the schedule!

Our weekly volunteer jobs include:

Flowers for the Chalice Table - If you have flowers in your garden, or flowers that you find in a store, please feel free to share them with the Fellowship. Flowers are generally in place only for the Sunday programs and can then be reclaimed by the lender.

Greeters – Typically we have one greeter at the bottom of the stairs by the lower level lobby and another greeter outside of Fellowship Hall. The greeters welcome both members and visitors alike, providing directions, answering questions, and serving as a friendly and inviting presence. Greeters are asked to arrive approximately 20 minutes before the service starts and wear a 'greeter' name tag (in the wooden box, at the Visitors' Table) in addition to an individual name tag. Ideally, greeters should remain in position for the first five minutes of the program to welcome late arrivers. (Training provided)

Visitors' Table – Assisting at the visitors' table in the Fireside Room is a great way to meet new people and share your knowledge and enthusiasm about the Fellowship. Welcoming visitors and encouraging them to make a name tag and sign the visitor log are two important jobs. Also, members and friends order name tags at the visitors' table and may obtain the current handbook and directory. (Training provided)

Chair Set Up – Each Sunday morning the chairs need to be set up in Fellowship Hall. This job takes approximately 45 minutes and is most efficient with one 'leader' and another helper or two. (Training provided)

Coffee Prep – This involves arriving early (by 8:45 or 9:00) to fix both regular and decaf coffee, and making additional coffee as needed. (Training provided)

Treats – Typically two or three individuals provide treats of their choosing each Sunday. A general guideline is for each person to bring approximately three dozen goodies (cookies, bars, brownies, cheese wedges and crackers, servings of fruit, etc.).

**** Treat Table **** - Kathy Gandy is the current mistress of the Treat Table and decorator of the geese in their seasonally or thematically appropriate attire. Not only does she artistically present the treats that others provide, but she also brings freshly laundered cloth napkins each Sunday. Kathy's only request is that these be deposited back in the 'used' napkin bag for another washing.

Coffee Clean-Up – All of the coffee mugs and treat plates need to be run through the sanitizer, and the coffee pots need to be washed out as well. This job can take place after the Fellowship time or at the conclusion of the second program (when we are running two programs), based on the discretion of the clean-up crew. (Training provided)

Tuesday Night Meal for the Emergency Residence Project – While not a Sunday morning volunteer task, this is a very beneficial service to the community. Fellowship members and friends have been providing one meal a week to the homeless men staying at the Emergency Residence Project on Kellogg for many years. Food preparers may either drop off the meal, or stay for dining and conversation. Meals for approximately 8-10 men are needed every Tuesday. (Please contact the office or David DenHaan at aquarist72@yahoo.com or 515-520-2552 if you have any questions about this worthwhile endeavor.)

If there is a particular task you would like to undertake on a regular schedule (2nd Sunday of the month, for example) or periodically, please let me know. Email is the best way to reach me (projects@uufames.org) but feel free to call the office (292-5960) if that is better for you. Thank you for considering how you can help the Fellowship!
-Diana Crosswait, Projects Coordinator

A Big Thank You to:

- **The Vision Writing team** of Rilla Fox, Ralph Gandy, Carolyn Myers, Andrew Severin, Julian Thies, and Chris White. Their hard work and thoughtfulness in preparing the Vision Statement is greatly appreciated.
- **The Nominating Committee** of David Brenner, Tammy Hartman, Mary Richards, and Rebecca Severin for their hard work to consider and nominate the Ministerial Search Committee members.
- **The Ministerial Search Committee** members of Linda Barnes, Sarah Carlson, Peggy Earnshaw, Jamie Gurganus, Mark Harmison, Andrew Williams, and Brenda Witherspoon for their willingness to take on the task of finding a minister.
- **To Bobbie Warman** for the recent donations of lawn tools, archival information, books, tablecloths, a picture of one of our founders, Edna Gouwens, and a dehumidifier.
- **Supporters of the Partner Church Giving Tree** in December to the tune of \$943! The funds raised will help with the needs identified by our partner congregation and UUFA, such as educational supplies, furnishings for the bed/breakfast facility, car maintenance and internet for the minister. Thank you for responding so generously! ` Kitty Fisher
- I want to give a BIG THANKS to all of you that helped with the Transylvania Night dinner. It was a great success, and reflected what could be done with the efforts of so many people. I especially want to thank:
 - Amy Slagell**, who coordinated the entire meal based on her wealth of experience when doing this for the last COA group – big applause for her willingness to do this again!
 - Kitty Fisher and her committee**, who coordinated everything beyond the food and from all accounts it was wonderful
 - Those who helped with the cooking – **Karin Halverson, Jennifer Williams, Larry Halverson, and many other adults** – and especially to Amy for making everything taste good
 - The afternoon set-up crew – **Hans Halverson, Kenny Slagell and Mike Murray**
 - The evening set-up crew – **Sophia Wilson, Claire Dupuis, Karin and Thea Brenner**
 - All of the servers, who did a wonderful professional job – not a drop of soup was spilled (as far as I know) – **Karin, Thea, Sophia, Claire, Sarah Norvell, Caleb Raman, Ella Bartlett, Macy Vollbrecht, Zoe Pritchard, Jasmine Ambrosio** (and **Iris Brenner**, who was thrown into the fray at the last minute!)
 - The clean-up crew – **Iris and Melissa Jones**, as well as **Sarah** for tirelessly helping with the many dishes, **the servers** who stayed for the clean-up despite being exhausted, and **the Mann's** who came to help even though they didn't get to participate in the dinner!
 - The kitchen helpers – **Jane and Bart Dupuis**, who were moving constantly the whole evening
 - The **parents and mentors** who brought dishes, serving utensils, and made many offers of help throughout the evening
- I apologize if I have forgotten anyone. ~ Gwyn Beattie

New Members Join March 6

New Member Training was held in February resulting in nine people joining on March 6. Rev. Charlotte Cowtan led the training with the assistance of Kitty Fisher, Mark Harmison and Roger Berger, members of the Membership Committee. Thank yous go to Lori Allen and Anne Tepper for arranging and providing child care and to Audrey Hunstock for providing refreshments during training. Check out the photos (ably taken by Mark Harmison) of the new members on the bulletin board and welcome them when you see them on Sundays. Please be sure to welcome Cathy Bullock, Michelle Fuqua, Jan Laaser-Webb, Sarah Laaser-Webb, Andy Larson, Kate Larson, Stephen Munn, Shawna Thompson, and Crystal Tice.



We Are Who We Are, Because We Are Who We Are

This past month I had the pleasure of being interviewed by an Ames Tribune reporter about our Coming of Age program. The reporter was doing a story about rites of passage for adolescents and teens and had been referred to talk to me. I told her that we do have a specific curriculum that has been used for several years, one in which we offer information about many religions and faith traditions to our youth. We do not do this so they can choose a religion that they feel best suits them, but rather so they can see that they are part of the larger population that is constantly seeking answers to life's great mysteries. In each forum where we discuss a particular religion, students and mentors are asked, "How is this particular religion like Unitarian Universalism? What can you learn from this religion that you can use and/or apply to your life?" As you might have suspected, we have learned that all faith traditions, including ours, are places where people come to connect and form relationships with others who are like minded and like valued seekers. Our COA program helps youth understand the value in asking questions and staying connected. That is, in a consistent relationship with others who are also seeking, in a consistent relationship with others who will hold one another accountable to always be questioning, seeking, growing.

I've been thinking about what we, here at the UUFA, teach our children about Unitarian Universalism and, more specifically, what we teach them about our own congregation. The fact that we always have plenty of adult mentors for our program is an affirmation for our participants. As I ponder the COA program, I am aware that our congregation is an extension, of sorts, of this mentoring program. Because we are a group of people in relationship as we seek life's questions as well as life's answers, we are all responsible for how we are each developing, not only as UUs - but as humans, in this community. We co-create one another. Don't you think so? Ponder this poem by David Augsburger, then get back to me...

I
am
I am I
I am many
I am a community
of persons known, loved, hated.
Within me lives a collection of people
I have followed or fought, accepted or avoided,
chosen as good models, rejected as bad models,
prized, valued, idealized, and/or disliked, devalued, despised.
They are all there, remembered or forgotten somewhere within.
I have learned from all of them, willing or not.
I have grown from their gifts, good or bad.
I have gained much because they were there.
They are my teachers, my guides.
They make up my museum,
my inner community,
my community
of the spirit.
Because of
them all
I am
I

As we teach our children and youth and do the work of creating our ever constant, ever changing UU community, may we always remember that we are who we are because we are who we are.

See you on Sunday,

- Lori Allen

Director of Youth and Children's Ministeries

Coming of Age

April 16-17 COA students and mentors will be traveling back to the YMCA Camp near Boone, Iowa. We will be taking the opportunity to challenge ourselves on the high ropes course and we'll also have our final forum where we'll talk more about our personal credos and our May 7 COA celebration. Final details and a schedule will be emailed to COA families and mentors soon.

Space Use Task Force Update

Library move, floor refinishing, drywall repair, painting, baseboard replaced, minister's office sound proofed – check, check, check, check, check, and check! Here's more information on what's to come:

April – Classes will be moved from upstairs to downstairs. Middle school will begin meeting in the upper level. The Potter Room will be designed to operate as the Tower Room used to – more intimate space with comfortable seating for smaller classes and meetings. The Administrative Office will get a new desk and all the stored items from other spaces will be returned to their proper spaces or integrated and organized into the office space.

Furniture for the lower lobby and Fireside Room will be configured with some of our current pieces and some new pieces.

May through Summer 2011 – The upper spaces will get a simple remodel that will create space for the high school youth group, the religious education office and adult meeting spaces. The door that was created between the kitchenette and classroom will be re-hung. The bathroom will be upgraded to make the space compliant with ADA specifications.

Small Group Ministry

Join the Small Group Ministry (SGM) Implementation Team as they facilitate the Sunday Morning Service on April 3. You will have an opportunity to hear what SGM will be at the UUFA and to sign up to participate in SGM. Faith Winchester, Barb Abbott, Fred Vallier, Lisa Harmison, Donna Lutz, Debby Garwood, and Lori Allen will tell you why they feel SMG is important to our community and to themselves, personally, as they give you a glimpse of a SGM experience.

COA Student Service Project

As a service project, COA student Macy Vollbrecht is collecting items for the local Animal Shelter. If you can donate any of the items on the list below, she would appreciate it. Items can be brought to the UUFA on Sundays and put in the designated box in the Fireside Room. This collection will end on Sunday, April 24. Please contact Lori Allen (dycm@uufames.org) with any questions and she will forward them to Macy.

- * Financial Contributions
- * Old towels
- * Bleach
- * Pipe cleaners
- * Hard sanitized white dog bones
- * Rawhides
- * Ping pong balls
- * Combs and brushes
- * Small caring-for-cats booklets
- * Stainless steel spill proof dog bowls (large)
- * Pounce cat treats (soft)
- * Laundry detergent
- * Canned tuna
- * Canned chicken
- * The Super Puppy book for all new canine adopters
- * Microscope (hospital quality)
- * Cardboard cat carriers (see shelter for details)
- * Wormers
- * Top quality feed
- * Clay litter
- * Sawdust litter
- * Office cleaning supplies
- * Detailing gift certificates for Animal Control vehicles
- * Flexi-leads
- * Promise collars
- * Gentle leaders
- * Halti-leads
- * Soft dog treats

Transylvania Night 2011 A Big Success!

Through the cooperative efforts of the UUFA Partner Church Committee and Coming of Age Program (COA), Transylvania Night 2011 was a delightful evening for fellowship, excellent food and entertainment, and for learning more about our partner village, Tordatfalva, Romania. \$1000 will be divided between the Partner Church program and COA. To organize the event Kitty Fisher, from the Partner Church Committee, teamed up with Amy Slagell (who organized the food preparation for the second time) and COA parent, Gwyn Beattie, who lined up all the COA servers and helpers and assisted Amy with the food preparation. These three led the teams, but the evening would not have been possible without the many people from our "UUFA village" who worked to create the magic of the evening.

We send a **BIG THANK YOU** to:

- Partner Church Committee members who helped with all the myriad of details like publicity, ticket selling, display table, hosting, preparing hand-outs, set-up, take down, clean-up: **Bob Anders, Peggy Faden, Sue Jarnagin, Fritz Keinert, Deb Kline, Joan Mathews, Ginny and Lee Molgaard, Mary Richards, Brenda and Mark Witherspoon.**

- Appetizer committee: **Joan Mathews** for organizing the appetizer table and to all the people who contributed appetizers.

- Additional table hosts: **Erv and Janet Klaas, Chris and Tammi Martin, Lynne and Rich Van Valin.**

- Child Care: **Lori Allen and Zoe Pritchard.**

- Entertainers: **Rick Exner and Deb Kline, Larry Burkhalter and Anne Kimber, Delphine Douglass and Jim Werbel.**

- Sound and photography: **Sam Wormley.**

- Cooks and cooking helpers: **David Den Haan and Carolyn Myers** for making the vegetarian entrée, **David Brenner, Peggy Earnshaw, Rick Exner, Karin Halverson, Larry Halverson, Sue Jarnagin, Carter Slagell, Jennifer Williams.**

- Food donations: anonymous donation to COA to purchase local foods, Lucullans for bread and foodstuffs. Fellowship Hall Set-up crew: **Charlotte Cowtan, Toby Ewing, Hans Halverson, Deb Kline, Joan Mathews, Mike and Lara Murray, Kenny Slagell, Brenda and Mark Witherspoon.**

- Dinner Set-up Crew and Servers – **Jasmine Ambrosio, Ella Bartlett, Iris Brenner, Thea Brenner, Claire Dupuis, Karin Halverson, Sarah Norvell, Zoe Pritchard, Caleb Ramen, Macy Vollbrecht, Sophia Wilson.**

- Clean-up Crew – **Iris Brenner, Melissa Jones, Sarah Norvell, the entire Zilber-Mann family, Diane Debinski and James Pritchard, Mark Witherspoon, Fritz Keinert, Toby Ewing.**

- Extra kitchen helpers – **Jane and Bart Dupuis.**

- The **parents and mentors** who brought dishes, serving utensils, and made many offers of help throughout the evening.

- **Office staff** who made sure that publicity was in the newsletters, orders of service, and emails.

We thank everybody who helped in any way, and apologize for any inadvertent omissions! ~ Kitty Fisher

CONSCIENTIOUS CRAFTERS

Next meeting: 12:30 pm, April 10, Fireside Room. Our second-Sunday-of-the-month gathering of crafters welcomes knitters, crocheters, tatters, darners, felters, embroiderers and ply-ers of other needlecrafts. As spring warms us and inspires our creativity, you are invited to bring your project and join us for fellowship and support. We have people who are experts and who can offer assistance. We have beginners who are looking for support and encouragement. We have lots of yarn and lots of project ideas if you want to use your skills for charitable purposes. As the Fellowship year winds down, we are making plans for a fieldtrip to get some new information and fresh ideas. Visit the UUFA website for more information. All are welcome.

DUSTIN BERGER LIBRARY

New books in the Dustin Berger Memorial Library

Several books have been purchased for the Dustin Berger Memorial Library at the request of Fellowship members. Here are three. More will be listed in future newsletter articles.

The Year of Magical Thinking, by Joan Didion; *Here If You Need Me*, by Kate Braestrup; *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott. All three are on the shelf with the Dewey number 921, then alphabetical by author.

PERSEPHONE'S JOURNEY

A new adventure is beginning in the Persephone's Journey group. The group will be reading from *The Twelve Wild Swans* by Starhawk and Hilary Valentine. Come and share the journey on April 25th at 7:00pm upstairs in the RE rooms. Persephone's Journey welcomes all interested in earth-based spirituality. For more information, please contact Crystal at cltice@gmail.com or 515-520-9139.

UU YOGA

Beginning Sunday, April 3, the Sunday yoga class will start at 7:15 instead of 4:45. Yes, there will be class on April 3. There will NOT be class on April 17 as already announced.

WILD ROSE ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

We have a thriving dance group and invite you to join us! All dances are taught and called. No partner or experience necessary. Live music by Cecil's Harp. Musicians are welcome to sit in & play with the band.

When? 2:30 to 4:30 pm, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Where? At the UUFA Fellowship Hall

Spring 2011 Dates: 4/3 & 4/17, 5/15 & 5/29, 6/5.

More Information? Linda Lieberman, 292-8590, lindasuzan@aol.com; Barbi Greenlaw, 292-5317, brgreenlaw@msn.com.

If Sunday isn't a good time for you, a satellite English Country Dance group has formed and meets two Wednesday evenings a month at the First Christian Church. Email Scott Kalberer skalberer@hotmail.com for further info about this group.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP'S READING LIST FOR 2010-2011

Our next Book Group will meet April 4 at 7:00 pm in the Library for a discussion of the book *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. Lisa Genova's novel tackles the subject of early onset Alzheimer's disease and how it affects a Harvard College professor and her family. Both heart-breaking and heart-warming, this book written by a Harvard neuroscientist, follows the arc of the disease. Please join us for a discussion of this book.

This group is an open group and you are free to join us for any or all of our meetings.

Future Discussion Books:

May 2 *The Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich

June 6 *Rebecca's Tale* by Sally Beauman

~ Barbi Greenlaw, 292-5317

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UUFA'S SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:

Our job is to improve communication and cooperation within the Fellowship to enhance social justice within our community, country and world. To do this, we will identify UU members who are already doing social justice within and outside of the Fellowship and connect them as mentors with other UU members. We will interface with the program committee to keep social justice issues in front of the Fellowship. We will organize to cover unmet social justice needs. We will work in coalition with other social justice entities, like Amos and ICCI. We will disseminate social justice information in the monthly newsletter, weekly email, Sunday program, social justice table and on our bulletin boards. We will keep the Welcoming Congregation and any other UU social justice programs viable in the UUFA.

Terry Lowman TerryLLowman@aol.com 515-441-9844
 Sue Jarnigan jarnagin@iastate.edu 515-292-6802
 Mary Richards maryrich@isunet.net 515-292-8174
 Greta Anderson gretagarten@gmail.com 515-382-1309
 Semakaleng Lebepe-Mazur maikanya2000@gmail.com 515-520-0607

Sunday Collection:

Our April collection share will go to our traditional Earth Day cause: the environment. We've chosen the Richard Pohl Prairie Preserve Endowment Fund, c/o The Nature Conservancy (the Pohl Preserve is also known as the Ames High School Prairie). To learn more: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/preserves/files/preservesguide.pdf>

Humanitarian Relief:

Please join the UUSC's relief effort for Japan. This best way to know that your money is being used in ways consistent with UU values. Visit www.uusc.org and click on the Japan Disaster tab to read more and see how you can donate online.

Unicef relief for Libyan children caught in violence: <http://www.unicefusa.org/work/emergencies/>.

Social Justice Workshop:

Important \$15 Social Justice workshop at Prairie Star Conference Friday, April 8, 2011: https://www.psduua.org/drupal/events/AnnualConference2011/Social_Justice_Workshops. Register by April 1. You do not have to attend the Prairie Star Conference also.

Movie Series Starting

EVERY DAY A NEW CRISIS with social justice implications - but some "old" crises deserve our attention, too!

The movie *abUSed* about the Postville raid and the terrible fallout for the entire community.

Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 PM (third Tuesday every month)

Terry & Mark's 3425 Valley View Road in Ames

Come to this **first in a series of films** at which the UUFA Social Justice Committee invites you to learn more about the human consequences of U.S. immigration policy and what needs to be done to correct its injustices. Our motto: "Knowledge fuels change!"

The Fantastics, Sunday, May 8, 3:00 pm, at ACTORS Studio in Ames. Give your mother (or the favorite mother in your life) a treat by taking her to see one of the best musicals of all time, presented as a fundraising effort by AMOS in conjunction with StageWest Theatre. Tickets are \$20 and will be sold by participating congregations, or by calling 515-279-2234 or on-line at www.midwestix.com.

AMOS News

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) provides a way for community members to organize around issues in which they share an interest. It is supported by an interdenominational group of churches and other organizations. AMOS implements an approach to problem-solving focused on doing what is feasible in the local community. This Community Conversation is the second of a series of ongoing community discussions about mental illness. Panel members and audience members will have an opportunity to learn from each other on April 12.

Community Conversation on the Interface of Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System

The Interface of Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System is the topic of a Community Conversation to be held in the Auditorium of Ames Public Library on April 12, (during National Crime Victims Awareness Week) from 7:00-8:30. This Community Conversation is being co-sponsored by the local AMOS Mental Health Issues Team and the Ames Public Library. The general public and political representatives are invited to attend. Focus of the Conversation will be the interface of mental illness and the criminal justice system. Coordinating with Community Conversation, the Ames Public Library and ACCESS will host a Weekend Art Exhibit, featuring works of art by victims of crime.

Panel members include Detective Jerry Spencer of the Crisis Intervention Team of the Ames Police Department; Amy Peters of the Jail Diversion Program; Mark Kubik, Executive Director of the Center for Creative Justice; and representatives from families affected by both mental illness and the criminal justice system.

The discussion will be moderated by Mary Richards, former County Attorney of Story County, and will address questions such as the following: How does the present system work (or fail to work)? How does it impact families caught in the system? What services are available to keep a person with mental illness out of jail or prison? Why is it to society's advantage to keep them out? At the end of the discussion, audience members will have a chance to ask questions.

AMOS Youth & Education Research Team

If you are a citizen of Ames . . . If you are an educator . . . If you are a service provider working with youth . . . If you are a parent of student(s) in the Ames school district . . . If you work in public transit in Ames . . . If you are a youth in Ames . . . If you care about youth and want to be part of solutions. . .

Please join the AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) Youth and Education Research Team and other interested community members in an interactive session of sharing results of our interviews with 21 educators and service providers in our community, discussing priorities and deciding on next steps to close gaps in our current systems.

AMOS Youth & Education Research Team Results-Sharing Session on gaps, barriers and ideas for improving at-risk student intervention in Ames, 7-8:30 pm, Thursday, April 14, 2011, Ames High School Cafeteria.

Goals of the session:

- Increase awareness and understanding of gaps, barriers, ideas and the role of AMOS and the community for at-risk student intervention in Ames.

- Enhance community participation and ideas for solutions.

- Commit to next steps – AMOS and others

AMOS provides a way for community members to organize around issues in which they share an interest. Made up of 28 interdenominational groups and organizations, eight in Ames, AMOS pursues an agenda with multiple issues and responds to the concerns and pressures citizens feel. The top youth and education concern voiced in house meetings of hundreds of Ames citizens in fall, 2009 was youth at risk of dropping out of our system. Please join us in creating collaborative solutions. For more information: <http://amosiowa.org/node/103>

New Movie Series

It's a UU Green Sanctuary film series on three Monday evenings in May. Fellowship members and friends are encouraged to come. Each event will be in the Fireside Room and begin with a light, locally-sourced meal at 6:30 pm followed by the film screening and discussion. May 9 will be *Green Fire* about the life of Aldo Leopold and his development of the land ethic. May 16 will be *Dirt* about soil conservation and food production with a global perspective. May 23 will be *Ingredients* about the importance of locally grown food. The series is a collaboration of Erv Klaas, who is the UUGS project leader for continuing education, and Linda Barnes and Helen Gunderson, who are the UUGS project leaders for promoting and celebrating the use of locally grown food. Space is limited to 22 people per night, so register soon at the office or with Helen for the film or films you wish to see. There will be a basket for free will donations to help pay for screening rights and food. Watch the UU weekly email updates for further information about another light lunch and film screening at 11:30 am on Saturday, May 14, and hyperlinks to trailers for all of the films. If successful, a similar film series will be offered again in the summer or fall. 232-9416 gf@gunderfriend.com

Fellowship Meals News

Fellowship members, visitors, and friends are invited to the Easter Day potluck brunch following the second program on April 24. Helen Gunderson, chair of the UU Meals Planning Group, is coordinating the event. Please contact her for further information, to let her know you are coming, and/or to volunteer to help. And look for additional information in the UU weekly email updates.

Summer Potlucks

In-home potlucks are one of the most cherished Fellowship traditions. This year we are going to try continuing the potluck season through the summer months. If you are already on the potluck list for this year and you wish to continue through the summer, do nothing. If you aren't on the list and would like to be, please just send me an email saying so at potlucks@uufames.org. If you're already on the list but don't want to participate over the summer, also send me an email.

Of course many of you aren't here all summer, so we're going to try a little different approach to scheduling potlucks. Details will be sent to all who sign up in late April. Here's hoping that summer potlucks are as successful as our regular season variety! ~ Mark Harmison

UUFA Adopt a Pepper Plant Program

Whether planning a vegetable garden or wanting a symbolic vegetable-growing project, how about planting a pepper plant—even if in the middle of your flower bed or in a container? UUFA local food advocate Helen Gunderson got smitten with starting pepper plants this winter and has nearly 100 for adoption. She and Linda Barnes, coordinators of our Green Sanctuary project to promote and celebrate the use of locally-grown food, decided that it would indeed be “green” to encourage UU folk to grow peppers. So let the seed of the idea germinate, tell Helen if you want to be involved, and she and Linda will keep you up-to-date with pepper-growing advice, if you need it, and various dimensions of the project as they develop. Who knows—maybe we will have a pepper Blog and in the fall, we can have a pepper communion or you can provide a pepper dish for one of our Fellowship meals?

UUFA Gardening and Local Food Message Board

You are also invited to join the UUFA Gardening and Local Food message board. There are already 24 members. It's a Yahoo group, and you will need a Yahoo username, but you do not have to use a Yahoo email address. You may also choose whether you want to receive individual emails, a daily digest email, or no email.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUFAgardeningandfood/>

Gallery In The Round Exhibit

“Daring to Be,” a photography exhibit focusing on thirty women from the Yucatán region in Mexico, will be on display in the Gallery in the Round from April 23 to June 11. Jann Freed will be reading from her book, *Women of Yucatan: Thirty who Dared to Change their World*, published by McFarland Publishing, at a reception and gallery talk on a date yet to be scheduled. Please watch the weekly UU e-mail announcements or contact Sue Jarnagin for the reception date. Mexican snacks will be served and information related to our UU social-environmental service project in the Yucatan will be on display. The event and exhibit are free and open to the public.

Freed, professor of business management at Central College in Pella and Iowa Sister States volunteer, and George Ann Huck, professor emerita of Spanish at Central College, collaborated on the book. The book profiles 30 women who have dared to challenge gender inequalities set against them at birth in their native Mexico. The idea for the book emerged during the semester Freed taught at Central’s Yucatan program. The two paired up to interview 30 women in this patriarchal society. The profiles, supplemented by photographs, describe the women’s accomplishments and motivations as well as the obstacles they have confronted.

A bilingual photography exhibit has been displayed in more than 25 locations around the state of Iowa since 2000. An exhibit was held in Mérida Yucatán in 2004, with most of the profiled women present. This project was supported by grants from Central College, Humanities Iowa, the Iowa Arts Council and Iowa Sister States Program.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames

Our Mission

We are a diverse community of caring individuals who come together to provide an environment that nurtures and educates our children, stimulates the study and practice of ethical and liberal religious ideals, supports the creative spirit in us all, and demonstrates concern for the environment and the broader community.

Interim Minister: the Rev. Charlotte Cowtanminister@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries: Lori Allendycm@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Office Administrator: Lisa Harmison..... uufa@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Projects Coordinator: Diana Crosswaitprojects@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Nursery Coordinator: Anne Teppernursery@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Caring Concerns caring@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Campus Group: Andrew Hanft.....campus@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Youth Advisor: Ruth Appleton youth@uufames.org – 515-292-5960

Officers of the Board

President	Deb Kline
Vice president	Steve Martens
Past president	Mark Witherspoon
Secretary	Jane Johnson
Treasurer	Fritz Keinert

Board Members

Andrew Hanft	through 2011
Bob Haug	through 2011
David DenHaan	through 2012
Open	through 2012
Kay Puttock	through 2012
Iris Brenner	youth representative

Next Board Meeting:
6:30 pm, Wednesday, April 13

The UUFA office is open Sundays 9-1, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9-5, Wednesdays 12:30-7:00 pm.