



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames

January 2012

1015 N. Hyland Ave.
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www.uufames.org
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Service times are 9:15 and 11:00 am except where listed below.

1 *Who Are We and Where are We Going? : Starting the New Year with Direction*

Andrew Williams

Single 10:00 Service

No Religious Education classes, no nursery care available.

2012 will be a big year for the Fellowship. There will be plenty of social time after the talk. There will be no RE; however, the presentation will be kid-friendly. Come listen to the tranquil tunes of Jen McClung, hear some thought-provoking ideas based on our all-congregation survey results, and consider the year ahead with Andrew.

8 *Must We Deserve a Rainbow?*

Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

None of us can truly say that we've done anything to 'deserve' so many of the gifts that enrich our lives. Sometimes, however, it's hard to rejoice in our good fortune when so many, who also have done nothing to deserve it, are suffering ill fortune. How can we reconcile E.B. White's dilemma: "being torn between the desire to savor the world and the desire to save it?"

15 *Words and Deeds*

Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

On this MLK Sunday Rev. Cowtan will present the fourth in the series of services based on the sources of our Unitarian Universalist Faith: "Words and Deeds of Prophetic men and women which challenge us to confront the powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love."

22 *Do Unitarian Universalists Pray?*

Rev. Charlotte Cowtan

UUs are often uncomfortable with the idea of prayer. How do we respond when asked to offer a 'blessing' before a meal, or to pray for someone during a difficult time? How do we respond when someone says that they will be praying for us? What is prayer anyway? These are some of the questions Rev. Cowtan will be wrestling with in this sermon.

29 *Dragged Kicking and Screaming into Heaven*

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed

Early in the 19th century Universalism swept across our young nation finding a popularity it never again achieved. It proclaimed a truly radical message. Is it time for us to return to the message that God's love brooks no resistance? Universalism re-articulated for the 21st century.

Deadline for the next newsletter is January 20.

For a current calendar, see www.uufames.org

Fellowship Meal January 22

The Fellowship's sixth annual, Iowa-grown dinner will be on Sunday, January 22, following the second service. It is a project of the UU Meals Group and coordinated by Helen Gunderson and Jan Vine. Stay tuned to the weekly updates in January for more information about the menu and ways you can get involved by bringing food or helping in other ways.

On becoming a member

The Unitarian Universalist way of searching for truth and meaning requires participation in a religious community. We need religious community for a variety of perspectives to correct our partial vision. We need other people to help us recognize when we are off course. We need one another to help find a path when we've lost our way. We need one another to help find a better way – to find what has been helpful when others faced similar challenges in life. We need one another because together we have more wisdom, more talent, more power and more love than any one of us possesses on our own.

Becoming a member is a process. Usually people notice that they have moved from saying "I am a Unitarian Universalist" to stating "My congregation is the UU Fellowship of Ames". When our religious identity is connected to a specific congregation, it's generally time to consider becoming a member. As a member you are stating that this is your religious home, and that you want to contribute your time, talents and financial resources to support it

While non-members actively participate in and support the life of this congregation, only active members may hold elected office or vote in congregational meetings. Thus only active members will be eligible to vote when the congregation selects your new minister (likely by May).

If you are ready to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and about becoming a member of the UUFA, we will have a series of classes in February. Please contact the office (uufa@uufames.org) or stop at the Visitor Table on Sunday morning if you are interested in participating.

Part 1: Introduction to Unitarian Universalism, Saturday, February 11 (9:30 am-12:00 pm), or Tuesday, February 14 (6:30-9:00 pm). Part 2: Becoming a Member of UUFA, Saturday, February 25 (9:30 am-12:00 pm)

Faithfully,
Interim Minister Rev. Charlotte Cowtan



An opportunity to join our strengths and resources in service to life's higher purposes and the future of this congregation.

Many wonderful things happened in the Fellowship this year: a new parking lot, new furniture, visiting speakers and musicians, an increased connection with the larger UU world and progress with our ministerial search. All made possible by the generosity of this congregation.

Let's celebrate with A PARTY!

Saturday February 4, 7-9 PM is our Fellowship Family Fun(d) Night. Food! Balloons! Party favors! Door prizes! Live musical entertainment about us based on Sesame Street music!

Ages 5 and up will be in the Fellowship Hall while those under 5 will be offered childcare. Children of various ages may view the video "Follow that Bird" if they don't want to hang with the grown ups. Sign ups for childcare and bringing treats will occur in the Fireside Room or you can call Mary Raman at 233-1421. You will not be asked for money that evening, it's just a party!

The Canvass

Thirty four volunteers have stepped up to visit with you, talk about your relationship with the Fellowship and gather your 2012-2013 pledge to the operating fund. A volunteer will contact you to schedule a face to face visit in February. You will get material in the mail to think about your giving before the canvass visit. We see this canvass as an opportunity to build connections, create new relationships, and enhance our congregational health.

We look forward to fun times together on February 4, and connecting even more meaningfully with your during the Stewardship campaign.

- Suzanne Zilber on behalf of the Stewardship Team

Epiphany Gathering: Friday, January 6, 6 pm

Epiphany: “to make manifest,” “to reveal,” “an illuminating realization,” or just “a good reason to gather together”

The start of a New Year is a fine time for reflection and planning. This year, January 6th, Epiphany, or Twelfth Night (the 12th day after Christmas), falls on Friday night. The UUFA Transition Team invites you to join us that evening for fellowship (food & fun) and for community conversations about a congregational covenant.

The congregational covenanting process will give members the opportunity to share what they need from this community to feel safe and supported as they participate in the life of the Fellowship. The result of our conversations will be a living document that allows us to make a clear commitment to how we will live our principles as we gather together to work toward our UUFA vision to become a “beacon of social justice and liberal religion.” As Jackie Cornish notes in her contribution to the *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum, “The free church tradition of which we are a part does not offer up a creed, a certain set of beliefs, that everyone must accept in order to belong to the community. Instead, the boundaries of our community are determined by commitment and participation. Our central question is not ‘What do we believe?’ but rather ‘What values will we uphold and how will we do this together?’”

What does a covenant look like? Well, in his 2002 book *The American Creed*, Forrest Church offered the following paraphrase of the 1648 covenant of the New England Puritans: “We pledge to walk together in the ways of truth and affection, as best we know them now, or may learn them in the days to come, that we and our children may be fulfilled and that we may speak to the world in words and actions of peace and goodwill.”

We’ll have examples of several covenants from UU congregations available on January 6th. If you want to explore some on your own you might take a look at the statements from the following UU communities:

- [Unitarian Universalists of Arlington, VA](http://www.uucava.org/page/uuca-congregational-covenant) (<http://www.uucava.org/page/uuca-congregational-covenant>)
- [Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Church](http://www.euuc.org/members/covenant.php) (<http://www.euuc.org/members/covenant.php>)
- [Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation](http://www.emersonuu.org/downloads/congregational-covenant.pdf) (<http://www.emersonuu.org/downloads/congregational-covenant.pdf>)

Given our great response to the search committee’s cottage meetings, the transition team looks forward to offering another opportunity to gather for Fellowship and conversations about things that matter. After our Epiphany gathering and workshop, we’ll follow-up with some small group discussion opportunities. After we have a draft document, transition team members will hold hearings this spring in hopes of bringing a congregational covenant to the annual meeting in May. If you have questions or input to offer before January 6th please be touch with the current Transition Team chair, Amy Slagell (aslagell@gmail.com). Please come celebrate our healthy congregation January 6th, 2012!

Forums in the New Year

Do you have a passionate interest in a social or political issue that you’d like to discuss at the Fellowship? Talk about it to your fellow UUs at a Forum!

After a break in December, Forums on will continue at the Fellowship in 2012. Forums, which consist of a talk followed by discussion, take place upstairs in the Barton/Channing room on the second Sunday of the month. But we need your participation!

If you have a passion about a global or local issue that you’d like to share, please contact Kay Puttock (kay.puttock@gmail.com) Phone: 515-202-4578. We want to hear from you!

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Many of our long-term, dedicated volunteers are also snowbirds. This means we have many openings from January through spring for coffee making, chair set up, greeting, personing the visitors table, bringing treats, and cleaning the kitchen. The January (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C49AEA9283-january1>) sign up genius link is available or contact Diana in the office to help.

A weekend with Mark Morrison Reed

The Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed served as co-minister of Unitarian Universalists congregations in Rochester, New York, and Toronto with his wife, the Rev. Donna Morrison-Reed. He is author or editor of several books, including *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* and *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*.

Saturday, January 28

7:00 pm Book Reading and signing

There are many more African-American UUs than you know about. Find out who they were. Why does UUism find becoming more diverse such a struggle? Learn what is it like to grow up an African-American UU.

Mark Morrison-Reed will read excerpts from his books *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby* and *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*.

Sunday, January 29

9:15 and 11:00 Services: Dragged Kicking and Screaming into Heaven

Early in the 19th century Universalism swept across our young nation finding a popularity it never again achieved. It proclaimed a truly radical message. Is it time for us to return to the message that God's love brooks no resistance? Universalism re-articulated for the 21st century.

Monday, January 30

7:00 pm Lecture and Discussion: "On the Road to Tomorrow"

This talk explores the nature of racism and how and why every North American of whatever hue is wounded by it. There are no exceptions, although most Euro-Americans are unaware of the wound. The process of healing can only begin when one notices the wound and discomfort.

No one is born a racist; prejudice must be systematically taught and culturally reinforced. As children we were all more curious about difference than fearful of it. We were open, engaged, and eager to explore. As we aged, most of us became fearful of and judgmental toward difference. Our lives grew smaller. What does it take to heal and move forward?"

Secret Friends

Our annual Secret Friends event is here! Secret Friends is an event facilitated by youth project coordinators, UUFA volunteers and the director of youth and children's ministries. Children in Kindergarten through Grade 6 are paired with youth or adult secret friends. There are opportunities on three consecutive Sundays to share letters, drawings, cards, and poems. Then, on February 11, the secret friends are invited to a party where the identity of their buddy will be revealed. The February 11 lunch is scheduled from 11 am - 1pm. Lunch, photos, and friendship activities will fill our time together.

Here is the schedule of events:

January 8 & 15 – Sign up for Secret Friends, children and adults

January 22 & 29 & February 5 – Secret Friends exchange notes at the UUFA

February 11, Secret Friend Lunch and Party 11am – 1pm

In-home Pot Lucks

In-home pot lucks have been a long tradition at the Fellowship. Fellowship members and friends can sign up to host or attend a pot luck at any time. It is a great way to get to know people! More hosts are needed too! To sign up, go to <http://www.uufames.org/potluck> and follow the simple instructions there. The system now provides information about the location of potluck and the name of the hosts.

~ Mark Harmison, potluck@uufames.org, 515-292-7650



I've been reading a fabulous book on youth ministry the past few months. It's called *Contemplative Youth Ministry* by Mark Yaconelli. As we're getting ready to interview candidates and eventually hire someone to fill our open UUFA Youth Coordinator position, this book has taken on new meaning for me. Rather than skim through the pages, looking for main ideas and programs to borrow, I decide to really read this book, cover to cover. I'm glad I did.

Many people think of Christianity when they hear the word contemplative. I'd say, however, that there are contemplatives in all faith traditions. The tradition you are a part of may influence whether you use prayer, meditation, physical movement, music, or some other deeply spiritual practice as an instrument for your contemplation. I feel that as Unitarian Universalists, our openness to many spiritual paths allows us to translate any of these practices into tools for our own contemplation. In the book, I'd often substitute the words *Love* and *Universe* for God. I found in doing that, the book became a real possibility to be used as a tool for the UUFA to develop the kind of youth programming I feel we all long for. It's apparent though, that we need to find, not only a youth coordinator, but also adults who are willing to companion our youth past Coming of Age mentoring and into the regular assembly of high school students. We need a group of connected adults who gather not only to supervise high school students, but to also nurture each other on their divergent spiritual paths. Might you be one of those companions? Might you consider that what you would do as a youth advisor/mentor would be more for yourself and the good of the Universe than just for the good of the UUFA youth program? Contemplate, if you will, the Contemplative Ministry Cycle – see how being a part of that might help you to see and follow your own personal spiritual path. And, if you are interested in knowing more about being a youth/advisor mentor, please contact me. I'd like to meet with you and hear more about how you see yourself in relation to the world and to youth. Together, with me and with our future youth coordinator, you could move toward being in the world in ways you've always dreamed of. Check this out:



1. Contemplation: Spiritual practices (meditation, prayer, music, dance) help us pay attention to the presence of Love in our life and in our ministries.

2. Covenant Community: We join others (adults also working with youth) to tend the Spirit, deepen our discernment of our UU values, and share the burdens and joys of our ministry.

3. Companionship: We move out of spiritual practice to the adult covenant community to accompany youth. Youth draw us out of our contemplation and into service and care.

4. Clarity: As we begin working with and relating to youth, we begin to gain clarity as to how our faith tradition, and the youth of our faith tradition, are beckoning to us. What programs, relationships, activities - are we called to co-create with youth?

5. Contemplative Action: Grounded in our community and the values of UUism we begin to take action, either on behalf of youth or with youth,

in service to a world in need of our care. Our programs and ministries are developed at this stage.

6. Reflection: We reflect on our actions in light of our UU faith and traditions. We identify how Spirit is moving or blocked through our programs and actions.

1. Contemplation: We start the cycle again. Returning to the source, our faith, offering the ministry, ourselves, and our actions to be discerned. After a time of silence and renewal, we begin again, listening for guidance from our UU community.

Email me - Lori (dycm@uufames.org)

Gather the Spirit – Cancelled!

It was an idea whose time has not come, or has passed, not sure which. Because of low attendance for these gatherings, we are cancelling the rest of the classes. Many thanks to David Brenner, Dave Fox, Erv Klaas, and Aaron Mann for sharing their ideas and expertise on the issues of water safety, accessibility, and importance to all life on the planet. The river collage that was a part of this will be quilted and available to display in late spring.

Small Group Ministry (SGM)

Our third round of Small Group Ministry Sessions is beginning in January. We have two group times – the first and third Tuesday of each month (first meeting is Tuesday, January 3), and the second and fourth Thursday of each month (first meeting is Thursday, January 12). Groups meet from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. If you signed up to be in SGM, you will be receiving an email from your facilitators very soon. On Tuesday evenings, we will be offering childcare for SGM participants with children in Grade 5 and younger. When your group facilitator contacts you, please let them know the ages of the children you'll be bringing for childcare. If you have not signed up but would like to participate, it's not too late. Just contact the UUFA office to let them know if you will participate in the Tuesday or Thursday group.

Parents as Spiritual Guides

Are you anxious about what to tell your child(ren) about God, religion, morals, and all things “spiritual”? Do you ever wish you had something to share with your child(ren) that could bring them comfort or strength during difficult personal times? Are you concerned about what your children have or will learn from peers about spirituality and religion? How do you decide how much of your personal spirituality you should share with your or other children? Where do you find renewal and grace in your everyday role of parent? It's good to ponder these questions with others who are doing the same work as you – other parents. Join Lori Allen as she helps parents ask and answer these, and other, important questions. Classes will meet from 6:45 – 8:00 pm twice a month on Tuesdays, beginning January 17. Topics for exploration will be:

- January 17 – Parent's personal theologies, insights from parent's religious journeys.
- February 7 - Ways to engage with children in their religious questions and spiritual practices.
- February 21 - What does Unitarian Universalism have to offer families?
- March 6 - What is the role of parents in a child's theology? Articulating and celebrating every family member's personal theology.

Participation is limited to 12 adults. Childcare is available for children in Grade 5 and younger. Please contact Lori Allen to register, dycm@uufames.org. You may also register by calling the UUFA Office – 292-5960.

UUFA Youth Coordinator Sought

The UUFA is seeking a part-time (less than one-quarter time) Youth Coordinator. Hours are to be determined with the Youth Adult Committee (YAC) and the Director of Youth and Children's Ministries (DYCM). This person will work with youth and the DYCM to coordinate youth programs and activities, communicate with youth, parents, UUFA staff, and the larger congregation. The Youth Coordinator will also work to recruit and foster support for adults working as volunteer youth advisors. Requirements include: Being a well-differentiated individual who can connect with the youth while maintaining healthy boundaries; a healthy role model; having an understanding of and affirmation for the Unitarian Universalist religion; a knowledge of, or willingness to learn more about, faith formation, spiritual development, and congregational policies and politics as it applies to the applicant and the programs they serve; An open mind; Good organizational and communication skills; Safety mindedness; and Flexibility. Finally – the ability to have fun while maintaining leadership, being open – but not too open, and having talent to help youth find what they are called to do, are all desired. If you are this person, please remit your resume and cover letter to Lori Allen, dycm@uufames.org. If you would like to recommend we contact a person you know for this position, please contact Lori so you can share more information. A job description is available from Lori upon request. Salary meets UUA fair compensation guidelines for this position. Application deadline is January 10, 2012.

General Assembly Informational Meeting

Are you interested in attending General Assembly in Phoenix in June 2012? It's a "Justice" GA where participants will be asked to work together with local UUs and Arizona residents to change Arizona's immigration policies. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, January 9th at 7 pm in the Channing/Barton Room. At that meeting you can ask questions and learn about the expected itinerary, lodging, costs, etc. We do know that we'll depart Ames on June 19 and return on June 25th. General Assembly will be geared for intergenerational participants, including children as young as age 8. Persons of all ages – adults, youth, children – are invited to ride the bus. If you would like to ride the bus or go to GA, but you can not be at the meeting on January 9th, please contact Lori Allen (dycm@uufames.org) to set up a meeting time after January 9th. For more information about the actual events at GA, check the UUA websites: <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml>; <http://www.uua.org/immigration/moral/152647.shtml>

January Fellowship Game Night

Our January Fellowship Game Night will take place on Friday, January , at 6:00 pm. This is an event for all ages!

What to bring:

- a game, puzzle, etc. to share (we will have some on hand, too)
 - a potluck dish to share – If you'd rather Nancy pick up pizza for you - \$1.00 per slice – please let me know by phone (231-5752) by Friday at 4:00 pm or by email by 9:00 pm Thursday evening (nancytepper@yahoo.com).
- Please include whether you'd like veggie and/or meat – I'll try to accommodate other requests as well.

We will have water, juice, soft drinks, and coffee on hand. We can always use help setting up at 5:30 and cleaning up afterward. Please RSVP if you can to let us know how many to plan for; otherwise, just come. Also, if you'd like to get direct reminders in the future, or just before the event, please let Nancy (nancytepper@yahoo.com) know (and include your email and phone number).

Hope to see you there!

- Sarah and Nancy

ERP Meals

The Emergency Residence Project is looking for cooks to provide meals for 6-10 men on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm at the Emergency Residence Project Shelter, 225 South Kellogg here in Ames. If you're interested and for more information contact David DenHaan or Carolyn Myers 515-451-1794. Supplies are available to volunteers. This has been added to our Sunday morning volunteers Sign Up Genius links too.

Do you play piano?

Do you enjoy bringing music to people? Read on! The Music Committee is looking for additional accompanists to play hymns on Sundays. If you're even the slightest bit interested, we'd love to hear from you and learn how you can participate musically in our congregation. Please contact Jen Coppoc-McClung (music@uufames.org).

Conscientious Crafters

January is the perfect time to join friends for a cozy afternoon of crafting. Our group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month after second service, 12:15 - 2:00 pm in Classroom 3. On January 8, you are invited to bring your project and join us for fellowship and encouragement. Whatever your level of expertise and whatever craft you enjoy, you are welcome. Bring a sack lunch if you want. We look forward to a fun and relaxing afternoon together. Contact Sue Ann Peck or Mary Richards if you have questions.

A New Book in our Library

God Is Not One by Stephen Prothero

This is a book about the world's eight major religions. I was shocked to learn that "Yoruba Religion" is one of the eight. How many people even knew that "Yoruba" is a religion? The other seven "majors" are Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Daoism, and Confucianism.

Prothero disputes the notion that all religions ultimately worship the same god. He uses an approach that may annoy the truly scholarly, but I loved it: irreverent quips and short anecdotes pepper the pages, and held my attention. Here's a short quote from his introduction: "My focus is not on the spiritual superstars. It is on ordinary religious folk—the stories they tell, the doctrines they affirm, and the rituals they practice. And these stories, doctrines, and rituals could not be more different. Christians do not go on the hajj to Mecca; Jews do not affirm the doctrine of the Trinity; and neither Buddhists nor Hindus trouble themselves about sin or salvation."

I think the title is deliberately misleading – intended to get the reader thinking even before opening the book. The nature/role of God (or gods) is unknowable, and is subject to human beliefs. There are hundreds of conflicting beliefs, doctrines, rituals, prohibitions, mandates. These are presented to the reader in a way both informative and entertaining.

The Dewey number for the Prothero book is 291. It was published in 2010.

- Roger Berger

Women's Book Group

Please join us at the UUFA Monday, January 2, at 7:00 pm for a discussion of *Selected Poems --Strike Sparks* by Sharon Olds. We will be discussing a collection of poems drawn from Sharon's seven published poetry collections. Be prepared to read your favorites to the group!

From the forward of the book:

"I take them up like the male and female
paper dolls and bang them together
at the hip, like chips of flint, as if to
strike sparks from them, I say
Do what you are going to do, and I will tell about it."

For your calendar, this year's reading list:

February 6 *Emperor of all Maladies* by Siddhartha Mukerjee;

March 5 *The Sweet By & By* by Todd Johnson;

April 2 *Freedom a Novel* by Jonathan Franzen;

May 7 *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot;

June 4 *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson

Join us for any or all of the discussions! Give me a call if you have any questions, 292-5317. My email is bluemoon_1660@yahoo.com - Barbi Greenlaw

The Archives Committee is Alive!

In 2012 the long dormant Archives Committee will begin the huge task of inventory, organization, and digitizing our archives with the purpose of making them accessible both to Fellowship people and to the community through the Ames Historical Society. Dennis Wendell of the AHS will come over in January for a consultation and we will also be working with Fellowship member Lisa Hovis of Photosynthesis. Please contact Susan Franzen or the office if you would be interested in cataloging, scrapbooking, or developing slide shows or other types of presentation.

Social Justice News

Thanks! Lynne Van Valen is our new representative on Good Neighbor's board.

We're beginning our co-sponsorship of social justice movies at the Ames Public Library. This means we're helping to finance the movies and helping facilitate post movie discussions. Movies are the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

January 18 You Don't Like the Truth, Four Days inside Guantanamo <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZrERVO19Dg>

February 15 Not Just a Game, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksulE-4Gagg>

March 21 The War You Don't See, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp9tjk0R8Fc>

April 18 Dirty Business, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EZj7dZKxFU>

May 16 Mad City Chickens <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndEELeRvSU> Susan Jasper will be leading this discussion

AMOS: Preparing for the future! First we have "house meeting" training for our leaders, then we have house meetings to build a consensus on what improvements we would like to see in Mid-Iowa. In the past, we've worked for justice in Healthcare, the Environment, Youth and Education, Mental Health, Building Community and Economic Justice/Project Iowa. Issues we could include: Criminal and Immigration Justice. Start making lists of injustice in our community and let's work together for justice!

Standing on the Side of Love has an awesome blog! Learn how other UUs assess current events. <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/>

Starting January 16, Standing on the Side of Love is facilitating 30 Days of Love! What a wonderful program! <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/national-standing-on-the-side-of-love-month-the-story-of-us-the-story-of-now/>

UUFA is hosting MICA's "Living with HIV" auction on Thursday February 9. UUFA needs volunteers to help MICA to host their auction.

Thank you Carol Barrick and Rick Exner!!! Job well done!

ICE Defeated in Establishing Controversial Detention Center in Downtown Des Moines, by Carol Barrick

When ICE attempted to establish an ICE facility in downtown Des Moines a few months ago, several Iowa CCI members and friends appeared at a number of meetings of both the Des Moines Zoning Commission and the Des Moines City Council. These Iowa citizens spoke against the establishment of another ICE detention center in our state. Both Rick Exner and Carol Barrick from the UUFA attended one or more of these meetings.

At one zoning committee meeting, Carol quoted from a report by Erik Camayd Freixas, federal interpreter for the infamous ICE trials that convicted and deported many Postville plant workers. Erik felt he had a responsibility to the public to report the unethical, inhumane trial procedures that took place. His report appeared on the front page of the New York times a week after he put it out on the internet. He also testified before a congressional committee on his experience.

ICE is known for not working cooperatively with local governments and for carrying on its work secretly in ICE detention centers located in Iowa and elsewhere. Raids have stopped, but currently ICE has been deporting increased numbers of immigrants by going door to door. This is not ethical. Responsibility rests with our federal government to pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes stopping this behavior by ICE. Comprehensive federal laws should protect workers that come or are brought here to work. This will stop the breaking up of thousands of families as deported or jailed undocumented parents are separated from their citizen children.

Hopefully, with citizens taking an active part, there will be no more ICE detention centers established in Iowa. And we will be able to put enough pressure on our government to pass realistic laws based on our need for workers.

New Exhibit in the Gallery in the Round

The Art Exhibit Committee will be opening the calendar year with a new exhibit entitled: “Eye Candy – Colorful Experiments for the Eye.” This exhibit will feature the work of well-known local artist Jo Myers-Walker of Gilbert, Iowa and her former student and friend Linda Poore of Story City, Iowa. From January 7 to February 18th the Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room will be filled with their art for your enjoyment. After the busy holiday season, start your new year on January 7th with an artists’ reception from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the Fellowship.

Jo Myers-Walker owns and operates the Left Bank Studio in Gilbert where for many years she has created her watercolors and sculptures of recycled paper, ceramics, and slumped, painted plastic. A variety of these works will be on display along with paintings by Linda Poore. In addition to being a full time artist, Jo has found time, in past years to also teach art courses at Iowa State, DMACC and at many K-12 schools through the Artist in the Schools program. Many of her current activities revolve around spiritual, healing art workshop/retreats with nursing homes, breast cancer survival groups and Hospice. Jo believes that “The arts are healing” and she puts that philosophy into practice with all she does in her studio and with her teaching. In conjunction with this exhibition Jo will also be conducting, during the exhibit, art workshops with the children in RE.

Paintings by Linda Poore, a member of the Iowa Watercolor Society, will also be part of the new display. A painter for over 30 years, Linda has studied not only with Jo Myers-Walker but also Tom Lynch, Arleta Pech, Alvaro Castagnet, Stephen Quiller and Margaret Martin. Her abstract paintings on Yupo, a synthetic paper, will be on display.

Many of the artworks will be available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds going to the Fellowship Art Exhibit Committee fund for the purchase of a sculpture for the Fellowship grounds. Please join us on January 7th to welcome these artists to Gallery-in-the-Round and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames.

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
Music Coordinators: Jen & Jim Coppocmusic@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Caring Concerns caring@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Campus Groupcampus@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Youth Advisor youth@uufames.org – 515-292-5960
Board of Directors board@uufames.org

Officers of the Board

President	Steve Martens
Vice president	Lisa Larson
Past president	Deb Kline
Secretary	Jo Ann Masterson
Treasurer	Fritz Keinert

Board Members

David DenHaan	through 2012
Kay Puttock	through 2012
Amy Slagell	through 2012
Bob Haug	through 2013
Raj Raman	through 2013
Iris Brenner	youth representative

Next Regular Board Meeting:
7:00 pm, Wednesday, January 11

The UUFA office is open Sundays 8:45-12:30, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9:00-5:00, Wednesdays 1:00-7:00.