

UU NEWS

NORTHEAST IOWA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY - MARCH 2008



10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:30 a.m. SERVICE BEGINS

Historic Bethania Lutheran Church
113 N Mill Street
(across Mill Street from the Vesterheim Museum)
Decorah, Iowa 52101
www.neiuuf.org
email: contact@neiuuf.org
phone: Sue Otte 563.382.3137

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THE UU FELLOWSHIP . . .

We've had a variety of services so far this year, hearing about the Halls' journey to our fellowship, finding out what Harold Kushner has to say about 'living a life that matters,' with Derek Sweet, and exploring how 'what we have lost and found' shapes us. Luther professor Diane Scholl gave us a new look at Ralph Waldo Emerson, a pivotal figure in our own history, while Nancy Barry and Dennis Darling introduced us to several important figures and events in the broader history of Unitarian Universalism.

Topics we'll explore in the coming weeks include; the Chakra System: Your Luminous Self; Food and Farm: The Ethics of Eating Well; Late Winter Meditation; Questions in Genetics Ethical Choices; Far Away from Home: Peace Corps experience in Kiribati (do you know where it is?); Spring Equinox: A Time for Balance.

Watch weekly emails for details, or check the Decorah Newspapers. If you have ideas for Sunday Services programming, we'd love to hear about them! Call any board member!



BE A STAR!

A Prairie Star that is. Join some of your fellow UUs at the annual district conference April 11-13 in wonderful Omaha, Nebraska! *Rebuilding a Faithful Democracy* will be the theme - one sure to provide some interesting discussion and workshops. Come and see what excitement is brewing in our district, gather some new ideas, and share some of our own. You can find out more at the Prairie Star website: www.psduua.org click on *conference*. Call Sue (382-3137) if you'd like to talk more about this opportunity!



Childcare is available
at all NEIUUF
Sunday Services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the world baby Fearn-Hawthorn!

Emma Fearn-Hawthorn is the new beautiful daughter of Elyse and Scott Fearn-Hawthorn. Big sister Aya is very proud of her new baby sister!

Looking for Design Help!

I am a UU who moved to Preston, MN to build an organic farm. I'm looking for someone with graphic design/Apple computer skills who would be willing to trade a share of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) for helping me develop a logo and brochures.

E-mail me at kim.banz@gmail.com

Corrections for the NEIUUF Directories:

Kristen Albertson & Tim Hayes

382-0025
1383 Coon Creek Road
Decorah IA 52101
kristim@oneota.net
Children: Lydia, Gus, Arlo

Priscilla Kepfield's phone is 380-7111

Dick Janson's zip code is 52132

If you need a directory, contact Lou Hall at 563.735.5311 or email her at lahall77@hotmail.com.

Directories are also available at Sunday Services every week.

cut out and place in your UU directory

Visit often:

www.uua.org
www.neiuuf.org
www.psduua.org

**National UU
Advertising Campaign**
Uncommon Denomination
Coming soon to a UU near you!

Newsletter Submissions Policy:

It is the policy of the NEIUUF that anonymous letters and correspondence will not be published in our newsletter or other publications. If a member has a concern and wishes to bring it before the board, they may request that it remain confidential, but only signed letters will be given consideration. In order to address concerns of members, elected officials and leaders need to document situations and come to conclusions based on fact. This often requires further clarification and conversation with the person bringing forward the complaint or concern. In addition, you can always contact Derek Sweet, *Ministerial Outreach Coordinator*, with concerns relating to your experience with the NEIUUF. He can be reached at: 563/382-5328. Derek will keep your concerns confidential if that is your wish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, cont'

PERSONAL COACHING!



Mary Jorgensen, NEIUUF member, is pleased to offer her personal coaching expertise to clients who seek to explore their priorities, discover how to make changes that are consistent with their goals and values, and develop tools for living intentionally. Free sample sessions are available by calling 563/382.4558.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

That was the advice Merlin gave Arthur in EB White's classic tale The Once and Future King, when Arthur complained of being sad and down. The dreary days of February often take their toll on us, so check out the UUA website www.clfuu.org/learn to see what courses are available. The Church of the Larger Fellowship is a virtual UU church, for those who want to link up with other UUs but don't live near a congregation. They offer classes that range from parenting skills to UU history.

A New Fellowship Opportunity

"Writings Out Loud"

Tuesday, March 4th 7:00-8:30

I have been inspired by the reading-aloud component of the services done by Nancy Barry, Dennis Darling, Sue Otte, and others to offer a new way for us to share each others good company, and the writings that inspire us - read out loud. Like a poetry reading group expanded to include other short writings.

With emphasis on the lighter side, the hope is that attendees will go home feeling even better than when they came, and with a greater connection to each other, the message of the readings, and the creative flow. Readings would usually be less than 3 minutes, and each person might read once, twice, or not at all, as they choose. Guest readers like Bill Musser and Nancy Barry would be invited to share ideas on ways to read aloud that enhance the message of the text.

Each meeting would include one half-hour of socializing at the beginning then one-hour of reading aloud. The group will meet the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30. Priscilla Kepfield has generously offered her home at 304 Iowa Avenue (across from West Side School), as our meeting place. Because of space issues, and refreshment quantities, when available, it would be nice to know approximately how many to expect. So, please do let me or Priscilla know of your intention to join us.

What fun it will be. Please come and help us create a new opportunity and experience.

Looking forward to seeing you there! Bruce Jordan and Priscilla Kepfield

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome!...

to these wonderful new UU members!

Dick Janson

Jenna Haug

Bill Jurs

Barbara Ettleson

Pat Brockett

Bill Pardee

Cathy Rawitt

We are so glad you have joined the NEJUU!

**MEMBERSHIP
RECOGNITION SUNDAY
MARCH 2, 2008**

Outreach Hint:

Do you know someone who'd be interested in a particular UU service? Just forward the UU Sunday service alert to someone you know. Call them up and invite them to our coffee time and services!

Thoughts on our chalice lighting . . .

I feel compelled to comment on our tradition of lighting the chalice and speak to what it does for our community. That small chalice is such a wonderful communication vessel! It all starts with joys and concerns but very spontaneously great humor, depth of feeling, passion, warmth, core values, goodness, perceptiveness, personal history, remarkable intelligence and love are evoked there while a flame takes to the wick. We better understand who we are, voices coming from the young and not-so-young. The messages are individual and collective too. I love it all!

submitted by: LouAnn Hall

MEMBERSHIP , cont'

COFFEE WITH LOU!

*Lou Hall will interview a different member of the fellowship for each newsletter. Her first conversation is with **Harvey Benson**, or "**Harvey from Harmony**" as we all have come to know and love him!*



Lou: Harvey, some of us at the UU may not know that you are also a member of Decorah Friends Meeting (Quakers). Tell us about your dual membership.

Harvey: When I was at school in Harmony there were two members of my class who were Quakers so I got to know a bit about, 'The Religious Society of Friends.' I was still in high school in 1947 when the 'American Friends Service Committee' won the Nobel Peace Prize. This was very impressive to me for 'peace' has always been a big concern for me.

I did not learn about UUs until I was at the U. of Minn. There I participated in the Tri-U Forum (Unitarians and Universalists of the University.) It was then that I decided that I was a UU at heart.

When I returned to the Harmony area about 4-5 years ago I was happy to learn that there was both a Quaker and UU Fellowship in Decorah.

Lou: What are the commonalities you've observed?

Harvey: Quakers and UUs appear to have many things in common. Both have been leaders in our history in proclaiming and working for peace and social justice issues. Neither has a creed but has a statement of principles which I strongly endorse. I feel very 'comfortable' in the company of either group. They are 'inclusive.' (Carl Sandburg once said the worst word in the English Language was 'exclusive' - and I can almost agree.) In each case we are not told 'what' to think, but are very independent to make up our minds, however we arrive at our conclusions.

Lou: In the face of today's political, economical and social crises, what is it that makes Unitarian-Universalists and the Quakers relevant?

Harvey: In today's political, economic and social crises (and indeed we are facing a crisis) both Quakers and UUs are in general taking stands which are vital. Their stands are the striving for peace in the Middle East (and throughout the world), working for more fairness in our justice system, support for the poor and others denied a voice in our national debates and a grave concern for the life of this planet. I feel that the vast majority of our members are very concerned about what I call, 'human values' for all.

"There is much more to be said but this should suffice for the moment" Harvey from Harmony



HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

DATE	SNACKS & CLEAN UP	GREETER
Feb. 17	Kathleen Sweet/Tom Wahlberg	Beth Wahlberg
Feb. 24	The Darling Darlings!	Laura Beard
March 2	Bill Pardee/Janet Lambert	Cathy Prowitt
March 9	Pat Brockett/Barb Ettelson	Bill Jurs
March 16	Carolyn Corbin/John Hall	Lou Ann Hall
March 23	Rob Carbonell/Lor Miller	Britta Carbonell
April 6	Eleanor Reed-Maxfield/Kathy Reed-Maxfield	Ruth Jenkins
April 13	Tim Hayes/Ellen MacDonald	Kristin Albertson-Hayes
April 20	Bill Musser/Shirley Vermace	Priscilla Kepfield
April 27	Tom Wahlberg/Janelle Pavlovec	Beth Wahlberg
May 4	Mark Eichinger/Parker Deen	Michelle Eichinger
May 11	Mary Beth Gallant/Markus Burggraf	Carol Hagen
May 18	Ardith Hoff/Brenda Burke	Daryl Hoff
May 25	Amy Chicos/Harvery Benson	Lane Schwartz
June 1	Barrett Kepfield/Mona Quinn	Nancy Barry
June 8	Peter Jorgenson/Mary Jorgenson	Dale Tregoning
June 15	Derek Sweet/Mike Vermace	Kathleen Sweet
June 22	Jenna Haug/Elyse Hawthorn	Dick Janson
June 30	Those Darling Darlings!	Laura Beard

PLEASE LOOK AT THIS SCHEDULE CLOSELY and MARK YOUR CALENDARS ACCORDINGLY. Remember, if you cannot work on the days you have been assigned, find a replacement! You can always check with Betsy Pierce at 382-5274 if you are not sure when you are scheduled. Put this on the inside of your cupboard door as a reminder!

HOSPITALITY DETAILS

Check with the previous weeks volunteers to see if you need to pick up more coffee, creamer, napkins, etc. It varies from week to week. **YOU NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN DISH TOWELS and DISH RAGS! All tables, dishes, countertops need to be wiped clean. All garbage needs to be taken home and disposed of by you. Return all UU supplies back to the storage closet under the stairs.**

Snacks:

Please bring enough snacks to serve at least 50-60 people. Suggestions include: coffee cakes, bars, apple slices, cheese/crackers, muffins, pastries, cookies, fresh fruit. You also need to provide juice options, we usually go through about 1/2 gallon of juice.

Coffee and Tea:

Check ahead of time to see if there is enough coffee and tea either by calling last week's volunteers or making arrangements with Vesterheim to get in the kitchen during the week and check. Or you can just bring some from home just in case and take it back home if it wasn't needed.

Make at least three pots of coffee, put them in carafes and then be prepared to make one more pot. First batch of coffee should be ready by 9:50a.m. Use the coffee maker marked for the UU on the countertop. The coffee bag/box/supplies are located in the UU storage closet under the stairs. There should be ground coffee, filters, sugar, napkins, and coffee filters in that bag. You may use the Vesterheim coffee mugs, located in the cupboard below the snack counter, but they must all be washed and put back away when finished that morning.

Tea water is boiled in a pan on the stove and then transferred to a carafe, located in the "carafe" cupboard in the kitchen. Selection of tea bags in the UU tea/coffee bag.

Greeter:

The greeter should arrive by 9:45 a.m. and be wearing their nametag. Greet everyone that attends the services. Make a special effort to welcome and guide any new visitors to the coffee hour in the basement. There are white "visitor" cards in the supplies upstairs, you should hand one of those to new visitors as well.

If any supplies are low, please notify:

Betsy Peirce at 382-5274 or b_peirce17@yahoo.com

BOARD NOTES

NEIUUF Board of Directors 2007-2008

Officers:

Chair - Ruth Jenkins
Chair-elect - John Hall
Treasurer - Beth Wahlberg
Secretary - Shirley Vermace

General trustees:

Derek Sweet
Darrel/Ardith Hoff
Carolyn Corbin
Ex-officio - Dennis Darling

The NEIUUF Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday of every month.
You are always welcome.

To know exact time and location of the meeting call or email **Chair Ruth Jenkins** (382-5609) jenkinru@luther.edu or **Chair-elect John Hall** (735-5311) chimrock@mabeltel.com

Yet another
great UU
family!

The
Wahlbergs!



Annika, Beth, Anders, Tom

Committee Members Needed!

Education

Chair: _____
Committee members: Kristin Albertson,
Kathleen Sweet, and _____

Finance/Stewardship

Chair: Beth Wahlberg (wahlberg@oneota.net)
Committee members: Dale Tregoning,

Social Concerns

Chair: _____
Committee Members: Mary & Peter Jorgensen,
Ellen MacDonald

If you would like to serve on a UU committee, email chair Ruth Jenkins at jenkinru@luther.edu and she would be quite delighted to put you on the volunteer list above!

BUDGET UPDATE

2007-2008 Pledges: \$18,000

Offerings July - December: \$9,280

(our fiscal year runs July-June)

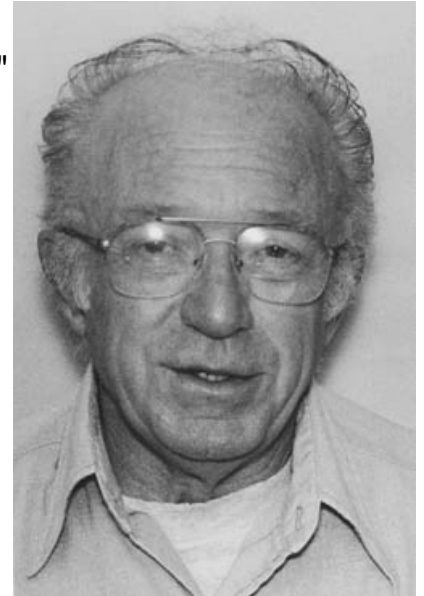
We're right on track! Of course, this figure for offerings received July-December also includes donations from non-members. If you have any questions or concerns about your pledge for 2007-2008, please contact Beth Wahlberg at 382-3798 or wahlbergs@netins.net.

Thanks for your support everyone!

Adult RE

Wisdom in the Ancient Middle East

Popular lecturer and scholar Richard Simon Hanson will lead a course called "Wisdom of the Ancient Middle Eastern World" from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning on March 5 for four consecutive Wednesday evenings at the Decorah Senior Center, 806 River Street in Decorah. Intended for interested adults and senior high students, the course will run through March 26. The course is offered free of charge, though donations will be accepted to defray the cost of facility rental. Individuals are encouraged to attend all four sessions, but may come as they are able.



Dr. Hanson, named "Iowa Professor of the Year" in 1998, is a Luther College religion professor emeritus, Biblical scholar, linguist, archaeologist, storyteller, poet, musician and artist. In "*Wisdom of the Ancient Middle Eastern World*" Hanson will explore topics including: Popular wise men of the 8th century BCE; the Bible's collection of Proverbs; and the biblical Book of Ecclesiastes.

"*Wisdom of the Ancient Middle Eastern World*" is sponsored by the Northeast Iowa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and open to the public. For further information visit the NEIUUF website at www.neiuuf.org.

Youth RE Update

PreK & Kindergarten: Meet during Sunday Services. Instructors are Michelle Eichinger and Carolyn Corbin with assistance coming from a rotating list of volunteers.

1st through 5th Grades: Meet alternating Sundays during services. Instructors are Becky Idstrom and Beth Wahlberg.

6th grade through 8th Grades: Meet every Wednesday night 7:00 at the home of instructor Richard Simon Hanson, 905 W. Pearl Street.

9th-12th Grades: Meet alternating Wednesdays at 7:00 with instructor Paul Docken at the First Lutheran Church.

Questions? Call Kristin Albertson at 382-0025



Brrrrrrrr!

Otter plays on despite the fact he can no longer feel his fingers!

Thanks Otter!

So, what's it all about?

We've been a rather experimental group from the beginning. Those of us who were involved in an earlier incarnation of the NEIUUF, called Open Church, found out that what we suspected, was true. Each of us has an idea of what a perfect Sunday morning looks like. That's after a good breakfast, a leisurely read through the paper, and an extra cup of coffee, of course.

We all have our preferences for topics, styles, formats, times, and what the perfect church space looks like, but we recognize that being an assorted flock of folks, we won't *all* get our way *all* the time. While we may not be of one mind about how we do this thing we call Sunday morning fellowship, we may be clearer about *why* we do it.

UU minister Kendyl Gibbons says that religion is about "how we- each of us, in our uniquely constituted beings-recognize and understand and make sense of that unbidden, overwhelming awe at the wonder, magnificence, danger, demand, and delight of being alive." If we are religious people, perhaps we hunger for a community in which to share the ideas and experiences that Gibbons describes.

UU churches vary widely. Some maintain their strong roots in liberal Christianity, while others resemble ethical humanist societies with minimal or no ritual. Many are a mix of approaches, much like ours. But all of them recognize that some things are learned well only in the context of community. Where else do we find both the support to be who we are, and the challenge to grow into who we may become?

Sue Otte
