



## Northeast Iowa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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](mailto:contact@neiuuf.org)  
phone: Sue Otte 563.382.3137



We were honored to have Colleen Rowley recently speak about "Ethical Decision-Making", a subject that became particularly important to her in her work with the FBI during the years leading up to, and directly after, the events around September 11, 2001.

## WEEKLY SERVICES HAVE ARRIVED!

Beginning in September we will meet EVERY SUNDAY!  
Some of the great programs we have planned for you this fall include:

*Service of Silence*

*Day of the Dead*

*A Harvest Potluck*

*Sacred Sites & Ancient Symbols*

*Intelligent Design?*

*The Poetry of Family*

Watch your email for details!

Thank you, UU family, for your kind notes, letters, and calls. I AM MOVING RATHER SLOWLY BUT MY SPEECH IS IMPROVING.

Sincerely, Darrel Hoff

The NEIUUF Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday of each month. You are always welcome. Because meetings may rotate location, call Chair Ruth Jenkins (382-5609) or Chair-elect John Hall (735-5311) to know exact time and place.

## It's All About Hospitality!

First impressions are important . . . and we want all who enter our fellowship to feel welcome among us. That's one good reason to pay special attention to the **Hospitality Schedule** that Betsy Peirce developed for us. Please refer to the schedule below.

Questions? Contact Betsy (382-5274) Of course, there'll be times when you're scheduled and it won't work for you. Just exchange with someone else, and let the others in your group know too.

**THANK YOU ALL!**

## NEIUUF Directories Available!

If you are new and wondering how you are ever going to remember everyone's names, there's hope! There's a NEIUUF directory complete with names, photos, e-mails, and phones numbers. What a useful resource for all of us!

If you need a directory, contact Lou Hall at 563.735.5311 or email her at lahall77@hotmail.com. Directories will also be available at Sunday services.

# HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

DATE	SNACKS/CLEAN UP CREW	GREETER
Sept. 9	Mark Eichinger, Ardith Hoff, Misseldine family	Ruth Jenkins
Sept. 16	Parker Deen, Darrel Hoff	Harvey Benson
Sept. 23	Kristin Albertson, Bruce Jordan, Brenda Burke	Nancy Barry
Sept. 30	Brita Carbonell, Dennis Darling, Marybeth Gallant	Carolyn Corbin
Oct. 7	Nancy Barry, Tim Hayes, Laura Beard	Rob Carbonell
Oct. 14	Markus Burggraf, Carolyn Corbin, Brenda Burke	Dennis Darling
Oct. 21	Brita Carbonell, Brenda Darling, Kristin Albertson	Bruce Jordan
Oct. 28	Tim Hayes, Dennis Darling, Rob Carbonell	Marybeth Gallant
Nov. 4	Carolyn Corbin, Laura Beard, Brita Carbonell	Brenda Darling

**PLEASE LOOK AT THIS SCHEDULE CLOSELY, EVERYONE HAS BEEN MOVED UP BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE TO WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICES.** There will be new HOSPITALITY assignments sent to you all in the coming weeks. Please read over them very carefully and mark your calendars accordingly. Remember, if you cannot work on the days you have been assigned, find a replacement! Thank you!

## UU WORLD MAGAZINE - FREE TO ALL UU MEMBERS!

Are you getting **UU World**, the free magazine for Unitarian members? If not, would you like to be added to the mailing list? Call Janis Rockabrand or Jim Wolfe at 563/547-5311 to get on the mailing list. **UU World** can also be read online at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

***Our very own NEIUUF and Sue Otte are featured in the latest issue!***

## **TREASURES FOR SALE!**

Do you have some treasures taking up space in your closets? Consider donating them to our NEIUUF online auction! The UU Stewardship Committee is planning an online auction in the future. Antiques, handmade crafts, rare books, UU themed items, recycled presents, rare and wonderful items that are in need of a new home... Set your treasures aside for the auction.

For more info contact Carolyn:  
**c\_corbin2000@yahoo.com**

## **NEWSLETTER IDEAS?**

Please send your submissions for the next NEIUUF newsletter to:  
[svermace@mchsi.com](mailto:svermace@mchsi.com)  
Shirley Vermace  
503 Pinecrest Drive  
Decorah, IA 52101

You may send photos, poems, articles you have written, small classified ads (no charge) , quotes, artwork, and announcements to name just a few. Get those creative juices flowing! *Anonymous letters and submissions will not be published in the newsletter, see policy below.*

**THANK 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.

### ***A note from the chair...***

I would like to start this note by extending a huge thank you to Dennis Darling, past chair of the board of NEIUUF. Dennis's leadership helped guide our fellowship through change and growth. He taught all of us a lesson in grace and in creative thinking. I have some big shoes to fill.

Change and growth are continuing and with both come concerns. The largest of these concerns is location. The board has had many discussions pertaining to our physical space needs.

We love that we are a growing fellowship and realize that our current space is inadequate. We need to find a larger meeting space that has the room for religious education and childcare.

I ask that we follow in the steps of Dennis and put our creative thinking caps on to help with this endeavor. Remember that our fellowship is a community that houses our spirits wherever we find ourselves meeting.

***Thank you and peace to all, Ruth***



## Honoring our Time Together

by Sue Otte

As we light votive candles from our chalice candle on Sunday mornings, we bring forward our joys, concerns, and sorrows. It is a time for connecting. This ritual of honoring a newborn child, remembering a friend or loved one who has died, celebrating a special anniversary, or acknowledging a sacred moment in life, is something that many UUs hold dear. Why is it, then, that many congregations are abandoning this practice?

Conversations with other ministers and lay leaders suggest that size has something to do with it. As congregations grow larger, there is not enough time for all concerns to be presented before the community on Sunday mornings. Another reason, however, that perhaps comes closer to home for us, is the potential for mistaking this time as one for announcements, personal, informational, and occasionally political.

Although discussion of issues and ideas is a vital part of our lives, we must take care to remember that what brings us together and unites us as a spiritual body is our willingness to be open and respectful of differing points of view. The Unitarian Universalist Association is active in the social justice arena, and takes positions on many issues. As a church, we may support policies, but must refrain from endorsing politicians. Making judgmental statements with partisan overtones clashes with our attempts to live up to our UU principles- accepting one another and honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It may also endanger our not for profit tax exempt status as well.

I ask each of you to give this thoughtful attention, hoping that the candle lighting ritual may be a part of our Sunday service for many years to come. If we use it for what it was designed-a precious time of seeing ourselves not as isolated individuals sitting in a room, but a caring community, committed to each other's well being, it will serve us well.

## GREEN BURIALS

Green burials and home funerals...Most people believe they have little or no choice about how we treat our loved ones at the end of life, or how we want to be cared for ourselves. There ARE options and there are resources to guide us in making the end-of-life experience as intimate, caring and earth-friendly as possible. Many parents empower themselves at the time of their child's birth by writing birth plans, or having home births or simply trying to be as informed and involved as possible in that amazing event. Can we also take back our deaths? Somehow the process of leaving this world has become institutionalized and in ways that some people feel uncomfortable with. People used to take care of their loved ones at home at the time of death. There are many reasons to renew this tradition. We would like to create the time and space to discuss these issues, using a recent book and video for some guidance. Watch for an announcement about time and place for this discussion to happen.

-Amy & Priscilla

# 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

## Committee Chairs

### Education

*Brita Carbonell*

### Publicity

*Shirley Vermace*

### Finance/Stewardship

*Beth Wahlberg*

### Hospitality

*Betsy Peirce*

### Membership

*John Hall*

### Facilities

*Carolyn Corbin*

### Social Concerns

TBA

### Ministerial Outreach

*Derek Sweet*

### Ministry/Programming

*Sue Otte*

If you would like to serve on  
a UU committee, email  
Ruth Jenkins at  
jenkinru@luther.edu

## On the September calendar . . .

### September 9 Ingathering at Twin Springs (*Senior Center in case of rain*)

It has been our custom to come together in the fall, at Twin Springs, when weather permits, to formally begin a new cycle of the year, bringing the waters of our summer travels, or from our own kitchen sink, and pouring them into a common bowl. This water is used for any rituals in our congregation during the year. Life is always flowing on-we cannot stop it- it is good to actually see this truth in front of us, as we pour last year's water into the stream and fill our bowl again with the hopes and dreams of our present lives. BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS OR A BLANKET TO SIT UPON!

September 16 Looking to Our Future Derek Sweet will facilitate this discussion about what may be in our future

September 23 Another Way Jim Dale, retired Methodist minister and long time social justice advocate will speak

## Come To Church Anyway!

(some thoughts from UU minister, Victoria Weinstein with a comment from your program committee)

Last Sunday morning I picked up the phone in the office at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After I said, "Good morning, Unitarian Church," a woman's voice said, "Good morning! Can you tell me what the topic is this morning?"

Uh-oh.

I thought real fast and said, "The topic is, "COME TO CHURCH ANYWAY!" Come no matter what the topic is, because your church needs you and you need your church, and it doesn't matter what the preacher's going to say!

I was the preacher that morning, and I knew it was true.

The woman patiently waited while I finished my enthusiastic pitch, winding down by lamely adding, "Um, the topic is actually 'On Resilience.' "

"Thank you," she said, and hung up. I'm glad she had a good sense of humor and was nice enough to greet me enthusiastically at the coffee hour after the second service. I had told the story to the congregation as an introduction to the Offering and she was a big enough sport to get a kick out of it, and to thank me for urging her to "Come Anyway!"

Sometimes I wish we could do away with advertising sermon topics in advance altogether and just say for every week, "Today's sermon is called COME ANYWAY."

Rev. Weinstein's remarks continue, but you get the idea.....much of what happens on Sunday mornings is about people connecting, not about a particular topic. So please **Come Anyway!** We all need each other!

## “Bringing Our History to Life”: A History Video Workshop for Congregations

This fall, Prairie Star congregations will get a chance to learn how to research and record their own histories. In October and November, the Prairie Star District Heritage and Archives Committee will present workshops on video production in Minnesota and Iowa. Featured presenters are experts in UU history and in video production. **This is a hands-on program; you will prepare a 3 min. finished video during the day.**

Workshops will be offered in Minnesota during October and in Iowa during November:

Saturday, October 20, 2007

9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship

10715 Zenith Avenue South

Bloomington, MN 55431

<http://www.mnvalleyuu.org>

Registration deadline: October 10

Saturday, November 10, 2007

9:00 am to 3:30 pm

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

1800 Bell Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50315

<http://www.ucdsm.org>

Registration deadline: November 1

Thanks to a grant from the UU Funding Program and the Prairie Star District, the cost is only \$25 per person. Includes are registration, materials, morning snack, and lunch. Participants are responsible for their own housing arrangements.

To register by mail, fill out the registration form in the accompanying brochure.

Mail the form with a check for \$25 per person, payable to Prairie Star District, to:

**Prairie Star District, UUA**  
**122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 303**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55404**

To register via credit card on the District Web site, go to the following link:

<http://www.psduua.org/Events/BringingOurHistoryToLife>

### **Religious Education (RE) Update**

RE classes for PreK - 12th grade will begin the week of September 23. Instructors for the younger children in Pre-K and Kindergarten are Michelle Eichinger and Carolyn Corbin with assistance coming from a rotating list of volunteers. Instructors for the 1st through 5th grade students are Becky Idstrom and Beth Wahlberg. On Wednesday evenings, Middle and High School age youth (6th grade through 12th grade) will be meeting with Richard Simon Hanson and Paul Docken, respectively. The location for the Wednesday evening classes will be announced soon. **Registration forms for RE will be available at Sunday services. Please return these as soon as possible so we can finalize plans for the classes.**

**Questions? Call Brita Carbonell at 382-1489**

***Please watch for more details soon!***

### **Keeping in Touch**

As we continue to find our numbers growing, we know that it may be easier to lose track of one another. What can we do to make sure that we stay in touch and are aware of needs and joys among ourselves? The ministry committee invites you to join us as we discuss some ways to keep in contact. Please call Sue (382-3137) or Derek (382-5328) if you'd like to help with some brainstorming about these issues. And don't forget that Derek is our Ministerial Outreach Coordinator: contact him with anything that seems appropriate. [drgoth@mchsi.com](mailto:drgoth@mchsi.com).