



*Nourishing spirits. Nurturing justice.*

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH : BIRTH THROUGH 3RD GRADE AT THE  
9:00 AM SERVICE & BIRTH THROUGH 12TH GRADE AT THE 11:00 AM SERVICE

### Words from Kent

In our Unitarian Universalist hymnal, “Singing the Living Tradition,” reading #615 is from Howard Thurman. In that passage, he writes:

*When the song of angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among [families],  
to make music in the heart.*

In the New Year, much about the work of Christmas needs doing. If we commit to participating, and if we remain at the table of vision of engagement, the coming year will bring great change in our congregation.

In the first few months of the New Year, we will decide on the next steps in our relocation efforts. At least since my arrival here in August 2007, we have been unified in our decision to relocate. The issue before us now is simply “how.” The one option with potential for legal action may slightly change the “how” of our relocation efforts, but we are still unified in our desire to relocate. People of good conscience can have different perspectives on the “how” to proceed, but if we stay at the table of vision and engagement, we will succeed no matter what the individual decisions are.

In Social Justice, through our IOCP sleep out efforts and generosity during our annual auction, we gave thousands of dollars to Interfaith Outreach this year. But we need to do more than just donate money. Embodying our beliefs by showing up in person at IOCP events will transform us in ways giving money can’t. We need to do both. When we respond to the call of our Social Justice Ministry to feed the hungry, heal the broken and bring peace to families, our actions will align with our three priorities this year: the environment, BGLT issues, and health care.

In worship, we constantly strive to find ways to go deeply quickly, to make our one hour of time together each week more meaningful and transformational, and to be ever more welcoming to new people. With a growing group of lay people dedicated to learning more about the theory and practice behind worship, we are gaining a more solid grounding in why we do things the way we do, and what we might do differently to improve.

Another challenge beyond our own walls includes engaging with the wider Unitarian Universalist movement. During the last week in June, our entire denomination will meet in Minneapolis for the annual General Assembly of our UU Association. As wonderful and welcoming as this congregation is, it also has a history of isolation from the wider UU movement. This is an amazing and rare opportunity for broad involvement from our congregation on the national level – with minimal cost to us! The more we are involved with General Assembly, the more challenge – and *inspiration!* – we will receive when being surrounded by 5000 other UUs.

The work of Christmas is not a once-a-year affair. In the words of Howard Thurman, it is more of an annual reminder of what we already believe. And when we engage fully with these challenges, allowing them to transform us as we transform them, the process will make music in our hearts.

In peace,  
**Kent**

**Congregational Meeting**  
**moved from January 10th to**  
**February 7th.**  
**See article on page 4.**



# News from the Director of Religious Education

Andrea Purdy Heier

952.473.0448

dre@mtn.org

Welcome to another New Year! May it be a year of promise and peace for all. I am looking forward to beginning a new program for our youth in 2010 for which I need your support. Called Coming of Age (COA), it will be a youth program that promotes greater understanding of Unitarian Universalism at a key time in their spiritual and faith development.

For many years I have heard people bemoan the lack of a more significant rite of passage for Unitarian Universalist (UU) youth as exists in many other religions. It has been a long-time dream of mine, as well. Indeed, there are COA programs in other UU congregations that have not yet been feasible for us. But with publication of a new UUA Coming of Age Handbook and your help, a program that will help our youth grow more confident in their beliefs and deeper in their UU faith is now within our reach. In turn, our congregation will also grow in depth and strength through bonds of connection.

My vision is of a year-long program on Sunday mornings for 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> graders, alternating years with the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program. Class times would likely run 1 1/2 hours, as with OWL, and would be potentially supplemented with community service and social action projects, retreats, mentor relationships, and a COA recognition service. Like OWL, the program will be both challenging and affirming for youth, both serious and lots of fun.

Such a program takes a village to plan and implement, so your input is needed. As we have promised our children through services of Dedication to support them and their families in their faith development, the role of the congregation is vital to a Coming of Age program.

Please join Kent and me on a COA planning team to assure a program that is a good fit for our congregation and our youth. Qualifications include a passion for youth faith development and willingness to contribute time and effort both at and outside of planning meetings, with the intent of starting the program in fall of 2010. This does not imply that you will become a leader/teacher, though leaders might want to contribute ideas regarding content and scheduling. Involvement of parents of youth in planning is welcome. Please be in touch! Later there will many other volunteer choices, such as refreshments, specific event planning, mentors for individual youth, program leaders (team of

four), transportation, guest speakers, art and craft supply acquisition, and more -- lots of options for lots of interests!

Let us begin a new decade with our eyes on our UU future, that we create a UUCM culture where all may be giving to and receiving from the ministry of the church through empowerment and support of youth. Happy New Year!

*Andrea*

## Learning About the Joy of Giving

The children and youth of UUCM will be starting the New Year with learning about stewardship and the deeper meaning of sharing time, talent and treasure through a curriculum called **Stewardship: The Joy of Giving**. During the first four Sundays in January they will consider stewardship as the act of taking care of something and enabling it to grow and apply that meaning to their participation in this congregation. Adults can share the benefits as well by registering for the Stewardship: Joy of Giving class on Thursday evenings in January. To register contact Jodi Holden at [jodiholdden@yahoo.com](mailto:jodiholdden@yahoo.com).

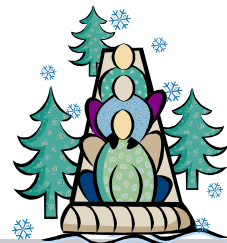
## January Youth Group Activities

Wednesday, 6th: 6:30 pm Make flyers for City Wide Event/Game Night!

Wednesday, 13th: 6:30 pm Plan retreat

Friday, 22nd: 6:00 pm City Wide Event: Sledding/tubing at Theodore Wirth Park

Wednesday, 27th: 6:30pm Broomball



## Adult Volunteers Still Needed!!

We need 2 volunteers for sledding on January 22, 6-9pm. This is a city wide event and UU young people from all over the Twin Cities will be joining us at Theodore Wirth Sledding and Tubing Hill.

## Happenings at UUCM

### Board Holding Special Board Meeting

**January 5 at 6:30 in Room 2**

The Board of Directors will be holding an extra board meeting on January 5 at 6:30 pm to focus solely on UUCM's next steps and to draft a resolution to present to the congregation, which will be voted on at the February 7 Congregational Meeting. As is standard practice, Board Meetings are open to members and friends of the congregation. If you wish to speak at the meeting, we will be allotting time at the start of the meeting to hear from congregation members.

### Youth Retreat—February 13 & 14

Come hang out with a lively, fun-loving group of young people! We will be at Camp Iduhapi for the weekend sledding, playing games, having a dance party and having fun!! We have changed the retreat to being a ONE NIGHT ONLY EVENT to allow more people to come. We will arrive at Camp Iduhapi at 10am on Saturday, February 13 and leave 10am on Sunday, February 14.

We're looking for people to fill different shifts:

4 adults: Saturday 10am-6pm (may spend time outdoors on sledding hill)

4 adults: Saturday 6pm-Sunday 10am

### One Service of Worship

December 27 at 10:00 am

No RE but childcare will be provided

"363 To Go" A post-Christmas Reflection

Jeff Hatcher coordinator

### UUCM Celebrates 50 Years by Donating 50 Pints of Blood

UUCM has long been a place in which spirits are nourished and justice is nurtured; **now we can also be a place in which lives are literally saved!**

In honor of our 50-year anniversary, we will be hosting a blood drive in February 2010. Anyone in good health, at least 17 years old and at least 110 pounds, can donate blood. The entire blood donation process takes less than an hour; whole blood collection lasts only 10 minutes.

Did you know?

- One out of every three people will need a blood transfusion sometime during their lifetime.
- One unit of blood can be separated into three components: red blood cells, plasma, and platelets - saving three people's lives.
- 60 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, only five percent do.

Please consider signing up to make a donation. Karen Hoagland will be collecting names and contact info. Questions? Call Karen at (952) 238-1867 or email [khoagland9@aol.com](mailto:khoagland9@aol.com).

### ReUUnion

Come to a reunion of young adults from UUCM's Religious Education program past – those who have "graduated" from the program and may not be involved at UUCM currently. **On December 30, 11:00 am**, we will meet and share some warm food and warm memories, as well as catch up. RSVP to Andrea Heier at [dre@mtn.org](mailto:dre@mtn.org).



**MYSTERY FRIENDS SIGN-UP  
JANUARY 10, 17 AND 24!!**

## From the Board President

Alison Albrecht

952.938.9246/alisonalbrecht@comcast.net

On Nov. 8 I told the congregation, during the Generosity Challenge Service, that it was hard, particularly in my role as board president, not to feel as though I had let the congregation down (as I had not completed the challenge that I willingly accepted in February). For those of you who were at either service, most notably the 9 am service, you saw how difficult it was for me to speak those words.

I was completely taken by surprise at the intensity of my feelings as I spoke that morning. I had practiced a few times at home, but it was a whole different ball game to say those words aloud to other members and friends of UUCM. While it was difficult, along with making me feel incredibly vulnerable, I also knew it was safe to share those thoughts and feelings. The support and kind words I received immediately following both services and over the following week were tremendous, reinforcing the caring community we have at UUCM.

I, however, hadn't given up on the idea that we would do something with the \$20 we were given. Whether it was a matter of pride or wanting to fulfill the commitment I made, I wanted to see the challenge through. I spent time thinking about what others had done, along with my desire to still help another cause, to take it beyond UUCM.

The following Sunday LaDonna Hoy, executive director of Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners (IOCP), spoke at both services. The kick-off for the Sleep Out for the Homeless had occurred just the night before. As I listened to her speak, I knew what we were going to do.

Our plan was launched the next day. It was a simple one, but it met my criteria of supporting UUCM and helping with something beyond our walls. We sold jars of hot fudge sauce (aka The World's Best Hot Fudge Sauce) for \$10, with all proceeds going to UUCM.

It was mid-November and the holidays were approaching; a time when many individuals are looking for little gifts to bring as hostess gifts, to give to co-workers, their great aunt, their next-door-neighbor. Thus we marketed the hot fudge sauce as a great gift to give for these types of occasions. Our marketing also noted that for every jar of hot fudge sauce sold, we would donate \$1 (of our own money) to IOCP's Sleep Out for the Homeless.

Audrey, Owen and I had fun making the hot fudge sauce, putting it into jars and affixing labels. It was a good time spent together, along with knowing we were helping UUCM and IOCP.

As I write this column a few last minute orders are still trickling in, but I am happy to report that we have raised (to-date) \$250 for UUCM and will be making at least a \$25 donation to IOCP.

*Alison*

### Congregational Meeting Date Changed

During the course of our small group gatherings in November, along with our two open forums with UUCM's lawyer, the board announced that we would have a congregational meeting on January 10 to vote on a recommendation that would be brought forth by the board. After more consideration, we have decided to move the meeting to February 7.

After further discussion at our December Board Meeting, we felt that a meeting on January 10 was too soon and would not give the Board the needed time to draft a quality resolution, along with giving the congregation the needed time to think about and ask questions about our recommendation prior to a vote. As a board, we want to ensure that we have had a solid discussion and that our recommendation to the congregation reflects that discussion. We expect to share our recommendation in early January.

### Board Column

#### December Meeting Highlights

The Board acknowledged the membership report of Ken & Nora Lundquist resigning their membership. They requested to be listed as Friends.

Gary Charles, representing COM, was present to share with the Board a survey that will soon be sent to the congregation.

Bill McKnight presented a talking point paper concerning an Endowment Fund that is being discussed by the Finance Ministry. More discussion will take place in January.

The Board approved a continuation of an Option to Purchase the property at 2030 Wayzata Blvd. with the owner, Bob Dachelet.

The relocation issue was discussed particularly in regards to the decision to initiate litigation against Wayzata or not or to abandon the 2030 Wayzata Blvd. property altogether. It was decided there will need to be another meeting to discern the Board's recommendation to the congregation concerning this issue. It was decided to change the date of the congregational meeting from January 10 to February 7.

In the Minister's report Kent highlighted his desire for a change to our By-laws concerning the termination of clergy and also his wish to make UUCM a teaching church by sponsoring a ministerial intern.

Submitted by Emilie Fitch

# News from the Ministries

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka Facilitators for 2009—2010

**Communications:** Stephanie Wallingford, 952.807.7265, swallingford@lmc.org

**Community:** Deanna Johnson, 952.935.2249, deannaleejohnson@comcast.net

**Facilities & Operations:** Lee Kaster, 952.935.3873, leekaster@comcast.net & Pete Connors, 952.934.7131, connorspm@aol.com

**Finance:** Michael Gower, 763.420.6644, msgower@comcast.net

**Social Action:** John Crosson, 763.473.0945, crossonjohnt@aol.com

**Lifespan Religious Education:** Julia Antonsen, 952.472.6081, janton@frontiernet.net

**Membership:** Janna Sundby, 952.471.7752, jannasundby@yahoo.com

**Worship Arts Ministry : OPEN**

UUCM is organized into eight work areas as listed above. The work areas, or ministries, are led by a **Facilitator** and together the Facilitators make up the **Church Council**. The Church Council meets on the first Thursday of each month along with staff and a representative of the Executive Council of the Board of Trustees.

### Community Ministry

#### About Our Members

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all the UUCM members and friends who gave so unselfishly of their time and talents to make this year's Christmas production such a great success. Special thanks to **Jeff Hatcher** who has been the driving force behind five Christmas plays at UUCM!

Best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year for all!

### Our Holiday Decorations

Our "Peace Tree" is decorated in whites with sparkling snowflakes and doves. For cultures around the world, the dove is a symbol of peace and love. The fresh native greens are from Gregor's, a family-owned nursery and farm in Wayzata. (Peg Wilson sourced the greens for the pulpit very locally – from UUCM's yard!) The sun symbolizes the coming Winter Solstice. Winter-themed scarves are warming up the RE floor.

Thank you, everybody who donated natural, vintage, or fun decorations. You stretched our budget, recycled, and helped make our decorations bright and beautiful.

Many thanks to the creative, hardworking, and enthusiastic crew who spent the morning of December 5 decorating our church: Julia Antonsen, Amy and Sarah Burt, Alison and Ed Cerier, Bob Dachelet, Mike Elliott, Linda and Chris Hermann, Lee Kaster and Ella, Melissa and Niki Martinson, Paula Ostrom, Jackie Smolen, Jody and Kevin Watts, and Peg Wilson.

### The Un-hanging of the Greens

Help take down the holiday decorations on **Saturday, January 2, between 3 and 5**, and you'll be rewarded with endless thanks and a glass of wine! This holiday-recovery happy hour is being organized by Ed and Alison Cerier, 763-449-9610.

### The Monday Morning Book Club

The MMBC will be meeting on **Monday, January 18 at 10:00** at UUCM in Room 4. Anyone interested is invited to come and participate. Books will be chosen on December 21. Watch for information in future newsletters. The meetings will always be the third Monday morning at the church.



# THIS and THAT AROUND THE UUA and the PRAIRIE STAR

*182 days—and counting!!*

## **General Assembly in Minneapolis June 23—June 27, 2010**

You probably have your 2010 calendar now. Find June. Block out the dates. Now, you're all set!

### **Prairie Star District Annual Conference**

And, don't forget to go to **April** and circle the weekend of the **23 to 25**. That's the Prairie Star District Annual Conference in Davenport, Iowa and Kent is conducting the Sunday morning worship time. An honor for him and our congregation. Let's go support him and find out what it is like to worship, plan and play with a large number of UUs!

### **Making Your Summer Plans?**

If you're already dreaming about the warm, sunny days of summer 2010, you are invited to consider attending a UU camp. Camp StarTrail, Prairie Star's new multigenerational camp near Ashland, Nebraska will be August 1-6, 2010. "The camp was beautiful, the camp staff was wonderful, and the company was terrific." That was one happy camper's summary of her experience at last summer's Camp StarTrail.

In addition to the beauty of campgrounds, the friendliness of the staff, and the quality of the company, campers of all ages explored and celebrated Unitarian Universalism through a variety of workshops and worship opportunities. Camp StarTrail 2009 got off to a terrific start, and the 2010 camp promises to keep the momentum going!

The main speaker for Camp StarTrail in 2010 will be UU minister, singer, songwriter, and humorist Meg Barnhouse. A popular presenter at UU summer camps, Meg is the author of a number of books and has released two CDs of her music. You can read some of Meg's musings and listen to her songs at her website, [www.megbarnhouse.com](http://www.megbarnhouse.com). There will be plenty of room for friends old and new to attend Camp StarTrail.

Camp StarTrail is only one of several summer camps open to UUs. Information about Camp UniStar and Midwest UU Summer Assembly will also be posted on our Web site [www.psdoua.org/Camps](http://www.psdoua.org/Camps) as we receive it.

**Registration will be open in February.**

**Watch [www.psdoua.org/Camps](http://www.psdoua.org/Camps) for more information about Camp StarTrail, Camp UniStar, and Midwest UU Summer Assembly.**

## **UNsilenced. GLBT and Jewish Voices of the Holocaust**

**Saturday, January 30, 7:30  
p.m. and Sunday, January 31,  
3:30 p.m.**

Both performances at Hopkins High  
School Auditorium  
2400 Lindbergh Drive, Minnetonka

Tickets (\$25, \$18, \$10): [http://  
www.ovmc.org/ticket\\_orders.html](http://www.ovmc.org/ticket_orders.html)

The Nazis tried to silence them, but their stories and music live on.

With music ranging from Berlin cabaret tunes and Gershwin to songs written in the camps, One Voice Mixed Chorus tells the story of the GLBT and Jewish communities in the Holocaust. Join us for a concert of hope and resistance, with guest choirs from Shir Tikvah and Bet Shalom synagogues and featuring Minnesota Orchestra cellist Janet Horvath. Photo displays provided by the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter GLBT archive.

One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies community chorus with a mission of "building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song."

Phone 651-298-1954 [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org)  
[info@ovmc.org](mailto:info@ovmc.org)

## **"Coming Out" ... Personal Stories Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

**10715 Zenith Ave. S. Bloomington 55431  
Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 pm**

For those in the BGLT community, coming out is a decision often filled with unknowns. In hopes of opening communications for all of us, gay and non-gay, the MVUUF Welcoming Congregation Committee presents a round-table discussion which will be moderated by MVUUF minister, Rev. David Breeden. This open-hearted, honest and frank discussion is free and open to the public.

## ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

Jodi Holden, Coordinator    jodiholden@yahoo.com

### Winter Adult Educational Offerings

Check out our adult educational offerings in the attached brochure (sent to email recipients.) You'll find opportunities for spiritual growth, transformation and community with others. **Be sure to register by the registration date deadline!**

<u>Registration Deadline Date</u>	<u>Class Name</u>	<u>Class Start Date</u>
December 29	Spiritual Parenting with Love and Limits	January 5
December 31	Stewardship: Joy of Giving	January 7
December 31	Beginning Poetry Workshop	January 7
January 1	Theology and Film	January 8
January 2	Lifespan Chi-Gung Group	January 9
January 4	Open Page Writing	January 11
January 10	American Roots	January 17
February 12	Socrates Cafe	February 19

### Theology and Film Religious Education Class

In January 2010, the Adult Religious Education program will once again sponsor a movie series facilitated by our minister, Kent Hemmen Saleska. In September 2009 our church hosted a Social Justice Empowerment workshop and decided upon three main areas where we will focus our Social Justice efforts this year: health care, the environment, and issues regarding people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. So this year the winter film class will focus on these three areas, and will include a couple more.

The class will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 pm on five Friday nights starting on January 8 and running through February 12, excluding January 22. **If you want to attend, please commit to the entire five-night program.** Ages 14 and older are welcome. To register for this class, please contact our minister, Kent Hemmen Saleska, or the Adult Education Coordinator, Jodi Holden at jodiholden@yahoo.com.

The list of movies:

**Sicko** (2007) – a documentary film from Michael Moore about health care in the United States.

**Milk** (2008) – The story of Harvey Milk, an American gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official.

**Clearcut** (1991) – When a lawyer loses an appeal to stop a logging company from clear-cutting Native American land, an Indian militant kidnaps him and the logging mill manager and takes them into the forest.

**Do the Right Thing** (1989) – In this movie directed by Spike Lee, the hottest day of the summer serves as a metaphor for the race relations in a Brooklyn neighborhood.

**The Second Civil War** (1997) – A simple immigration issue spins wildly out of control for everyone involved, from the President of the United States to a TV news producer.



*Nourishing spirits. Nurturing justice.*

**605 Rice Street  
Wayzata, MN 55391**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **Our Mission Statement**

**We are an open and caring religious community on a quest to live with purpose and meaning while inspiring all people to act ethically and with social conscience for the betterment of the world.**

**Adopted 2007**

#### **Newsletter: Working to be Green**

In order to protect our environment and save our natural resources, we encourage all who can, to receive this newsletter via email. If you want to be added to our email mailing list, please contact the church at [officeadmin@mtn.org](mailto:officeadmin@mtn.org). Also, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter electronically or in paper form, please contact [officeadmin@mtn.org](mailto:officeadmin@mtn.org) or 952.473.5900, to remove your name from the newsletter list. Thank you!



#### **Upcoming Newsletter Deadline Friday, January 15 by Noon**

All newsletter submissions should be sent to Newsletter Editor, Emilie Fitch at [officeadmin@mtn.org](mailto:officeadmin@mtn.org). Please include name and phone for editor verification purposes. Expression is published once a month will be in homes the last week of a month with news for the upcoming month. The Deadline for submission of articles is the third Friday of the month.

#### **Staff**

The Reverend Kent Hemmen Saleska, Minister  
Andrea Purdy Heier, Director of Religious Education  
April Kaisen, Youth Advisor  
Greg Membrez, Music Director  
Mark Brekke, Choir Director  
Emilie Fitch, Office Administrator  
Rita Jelinek, Bookkeeper

#### **Board of Trustees**

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#### **How to reach us:**

952.473.5900 (main #) 952.473.0448 (RE #)  
952.473.0504 (fax)  
E-mail: [officeadmin@mtn.org](mailto:officeadmin@mtn.org)  
Website: [www.uucmtka.org](http://www.uucmtka.org)

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