

The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
Founded in 1841



April 2011 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Child care is available for infants and toddlers through age four.
9:45 am to 10:45 am First Session Religious Education Programming
11:30 am to 12:30 pm Second Session Religious Education Programming

April 3 **Images of God**

The Rev. Susan Guy

Using the Genesis 1 creation narrative, we'll explore what it means to be "the image of God." The Rev. Susan Guy is the executive director of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Service in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee and Conversation, Channing Hall
12:30 PM Membership Orientation, Channing Hall
5:30 PM Campus Ministry, Channing Hall

April 10 **The World According to Jesus—and the Buddha**

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere

With April 8th being Buddha's birthday and the 24th being Easter, we do a bit of "compare and contrast."

9:30 & 11:15 AM Service in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee and Conversation, Channing Hall
10:45 AM Visitor Q&A, Fireside Room
5:30 PM Campus Ministry, Library
6:30 PM Dances of Universal Peace, Channing Hall

April 17 **Message In a Bottle**

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere

We observe National Poetry Month by considering poetry as scripture.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Service in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee and Conversation, Channing Hall
5:30 PM Campus Ministry, Channing Hall

April 24 **Then You Become Real**

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere & the UUSIC Players

Join the UUSIC Players in this lively intergenerational service. Enjoy our return to the message of *The Velveteen Rabbit* in story and song this celebration of Easter.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Intergenerational Service in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee and Conversation, Channing Hall
5:30 PM Campus Ministry, Channing Hall

APRIL'S SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTRIBUTIONS HELP SUPPORT ELDER SERVICES, INC.

Elder Services, Inc., since 1980, has been dedicated to services for elders and their caregivers in east-central Iowa. The five service areas, representing a continuum of care needs: case management, aging resource center and options, counseling, home assistance, and nutrition services including Senior Dining, Meals on Wheels, and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Services (RSVP).

Their mission, to assist persons over 60 to stay active, independent and safe in their homes, also includes acknowledgement of the unique and positive attributes and contributions of our older citizens. Thanks for your support in helping this agency continue its good work! Cash or checks to UUSIC (Elder Services on memo line) may be given during Sunday collections or sent to the office.

Sunday Attendance for February 27 to March 27:

February 27 187 total: 139 adults, 48 children & youth
March 6 165 total: 115 adults, 50 children & youth
March 13 62 adults, children & youth ONE SERVICE/SPRING BREAK
March 20 139 total: 97 adults, 42 children & youth
March 27 169 total: 114 adults, 55 children & youth

UU NEWS INDEX

Minister's Column.....2
Religious Education.....3
Events & Committees.....4-5
Board News.....5
UU CalendarINSERT

From Our Minister

In the Interim . . .



Why Religious Community?

As you prepare for a new chapter in the life of the Society, it is a time to affirm what is and what might be. People come to UUSIC for many reasons:

- Out of a sense of longing for connection
- To be part of something larger than our individual selves
- Because we are moved by a vision of a life, and a better world
- We want a community—a place where we can offer and receive love and support.
- We come for a greater sense of meaning and purpose in life.

Once we find one another, the question becomes, “What shall we do together? In the realms of social justice, the arts, religious education, spiritual development, stewardship, and other aspects of congregational life, what are your dreams? What can this congregation do, and be?”

Your thoughts, conversations and prayers on these questions might inform conversations during candidating week, and will be an important part of your new shared ministry. I wish you courage, wisdom and humor, compassion and commitment in your new adventure.

Yours in faith,
Benjamin



JOYS AND SORROWS

Joe Brisben’s brother, Quinn, is not well. He has been hospitalized and when he is discharged, he will go to a skilled nursing facility.

Congratulations to Karen Fox and Charlie Eastham. Their new grand-daughter, Lydia Jean Hansen, was born on February 23.

UUSIC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 15

The election of new Board members and Leadership Development Team members will be held at the annual congregational meeting on May 15. This meeting will take place in Channing Hall immediately following the second service.

—Susan Salterberg

THE REVEREND STEVEN PROTZMAN, CANDIDATE WEEK MAY 1-8

After a thorough search and careful discernment, the Ministerial Search Committee is pleased to present the Reverend Steven Protzman for your consideration as a candidate for settled ministry at UUSIC.



Steven has spent the last nine years in preparation and reflection, education and ministerial experiences at two large congregations in Minneapolis, the First Universalist Church and the First Unitarian Society. At the First Unitarian Society he was an intern minister for one year and a summer minister for two years; at First Universalist he has been a lay leader since 2002 and a summer minister for one year. A graduate of the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities with a Master of Divinity degree in May 2009, Steven was ordained on September 26, 2010, at First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture from Iowa State University.

Steven is the oldest of eight children and grew up in Missouri and Iowa. After high school he spent two years in the U.S. Navy before attending Iowa State. His pre-ministerial career was primarily as a pipe organ designer. Raised a Roman Catholic, Steven discovered Unitarian Universalism in 1996 and embraced it as his chosen faith. He is currently single and lists among his many non-professional interests gardening, attending music, theater and dance performance, country western dancing and following professional hockey.

The Ministerial Search Committee selected the Reverend Protzman for the following reasons:

- Belief in the celebration of theological diversity
- Dynamic preaching that addresses both reason and emotion
- Skill and interest in church administration
- Creative worship services guided by his years as a professional church musician
- Commitment to multicultural, anti-oppression, and anti-racist work in the local community and beyond
- Ability to engage very quickly on a personal level with individuals and groups.

The ministerial search committee sincerely hopes that you will find Reverend Steven Protzman to be as talented, competent and engaging as we do. Rev. Protzman will begin candidating week by delivering a sermon on May 1. Events will follow through the week to allow congregation members to meet and get to know the candidate. On May 8, he will deliver another sermon and there will be a congregational meeting following the second service to vote on calling Reverend Protzman to our congregation.

—Russ Lenth on behalf of the MSC Committee
(Pete Brokaw, Gary Lawrenson, Diane Martin,

Mary McMurray, Nancy Noyer, Bonnie Penno, Chris Taylor)

Religious Education News

The earthquake and tsunami that has devastated Japan last month has gotten me thinking about our 7th Principle, and our “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” It’s hard to follow the tragic stories of whole communities washed away (captured so heart achingly by the New York Times front page photo of a young woman, muddied and barefoot, slumped in tearful agony in the midst of thickly piled debris), while aftershocks and the threat of damaged nuclear reactors continue to put the nation at peril, without in some way feeling that the world has become smaller, a little closer. We see our interconnectedness, not simply in the plummeting of a global market, or fears of nuclear fallout reaching our shores, but in our shared humanity and fragile existence on this globe.

After the news about the disaster, I called a friend Noriko here in Iowa City, and was relieved to hear her family was fine. A Japanese friend of hers in Iowa City from Sendai wasn’t so lucky, she said, and could not reach her family. Noriko is a living connection I have to Japan. I also have memories of family travels in Japan, where my father’s cousin had lived. I remember especially a beautiful temple in Nara and the brazen deer that came up and ate a brochure out of my hand. My father unorthodoxly taught us Japanese phrases, telling us with twinkle in his eye, “You’re welcome sounds just like ‘don’t touch my moustache.’” he said. In recent days, you may have become aware of your own connections with Japan – a Japanese friend, a love for sushi or Japanese movies, Hello Kitty, Hondas, some language-learning and travel in Japan. President Barack Obama in sending condolences, said Japan is our ally. Ours is a relationship of interdependence, something that evolved from a long journey of reparation and cooperation after the atrocities of World War II.

Soon after the disaster, I was not surprised to see our youth advisors discussing plans for a fundraiser for Japan. The Unitarian Universalist Association and UU Service Committee, in fact, had immediately set up a relief fund with partners in Japan – giving us a channel for outreach. I found some comfort in joining others in meditation at Lamrim Kadampa Buddhist Center in town. Periodically, I will go to the Center for teachings on meditation. I noticed as I entered the Center, a number of Buddhists from Sri Lanka – men, women and children – were leaving, having asked to use the Center so that they could chant and meditate and send prayers to Japan. In times of tragedy and uncertainty, this is what we can do. We can commune, and we can reach out.

As Earth Day approaches, we will be talking in a concrete way with our children about our 7th principle, and how we need to better take care of the earth. Nature is a good teacher when it comes to the interdependent web of existence – in ways we may not always see. Linda Weltner in “A Valentine to the Whole Universe” writes: “One of the underlying principles of the universe is communion, the way in which all aspects of creation are in profound relationship to one another. It is this communion aspect of existence that allows us to digest plants, decipher the language of people halfway around the world, to have love affairs with our pets. It’s why we thrill to the sight of snow-topped mountains when we might just as easily be indifferent. We come

with an inborn response that requires only the right stimulus to leap into being.”

Sometimes it takes a snow-capped mountain, sometimes it takes a disaster, to see this underlying principle of the universe. Let us again affirm and promote this 7th principle of ours, and hold Japan in our hearts.

—Lois Cole, Lifespan Director of Religious Education

NEW RE PROGRAMS 2011-12

We are excited to announce we will be using Tapestry of Faith curriculum for our elementary grade classes starting in the fall. This is a new series of programs and resources by the Unitarian Universalist Association that are described as nurturing “Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love.” These resources were developed out of a broad series of conversations with churches all over the country, to assess the needs of young people. Last summer, during summer RE, we tested the curriculum Wonderful Welcome, which our youth teachers and children enjoyed immensely. Tapestry of Faith provides RE opportunities for families with take-home hand-outs for discussion and ritual, and will help the Children and Youth Committee meet other RE goals for elementary ages. We plan to supplement the curriculum, which is shorter than the church year, with hands-on stewardship, service, and multi-generational activities.



CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE NEWS

Last month’s *Family Fun With Bowling* drew 17 people of all ages and stages of life. There was so much laughter and intergenerational mingling and enjoyment, that one of our participants said more people should come to these meaningful events, as it does take a child to raise a congregation (or is it the other way around?).

You won’t want to miss CYC’s April intergenerational event, *Fun Games for All Ages*, April 9, 2 – 4 pm in Channing Hall. The cost is \$5 to support Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County. Games will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Light snacks and a drink will be offered.

Events & Committee News

DINNER AND A MOVIE - NO FOOLING!, APR. 1

Join us for a Guatemalan dinner and a movie on Friday evening, April 1st beginning at 5:30 pm. At 7:00 pm the movie, *AbUsed*, the Postville Raid, will be shown. This movie, by director Luis Argueta, is the newest documentary about the Postville raid in 2008. A discussion on immigration in Iowa will follow the movie.

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN, selected "Immigration as Moral Issue" as a Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for the UUA for 2010-2014. CSAI is an invitation for congregations and districts to take the topic of immigration, confront it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, or take action - each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement—it is a question.

Tickets for the dinner and movie are \$12:00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. Watch the movie for \$5.00. Proceeds will go to toward projects to assist immigrants in Iowa City and as well as service projects in Guatemala. Guatemalan weavings will also be available for sale. —Deb Schoelerman

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION, APRIL 3

The Membership Associates are sponsoring an orientation session about Unitarian-Universalism for new members on Sunday, April 3rd at 12:30 in Channing Hall after the second service. Lunch will be provided. Others (visitors, newcomers, or current members) who are interested are also welcome. This a time to meet other new members and exchange stories of our journeys. —Jean Reese

WORTHLEY EVENING, APRIL 5

The last Worthley Evening of the spring will be Tuesday, April 5th. As usual, we will meet for sherry and conversation in the Fireside room at 5:30, with dinner to follow in Channing Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Susan Gray, Director of Community Coordinated Child Care (4 C's). The program should be of interest to anyone with children or grandchildren in their lives. Reservations are needed, so call the Society office by Monday, April 4th, to make a reservation. Cost for the evening is \$12. Bring your friends for fellowship and fun. —Jonni Ellsworth

FREE LUNCH, APRIL 8

With Spring Break to start at the end of the classes on March 11th, and temperatures in the low 50s, everyone was happy to offer a delicious and nutritious meal with no questions asked. We truly appreciated the efforts of the Jr HS Youth participating in the Coming of Age, who with their mentors, made Chicken Tetrizzinni and dozens of cookies for lunch. Now that is Building Beloved Community! Many thanks to Judy and Dave Tokuhisa for coordinating all the efforts that went into the youth preparing these meal items.

If you would like to help with Free lunch in April, please let me know at bonniepenno@gmail.com or 354-6952 —Bonnie Penno

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, APRIL 11

Come join us on April 11 at 7:30 pm in the church library for our next book discussion group. Our April book for discussion is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson. You can start reading our May selection which is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Since May will be our last group for this year we are starting to gather ideas for what we want to read next year. So come join in the discussion and share some ideas for books to discuss next year. If you have any questions about the group you can call me at 354-1231 or e-mail me at atjayhawkeye@juno.com. —Mary Lou Welter

INTERWEAVE LUNCH & MOVIE, APRIL 17

Interweave invites you to another lunch and movie after the second service on Sunday, April 17th. We will meet at The Wedge Downtown (136 S. Dubuque St.). The film, *Orlando* (1992), will be shown at 2pm in room 202 at the Senior Center.

The film features Tilda Swinton, Billy Zane, and Quentin Crisp. The story is based on the gender-bending novel by Virginia Wolf. We are introduced to a young Lord Orlando who is a member of the court of Elizabeth 1. From there, we follow Orlando for 400 years through many adventures and transformations.

You are welcome to join us for either one or both activities. If you have any questions about the film, you may contact Elsie Gauley Vega at 319-337-4487 or ejgvega@hotmail.com.

—Tova Vitiello

SECULAR HUMANISTS, APRIL 19

The April 19 meeting of the Secular Humanists will feature a discussion led by Louie DeGrazia, whose topic will be "Fundamentalism." Several members of our group have recently attended his class, "Faith of An Atheist", and find him a delightful, intelligent and challenging speaker. All are invited to this event, which will be held at 7:30 in the Fireside Room. —Susan Eberly

GUATEMALA PROJECT NEWS

Shoes and socks for Guatemala are filling the blue tub on the Channing Hall stage! Thank you! Keep them coming, especially childrens' shoes and small sizes of adult shoes.

Other items for Guatemala are also needed: old glasses, backpacks, small children and baby toys, books in Spanish, wordless picture books, sewing notions and even a sewing machine!

Flowering planters will be sold in May to benefit the Guatemalan social action trip. If anyone has an interest in helping or has plants to donate, please call Sally Hartman at 338-7870.

Rides from O'Hare for Guatemalan social action participants are needed for June 19th. Should you be in Chicago that weekend, and have room for some travelers, please call Sally Hartman at 338-7870. —Sally Hartman

SJCC - UUS SERVING TOGETHER

TAKE YOUR FAMILY ON A GREAT SUNDAY HIKE! Or pledge if you can't walk. There's still plenty of time to get involved in the annual CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, April 10. Starting point for the noncompetitive 5k walk is 1:00 pm at the IC Recreation Center. Come to the SJCC table to get information about walking and/or pledging.

First held in 1947, the walk is sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations. It will include neighbors from our many area faith groups, walking together to raise money and awareness to help hungry and impoverished people, locally and around the world. Included are refugee and displaced families who will receive rebuilding, replanting and micro-credit assistance when they are able to return home.

The Food Bank at the Johnson County Crisis Center will receive 25% of the money raised locally. In addition, UUSC is one of the agencies that can be designated by donors. If you wish to donate by mail, send a check to the Society made out to CWS/CROP. Thank you. —Gay Mikelson

CONGRATULATIONS UUSIC SR. HIGH YOUTH!

The Sr. High Youth Program at UUSIC is the recipient of the UUA's Lifespan Faith Development/Youth Project Grant Program. The \$2,000 award from the UUA supports a youth project on immigration. This project includes travel to Guatemala in June to examine the root causes of poverty there and its connection to immigration here. The purpose of the UUA grant is to provide opportunities for youth to grow in faith, deepen in spirit, develop skills and offer leadership and service. Special thanks go to Dick Siefers for assisting with the application process. —Sally Hartman

TEEN COFFEE HOUSE A SUCCESS

The Sr. High Youth are most grateful to those who attended the teen coffee house March 5. It was a roaring success, according to the gorilla, other performers, and the attendees. Thank you for supporting the Sr. High Youth program! —Sally Hartman

UUSIC JOURNEYS - CAROL WOLFE

The Diversity Task Force has asked the individuals who presented essays on their personal journeys during the past Summer Sundays to condense them for the newsletter. Carol Wolfe's is reprinted below.

For me, one of life's greatest rewards is connecting with other people, and yet I also value my time alone. Honesty is important to me, though it can be risky. I try to show people that I respect, accept, and appreciate them through my words and actions. I try to show understanding and compassion and do my best to make the world a better place.

The laws of physics seem sufficient to explain almost everything about this amazing world. And yet I stand here, a bag of molecules that can laugh and cry, remember and forget, feel and taste, love and hate, and learn and grow. I suppose that I believe

there is something bigger than just the physics of it all—but I don't know what to call it. And I don't need to know. It is what it is.

The process of "building my own theology" is not simply picking and choosing what I want to believe or what would be most convenient. The process involves searching my heart and looking around, and drawing the conclusions that make the most sense, and being willing to modify my conclusions as new information comes in. I don't have all the answers. And that's ok. I like to keep an open mind. —Carol Wolfe

AUCTION INFO ON BACK OF CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the back of the calendar for all the latest Treats and Talents I-Do-UU-Do Auction information and a poem from the Bard of Tower Court. The silent auction will run April 30th and May 1st in Channing Hall. The live auction and dinner will be held on May 8 in Channing Hall. Tickets are available at Sunday coffee hours or by RSVPing through the office at admin@uusic.org or 337-3443.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, MARCH 10

Salterberg moved to accept Doug Wallace, Diane Martin, and Arnold Lindaman for UUSIC's Conflict Management Panel; Locher seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Salterberg moved to hold the May congregational meeting on May 15, Haverkamp seconded it, and motion passed unanimously. At this meeting, the congregation votes on new Board members and new members of the Leadership Development Committee.

The Facilities Parameter Task Force—comprising Lenth, Dick Siefers and Doug Wallace—gave a report. During the past month, each member researched various aspects of facilities issues. Siefers shared information about the building and campaign process for the St. Thomas More church in Coralville, and sought advice from the UUA about capital campaigns. Lenth and Wallace discussed general financing issues with representatives from Hills Bank. Lenth also talked with a realtor for advice about appraisals and with the administrator at Zion Lutheran about their renovation process. He also plans to talk with someone at First Christian. Lenth, Wallace and Rev. Maucere met with the City Manager and Planner regarding their interest in how our property might develop. Wallace met with Novak, the architect we hired in the early 2000s, who estimated that a building similar to the one designed in the early 2000s would cost roughly 15% more than at that time.

On other matters, Siefers reminded the Board to continue thinking about fundraising ideas. Siefers indicated that about \$11,000 of 2010 pledges has not been collected. The board discussed how to follow-up on these. The board also discussed a firearms signage policy; the Board will monitor this issue, seeing how other organizations handle it.

Laughlin moved to approve the consent agenda, Otto seconded, and motion passed unanimously. Young provided process-observer comments; as well as closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. —Susan Salterberg

The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
10 South Gilbert at Iowa Avenue
Iowa City, IA 52240

Non-Profit Org,
U.S.
Postage PAID
#19
Iowa City, IA
USA

Address Service Requested

Address Service Requested

Dated material, please deliver promptly!

If you do not wish to continue receiving this
newsletter please check here ___ and return.

UUSIC Board of Directors, 2010-2011

President: Russ Lenth.....337-8549
rvlenth@mchsi.com

Vice President: Sue Otto.....321-0121
sue-otto@uiowa.edu

Past President: Arnold Lindaman.....248-1986
alindaman@mchsi.com

Secretary: Susan Salterberg.....337-4816

Treasurer: Dick Siefers.....338-5984

Trustee: Jim Laughlin.....643-7224

Trustee: Lisa Kieffer-Haverkamp.....337-7180

Trustee: Susan Kasal Young.....339-8448

Trustee: Steve Locher.....354-6260

Office Hours

Tues.-Friday 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

10 S. Gilbert St. Iowa City, IA 52240

Office Phone: 319-337-3443

Website: www.uusic.org

UUSIC Staff

Interim Minister - Rev. Benjamin Maucere

Office Hours: 10:00 - 3:00 Tuesday thru Thursday

Office Phone: 319-337-3443 ext. 102

Email: minister@uusic.org

Director of Religious Education - Lois Cole

Office Hours: 11:00 - 4:00 Tuesday thru Thursday

Office Phone: 319-337-3443 ext. 103

Email: education@uusic.org

Office Administrator - Tyler Hanft

Office Phone: 319-337-3443 ext. 101

Email: admin@uusic.org

Music Director - Barbara Buddin

Email: choir@uusic.org

Organist/Pianist - Joseph McKinley

Email: organist@uusic.org