

# The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City  
Founded in 1841



August 2011

9:30 am to 11:30 am Child care is available for infants and toddlers through age four.  
10:15 am to 11:15 am Multi-age Religious Education Programming

## August 7 *The Day the World Was Saved*

**Rachel Howell**

"The Day the World Was Saved" by Reverend Webster Kitchell Howell read by his daughter, Rachel, is a story based in part on a Native American creation myth and in part on an experience the father and daughter shared in her childhood.

10:00 AM Service in Channing Hall

11:00 AM Lemonade & Conversation, Channing Hall

## August 14 *Mind the Gap*

**Peg Voelker**

A sign in the London tube station instructs passengers to pay attention to ("Mind") the space ("Gap") between the platform and the train. It is a warning - do not ignore, fall in, or be tripped by the gap. This is useful advice to follow as we encounter obstacles and gaps while traveling above ground too. Particularly as we struggle with what Parker Palmer calls "The Tragic Gap", the distance between the difficult realities of life and what we know is possible.

10:00 AM Service in Channing Hall

11:00 AM Lemonade & Conversation, Channing Hall

11:15 AM Visitor Q&A, Fireside Room

## August 21 *In Search of Self*

**Gail Garwood**

Being set on her spiritual path through her parent's good intentions, Gail Garwood dives deep into understanding her spiritual journey as a way to process what she left home with, discard lessons that no longer have a purpose, and incorporate new awakenings along the way. The basis of her speech revolves around her discoveries of Truth - part of this is the questioning of where the concept of "God" fits in?

10:00 AM Service in Channing Hall

11:00 AM Lemonade & Conversation, Channing Hall

## August 28 *A Wild and Precious Life*

**Rev. Steven Protzman**

The poet Mary Oliver writes, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Steven will reflect on his journey of self discovery and the joy of claiming vocation, not once, but again and again throughout our lives by listening to the inner voice of intuition and using the gift of reason.

10:00 AM Service in Channing Hall

11:00 AM Lemonade & Conversation, Channing Hall

### AUGUST'S SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTRIBUTIONS HELP SUPPORT UNITED ACTION FOR YOUTH (UAY)

United Action for Youth offers an incredible array of stimulating programs to over 2,600 people annually, serving young people and parents. At a time when youth look to their friends to define themselves, UAY is a safe place where young people from all walks of life can be silly, thoughtful, outrageous, or sad. They can try new things, make friends, explore their talents, share their skills, and start defining the adult that each will become. They can partner with caring adults, who encourage, teach, and give honest feedback. UAY also opens the doors to parents at a challenging time in their child's development. Parents can come to us worried about what their teens are doing with their free time, or with concerns about the problems of other teenagers in their child's school. Our promise to parents is that UAY will offer stimulating activities in an alcohol, drug, and tobacco-free environment. UAY will help you prepare for your child's adolescence, help you talk about tough issues, and support you when things go wrong. Please donate to UAY on Sundays during the cash collection or by writing a check to UUSIC with the memo line "UAY".

### Sunday Attendance for July 3 through 24:

July 3	72 adults, children & youth
July 10	101 adults, children & youth
July 17	adults, children & youth
July 24	adults, children & youth

### UU NEWS INDEX

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

## From Our Minister



### Reflections from the heart of the city

As I've prepared for my move and the beginning of our partnership, I've been to Iowa City a number of times this summer. During each visit, I've been warmly welcomed and you've been very generous in offers of help and support as I transition to the area. I've had the opportunity to see many of you (thank you for wearing your name tags and graciously reminding me of your names), to start collaborating with our talented and energetic UUSIC staff, leadership and committees as we plan the year ahead, and to continue the process of building relationships that we began only a few months ago. Every time I've visited UUSIC since that wonderful day in May when we said yes to each other, I've felt a definite "buzz" in the air. You've worked hard the last few years to be an ever more inclusive community filled with renewed vitality, energy and joy and your excitement, hope and anticipation can really be felt! It is so clear that you know UUSIC has a lot to offer everyone who comes through our doors and I've heard your commitment to share the many opportunities to be part of something that is greater than any one of us, to understand and celebrate diversity, to foster our own healing and wholeness and that of others, to care for the earth, to do the work of social justice, to discover and use our gifts in service to one another and the world, and to grow in mind and spirit.

Over the summer I've done a lot of reflection on the question of how we grow as individuals and together as a community. A colleague recently invited me to join the list UU Growth Lab on Facebook and it's been a fascinating dialogue about the many aspects of growth. There are well over 500 members already, including members of congregations across the country, ministers, religious education ministers and teachers, congregational leaders, musicians and denominational leaders. We continue to take turns listening, responding, sharing best practices and new ideas, raising questions and issues, and challenging each other to learn, open our hearts and minds to different ways of thinking about things, and explore the many different aspects of growth. In the time I've been on this list, there have been rich conversations about classism, UU identity and the cultural norms of our congregations, what membership means, retaining our youth, the purpose of church, the critical need for pastoral care, and using technology. I'm learning a lot from this lab and looking forward to sharing ideas and continuing our conversation about growth as we discover together how to deepen our relationships with one another, invite others to be a part of this community, live out the mission and vision of

UUSIC, and share the good news that Unitarian Universalism is a powerful faith that can change hearts and transform lives.

It is good to be together!

Walking with you in faith and hope,  
Steven



### JUNE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, JULY 14

Wallace and Laughlin reported on the proposed Endowment Funds Policy that was developed by the Endowment Policy Task Force in consultation with the financial advisor, Dick Stevenson. Next month, the Endowment Fund Committee will present a proposed policy to the Board.

Wallace explained that the Board has the ability on an annual basis, through the existing endowment policy, to use income from the endowment funds as Operating Income. The endowment committee, along with Wallace and Laughlin still need to define what "income" means. Wallace proposes the definition as the "increase in the value of the funds in the past year minus the Consumer Price Index."

Next, Pomrehn, who was tasked in May to present to the Board a job description draft for a membership coordinator, shared his findings. He worked in collaboration with Jean Reese, existing membership committee chair, and Diane Martin, past membership committee chair. The Board discussed the importance of a person in such a position to be highly organized with excellent communications skills. Pomrehn moved to proceed with hiring a membership coordinator, and Haverkamp seconded it. Motion approved unanimously.

Haverkamp next discussed Committee on Committees and Protzman's report. Haverkamp volunteered to talk with the office administrator about the need for a Program Council meeting in early fall.

Hartman gave a report on the possibility of a Peter Mayer concert this November, but it was decided this is not a good time. Hartman and Salterberg volunteered to serve on a task force to generate ideas for fundraisers.

Otto led a discussion of the facilities issue. Several indicated UUSIC needs an updated needs assessment. Hartman moved that Wallace investigate the cost and feasibility of getting estimates to renovate as is, renovate with a larger sanctuary, and tear down the Worthley building and building something new. Nordquist seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Gordon Strayer then was asked if he had comments, and he again emphasized that UUSIC needs to identify what it needs for a church of the future. It was suggested that, at the next meeting, the Board identify a task force to create a vision for what UUSIC can be in 2020, 2030, and 2035.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

—Susan Salterberg

# Religious Education News

## The Coming of Age Credo

This past May, we had a celebration honoring our Coming of Age youth for completing their credos, belief statements that developed over a year of questioning, investigating, and, let's be honest (since we're talking about young people just on the verge of leaving childhood), playing, dawdling, and day-dreaming. But there was no goofing around at the final celebration, as the junior high youth presented their credos in a half-hour long choral reading to mentors, teachers and parents. Someday we hope to involve the congregation in this meaningful Coming of Age milestone, but for now, I'd like to share a few excerpts from their credos:

"No matter how different you look or act, there are only two things that I feel are important in any religion, person or belief. That you try to make yourself happy and you never try to make anyone else unhappy. If we all did that it would be my perfect world."

"Life is as long as you live, so the happier you are is really the only thing that essentially matters to your life. Making other people happy is the way to improve happiness around the world."

"I believe that there will never be world peace because it is in human nature to have wars. However, we should still try to be good people by having some values. The Ten Commandments and the UU Principles are good sets of values that people can follow."

"In a song called 'The Tide' by Spill Canvas there is a line that says 'Heaven's not a place you go when you die, it's that moment in life when you actually feel alive.' That quote reflects my feelings about heaven, and how people should live their lives."

"I believe there is a spirit that will lead you in your life to do the right things. You wouldn't have to worship it, if you didn't want to."

"All I know is that I think that god is not a being with a body but what you put all your hopes and dreams into. God is not a person but an idea."

"I believe in a higher power than us. I don't believe in literal Heaven or Hell to live your life by, but something that pushes us in a certain direction. I think that we should live our lives to the fullest and instead of taking away from other people's lives we should try to help them out while we try to make our own time as happy as we can."

"I believe that fate rules our lives . . . But I also think you have a choice on what fate you end up with. If you do good deeds, then you will come out with a good fate. If you're bad, then you will come out with a bad fate."

"To get somewhere in life, people have to have faith. I have faith in myself, faith in music, and even faith that the sun will rise tomorrow. Unless it's cloudy. Or I'm really far north or south."

"A lot of the time it is what others do to us that changes us. I have learned some traits from the people around me . . . These are some qualities that others have shown and I would like to think that they are in me too: honesty, kindness, equality, friendship, patience, clarity, and helpfulness. They were not always easy to learn; sometimes the lesson had to be told many times."

"I don't believe you can repent your sins. People can't just fix you. It doesn't work like that."

"I do believe that people will make lots of mistakes in their lifetime, and nothing can change that. I believe that our souls aren't going to be saved if we're really good. We have to live a good life, because it's all we get. I believe in love, true beauty, music, and choice. I believe in making the world a better place for not just yourself, your family, and your friends, but also for people you've never met, and probably never will meet."

"I know I can do positive things.

I know I can do negative things.

I know that people will always be self-serving, but that I will help them anyway.

I know that despite all I do, someone will always be disappointed.

I don't know whether I'll make a difference or not.

I don't know why bad things happen to good people.

I don't know which belief is right.

I don't know if we truly matter.

But, with all these beliefs, non-beliefs, known facts, and unknown facts, I will always do my best to help everything and one, and almost nothing will change that."



We may ask a lot of our young people when we ask them to come up with their own credo statements. Yet, at each Coming of Age celebration, their willingness to do the choral reading is always evidence that we are on the right track. I told the youth at the Celebration that questioning and investigating is deeply a part of our faith tradition, and it's something we ask of everyone, the young and the old. Unitarian Universalism is not the freedom to believe anything or nothing, I said. It is the freedom to search with intention, with responsibility for what is true and meaningful. This is important for each person and important for our church. As we become active in finding and creating meaning, we become engaged in our lives, our religious community, and the world. We become engaged in becoming our best selves and making the world a better place. May we, all of us, spend a year, questioning and snooping, dawdling, and dreaming, and then buckling down to that credo.

—Lois Cole, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

# Events & Committee News

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

The UU Book Discussion Group will start meeting again in September. Now is the time to submit ideas for our wish list of books. The wish list is books that you or anyone can submit of books you'd like to read. Then we use that list plus other suggestions to choose the books we will read and discuss for the year. If you have books you would like to add to our wish list send them to me by e-mail at [jayhawkeye@juno.com](mailto:jayhawkeye@juno.com) or phone them to me at 354-1231 by August 10 to have them included on the list. For September we will be reading and discussing *The De-Conversion of Kit Lamb*. Since the book was written by Kate Kasten, who is also a member of our group, we'll have her available to answer questions about the book. In October we will be reading The 2011 selection for One Community, One Book which is *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers. —Mary Lou Welter

## FREE LUNCH, AUGUST 12



As one can see from this photo, Free Lunch volunteers love to make delicious and nutritious food, in addition to having shared times together. Our Biannual social event was held on July 17th—good times had by all. Thank you to those in the Free Lunch group that made, served, and cleanup the lemonade that was most welcomed each Sunday in July.

August 12th will be our next serving time at the Wesley Center. Please call Lee Eberly at 339-8349 or email at: [leeberly@q.com](mailto:leeberly@q.com). if you wish to help with food donation, preparation, serving or clean up. —Bonnie Penno

## SCARF SALE SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

By offering beautifully colored handwoven scarves for sale on Sunday mornings in August, travelers from Guatemala are assisting a Mayan woman named Juana to support her disabled son. The cost of the scarves is \$20 each, and all profits go directly to her. See Sally Hartman for details. —Sally Hartman

## CHOIR RECONNECT, AUGUST 18

Save the date for the first choir rehearsal of the fall. We will meet on Thursday, August 18th at 7:00 in the Library. Please note the time change. All who are interested in being involved in the music program should attend. This is a time to outline a performance schedule and get to know the voices. We welcome new members and encourage high school youth to join. The only requirement is that you are willing to have some laughs. Please contact Barbara Buddin if you are interested but cannot attend. —Barbara Buddin, UUSIC Choir Director

## ENDOWMENT PARTY, AUGUST 21

Come join the Endowment Committee on Sunday August 21, 2011 between 4 and 6 p.m. at the home of John Raley for a casual afternoon get-together. The goal of the Endowment Committee is to create awareness of the endowment funds and to help those funds grow. We benefit from what has been given in past years - this is an opportunity to learn about and invest in the future of the Society. Please bring a gift for the Endowment Funds basket - the money will be deposited to our endowment funds. If you cannot attend and wish to give a gift to the endowment, please send your check clearly marked "for the endowment" to the Society.

We'll have light refreshments, good conversation and a chance to connect with friends before the fall activities begin.

Directions to John's home: Go north on Dubuque Street, 3 miles past Interstate 80, turn right on West Overlook, then .7 tenths of a mile and turn right on Wildberry Lane NE. 15 Wildberry Lane is the first home on the left. —John Raley

## LABOR DAY PICNIC, SEPTEMBER 4

UUSIC will be having our annual Labor Day picnic at City Park, Sunday, September 4. There will be **no Sunday service** that day. More details to be announced later this month.



## UUSIC WATER COMMUNION, SEPTEMBER 11

UUSIC will begin the church year with a Water Communion on September 11.

Water Communion, also sometimes called Water Ceremony, was first used at a Unitarian Universalist worship service in the 1980s. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of September as a new church year starts. People bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the service, the water is poured into a large bowl. The combined water is symbolic of our diverse faith that comes from many different sources and the sharing of our unique talents and gifts for the greater good of the community and the world. (From the UUA website)

## SJCC - UUS SERVING TOGETHER

Sixteen volunteers got their sewing machines out and sewed more than 200 book bags for the Grant Wood School children in our third year of this shared project. The Parkview congregation will fill the bags with grade appropriate supplies and deliver them to the school for distribution to low income children. These colorful bags which become back packs with a pull of the cord are prized by students and greatly appreciated by teachers and parents.



Book Bags filled with second grade supplies ready to distribute.

Many thanks to sewers Pete Brokaw, Jane Slaymaker, Debbie Johnson, Sue and Lee Eberly, Andrea Flemming, Jamie Sharp, Jeanette Carter, Cecile Owings, Peg Bouska and Jenna, Theresa Ullerich, Virginia Stampler, Sally Hartman, Julie Wasson, Pat Hayek, Rhonda Rowden, and Deb Schoelerman. In addition, Barbara Curtin, Mary Jepsen, Diane Martin and Jan Locher helped with cutting, and many of you contributed to cover the cost of about \$2.50 per bag.

The Social Justice Coordinating Committee will meet again on September 12 at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Come and join us - our meetings are informal and fun and we welcome new faces and ideas.

—Gay Mikelson

## JOYS AND SORROWS

Congratulations to Doug & Mary Kathryn Wallace on their 50th wedding anniversary!

We are sad to say that Charles Davidson, a long-term UUSIC member, former UI law professor, and friend has been diagnosed with metastasized colon cancer. After consulting with his physician and his children, he has decided not to undergo treatment. He is in good spirits and reports that he is entirely free of pain. Charles would be happy to hear from friends in the church, and his phone number is 351-8340. Letters can be sent to Charles Davidson, 1500 First Avenue, Apt. 60, Coralville, 52241.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a caring, inclusive community, celebrating a liberal tradition that nurtures social justice, stewardship of the earth and our lifelong journeys of mind and spirit.*

### Mission Goals:

- 1. We provide intergenerational worship services to educate, inspire, celebrate, and nurture our Unitarian Universalist community.*
- 2. We provide lifespan religious education to support the intellectual and spiritual growth of our children, members, friends and the wider community.*
- 3. We practice shared ministry and build caring, supportive relationships within a diverse congregation.*
- 4. We take action to create an environmentally sustainable culture, both within our congregation and in the wider community, through education and advocacy.*
- 5. We work for social justice on behalf of those who are oppressed or in need, through education, direct service, financial support, and advocacy.*
- 6. We provide facilities that meet the needs of our congregation and advance our principles and our mission.*
- 7. We promote our principles and programs in the wider community and welcome those with whom our principles resonate.*

# The UU News

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

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## UUSIC Board of Directors, 2011-2012

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

**Vice President:** Sally Hartman.....338-7870  
sallyahartman@hotmail.com

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

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

**Treasurer:** Doug Wallace.....541-9393

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

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

**Trustee:** Paul Pomrehn.....351-2811

**Trustee:** Jerry Nordquist.....626-2304

## 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](http://www.uusic.org)

## UUSIC Staff

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**Music Director** - Barbara Buddin

Email: [choir@uusic.org](mailto:choir@uusic.org)

**Organist/Pianist** - Joseph McKinley

Email: [organist@uusic.org](mailto:organist@uusic.org)