

The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
Founded in 1841



June 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

June 5 *More than Numbers*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere

We want more members, but the question remains, more members for what purpose? To what end?

10:00 AM Service in the Sanctuary, New Member Recognition
11:00 AM Farewell for Rev. Benjamin Maucere & New Member Recognition Ceremony, Channing Hall

June 12 *Your Place in the Family of Things*

The Rev. Benjamin Maucere

Where do we belong? It's a question we ask at many different stages of our lives.

10:00 AM Service in the Sanctuary
11:00 AM Coffee and Conversation, Channing Hall
11:15 AM Visitor Q&A, Fireside Room

June 19 *Shaping Our Lives*

Ryan NeuCollins

Ryan reads from her personal narrative, entitled "Queen Anne's Lace", and reflects on the formative role of mistakes and motifs within our lives.

10:00 AM Service in Channing Hall
11:00 AM Coffee and Conversation, Channing Hall

June 26 *Pride and Prejudices: Parallel Coming Out Journeys*

Alison Oliver

On National Gay Pride Day, Alison Oliver discusses her own preconceived notions of the UU and LGBTQ communities and how she came out and discovered new prejudices and a sense of pride after developing identities in these communities.

10:00 AM Service in Channing Hall
11:00 AM Coffee and Conversation, Channing Hall

JUNE'S SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTRIBUTIONS HELP SUPPORT THE CRISIS CENTER

The Crisis Center's vision is that every individual in Johnson County has support in a time of need. Through a dedicated corps of volunteers, emotional or material assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Programs include: 24 hour Crisis Line; Food Bank; Emergency Assistance; Community Programs (Survivors Support Groups, Suicide Prevention Training, Suicide Prevention Coalition, Critical Incident Response, Public Speakers) and Disaster Recovery and Relief.

Thank you for supporting this vital local agency. Cash or checks written to UUSIC (Crisis Center on memo) may be given during Sunday collections or sent to the office.

Sunday Attendance for May 1 through 22:

May 1 269 total: 215 adults, 54 children & youth
May 8 272 total: 210 adults, 62 children & youth
May 15 173 total: 120 adults, 53 children & youth
May 22 198 total: 158 adults, 40 children & youth

UU NEWS INDEX

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

From Our Minister

In the Interim . . .



It's my last newsletter column. All good things must come to an end. And it has been great working with you! Two years of Interim Ministry, then a bonus year! We accomplished much in our time together.

In the first two years we looked back, remembering the highs and lows, facing grief and past conflict. We looked forward, considering who you are as a congregation and what you want to do in the world. In my last year with we focused on diversity and the facility question. I think we made significant progress in all areas.

During our time together UUSIC moved into the forefront of the struggle for marriage equality! 109 couples, and your warm hospitality has been an important contribution to their experience!

Thanks to all of you, too numerous to name, who invest yourselves in the ongoing work of this Society. I have worked most closely with the Board, the Pastoral Associates and the Worship Associates. It has been a gratifying collaboration. And I also thank your talented staff, Lois, Tyler, Barbara and Joseph. It has been a delight to work with them as well.

Going forward, you now have a settled minister! Unanimous vote! Standing O! I'm excited for you and for Steven. I have confidence in your shared ministry. I have seen you grow stronger and more confident during our time together and I wish you the very best.

I will be following your progress, but I will not be in touch. Interim ministers don't continue relationships once they move on. This leaves space for you to build them with your settled minister. I will miss you. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Yours in faith,
Benjamin



THANK YOU FROM REV. STEVEN PROTZMAN

Please see the back of the calendar or online at uus.org for a thank-you letter from our new minister, Rev. Steven Protzman.

ALL-CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 8

Approximately 170 members were present. The meeting was called to order by President Russ Lenth at 12:41 pm.

Lenth recognized the work of the Ministerial Search Committee, which dedicated about nine months to the search for a new minister. The congregation gave the MSC a standing ovation. Mary McMurray, co-chair of the MSC, then was introduced and, as a representative of the committee, moved to call Rev. Steven Protzman as the new minister for the UUSIC. No discussion or concerns were raised.

Members voted unanimously to call Rev. Protzman. Steven, who was absent for the vote, was called back and made a few comments while he received a standing ovation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm. —Susan Salterberg

ALL-CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 15

Approximately 75 members were present. The meeting was called to order by President Russ Lenth at 12:30 pm.

Lenth introduced those nominated to serve on the Board of Trustees—Sally Hartman, Jerry Nordquist, Paul Pomrehn and Doug Wallace. Joe Brisben made a motion to accept this slate for the Board. Mary Kathryn Wallace seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. Nominees for the Leadership Development Committee were David Jepsen and Carolyn Johnson. Lenth asked if there were other nominations. Joe Brisben made a motion to accept these nominees; Jean Hood seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. Nancy Lynch was then announced as the nominee for the Endowment Committee. Sue Otto made a motion for Lynch to serve, Susan Salterberg seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Lenth and Doug Wallace then reviewed the status of the facility issue. After the last vote, the Board decided to gather more information. The Board set up a task force consisting of Lenth, Wallace and Dick Siefers. The task force investigated a variety of issues from finances to committee structures. More information can be found at uus.org. Lenth adjourned the meeting and Rev. Maucere provided closing words. —Susan Salterberg

FACILITIES DISCUSSION, MAY 15

Approximately 75 members were present. The meeting was called to order by President Russ Lenth at 12:30 pm.

Lenth and Doug Wallace then reviewed the status of the facility issue. After the last vote, the Board decided to gather more information. The Board set up a task force consisting of Lenth, Wallace and Dick Siefers. The task force investigated a variety of issues from finances to committee structures.

The architect for the 2002 building design indicated that if the same building were to be built now, it would be about 10-15% more or \$2.3 million (\$180/square foot), not counting the cost of land.

(continued on page 4)

Religious Education News

Knowing that "Beloved Community" is something we Unitarian Universalists hold dear – a vision of a world that transcends every difference of age, race, class, creed, ability, or sexual orientation – we chose Building Beloved Community as our Religious Education theme this year. And indeed, it was the theme of the year. We witnessed this building of Beloved Community in the focus on local Immigration issues in a Welcome Home Wednesday adult class, and the intergenerational service trip planning to Guatemala in June; we witnessed it in the eagerness of our young people to learn how to craft origami dogs and cranes and airplanes and raise money for families in Japan devastated by the Tsunami; we witnessed this building of Beloved Community in the animated engagement of mentors and junior high youth, filling the library with laughter and earnest credo conversation.

We witnessed this building of Beloved Community in the integrity and quality our senior high youth programming this year – which culminated fittingly in a youth service about "living with purpose"; we've witnessed it in the creative outreach and dedication of the Children and Youth Committee to better meet the needs of families through social gatherings which have spanned bowling to discussing UU rituals in the home; we've witnessed it in the patience of our teachers, who have worked to make Bible stories fun, or sexuality education important, when sometimes faced with resistance. We've witnessed it in the haunted house our campus group constructed for our children around Halloween. We've witnessed it in the care given to ritual in all the classes – the opening words, chalice lightings, closing songs and circle squeezes, and the blowing out of the chalice together with cupped hands of our preschoolers. We've witnessed it in the acceptance and integration of children with different needs in the classroom. We've witnessed it in all of our teaching teams, who have built such community and welcome in the classroom. To all of you who have shared of time and talents to RE, I say thank you.

—Lois Cole, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

STEVEN PROTZMAN GETS THE VOTE OF YOUTH

In May, we enjoyed meaningful conversations with our future minister Steven Protzman in a variety of RE related events. At the youth and young adult pizza party, youth and young adults shared about their achievements and challenges this year, and asked a variety of questions. Their thoughtfulness, earnestness, and energy made a very good impression on Steven. He expressed the need to have youth and young adults involved on the Board, Worship Associates, and membership. He was encouraging of youth participation in different parts of Sunday morning worship. We spoke of a need to be more welcoming to young adults when they come to services, and explore some form of outreach. The youth were so impressed with Steven that they gave him their vote – which raised the question of when youth can actually vote. We discovered it's the age of 14 – two years younger than we thought. Next year may see a number of youth becoming members!

At the parent and lifespan RE gatherings with Steven, one focus of discussion was emphasizing Covenanting to teachers and

children and youth, not only because of some of the behavioral issues we sometimes see, but to create religious community and strong teamwork. Class Covenanting is something we cover at our teacher orientations, but reminding people of the UU religious significance with Covenanting is something that might bring a deeper level of understanding and commitment. Parents and children expressed how much they enjoyed their time with Steven, and one of our 1st graders announced in class that Sunday of the deciding congregational meeting: "He has my vote!" A good sentiment, but for that little boy it will be a few years.



Among our many closing celebrations in May was the completion of Our Whole Lives Grades 7 - 9 class. Our dedicated teachers seated in the front row are Melissa Lehan-Mackin, Kris Barrash, David Martin, and Garry Klein.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE NEWS

On May 6th, the CYC hosted a Family Potluck that allowed families to interact with Steven Protzman the ministerial candidate who is now our new minister. RE teachers and CYC members also had an opportunity to meet with Steven for Brunch on May 7th. Steven was very attentive and gracious when answering questions. A great time was had by all who participated.

It has been a year of fun and learning for the teachers and children in RE. To show our appreciation to the teachers who have volunteered their time and dedication the CYC acknowledged them with a reception, card and small gift on Teacher Appreciation Sunday.

The RE teachers enjoy watching the children develop throughout the year. It is truly amazing to see the physical, spiritual and emotional changes as they mature and it makes the time and effort very worthwhile. If you would like to be a part of the RE program, contact Lois Cole. Alternatively, if you prefer planning and organizing, the CYC would appreciate your presence on the committee.

Summer is coming and there will be multi age RE programming for children. It will be a time for them to keep up their friendships and also meet others who they may not see in the regular RE classes. So join us for a season of fun!

—Sherry Dolash

Events & Committee News

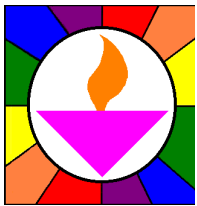
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

The UU Book Discussion Group is off for the summer. But we are already getting ready for next fall and our first group in September 2011. Watch next month's newsletter for the books we've selected for September and October for discussion. If you have ideas for our annual wish list send them to me at jayhawkeye@juno.com or phone them to me at 354-1231. At our September group we will select books for the rest of the year.
—Mary Lou Welter

FREE LUNCH, JUNE 10

Thank goodness that none of these UUSIC members had Triskadekaphobia on Friday, May 13th and came down to the kitchen at the Wesley center to prepare, serve, and clean up for the Free Lunch guests: Ann Bovjberg, Jeanette Carter, Marji Davis, Kathleen Henderson, Nita Kosier, Gary Lawrenson, Caryl Lyons, Jill Stephenson, Susan Kaliszewski, Peg Volker, and Mark Yuskis! (I was 20 minutes late, as I had the IC fireman get me out of the broken elevator!!) Many others purchased and provided many of the food items, including: Kurt Anstreicher, Sharon Booker, Pete Brokaw, Laurie Croft, Sherry Dolash, Sally Hartman, Diana Henry, Carolyn Johnson, Lindamans, Ruth Lindeen, Gay Mikelson, Margaret Richardson, Ginny Stamler, Carol Throckmorton, and Susan Young. AWESOME!

We will be serving next on June 10th, and love to have you join us! Call me at 354-6952 or email at bonniepenno@gmail.com
—Bonnie Penno



JOIN INTERWEAVE AT THE IC PRIDE PARADE, JUNE 18

Interweave would like to invite all UUs to join us to take part in the Iowa City Pride parade. It's on Saturday June 18th at 12 noon at College Green Park. Please meet at the SW part of the park at 11:45 so we can find our spot in the lineup. UUSIC has much to celebrate, so come join us for the parade and show your pride! —John Elson

THEN & NOW

In 1981 twenty-six people signed the membership book. Of that group three remain: Jim Norris, Barb Clark Laughlin, and Marjorie Cantor.
—Jean Reese

WATER COMMUNION REMINDER

Be sure to gather water from your journeys this summer for our annual water communion in late August or early September.

SJCC - UUS SERVING TOGETHER

Congratulations to Joe Brisben. Joe is the recipient of the UU Partner Church Council Steward of Partnership Award. This award is given annually to recognize those in our denomination who provide exceptional care for partnerships. Over the years Joe has shown dedication and commitment to keep our partnership strong and thriving.

UUSIC supports the Common Fund with an annual contribution of \$1,000. During the past fiscal year, with the contributions of the Consultation of Religious Communities, the Common Fund helped 274 families with basic needs such as housing and utilities. This is up from 223 families last year. The majority of Common Fund recipients are single mothers who have no child support and cannot earn enough to afford childcare. In many other households wage earners have lost their jobs or had their hours reduced.

Because of the large attendance at Services the first two Sundays in May, we will be able to contribute to Table to Table, the agency of the month, and also contribute an additional \$300 to the Guatemala trip. This brings the contribution from Social Justice funds to \$600. Thank you to everyone for supporting this exciting trip.
—Barbara Curtin

FACILITIES DISCUSSION, CONTINUED

The task force talked with the City of Iowa City Manager, as the city had expressed interest in the property. They would like the right of first refusal, but the task force thinks it may not be in UUSIC's interest to agree to this, as market value may be higher than the appraised value.

In addition, members of the task force talked with representatives of St. Thomas More, Zion Lutheran and Trinity Episcopal about how they used consultants and committees, and about monetary issues. They talked with Hills Bank and learned that they would be willing to loan up to \$1/2 million, plus short-term pre-construction loans, etc. The Unitarian Universalist Association indicated UUSIC should be able to raise 3-5 times the annual pledge, which would be \$1-\$1.5 million.

Members of the congregation were then invited to ask questions. A variety of issues were raised, from concern about fundraising to parking to energy efficiency (LEED) certification. Lenth asked what the congregation needed to know, and questions included: 1) Where would our congregation hold services if we needed a temporary facility? 2) Do we need to decide a process before we identify an architect? 3) What will our financial situation be 10 years from now? 4) What's the annual mortgage payment for a \$1/2 million loan? 5) How much are congregant members willing to give?

Paul Pomrehn then took the floor and stated that more facts would not help him make a decision. His big question is whether he has hope for UUSIC. If he doesn't have hope for UUSIC, his money will go to other places. "What I count on is people giving me hope," he concluded.
—Susan Salterberg

SPRING FAMILY SERVICE: *THE VELVETEEN RABBIT*



TREATS & TALENTS AUCTION



PLEASE WELCOME UUSIC'S NEWEST MEMBERS!



Howard Butcher

Howard came to Iowa City in 1998 and always knew we were here. He is an associate professor in the College of Nursing with studies in mental gerontology. Road bike cycling and reading occupy his spare time. Nyah is his 10 year old daughter. He values the inclusiveness, the social justice and environmental issues prevalent in the SICUU.



Lisa Stover

Lisa was introduced to us by coming with a friend to a WHW dinner and been involved ever since. She is a claims representative. Freedom of beliefs, exploration in spirituality, and community drew Lisa to UUSIC. She enjoys knitting, volunteering, bowling and playing board games.

Cory Stover

Cory is a self-employed carpenter, painter, and woodworker. He found us through Lisa. He values the possibility of finding like-minded people who wish to embrace truth. Hobbies include woodworking, reading, gardening, and bowling.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF IOWA CITY
10 S. GILBERT STREET
IOWA CITY IA 52240

WWW.UUSIC.ORG
319.337.3443

Dear members, friends and staff of UUSIC,

It is with great joy that I write to say thank you for a wonderful candidating week and for your overwhelming YES!! to our future together as partners in faith. Thank you to each and every one of you for your gracious hospitality, all the good food (!!), your warmth and friendliness, the gift of your time at events during our week together, and a lot of great questions and thoughtful answers. A number of people even said "welcome home" as you greeted me at various points and I do feel as though I have truly come home!

Thank you also for the many thoughtful gifts, including a jar of dandelion jelly, a music CD, a photograph for the minister's office, greeting cards and many generous offers of help and places to stay as I make the transition from Minneapolis.

It was a powerful and moving experience to meet you and to listen as you shared your hopes and dreams for your lives and for UUSIC. I look forward to knowing each of you better in the years to come and to a bright, fun, and spirit-filled future together at UUSIC.

With deep gratitude, great joy and affection for you,

Steven

Rev. Steven Protzman
Your Settled-Minister-To-Be

P.S. Many of you asked about the closing words from Sunday, May 8th, so here they are:

“So if someone tells you that she or he knows pain, loneliness, loss, fear, and dismay, but does not know the feeling of being sustained by a love that is wider, deeper, and infinitely vaster than the sorrows hear those words as a commission. Hear your commission to love, to create community, and to heal.

One at a time in personal relationships, ten at a time in covenant groups, hundreds at a time in our congregations, hundreds of thousands at a time in our religious movement, millions at a time as we take our commission deeper and deeper into humanity's heart as a justice-loving people who will transform the world. This is the good news of our faith."

May it be so!

*-Thandeka. from Welcome, A Unitarian Universalist Primer,
Skinner House Books, Boston, 2009, pg. 65*

UUSIC Event Calendar, US Holidays

Jun 2011 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			7pm - Buddhist 7pm - Yahoo	5pm - Dreamwell 7:15pm - Choir	11am - Shelter 5pm - Dreamwell	5pm - Dreamwell
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am - First service 10:15am - 1st RE @ 2pm - Dreamwell	5pm - New Pi Event	7pm - Buddhist	7pm - Buddhist	5pm - Dreamwell 7pm - UUSIC Board 7:15pm - Choir	12pm - Free Lunch 5pm - Dreamwell	5pm - Dreamwell
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - First service 10:15am - 1st RE @ 10:45am - Visitor 1:30pm - Yoda 2pm - Dreamwell 6:30pm - Dances of	7pm - Social Justice 7:30pm - Book	Flag Day 5pm - New Pi Event 5pm - Pastoral Care	7pm - Buddhist	7:15pm - Choir		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Father's Day 9:30am - Membershi 10am - Summer		7pm - Buddhist	9am - Newsletter 7:15pm - Choir			
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10am - Summer		7pm - Buddhist	7:15pm - Choir			

UUSIC May Board Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order by President Russ Lenth at 7 pm. Maucere provided opening words.

Lenth asked if anyone wanted to move anything from the Consent Agenda into action items. Salterberg requested the All-congregation meeting minutes from May 8 be added to the consent agenda.

First on the agenda were endowment issues. The Endowment Committee requested the Board approve their recommendation to contract with a new investment advisor. Otto moved to approve a contract with Dick Stevenson for investments, Laughlin seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

Lenth pointed out that UUSIC has several different endowment policies, and it is unclear which one of these is the official document. Alice Atkinson, from the Endowment Committee, requested the Board establish a subcommittee to evaluate the policy. Several general issues were discussed that should be addressed by the subcommittee, including the need to distinguish between reinvestment and cashing in policies. In addition, the policy should clearly state the role of the Board treasurer. This should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the treasurer approving the cashing in of investments, and that the treasurer know at all times where the funds are.

Atkinson, Laughlin, John Raley, Jean Hood and Doug Wallace agreed to serve on a task force to revise the endowment policy and create a procedures document for review at the July Board meeting.

The Board discussed the May 15 congregational meeting. Wallace summarized research on the facilities issue.

The Board then discussed the possibility of funding a membership coordinator. Paul Pomrehn and Otto agreed to serve on a task force to develop a rationale for funding and hiring a membership coordinator and developing a detailed job description. Pomrehn agreed to ask former Membership Committee Chair Diane Martin and present Membership Committee Chair Jean Reese to serve as well. The task force will give an update in July.

Governance was also addressed, with Lenth indicating he'd like to see UUSIC make policies more visible. He encouraged Board members to check out the Eugene, Oregon, congregation website, as they have their policies indexed. Maucere suggested Norfolk, Virginia's and Unity Consultants in Minneapolis as other congregations taking leadership in these areas.

Locher made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Otto seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.
Susan Salterberg, secretary

The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
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Iowa City, IA 52240

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UUSIC Board of Directors, 2010-2011

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sue-otto@uiowa.edu

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alindaman@mchsi.com

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

Office Hours

Tues.-Friday 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

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Email: choir@uusic.org

Organist/Pianist - Joseph McKinley

Email: organist@uusic.org