

# The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City  
Founded in 1841



September 2011      9:00 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    First Session Religious Education Programming

## September 4      **Labor Day Picnic at City Park**

We begin this New Year with our new minister with a long time cherished tradition of picnicking in the park for Labor Day in lieu of services. Let's welcome Steven to this time honored tradition by meeting at Upper City Park, shelter #2 at 11 am. Steven will say a few words before we begin eating at 11:30. Please bring your own table service and drinks. Sharing: Bring a dish to share (to feed 10-12) Salads (Last name begins with A-E), Protein (F- J), Bread/Rice/ Noodles (K-O), Veggies and Fruits (P-S), Dessert (T- Z)

11:00 AM Labor Day Picnic at City Park Shelter #2

## September 11      **Deeper Currents**

**Rev. Steven Protzman**

On this Inter-generational Sunday, we are invited to reconnect with the deeper currents of life and love that bind us together in this community as human beings and UUs. A ceremony of remembrance and hope will commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11 and we will celebrate water communion, a symbol of the many sources of our diverse faith and the sharing of our unique talents and gifts.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services & Water Communion in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

10:45 AM Visitor Q&A, Fireside Room

## September 18      **Let Us Build a House**

**Rev. Steven Protzman**

Kenneth Patton writes: "This house is a cradle for our dreams, the workshop of our common endeavor." As we consider how each of us is called to answer life's invitation to offer the gifts of our hearts and hands, our time and energy, our money and our talents, we will reflect on UUSIC's past moments of greatness and dream of the moments of greatness that are still to come.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

## September 25      **Lessons from Guatemala      Inter-generational Guatemalan Service Trip**

How cement, sweat, tortillas, soccer and music helped our inter-generational group of travelers weave a cloth of world community. In what way does justice, equity and compassion play into our responsibilities as UUs?

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

### SEPTEMBER'S SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTRIBUTIONS HELP SUPPORT THE EMMA GOLDMAN CLINIC

Since 1973, providing non-judgmental quality health care accessible to all clients has been a standard of care at the Emma Goldman Clinic. Finding the funds for reproductive and gynecology services is a huge obstacle for many women. The Clinic's Access Project addresses this problem by providing lower cost services to clients in need; these services include half-price gynecology services for teens, free pregnancy testing and options counseling, reduced fee abortions for women living on lower incomes, and services for victims of rape or incest. Your contribution will help assure that women receive the care they need in a respectful, safe, and empowering environment. Cash or checks (Emma Goldman on memo line) may be given during Sunday collections. You may also send a check to the Society office.

### Sunday Attendance for July 31 through August 21:

July 31      103 adults, children & youth  
August 7      67 adults, children & youth  
August 14      94 adults, children & youth  
August 21      86 adults, children & youth

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## From Our Minister



### September's Theme: Community

Your staff and leadership are trying a new approach for structuring the church year by having an overall theme for the year and a theme each month so that what is happening in worship ties in with religious education, the music program, and all aspects of our community's life and work. Our theme for this church year is "Gather the Spirit". This title comes from song #347 in the gray hymnal which captures the essence of Unitarian Universalism and our basic human need to be together, to offer each other strength, comfort and find shared purpose, and to experience awe and wonder in being alive.

Our theme for September is community. From the moment we are born until the moment we die, we need one another to survive and learn how to be human so we create community. The family is most often our first community in which we are nurtured and taught how to be in relationship with others. As adults, we create a variety of communities to meet our physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs. Among the many communities, the religious community is unique, because it provides us the opportunity to ask life's deepest and most basic questions: Why am I here? What does it mean to be human? How am I called to enter life and live it fully? How do I make sense of life's losses and face the reality of my own death some day? Religious community also gives us the opportunity to practice being our best selves, to see the world in new ways that stir our compassion and invite us to serve, and to combine our strengths to achieve things we could not do alone. UU Minister Mark Morrison-Reed writes that "The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed."

Our worship and time together in September will invite us to reflect on the various aspects of community that UUSIC is committed to living out through its mission and vision. First, there is the opportunity for each of us to keep becoming our best, most authentic selves and discovering how to use and share the gifts, talents, resources and wisdom we have each been given. Second, there are our relationships with each other and our shared work of building a church community that is healthy, inclusive, respectful and affirming of every person, and committed to providing a variety of ways for us to become ever more spiritually mature. Third, the true religious community is not an isolated, inward looking institution that is concerned only with preserving itself. It celebrates and takes seriously the

knowledge that all of life is one great community, connected in mystery and miracle, and hears the call to spend itself in the work of transforming the world.

Welcome back! It is good to be together!

Walking with you in faith and hope,  
Steven



### AUGUST BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, AUGUST 18

President Otto called the meeting to order at 7 pm, and welcomed Rev. Protzman to his first UUSIC board meeting. The Board surprised Protzman with a birthday cake, as August 18 is his birthday. The Board also invited the choir to join in a short celebration, as the music director, Barby Buddin, has a birthday August 19.

Next Alice Atkinson spoke. Atkinson is a member of a task force appointed at the May UUSIC Board meeting to revise the endowment policy and create a procedures document. Atkinson mentioned that a proposed policy has not yet been finalized by the task force, but they have discussed their plans for the endowment. She says they have a five-year plan to get as much money in the endowment as possible for use with facility issues. They plan to meet with the financial advisor, and explore topics such as the relationship between a capital campaign and the endowment fund.

Atkinson indicated that she would return in September to present a proposed policy.

The Board then talked about the next steps on facility issues. Pomrehn moved to take adequate time at the retreat to design a process to help UUSIC resolve the facility issue, and Lenth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Salterberg suggested that, at least one week before the retreat, Board members submit ideas about how that process could work.

Next, Hartman gave a report on a talent show fundraising idea. Pomrehn moved to proceed with this idea; Nordquist seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Protzman then explained that he has requested that Joseph McKinley report directly to him. Lenth made a motion for that to occur, and Haverkamp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Protzman next explained that, as part of his preliminary fellowship, he needs a congregational committee to evaluate him. The committee would meet monthly with Protzman. He also indicated that he would like a committee on Congregational Life and Ministry.

The Board and Protzman agreed that one committee could serve both functions. It was noted that the by-laws will need to be changed to strike out "Committee on Ministry" and substitute those words with "Congregational Life and Ministry". Hartman, Nordquist, Otto and Protzman agreed to identify a slate of committee members to serve, and propose revisions to the by-laws as needed. *(continued on page 5)*

# Religious Education News

## Why do bad things happen?

A few weeks ago, I got news that the daughter of good friends of mine had died in an accident at summer camp. I was shocked and grieved by news, and had difficulty accepting how such a thing could happen. I met Eleanore for the first time last summer when I went to visit her family in Belgium, and took an immediate liking to her. We shared the same birthday, liked chocolate croissants, journal keeping, and *The Sound of Music*. I discovered the latter when biking with her along a canal in Brugge. Reminded of a scene in the movie, I began singing “Do-Re-Mi”. “You know Sound of Music, too?” she asked excitedly. “Yes, I saw it when it first came out in the theater,” I said, not admitting I had lost count of how many times I since then. Eleanore, with the generous hospitality she had shown me during my stay, said she had a video, and I could watch it again, and then we raced our bikes and sang happily — a memory I will cherish. Eleanore was only ten, lovely and spirited. I cannot imagine the courage her parents must have to face her loss.

Bad things happen. Our UU Tapestry of Faith curriculum for children features the story of Job from Hebrew Scripture in a lesson titled *Why do Bad Things Happen?* Job is patient at first, even when thieves have taken his donkeys and oxen, fire has killed some sheep and servants, and when he has heard that a wind destroyed a house and killed all ten of his children inside it. Even then, he still falls to the ground and praises God. For Job’s piety is why Satan made the wager with God in the first place: that if Job’s life turned bad then Job would turn against God. But then thankfully, Job does get boiling mad (and a little factoid: he actually has a lot of boils), and questions and challenges God, and argues with the friends who tote the conventional religion line, and say the havoc wreaked on his life means he must have done something really bad.

“Why do bad things happen, and to good people?” “Where is God/Meaning in all of this?” “Why me?” are the very human questions the book of Job raises. These are questions even young children at Sunday School need to explore, because in their brief lives, they have probably already encountered some aspect of injustice or loss — the baby bird fallen from its nest, bullying at school, the relative who has cancer. Kate Huey of the UU Christian Fellowship writes that Job is not alone in disagreeing with his friends: “Job is not alone because we are with Job, aren’t we? Don’t we watch the innocent suffer and wonder at how just, how fair the universe is? When we see our children and grandchildren — or someone else’s children or grandchildren — suffer from illness or hunger or war . . . How much more innocent could one get than being a child?”

When Jon argues with his friends and then confronts God full on, he is arguing because his world view has fallen apart, and is no longer adequate to his life, says Unitarian Universalist theologian Rebecca Parker, and author of *Proverbs of Ashes*. “This kind of religious impasse happens in a lot of lives. It’s at this point that human beings have to become theologians. You have to become your own interpreter of life.” Parker goes on to say that one of the most important things about Unitarian

Universalism is that it provides a space that holds people “in those experiences of religious impasse or opens a space beyond that religious impasse.” Job never does get his questions answered by God, but he moves to another level, and in the depths of his pain experiences something larger than himself. And isn’t what we always say, as Unitarian Universalists, the process is more important than the answers. In his process, Job finds solace. I wish the same for my friends in Belgium and all of us who grieve.

—Lois Cole, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



## CAMPUS MINISTRY BEGINS FOURTH YEAR

Some of you may or may not be aware that members and groups of the congregation offer meals to students during the school year on Sunday nights, as part of our campus ministry. We’ve been doing this for three years now, and have been pleased that a core group of campus young adults has formed. In the past four years, our campus young adults have solidified their group with a constitution, officers, and are now an official student organization. Aside from a meal on Sunday evenings, they engage in a brief worship, and discussion about religious and personal concerns. Sometimes they play games. Sometimes they make a haunted house for the RE kids.

Recently, our Campus Ministry Committee, consisting of students and UUSIC members who support the campus group, met to begin planning for the start-up of the year. We welcomed Madison Montgomery as the new campus group chair, and acknowledged the good work of Mike Wilson, outgoing chair. We discussed some exciting prospects for the future: enriched evening worship for the campus group through soulful sundown curriculum; workshops aimed at justice issues and personal/spiritual growth; community projects like building an urban garden; a service trip to New Orleans in the spring; and campus young adult led worship service on a Sunday morning.

We also talked about getting the word out, letting people know that we are offering a liberal religious environment for students seeking like minds. We’ve made some fancy brochures and display material for the student organization fair, when students walk from table to table and see what groups they might actually want to get involved with. We’re off to a good start. Which also means that we need help, support of our students through meals, by joining the Campus Ministry Committee, support of campus group fundraisers – buy tomatoes from their urban garden, support by extending a friendly hand to campus young in services and pointing them to a campus group greeter. We are building it, and “they will come.”

## Events & Committee News

### B&G RUG PROJECT, SEPTEMBER 3, 8AM

Buildings and Grounds will be renting a group of Rug Doctors and need some volunteers to clean all the rugs at the society. Priority will be given to the sanctuary and all classrooms. We need 8 volunteers to join our work crew this day. We are also looking for volunteers to provide refreshment on this project. Please contact Adam Tatro [atatro@mac.com](mailto:atatro@mac.com) 319-594-2400 to volunteer. Thank you in advance. —Adam Tatro

### FREE LUNCH, SEPTEMBER 9

Several of our UUSIC Free Lunch members volunteered at the Rummage in the Ramp in August. Due to the efforts of Carolyn Johnson, Lori Marshall, Bonnie Penno, Mike Cervantes, Sherry Dolash, Kurt Hamann, and Jeanette Carter, Free Lunch was able to put \$980.00 into their operating budget! Thanks go to Sue and Lee Eberly for stepping in during my absence and coordinating August's "Sandwich Bar" lunch served to over 128 guests on the 12th! Coordinating the monthly serving is truly an enriching experience, and we look forward to passing this part of our community service participation on to someone who has been "waiting in the wings". Please contact me if that someone is YOU! We will be serving again on Friday, September 9. The guests that come are truly so appreciative. Bonnie Penno at 345-6952 or [bonniepenno@gmail.com](mailto:bonniepenno@gmail.com) —Bonnie Penno

### FALL BUILDING CLEANUP, SEPTEMBER 10, 8AM

In preparation of moving back to the sanctuary we will have a cleanup to clear out the cobwebs. We will need volunteers to clean windows, dust rafters, trim bushes, dust sanctuary, clean kitchen, clean and wax the pews, clean up Channing Hall, clean classrooms (wash toys, wash shelves, wipe all surfaces, clean windows), clean library. We need a large work crew for this event; we have jobs for all experience and age levels. We are also seeking donations or temporary loan of buckets, general and window cleaning products, rags, sponges, brooms and etc. As always we are also looking for volunteers to provide refreshment for this project. Please contact Adam Tatro [atatro@mac.com](mailto:atatro@mac.com) 319-594-2400 to volunteer. Thank you in advance. —Adam Tatro

### UUSIC WATER COMMUNION, SEPTEMBER 11



UUSIC will begin the church year with a Water Communion on September 11. Please be sure to wear your nametag to help Rev. Steven get acquainted with you. If you don't have or lost your nametag, you may request one at the membership table.

Water Communion, also sometimes called Water Ceremony, was first used at a Unitarian Universalist worship service in the 1980s. 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)

### SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL EVENT

The event's theme is reconciliation and peacemaking across religious faiths and for all people. This will be a community observance of the tenth anniversary of the September 11th tragedy. It will be held at the Shakespeare stage in City Park in Iowa City beginning at 6:30pm on Sunday, September 11. Since the original attack nearly ten years ago Christians, Jews and Muslims in this area have worked together for understanding and reconciliation and community betterment. We led a similar observance on the first anniversary in 2002 that was moving to the many who participated. We are inviting the community and public officials to join in this time, too. We are not planning speeches as such, but we will have certain leaders and representatives of the three faith communities to set our course for dialogue, reconciliation, and the need for the same internationally. At the conclusion of the program, we will lead a slow walk for peace with candles around the circumference of City Park. —The Rev. Mel Schlachter, Chair, The Consultation of Religious Communities

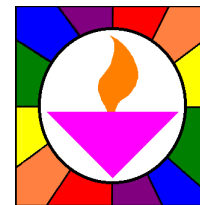
### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS, SEPT. 12

Come to the first session of the UU Book Discussion group for this year on Monday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. We will be selecting books to read for the rest of the year and discussing *The De-Conversion of Kit Lamb* by Kate Kasten. Kate is a member of our group and will be available to answer questions about the book. In October we will be discussing the 2011 selection for One Community, One Book which is *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring a friend. Come even if you haven't read the book, pick up a copy of our wish list of books to read, and join in selecting books for the year. We meet once a month on the 2nd Monday of each month. If you have questions about the group you can call me at 354-1231 or e-mail me at [jayhawkeye@juno.com](mailto:jayhawkeye@juno.com).

—Mary Lou Welter

### INTERWEAVE MOVIE NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 18

Interweave is having a movie night on Sunday evening Sept. 18th at 7:00PM, at the residence of Joe Brisben. We will watch "The Sum of Us" an Australian movie made in 1994, that features a young Russell Crowe. He is the gay son of a widowed man and the movie explores their relationship and their efforts to find love and acceptance. For more information contact Joe Brisben. If you need a ride there, call John Elson. Hope to see you! —John Elson



### SECULAR HUMANIST POTLUCK, SEPTEMBER 20

The UUSIC Secular Humanists will have a potluck on September 20 at the home of Gail McLure, 1 Brickwood Knoll NE. The main dish will be provided. Our guest will be Rev. Steven Protzman, who will join us in an informal conversation about humanism. We will also discuss plans for the coming year. Social hour begins at 6:00, dinner at 6:30. All members and friends are invited. If you have any questions, please call Jeanette Carter at 338-5922. —Jeanette Carter

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The UUSIC Stewardship Committee is gearing up for activities to promote our annual pledge drive this fall. Our theme this year will be "Gather the Spirit". Steven will start our pledge campaign off with the service on Sept. 18. That week we plan to send out pledge brochures/forms to UUSIC members and friends. We will have our small group dinners on two nights this year—Sat. Oct. 8 and Friday, Oct. 14. If you want to host or attend a dinner, let Tyler in the office know. On Sunday, Oct. 16, we will have a service that celebrates the end of our pledge drive. So we are encouraging everyone to get their pledges in on or before Oct. 16.

We have a new minister and a newfound strength to build a community. We hope to celebrate some moments of greatness within the congregation. We have lots to be grateful for this year. Please give in a spirit of generosity that we know is out there! More details to follow. The Stewardship Committee—Dave Martin, Gary Lawrenson, Kelly O'Berry, Lisa Lepic, Carol Throckmorton, Jim Olsen, Tom McMurray, Chris Taylor.

—Dave Martin

## SJCC - UUS SERVING TOGETHER

Having taken a two-month hiatus from our monthly meetings, the Social Justice Coordinating Committee will meet again on Monday, September 12 at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We hope to be greeting new people who are joining us (or thinking about it). We'll be talking about continuing projects as well as new efforts we might undertake for the coming year. Welcome!

—Gay Mikelson

## THANK YOU, KATHY HENDERSON!

Last year Kathy Henderson served as UUSIC Coffee Coordinator (the person who finds volunteers to prepare and serve coffee and lemonade on Sunday morning), and she did a wonderful job! The next time you see her, please mention how much you appreciated her efforts to find volunteers to prepare and serve coffee and lemonade on Sunday morning. Her term ended in August and she retires with our heartfelt thanks.

Carol Throckmorton has agreed to be the Coffee Coordinator for the coming year. We really appreciate her willingness to take on this position! Please help make her job easier by signing up for coffee hour duty when she asks you to volunteer.

—Sue Otto

### JOYS AND SORROWS

Our thoughts are with Jim Olson whose wife, Lois, died on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Memorial services for Lois were held on August 27 at the Iowa City Friends Meeting House. Jim welcomes cards of condolence at 506 Terrace Rd, Iowa City, IA 52245

## FIRESIDE MUSIC

Choir has begun to rehearse and the door is always open for new members. If you hear anyone with a strong voice in the pews beside you, encourage them to join the choir. Junior and Senior High youth are always welcome. The exciting news is the addition of a Children's Choir, which will rehearse Sundays between the services. We are starting a folk group of singers and guitarists. This year the 'Performing Arts Series' will feature a wind ensemble, brass ensemble, a drama, vocal chamber music for St. Valentine's Day, a madrigal festival, and of course 'The Messiah' sing-along on December 28th. I have chosen 'The Diary of Anne Frank' to be performed in the Fall in remembrance of Crystalnacht. It looks like an exciting year. Come and share the joy of music and have a few laughs.

—Barbara Buddin

## UUSIC BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONT.

Protzman also explained that the Board will evaluate him, and his first evaluation will need to be completed by October 2012. He also mentioned that Rev. Mark Stringer, the UU minister from Des Moines, has agreed to be his mentor.

Laughlin made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Lenth seconded it.

Guest Gordon Strayer and Deb Schoelerman were asked if they had comments. Schoelerman asked if the Board is discussing the need to revise and update the by-laws. Otto indicated that this is something the Board recognizes needs to be done.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

—Susan Salterberg, UUSIC Board Secretary

## ENDOWMENT PARTY A SUCCESS!

The Endowment party, held at the home of John Raley on Sunday August 21st, was a huge success. Twenty-seven young and senior individuals enjoyed wine, cheese and desserts on a beautiful afternoon. Jean Hood presented information about the Detiger Fund which is available to help support an event that will involve the larger community and create interest in UUSIC. John Raley described the Endowment goal to grow funds from the current \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 with a purpose of supporting the Society in future endeavors. To help with this goal, the Endowment Committee has created a Chalice Society. One can become a member by making a deferred gift to the Society by mentioning the UUSIC in your will or in some other way. Feel free to ask any of the current members of the Endowment Committee for further information about the Endowment Committee or Chalice Society. Current members include Alice Atkinson, Chair; John Raley, Vice Chair; Jean Hood, Secretary; Charles Whiteman and Nancy Lynch.

The Endowment Party raised over \$2,500. If you also wish to donate but could not attend the party, checks may be sent directly to the UUSIC. Please note on the memo line that the amount is for the endowment fund.

—Alice Atkinson

# 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

## UUSIC Staff

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Office Hours: 10:00 - 3:00 Tuesday thru Thursday  
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**Office Administrator** - Tyler Hanft  
Office Phone: 319-337-3443 ext. 101  
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**Music Director** - Barbara Buddin  
Email: choir@uusic.org

**Organist/Pianist** - Joseph McKinley  
Email: organist@uusic.org