

The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
Founded in 1841



January 2012 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 Second Session Religious Education Programming

January 1 *Wassail Service*

Joe Brisben

As we close one year and enter the next, we think about passages of time and life sequences. Joe has written a one-act play, "It's Time for You to Go," in which a demented, bedfast woman with a broken hip keeps imagining the ghost of her late husband emerging from a bedpost. Guitarist Dustin Busch will provide special music.

9:30 AM Service in Channing Hall
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

January 8 *Raging in the Words*

Shay O'Reilly

The Old Testament prophets were radical truth-tellers, wild-eyed castaways, and subversive poets. A closer look at their stories reveals a core virtue: Unabashed integrity that can shake the mightiest power. Even if we don't share their theology, the prophets provide a model for enacting justice in an unjust world.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall
10:45 AM Visitor Q&A, Fireside Room

January 15 *Immigration in Our Community*

Diane Finnerty & Max Villatoro

Diane Finnerty, professor of Social Work, and Max Villatoro, pastor of the Torre Fuerte congregation at Mennonite Church, share their personal and professional experiences on immigration and challenge us to abandon complacency.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall

January 22 *Bronson and Louisa May Alcott*

Rev. Charity Rowley

The Alcotts, father and daughter, were two interesting early Unitarians living in the Boston area during the 1800s. They were involved in ideas and actions at a time when we were beginning to explore what was important to a part of the developing Unitarian denomination.

9:30 AM Services in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation, Channing Hall
11:15 AM Congregational Meeting, Channing Hall

January 29 *Kings, Queens and Other Heroes*

Rev. Steven Protzman

Unitarianism flourished in Transylvania for a brief period in the 1600s under the rule of King John Sigismund. As we celebrate the Festival of the First Bread, we will step back in time to meet some of the heroes of Unitarianism in Eastern Europe as we reflect on the roots of our spiritual heritage.

9:30 & 11:15 AM Services in the Sanctuary
10:30 AM Coffee and Conversation in Channing Hall

JANUARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTRIBUTIONS HELP SUPPORT FREE DENTAL CLINIC

The Dick Parrott Free Dental Clinic (named in honor of one of its founders) opened in 1995. Dentists, dental students, dental hygienists and dental hygiene students volunteer their time to provide: cleaning, filling cavities and tooth extractions. Care is provided to patients who do not have dental insurance. Please give generously to help them continue their good work. Cash or checks to UUSIC (Free Dental Clinic on memo line) may be given during Sunday collections or sent to the office. Thank you!

Sunday Attendance for November 27 through December 25:

November 27	74 adults, children & youth
December 4	236 total: 175 adults, 61 children & youth
December 11	254 total: 195 adults, 59 children & youth
December 18	171 adults, children & youth
December 25	37 adults, children & youth

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From Our Minister



January's Theme: Roots & Wings

"Roots hold me close, wings set me free" –from "Spirit of Life" by Carolyn McDade

Our worship theme for January is roots and wings. This is another theologically rich topic which offers many different avenues for reflection and discovery. It invites us to reflect on our history as individuals and as a religious community and to dream about possibilities for growth and change. It seems especially appropriate since January is named after the god Janus who is depicted as having two faces, one looking into the past and the other into the future.

Roots are our history, the stories that remind us of who we are and where we came from. We do not create ourselves 'ex nihilo' (from nothing), but use the stories we have been told about the world and about ourselves as a way to understand life. As individuals, if we have been told that we are smart, worthwhile and lovable, the way we see ourselves and act in the world will be far different than if we have been told we are unlucky, sinful or unlovable. As a larger religious movement, our stories teach us what it means to be Unitarian Universalists. Our seven principles are a story that teach us how to treat one another and all of creation with equity and compassion. Our diverse spiritual tradition that draws on all of the world's wisdom stories includes our own rich history of martyrs, prophets, activists, heroes, and even a Unitarian king!

Our wings, which include our free spirits and creative minds, are about vision, the ability to look at the world in new ways. We believe in the freedom of individuals to reinterpret the stories we have about ourselves and our world or to create new stories as we allow our hearts and our imaginations to soar. We describe Unitarian Universalism as a living tradition because while we respect our history and learn from it, unlike some religious traditions we are not limited by it. We believe that Truth has not been completely revealed, that new ideas, new possibilities are always waiting to be discovered. We reject the notion that the outcome of the story of humankind has already been determined, believing instead that we can create the future. With both roots and wings, we claim our powers as a prophetic people who are informed by the realities of life and yet have faith and hope that things can be different and that we truly can transform the world.

As we begin a new calendar year, I invite you to take some

time to reflect about your story and who you are called to be in the world. I hope you'll also be part of the conversation as we continue asking who we are called to be as a religious community and how we can live out our mission in the world as we seek to "celebrate a liberal tradition that nurtures social justice, stewardship of the earth, and the lifelong journey of mind and spirit."

It is good to be together!

Walking with you in gratitude and hope,
Steven



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, DECEMBER 8

Sue Otto called the meeting to order and asked if any consent agenda items needed to be elevated. The Board added several items from Rev. Steven Protzman's monthly report, starting with Rev. Protzman's suggestion that the Board periodically be available between UUSIC services to talk with members and friends of UUSIC, answering questions, hearing concerns, and listening. Jim Laughlin moved that two Board members be available between services on the last Sunday of every month for a Board Listening Post. Lisa Haverkamp seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously. The location for the monthly gathering is to be determined.

The Board then reviewed, line-by-line, the 2012 proposed budget presented by a task force consisting of Wallace, Laughlin and Jerry Nordquist. The Board offered several suggestions, and heard from Buildings and Grounds co-chair Adam Tatro about roofing, carpeting and signage needs at UUSIC. The Board then went into a closed session to discuss salaries for staff members. After a thorough review, the Board asked the task force to propose a revised, balanced budget at the January meeting.

Protzman then gave a report for the Membership Coordinator Search Committee. The committee has interviewed one candidate, and plans to interview two more before making their decision.

Next, Otto gave a report on proposed nominees for the facilities task force. Sharon Booker, Adam Ingersoll, John Jennewein, Kurt Hamann and Maureen Patterson—along with three Board members Haverkamp, Laughlin and Pomrehn—were recommended. After some discussion, Wallace moved to accept the presented slate, Lentz seconded it, and the motion approved unanimously. Pomrehn agreed to convene the task force. A visioning retreat will be held for the Board and facilities task force in early 2012.

Next on the agenda was a report by Pomrehn from the subcommittee charged with working out details for initiating a fund that could be used for facility-related issues. Pomrehn reported the subcommittee's recommendation that the Board approve the formation of a new account to hold donations to support the Society's initiative to address future space needs. The fund would be used both as a planning fund to support the facility task force's work, and would be used as a capital fund.

(cont. on page 6)

Religious Education News

The other day I watched my tuxedo long-hair in all of her magnificent glory, who had slipped out the door, shoot up the long trunk of the Oak in the yard with such ease and pleasure. Most days I follow city laws and keep her tethered in the yard. I felt a twinge of guilt for hampering her obvious spiritedness and an athletic prowess I forget she has. I was reminded that life, even for us powerful humans, can sometimes feel like being tethered to the yard – often by the self-limitations that keep us from living our fuller potential. This is the time of year when we can ask for a do-over. We welcome the New Year with a variety of traditions, parties and staying up 'til midnight on New Year's Eve to make a bunch of noise to welcome the New Year. There were fireworks in some places, and in New York City people gather in Times Square and watch a big glittery ball drop down from on high. Everywhere, lots of people sing a sentimental Scottish song about remembering (or forgetting) old friends. But by far, the one to take the most seriously are New Year's resolutions, when we make promises to better ourselves and our lives.

The problem with New Years' resolutions is that they're hard to keep. Recent research shows that while 52% of participants in a resolution study were confident of success with their goals, only 12% actually achieved their goals. So we have to come up with some ways to help us keep our promises. Rev. Lynne Unger from the Church of the Larger Fellowship suggests starting small when it comes to new year's resolutions. Just choose one or two things that make you think about what you might want to change in your life. Go small but go for quality. Pick the things that are important. "Maybe, for instance, too many days last year were wrecked by fighting with a friend or a sibling. If so, you might want to resolve to learn some ways of talking and listening that help everyone feel heard," says Unger. "Maybe you discovered something great this year, like backpacking or gymnastics, and you want to resolve to spend more time at it." She tells how she herself committed to tap dancing lessons after watching her daughter's dance classes for years, deciding there's no reason why her children should have all the fun.

This makes me think of the visual journaling I've started this year, which though done in spurts, has not only been fun for me, but brought a smile to family and friends when I share my artwork in the form of cards. To make visual journaling a commitment, I should make it a practice. And here again, it's good to take baby steps. A small chunk of time for starters once a day. But the important thing is to make it a practice. Even big changes come about this way. Recently I spoke with a couple who said they learned to better their relationship through setting time aside each day to read and reflect on a relationship how-to book each day.

What are our other ways to make our resolutions stick? You can share what you want to change with at least 8 people. You can create a drawing or a collage or a poem of what you hope to see happen, and then find a place to post your resolution picture where you'll be able to see it, like your refrigerator, or scan it into your computer as a screensaver. Another thing you can do is reward yourself for every time you keep your promise. And of course, it's fine if you have a plan B, something similar to plan A,

but maybe not as demanding.

The important thing is to come up with a technique that might get you out of that 52% range of wishful thinkers. Unitarian Universalists have long believed that people have a built-in need to learn and grow and change for the better. And make the world a better place. So when you invest in your New Year's resolutions, you are truly engaging a Unitarian Universalist religious ritual. One resolution I'll try this year won't be a regular practice. But just now and then, on special days, I'll better the life of my tuxedo long-hair and let her climb a tree.

—Lois Cole, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



DRE Lois Cole and her angels perform the holiday play, Dec. 18

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE NEWS

December began with the Hanging of the Greens on Friday December 2. The evening began with opening words by Rev Steven Protzman. Fabulous food, marvelous music and creative crafts were provided along with pleasant conversation. Ornaments and crafts were hung on the UU tree. Holiday cards were made for distribution at the Veterans Hospital. The Sanctuary was also decorated in a festive theme.

Meditation and stress relief was the theme for the Parent Gathering on Sunday December 11. Karen Fox led the parents in a guided meditation for a welcome break in the busy holiday season. What a relaxed group after that gathering!

Come join CYC for The Second Saturday event and cheer for the University of Iowa Women's Basketball team:

For: Sports fans of all ages
When: Sunday January 8th
Time: 2:45 meet up– game starts at 3:00
Where: Carver-Hawkeye Arena
Meet at: The entrance to buy tickets
(Corner of Elliot Dr. & Hawkins Dr)
Price: Kids under 4 free, Adults \$9, Youth \$5

—Sherry Dolash

Events & Committee News

NEW YEARS CONTRA DANCE, JAN. 1

Celebrate the New Year by coming to a Contra Dance on New Years Day at 2:30 PM in Channing Hall. Everyone, including children, invited. If you can walk you can Contra Dance. All dances will be taught and called. Beginners welcome. You need not come with a partner. Bring your friends. You may bring a snack if you wish. No charge but you may make a contribution to the church if you wish. Call Kay Schneider, 338-5378 for more information.

—Kay Schneider

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, JAN. 9

The first meeting of the new year for the UU Book Discussion Group will be Monday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls is our book for discussion. Our book for February will be Sarah's Key by Tatiana De Rosnay. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come and bring a friend and join in the discussion. If you have questions about the group you can call me at 354-1231 or e-mail me at jayhawkeye@juno.com.

—Mary Lou Welter

GREEN SANCTUARY NEWS, JAN. 10

Are you interested in educating our congregation about climate change? Are you interested in effecting political change regarding energy policies and alternative energy options? Are you interested in helping UUSIC recycle and be more energy efficient? If yes, please consider being a part of the The Green Sanctuary Committee. Our primary goals are to raise the congregation's awareness of and commitment to the Seventh Principle, "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" and to work with the wider community to support action on facing climate change.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. For more information contact Mark NeuCollins, Jeanette Carter or Deb Schoelerman.

—Deb Schoelerman

FREE LUNCH, JANUARY 13

December 9th was a delightful day, if you like to wake up to a dusting of beautiful snow, and the sun shining brightly. But, with cold temperatures, many guests thought it was delightful as it was a day where warm and delicious comfort food was being served by the UUSIC at Wesley Center at noon! Meatloaf and baked potatoes were the main offerings, but we also had vegetarian lasagna and vegan macaroni and cheese, fruit and lettuce salad, hot mixed vegetables, beverages, and desserts—including a beautifully decorated "Happy Holidays" cake from Diana Henry! I wish to thank everyone that has contributed to this community service from our UUSIC in 2011, including all the donations received during the Sunday services, with Free Lunch Program being the designated community agency that received the cash contributions and designated checks in the month of December!

January 13th will be the first day in 2012 that our group will serve.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in the efforts needed for this 2nd Friday of each month event. bonniepenno@gmail.com or 354-6952.

—Bonnie Penno

M.L. KING JR. INTERFAITH SERVICE, JAN. 15

All are invited to the M.L. King, Jr. Interfaith Service sponsored annually by the Consultation of Religious Communities of Johnson County. The service will be at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012 at Coralville United Methodist Church, 806 13th Ave. in CV. The service will include a talk by local activist Royceann Porter, along with interfaith music, readings, and prayers for the world. Refreshments and conversation will follow. A free will offering will be received to support the CRC's Family-to-Family Partnership Program, which helps newly arriving families settle successfully in our area.

—Diane Martin

ALL-CONGREGATION MEETING, JAN. 22

The UUSIC Board will hold an All-Congregation meeting on Sunday, January 22, at 11:15 am, in lieu of a second service. The primary topic for the meeting will be discussion and approval of a 2012 UUSIC budget. Members are encouraged to attend this meeting to ensure a quorum.

—Susan Salterberg

FIRST BOARD LISTENING POST, JAN. 29

At the December Board meeting, we decided to establish a monthly Listening Post—a regular opportunity for members and friends of the congregation to talk about their ideas, issues and concerns with representatives from the Board. (The Listening Post was Reverend Steven's suggestion and we thought it was a great one!) On the last Sunday of each month, two Board members will be available between services in the Library on the 1st floor of the Worthley Building. You are invited to our first Listening Post on January 29 from 10:30-11:15 AM. Board members Russ Lenth and Paul Pomrehn will be there to listen.

—Sue Otto

TIME WELL SPENT WORKSHOP, FEB. 4

Saturday, February 4th, 10:00 – 2:00 PM in Channing Hall. Join other Unitarians Universalists from the Hawkeye Cluster - Cedar Falls, Ames, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Davenport – for Sharing Challenges and Successes. We are looking forward to this opportunity to share congregational strategies and challenges within the different committees/groups that include Green Sanctuary, Immigration, Membership, Buildings and Grounds, Finance and Stewardship, Youth Programming, Marriage Equality, Partner Churches, Worship, RE/Adult Programming, Board leadership, Social Justice, Covenant groups and others. Find out what other UU congregations in Iowa are doing.

Workshop Objectives: Each participant will (a) feel recognized for his/her congregational involvement; (b) discover new ideas; (c) feel renewed commitment for committee/group work..

This is the third annual Time Well Spent workshop. These workshops have been an informative and engaging way to explore decision-making, roles on a committee, and other aspects

of UU committees. This year we are expanding to include UU congregations. The workshop is open to all. Please RSVP to Tyler by Monday, January 30th. Childcare will be available if requested by January 30th. Lunch will be provided. This workshop is co-hosted by Peoples Church in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City and presented by UUSIC Leadership Development Committee. Contact Mike Cervantes (319-834-1136) or mhccervan@hotmail.com if you have any questions. —Mike Cervantes

NEWS FROM THE SPACE COMMITTEE

The First Thursday covenant group teamed up to paint a classroom on the third floor of Worthley Building. Theresa Ullerich led the effort and chose the colors for the room. John Elson, Gay Mikelson, Joe Hennager, Julia Wasson, Mary and Tom McMurray, Sharon Booker, and Jan and Steve Locher all helped with the painting. Stop by and take a look. The room is very cheerful and bright. Over the summer the space committee painted the preschool room with the assistance of Theresa picking out colors. The preschool room has an old blue metal cabinet and counter which needs to be replaced. The teachers need this space for lesson preparation and storage. If anyone has any ideas on a possible replacement please contact Vicki Siefers at vsiefers@mchsi.com or 338-5984. —Vicki Siefers

SJCC - UUS SERVING TOGETHER

There are two intergenerational travel/service opportunities coming up. There will be a trip during spring break to New Orleans and a June trip to Phoenix for General Assembly. Contact Sally Hartman if you're interested in participating in either of these.

The Social Justice Coordinating Committee voted in December to raise our UUSIC contribution to the Common Fund from \$1,000 annually to \$1,200. This money is administered by the Crisis Center and is used to help families with rent and utility bills.

There will be a winter food drive for the Crisis Center emphasizing protein contributions. Due to increased demand, protein isn't as available to clients of the Crisis Center as it has been in the past. Watch announcements and this newsletter for dates for this drive.

UUSIC has an active Immigration Work Group. Several members attend the citywide round tables that are held monthly at the Iowa City Public Library. In addition, Steve Locher and Mary McMurray will be leading a Welcome Home Wednesday class on immigration issues. Our January 15th service will focus on this topic and the group that traveled to Guatemala this summer has been invited to speak at the Davenport UU Church.

Members of the Occupy Movement have been using Channing Hall for meetings.

Please consider joining us on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 in the Fireside Room for our next meeting. We'd welcome new ideas! —Diane Martin

LIVE MUSIC INTEREST GROUP, FEB. 13

The Live Music Interest Group will converge next at the February concert of Zoe Keating, cellist, at the Englert Theatre on Monday February 13th at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18, except for Seniors and Students the cost is \$15. Plans are being made to gather for dinner before the concert. If interested, call Kelly O'Berry at 351-2703. —Sally Hartman

BOOK DRIVE FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

In order to address literacy needs of immigrant families, books in Spanish and monetary donations will be collected during the month of January. These books will be donated to South East Junior High and three or four elementary schools in Iowa City and surrounding communities with an immigrant population. Make out your check to UUSIC with "Books" in the memo line and put it in the collection basket or send it to Tyler, our office administrator. —Sally Hartman

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Thanks to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2012. If you intend to pledge for 2012 and have not turned in a pledge please contact Dave Martin or Tyler in the office as soon as possible. We have received pledges totaling more than \$300,000. As near as I can tell, this is the most we have ever received for one year. We will report more details of the pledge campaign to the Board in February. —Dave Martin

JOIN A COVENANT GROUP TODAY!

The Covenant Group program at UUSIC offers members and friends the experience of strengthening connections with each other and exploring personal spirituality within a small group setting. Each group consists of 10-12 members and is led by two trained facilitators. We meet once a month, usually at someone's home, to discuss a topic that relates our emotional, intellectual, and spiritual journeys to our experience as UUs. Recent topics include Gratitude and Three Ways for UUs to Talk about God. During the month of January we're considering Right Relations, the important topic of respectful interaction between people with differing backgrounds and beliefs. Participating in a covenant group allows members the chance to express our views and deepen our understanding of a wide variety of issues in an informal setting that fosters closer ties to UUs we might not get to know otherwise.

In addition, covenant groups do service projects for the UUSIC and the community. Examples of projects include weeding the courtyard garden, cleaning the Sanctuary, and providing home cooked meals for the Free Lunch program. Groups also volunteer to help with ushering or the coffee hour between services. Each group is free to come up with other projects and activities, as well. We are always looking for people to join an existing group or to help form a new one. If you're interested and want to find out more about covenant groups, please contact Jan Locher at 354-6260 or locherj@mchsi.com. —Jan Locher

UUSIC BOARD HIGHLIGHTS, CONT.

Lenth moved that a restricted fund called Faith in Our Future be established, and Haverkamp seconded. The motion passed 7-1. The board elected to table discussion about appointing a committee to plan fund-raising efforts.

A Getting to Know You task force, consisting of Faye and Gordon Strayer, Marilyn Jennewein and Salterberg, reported to the Board as well. The task force's goals were to identify ways to help nurture mutual love and respect and help fulfill the congregation's needs for understanding the skills and interests of its members and friends. Among their ideas, the task force proposed development of a Skills and Interests Inventory. Pomrehn moved that Marilyn Jennewein work with others in the congregation and on UUSIC's staff to develop this inventory/database. Nordquist seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was UUSIC's Congregational Sponsorship of Lois Cole as she works toward her Masters of Divinity degree. Laughlin moved that UUSIC be a congregational sponsor, Pomrehn seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

—Susan Salterberg

BOARD LOOKS TO FUTURE; ESTABLISHES FACILITIES FUND

The Board of Trustees has created a new account called the UUSIC Faith in Our Future Fund. This fund will be used to support the efforts of UUSIC's newly formed facilities task force as they address the congregation's future space needs. This includes activities such the hiring of consultants and securing professional appraisals, which will be approved by the Board of Trustees. The use of any remaining funds will go toward solving specific space needs as directed by a congregational vote.

The Board welcomes contributions to this fund, which can be mailed to Tyler, the office administrator, or placed in the offering basket. Please write "Faith in our Future Fund" in the memo line. Board members Paul Pomrehn, Sally Hartman and Susan Salterberg are available to answer any questions about this fund.

—Susan Salterberg

SPRING BREAK IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans is the destination for the next UUSIC intergenerational social action trip scheduled for spring break. The purpose of the trip is to support rebuilding efforts still going on after the devastation of hurricane Katrina. While a majority of the work crew will be over age 14, there will be volunteer opportunities for children age 10-13 as well. Three vans will be leaving the church around 5:00 p.m. on March 9th, with a return date of Saturday, March 17th. The cost will be \$250 per person, and a deposit of \$100 is due by February 1. Please contact Christie Dancel (cgdancel@gmail.com or 319-329-7956) or Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com) if you have questions about the trip.

—Sally Hartman

GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PHOENIX, JUNE 18

Those who wish to attend General Assembly, our congregation's annual conference with a focus on immigration, can choose to go with a group of Unitarian Universalists by bus. The bus leaves on June 18th or 19th and will arrive in Phoenix on the 20th. The bus returns to Iowa on June 24th. Cost for the bus trip is \$400. Registration, hotel and food will be extra. For more information e-mail Sally Hartman at sallyahartman@hotmail.com.

—Sally Hartman

IMMIGRATION GROUP OFFERS WHW SERIES

The newly formed UUSIC Immigration Issues Study and Action Group will be offering a series of classes on immigration issues during the February-March Welcome Home Wednesdays. The classes will be facilitated by Mary McMurray and Steve Locher, assisted by other group members. This initiative is in support of the UUA 2010-2014 Study and Action Issue, "Immigration as a Moral Issue". The classes are based on the UUA curriculum, with a strong focus on local issues and experiences.

Many of our study and action group members have significant prior experience with immigrants. They have participated in UUSIC sponsored field trips to Mexico and Guatemala, conducted educational activities, worked on the Sanctuary City Committee to clarify city policy on immigration issues, and initiated monthly community wide networking for individuals and groups providing services to immigrant communities. These experiences, combined with the group's growing awareness of the tremendous challenges faced by immigrants in our own communities, led to our working to support the Iowa City Human Rights Commission's recommendations, "Issues of Immigration and Building Safe Communities for All."

As a Society with a mission to nurture social justice, we can do much to achieve a more welcoming, safe, and socially just community here in Johnson County. Choosing effective actions involves learning about the people, their lived experience, the history, the laws, the international issues, the economics, the labor and class issues, and the politics. This Welcome Home Wednesday Class aims to provide both a knowledge base and opportunities to move from study to action.

We hope you will join us in this exploration!

Steve Locher

UUSIC CHALICE SOCIETY

The Chalice Society is composed of individuals who have made plans to leave a gift to the UUSIC through means such as a bequest, a trust, an annuity, or a life insurance policy. For the next few months the Endowment Committee will be providing information to society members who wish to be recognized as part of the Chalice Society. Endowment Committee member John Raley will host a table in Channing Hall on January 15 and February 12 during the fellowship hour between services. A recognition of Chalice Society members will be held later this Spring.

—Alice Atkinson

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MINISTRY

Recognizing that the ministry of UUSIC is a collective enterprise and that we are all ministers responsible for the ministry of UUSIC, the Board has approved a committee on Congregational Life and Ministry. The work of the committee will reflect this shared ministry. Consisting of seven members who represent a cross-section of the Society, the committee's stated purpose is to:

“monitor the ministries of the UUSIC shared by the minister and groups within the congregation and to evaluate and strengthen the effectiveness of these ministries in supporting the church’s mission and the vision articulated by the Board.”

Members of the committee will work individually with the various ministry groups in the church—worship associates, RE, pastoral care, interest groups, etc.—tracking the work and interaction of the groups with each other and with the minister, facilitating communication and fostering a strong sense of the community as an interdependent whole. Committee members also anticipate receiving comments regarding concerns or suggestions about the life of the Society from all.

Another important aspect of the committee's work will be to participate in evaluations of the ministry of the church—both paid and volunteer. Special attention will be given to evaluations of the minister during his three-year probationary period with the UUA.

Jacob Altman, Kelly O’Berry, Jim Olson, Diana Henry, Will Jewell, Bonnie Penno, and Jeanette Carter are the members of the committee, with Steven Protzman and Lois Cole ex-officio. We look forward to serving the Society in this important capacity.

—Jeanette Carter

UUSIC EVENTS!



Above: The Intergenerational Holiday Play, Dec. 18

Below: Many thanks to First Thursday Covenant Group who painted RE room #35 with bold and beautiful colors, making it an inviting and cheery classroom. A special thanks to Theresa Ullerich, pictured here and a member of the Aesthetics Committee, who proposed the project to her Covenant group. One member noted that they had “a lot more fun than ushering.” Should any other group or committee be interested, RE room #36 would also love a fresh coat of paint. Thank you to Joe Hennager, Julia Wasson, Sharon Booker, Gay Mikelson, Mary and Tom McMurray, Dorothy Paul-Peterson, Jan and Steve Locher, John Elson and Theresa Ullerich.



The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City
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UUSIC Board of Directors, 2011-2012

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Tues.-Friday 10:00 AM—4:00 PM

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