

OPEN CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT...

By Paisley Harris

OCUUF Board Presidents Note: Looking forward, Looking Back

As I sit down to write the President's note this winter morning, I look outside at a quiet landscape graced with a beautiful dusting of snow and consider how snow slows us down, and brings us more light in this time of darkness and short days. May we take a lesson from the snow, allowing ourselves and others to slow down, and bringing light and hope, not judgment and fear.

New Year's always seems a good time to look forward to plan and prepare, and backward to contemplate and celebrate. I'll use this note to do just that, considering the areas of governance, spiritual exploration, fellowship and outreach.

Governance: Looking forward, on Saturday January 14, the Board will be having a planning retreat. We'll be looking at short and long term goals and considering action items toward those goals. This process will involve a certain amount of looking back at where we have been and what we have accomplished as. We will also share some insights from regional leadership workshops and think about leadership as a spiritual practice by discussing the book *Serving with Grace*. If anyone has ideas to share in advance of this retreat or would like to take part in some portion of it, please let me know. We will soon begin posting minutes by the front office door, so check those out if want to read more about the work of the Board.

Spiritual exploration: We congratulate our student minister Ian Riddell on being into accepted into Fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association! We are blessed to work with Ian this year and some congregation will be very lucky to benefit from his gifts on a more permanent basis.

This fall, Ian's thoughtful and heartfelt meditations have asked us to consider how central covenant is to Unitarian Universalism and how we as Unitarian Universalists should welcome the stranger. Scott Prinster and theologian Karen Armstrong (via video), reminded us that compassion is a value found in virtually all faith traditions. (This value is honored in Unitarian Universalism principle and is also one of the UU values mentioned in our Mission Statement.) Rev. Michael Schuler, Senior minister of First Unitarian of Madison, led us in a consideration of why it is important to live by our values of justice, compassion, and sustainability in our choices regarding food, eating, and food production.

This 'look back' reminds me how deeply these values of compassion, justice and sustainability are intertwined. It also reminds me that, for Unitarian Universalists, faith is a verb. Our values don't just sit on the shelf to be looked at on Sunday. We are called to live by them in our daily lives, in our Open Circle community, and in the wider world.



Looking ahead, we have several services planned that will address the theme of exploring direct experiences of the holy, that transcendent mystery and wonder that moves our spirit. Also coming up later in spring, Sylvia Reed and Bev Gudex will offer an adult religious education class/discussion group on 'Articulating Your UU Faith'. This is an opportunity to explore your own spirituality and learn more about Unitarian Universalism. It is great for new UU's or people who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, though long-time UU's are also welcome.

Before leaving the topic of spiritual exploration, I must give an enormous **THANK YOU** to our Service Planning chair Sylvia Reed and the whole service planning committee for bringing us spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally enriching programming Sunday after Sunday!

(continued to page 7....**Board article**)

GET INVOLVED AT OCUUF!

Religious Discussion and Coffee

OCUUF women...please join Jane Dennis for coffee and conversation at Gift and Gab in Peebles on the 1st Monday of each month (unless otherwise stated). For more information please contact Jane at jane.dennis@charter.net. The group will be meeting on January 9 at 10 AM and on February 6.

Men's Group

Please contact John McDowell for further information regarding events for this group. He can be reached at eastbrook06@gmail.com. The OCUUF Men's Group meets on the first Sunday of every month (unless otherwise stated) at the Ramada Inn at 8 AM. This group will be meeting on January 8 and February 5.



Book/Video Club

This group meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30 PM at OCUUF. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 with the discussion of *The Power of Now* by Eckardt Tolle.

Eco Food Group

The next meeting will held on January 28 at 8 AM at the Schuppe's residence. Meetings are typically held on Saturday mornings from 8 to 10 AM with locations to be determined at a committee person's residence. If you think you might be interested in joining Eco Food or if you're just curious, please join us. Guests are always welcome. For more information contact Karen Lindberg-Schuppe, klindberg-schuppe@charter.net.

Food for Thought

This group usually meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6 to 8 PM at OCUUF. The next meeting is on January 12 and will be held at 6:30 rather than 6 PM. A movie will be shown about the collapse of the honey bee population, coordinated by Srs. Mary Anne and Mary Beck. There will be no meeting in February.

For additional information, please see the calendars provided in this newsletter and more up-to-date information provided on the OCUUF website calendar at <http://www.ocuuf.org>.

WOMEN'S DINNER GROUP

Not a morning person? A women's dinner group will be starting on January 17th at 5:30 PM at Faro's Family Restaurant. Please join us. Contact Barb Moss (kalyna7@yahoo.com / 920-203-6594) or Audrey Linn (920-980-7501) for more information.

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2012

January

1-1 *New Year's Day*

Coordinated by: Paisley Harris and John Morris

1-8 Service topic: Turning of the Year

Presented by: Sally Cissna

Coordinator: John Morris

1-15 Discussion: Open Circle Social Justice Work

1-22 Topic: TBD

Presented by: Ian Riddell

Coordinator: Sylvia Reed

1-29 Topic: TBD

Presented by: Tret Fure

Coordinator: Madonna

February

2-5 Topic: Spiritual Journeys
Presented by: Various members

2-12 Presented by: Tony B
from Advocap

2-19 Service topic: TBD

Presented by: Ian Riddell

Coordinator: Sylvia Reed

2-26 TBD

All services are held at Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 10 AM unless otherwise stated.

OCUUF REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Jane Ricchio will be in the OCUUF office on Tuesdays from 4 to 7 PM.

Email: ocuuf@tds.net

Phone: (920) 924-8598

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURS- DAY	FRIDAY	SATUR- DAY
1 <i>New Year's Day!</i>  Get-together coordinated by Paisley and Jon at 10 AM at OCUUF	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Men's Group at 8 AM at the Ramada Inn Service at 10 AM, Turning of the Year with Sally Cissna	9 <i>Full Moon</i>  Women's Group at 10 AM at Gift and Gab	10	11	12 Food for thought video at 6:30 PM at OCUUF	13	14 OCUUF Board Retreat
15 Discussion on Open Circle Social Justice Work at 10 AM	16 <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day</i>	17 Book/video club meeting at 6:30 PM at OCUUF Women's Dinner Group 5:30 PM at Faros	18	19	20	21
22 Service at 10 AM presented by Ian Ridell	23 <i>Chinese New Year</i> 	24	25	26	27	28 Ecofood Group meeting at 8 AM at the Schuppe's residence
29 Service at 10 AM presented by Tret Fure	30	31				



INTERESTED IN OCUUF MEMBERSHIP?

If you feel you have found a spiritual home in the Open Circle, but have not yet joined OCUUF, we hope you will consider signing the membership book. Signing the membership book means that you feel you have found a spiritual home here and that you are committing to support the Open Circle Fellowship financially and with your time and talents. Feel free to talk to Madonna Bowman at mebowman@charter.net or Paisley Harris at paisley.harris@uwc.edu about membership.

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Imbolc/</i>  <i>Candlemas</i>	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	4
5 Men's Group at 8 AM at the Ramada Inn Service at 10 AM, Spiritual Journeys	6 Women's Group at 10 AM at Gift and Gab 	7 <i>Full Moon</i> 	8	9 No Food for Thought meeting this month	10	11
12 Talk presented at 10 AM by Tony B from Advocap	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15	16	17	18
19 Service at 10 AM presented by Ian Ridell	20	21 <i>Fat Tuesday/ Mardi Gras</i> Book/video club meeting at 6:30 PM at OCUUF	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	23	24	25
26 Service/talk to be determined at 10 AM	27	28	29	29		

ECOFOOD COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

At a recent meeting of the Open Circle Eco-Food group, we learned that 2,775 students attending the Fond du Lac public school system (38% of the total student population) are eligible for Federal food programs BUT not on weekends, so many of them go hungry! Childhood hunger means children are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems, suffer from fatigue, and perform poorly academically, athletically, and socially. The "Food for Thought" program was created by the Fondy Food Pantry to address this need by providing nutritious meals for the weekends and holidays for these students, but they need our help. To find out more about the program and how you can sponsor a child for a year (\$250) or a month (\$25), go to www.fondyfoodpantry.org. or mail your donation to Fondy Food Pantry, 51 Division St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935.

KAREN ARMSTRONG'S CHARTER FOR COMPASSION: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

By Audrey Linn

I was pleased the congregation was very interested in the Charter for Compassion after watching the Karen Armstrong Ware lecture. Here are some resources available if you would like to learn more. The lecture is available online at the the UUA website www.uua.org. Jeff Reed also has a copy on disk that can be lent out. If you would like more information please check out these websites:

charterforcompassion.org

compassionateactionnetwork.com

compassionatecities.org

Karen Armstrong's book "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life" is available at FDL library at the Agnesian Hospital branch.

Thank you for your interest! Audrey Linn

The Charter for Compassion

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.



COFFEE HOUR NEWS

Submitted by Jane Dennis

Many of you have brought treats for coffee hour. In fact, each week we seem to have a wonderful abundance of treats show up for service. Thank you to those who have been so generous. Thank you for sharing with Open Circle. The treats make coffee hour that much better!

To clarify, we've had assigned treats for coffee hour in the past. This year, in an attempt to simplify, we're asking for assigned treats **only** on the first Sunday of the month. Of course, your offerings are always welcome, but please be aware that three of you have signed up for first Sunday treats. And, please do sign up for a first Sunday. There will always be a coffee host to makes coffee and clean up after, but that is a separate job from bringing treats.

(continued to page 10...Coffee Hour)

OCUUF ON YOUTUBE!?

Thanks to John Morris and Jane Ricchio, OCUUF now has a YouTube site page. Currently Ian Riddell's October 18 sermon can be viewed there. Additional material will be added on a regular basis. The videos will typically be loaded by Thursday morning following the service.

Check it out.

Here is the link to the ocuuf youtube site:

<http://www.youtube.com/ocuuf>

MEATLESS MONDAYS INTERVIEW

By Jeanne McDowell

I was able to have a nice interview with Terry and Dani Keuler a few weeks ago. Here's what they had to say about their Meatless Mondays.



Best wishes, Jeanne McDowell

Q: How are your "Meatless Mondays" going?

A: (Terry and Dani) - They're not! We don't have any official day.

Terry - My husband, Tim, does all the cooking. He's a person who thinks meat belongs at the main meal. He feels that meat has real nutritional value and worries that we wouldn't get enough protein if we didn't have meat at dinner most of the time.

Q: In a week of 21 meals, how many are meatless?

A: We don't have meat at breakfast. Probably 1/2 of our lunches are meatless. Most dinners contain meat.

Q: What do you like to have for breakfast?

A: Dani - My favorite breakfast is a bagel with cream cheese. I like Thomas' whole wheat high fiber bagels. I almost always have an apple at breakfast too.

Terry - I'll have a bagel with strawberry jam and a cup of coffee. For a real indulgence I like waffles.

Q: What is a typical lunch for you?

A: Dani - I pack my own lunch to take to school. I'll have a PBJ sandwich or Nutella, PB and cream cheese on wheat bread. I'll usually pack a Fiber 1 bar too. I drink water, so I'll usually bring some water from home with me. If I don't pack my lunch, I'll buy something from school.

Terry - I'll often take some leftovers from home. This could be a salad with some chicken. I do like black bean salsa with tortilla chips. So I might have something like that. I'll have pretzels for a snack.

Q: You said your husband does the cooking? What sort of dinners does he prepare for you?

A: Terry - As we said, Tim feels that meat is an important part of the meal. He prepares chicken quite a lot.

He'll either bake it or grill out. He doesn't cook beef that much. We don't usually have fish unless we eat out. Sometimes he'll make pasta; the sauce usually has meat. He does like black bean burgers. We would both like him to incorporate more complex carbohydrates and more meatless meals but we have to be careful because he is our cook! Sometimes we'll have grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup.

Dani and I would like more meatless meals and we have asked about that but Tim has been cooking for the family for about 15 years. It's a trade off. It's great to come home to a meal that has been prepared for us. He does go to the Farmer's Market during the season and has vegetables at meals. We have planted tomatoes so we'll have those fresh from our garden.

MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY AT OPEN CIRCLE

Submitted by Madonna Bowman

On Sunday January 15, the Sunday before the Martin Luther King Holiday, Open Circle will introduce/review our Social Justice Framework, which was developed the winter of 2006 with the help of our student minister, Bill Neely. Many people are new to the Fellowship since that time and are likely unaware of the Framework and the opportunities and support that it offers for engaging Open Circle and the larger Fond du Lac community in social justice work.

Events within our state, the emergence of the Occupy Wall Street Movement, and the Arab Spring and continuing struggles for freedom and justice in many places around the world, all highlight a renewed commitment to challenge the status quo and work for greater justice, just as Martin Luther King did. It is a fitting time to begin a conversation within Open Circle as whether/how we might choose to more fully engage in social justice work.

In a sermon titled "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," Martin Luther King said:

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will only be an initial act. One day we must come to see the

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(continued from page 1...Board article)

Fellowship : In the area of fellowship, we have welcomed at least six new members this calendar year. Welcome Mary Arrigoni, Diana Beck, Erica Jenson, Barb and Josh Moss, Teale Greyford, Sandy Marcoe, Zenia Tatarsky and Gary Gruenwald! All these wonderful people have already made us a new 'we'.

This year for the first time we also mourn Open Circle members who have passed away, Ellen Flood who died in December of 2010 and Ron Cross who died in May 2011. In some ways, these two and their life experiences were quite different from one another, and yet I am struck by some similarities. Both were honest, even blunt, and very funny. And I don't think either had much patience for people who just sit around and talk! Their humor and good works live on. Their memories will be honored as part of an acknowledgment of the turning of the year at the January 8 service.

Looking ahead, Judy Goldsmith, Audrey Linn, and Howie Zanto have agreed to join me on our Healthy Congregation committee. I have asked them to do some reading and to contemplate several things: their vision of what kind of community we want to be; how we want to communicate as a community; and how we want to go about having Open Circle consider these matters. The committee's work will begin in January.

Outreach : Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find Open Circle's Social Justice Framework and Vice President Madonna Bowman's thoughts on our plans for a discussion of that framework. That discussion will also include an introduction of some examples of the variety of UUA's social justice work. This will also provide an opportunity for Open Circle members to share other ideas for making a difference in our local community, our state, our nation, and our world.



As many of you know, but some may not, Open Circle has done important work to help make Fond du Lac more welcoming of diversity by becoming a Welcoming Congregation, committed to fully welcoming LGBTQ individuals and families, and by leading discussions in the community and with other

faith communities. These discussions led Holy Family to begin a small group to address this issue and also led United for Diversity to include encouraging greater respect and rights for LGBTQ individuals as one of its areas of activism.

Open Circle currently has one active Social Justice team, the Eco-Food group. One thing we will consider is whether some members might want to form a new social justice team or teams in line with one or more of our UU Seven Principles.

I want to close by repeating something I said earlier: For Unitarian Universalists, faith is a verb. We are called to live out our values in this glorious new year. Whether through activism and political engagement or simply by treating those around us with love and respect, we are called to create a more just, compassionate and sustainable world. We are blessed to have the opportunity to do this together.

In the spirit of beloved community,
Paisley, President, OCUUF Board



(continued from page 6...MLK Sunday)

whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten as they make their journey on life's highway. **True compassion** is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. **It comes to see that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring** ... Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world. (Emphasis added.)

In several recent services we have considered Karen Armstrong's work on compassion. We can continue that theme as we look to King's understanding of compassion and consider our dedication to the struggle for a new world. Please review the OCUUF Framework for Social Justice, consider what action you might feel called to undertake in the struggle to create a new world, and come Sunday January 15 to join the conversation and dedicate or rededicate yourself to the work at hand.

**OPEN CIRCLE UU FELLOWSHIP
SOCIAL JUSTICE FRAMEWORK**

HOW SHALL WE WORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE?

RATIONALE

“Had I one wish for the churches of America I think it would be that they come to see the difference between charity and justice. Charity is a matter of personal attributes; justice a matter of public policy. Charity seeks to alleviate the effects of injustice; justice seeks to eliminate the causes of it. Charity in no way affects the status quo, while justice leads inevitably to political confrontation. Especially I would hope that Christians would see that the compassion that moved the Good Samaritan to act charitably – that same compassion prompted biblical prophets to confront injustice, to speak truth to power....”

William Sloan Coffin

“...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8b

Justice is a primary theme in the monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and the Engaged Buddhism of Thich Nhat Hahn brings an eastern voice to social justice work. Earth traditions call us to honor and protect the earth. As Unitarian Universalists we draw upon all of these sources and have made justice central in our UUA Principles.

Thus working for a more just world is work that we do collectively, not just individually. Working for social justice is a spiritual practice and a discipline for which we need the support of one another.

AREAS FOR ACTION

The Fellowship identified the following broad areas of interest (examples are not comprehensive):

- Human Rights/ Diversity (GLBT equality/ UUA Welcoming Congregation, Racial Equality/ UUA Journey Toward Wholeness Initiative, women’s rights and safety, power issues)
- Economic Justice (living wage, globalization, CROP Walk, Guest at the Table)
- Environment (highway cleanup, UUA Green Sanctuary Program, eco-spirituality, farming and pesticides)
- Peace Activism (exit strategy for Iraq, peace rallies)
- Public Square (citizen education, public education, civil liberties, partner churches)

COMPONENTS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK WITHIN THE UU TRADITION

- Social justice work within the Fellowship should be mindful of these four components:
- Education (of action group and the fellowship)
- Engagement (of those being served and with the larger community)
- Sustainability (how will the group carry on past current members and/or define success or completion of the project)

(continued from page 8...Social Justice)

- Spirituality (how does this work foster spiritual growth/ how will spirituality be embedded in the work of the group?)

FRAMEWORK

When at least four Open Circle UU Fellowship members identify an issue or project to which they are committed they may be recognized as an Open Circle Social Justice Team by identifying themselves to the Board and providing the Board with a brief description of the issue they will address, plan for implanting the four components of social justice work identified above, and the plans fit with the UU Principles. Active social justice teams will keep the fellowship informed of their work and provide a brief summary of their activities at the end of each program year (June 30) and plans for the forthcoming year. Social justice teams are encouraged to plan and lead a Sunday service annually.

Open Circle encourages work within larger community groups and /or reaching outside our Fellowship to partner with others in working for social justice.

Some social justice initiatives may require a greater commitment of the larger fellowship than others (i.e. undertaking a UUA program that entails commitment and action of the Fellowship as a whole such as Welcoming Congregation or Journey Toward Wholeness) and the Board will work with active social justice teams in setting priorities for such initiatives.

The number and activities of teams will be reflective of the interests, passions, and commitments of members. Development of teams should be undertaken thoughtfully to support effectiveness, sustainability (of the overall social justice program), and the spiritual dimension of this work.

REPRESENTATION

Social Justice Teams may take positions and make statements on behalf of the individual team, but should refrain from taking public stands in the name of the Fellowship. If a team wishes the Fellowship to take a position, the question should be referred to the Board. The Board will solicit input from the fellowship, when appropriate, in making a decision.

FUNDING

Each social justice team recognized by the Board will have modest budget, set by the Board to support the work of the team. Teams that wish to undertake activities beyond the standard allotted budget should submit a funding request to the Board for consideration. Priority will be given to requests that are received early in the program/

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THE FARM BILL?

Submitted by Jane Dennis

Well, it's a HUGE deal. Decisions about our food supply will be included in the bill which comes up for renewal in 2012. Congress is already working on the bill because funding, like everything else, will be on the chopping block as part of the budget deficit reduction plan.

The Farm Bill is renewed every five years, and the last bill in 2008 was a mixed bag of good and not so good decisions. The good part was more funding for organic farming and studying the impact of antibiotics on agriculture, but industrial agriculture or mega-farming was left status quo. The Union of Concerned Scientists and other groups are working to ensure that the 2012 Far Bill leads U.S agriculture away from environ-

mentally damaging industrial practices and toward more sustainable farming that can produce an abundant supply of healthy food.

Federal policies favor commodity farming or industrial agriculture which has given consumers access to fast, cheap and often unhealthy food. Federal nutrition guidelines tell Americans to eat fresh, more nutritious fruits and vegetables and more grains. Michelle Obama is traveling around the country raising concerns about childhood obesity while our government seems to support just the opposite kind of diet.

We need to make our voices heard above the agriculture lobbyists. Tune in to what Congress is doing with the Farm Bill and plan to write to your congressman asking for support for sustainable farming practices, local farming, farmers' markets, CSA farming and healthy food to our communities.

(continued from page 5...Coffee Hour)

And, please do pitch in to help clean when you can. Cups will be called for by noonish so they can be washed and put away. Usually coffee hour will begin to end about that time.

We always use Fair Trade coffee. I pick it up at the Just Fare shop located in Peebles. Sometimes, we even use decaf! Let me know if you have any concerns about coffee hour.

OCUUF WOMEN'S RETREAT PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2012

Submitted by Jeanne McDowell

A reservation with Cedar Valley Retreat Center has been made for Saturday, September 29, 2012 for one night for the women's retreat. A meeting room has been reserved for our activities.

Right now we have 26 people signed up. That's a pretty good response in a short period of time!

Unfortunately, the rooms are all reserved but we will have a waiting list. We do also encourage anyone who is interested to come for the day.

For anyone who wants to sign up, they should contact or talk to Mary Arrigoni. Her email address is: arrigonis@juno.com. Attendees should also make a check out to the **Cedar Valley Retreat Center** for \$40 for the deposit as soon as possible to reserve their spot. Mary will also be collecting that money. Mary is checking in to the due date for the deposits.

There are 10 double rooms and 6 single rooms available to us.

**** If there are financial constraints, a scholarship is possible and also the deposit money can be delayed.****

We have a few ideas for programming but will be asking attendees for input and suggestions. Right now we are hoping to offer yoga on Saturday morning, a meditation mini-workshop, a drumming circle some time after dinner and an evening bonfire by the pond.

There are spa services available for anyone who would want a manicure, pedicure, massage, etc. As the time gets closer, those reservations would need to be made in advance of the event.

If anyone wants to take a look at the site information, they can take a look at: <http://cedarvalleycenter.org>. There are 100 beautiful acres with winding trails, a swimming pond, an outdoor labyrinth, and chapel for year 'round enjoyment.

The cost for **one person sharing a double room is \$82**. This includes three meals. There will be lunch and dinner on Saturday, and the breakfast on Sunday, the 30th will be included.

The cost for **one person in a single room is \$92**.

****If anyone wants to just come for the day on Saturday and would want to have meals with us, that cost would be (of course) much less. For example, morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack and continuous beverage service for one would be \$12.50. We can get more information on those various permutations.**

Mary and I are excited to be able to get the ball rolling on this.

BOARD AGREES TO CREATION OF A REGIONAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Fellow Members of the Central Midwest District: Greetings from your Board of Trustees! We have exciting news to share, which we wanted to send without delay: at our meeting last Saturday, November 12th, we voted unanimously to work collaboratively with the Boards of our adjacent districts--Prairie Star to the west, and Heartland to the east--to create a regional governance entity to replace the three existing districts. The Prairie Star board made the same unanimous decision on the same day, and the Heartland Board did so earlier this fall. Our target date to establish this entity is July 1, 2013, pending a vote on this initiative at our District Assembly in the spring of that year. I'm further pleased to note that all three boards are the first in our denomination to advance this future-oriented proposal.

For additional information, check out the following link: <http://www.cmwd-uua.org/>

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GUIDING PRINCIPALS

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

OPEN CIRCLE MISSION STATEMENT

We come together as Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship open to experiencing transcendent mystery and wonder, honoring diversity and religious freedom. We come to pursue Unitarian Universalism's prophetic vision of peace, justice, compassion and sustainability and to create Beloved Community.

OPEN CIRCLE VISION STATEMENT

*To be a
transforming
presence in the
live of individuals
and the
Fond du Lac
community.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

OPEN CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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Phone: (920) 924-8598
Email: OCUUF@tds.net

Board Members:

Paisley Harris—President
paisley.harris@uwc.edu
Madonna Bowman—Vice
President
Tracy Gravelle—Secretary
Sylvia Reed—Treasurer
Jerry Danner—Member-at-
Large

Committees and Chairs

Membership: Madonna Bowman
Religious Education: Jerry Danner
Service Planning: Sylvia Reed
Hospitality: Jane Dennis
Facilities: John McDowell
Eco Food Group: Karen Lindberg-Schuppe
Men's Group: John McDowell & Tom
Schuppe
Green Sanctuary: John McDowell
Library Committee: Linda Moore
Décor: Madonna Bowman
Book/Video Club: Bev Gudex
Women's Coffee Group: Theresa Riggs
Newsletter Editor: Stephanie Evergreen

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Please send submissions for the March/April 2012 newsletter to Stephanie Catrina Evergreen via email at stephcevergreen@yahoo.com no later than February 20, 2011. Thanks in advance!