

# OPEN CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY  
2011

## MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP PRESIDENT

OCUUF Members and Friends,

We have had a holiday season filled with joys and concerns.

I found great joy in Christina Leone's service in December on Darkness and Light. The role play of the holiday candles (written by Christina) in was especially fun thanks to the participation of Terry, Danielle, Jeff, Paul, and Sylvia. January's reflection on Grace – was filled with hope and inspiration. It was a new meaning of "grace" that I left that service with – thanks to Christina – grace as a gift which one has received.

There was much sadness with the passing of Ellen Flood. We will miss her presence in our fellowship, her passion for life, her concern for the environment. Our best wishes to John and the Flood Family.

Our Men's group had a great meeting a few weeks ago. I am always thankful when able to join this group of extraordinary people. The wisdom, support, intelligence and love of life that I find in these gentlemen is amazing. They truly look forward to joining with men from Fox Valley UU for their retreat at the end of the month.

The Open Circle Book Club is up and running – great work! Another video with *King Corn* on the 13<sup>th</sup>. And, don't forget your Fair Trade products.

The Religious Education Committee has been working on some changes. They are beginning the search for a new RE Director. The configuration of classrooms is changing due to low attendance. Class meetings of the younger group as an RE class are being discontinued. Parents of these children have been contacted.



A Request for Proposals to develop a new OCUUF web site has been sent to 10 web developers. We have asked for proposals to be submitted by the end of January. To date, six organizations have indicated that they intend to submit proposals. The web committee hopes to select and recommend to the board a developer by the end of February.

*Guest at Your Table*, a program of the UU Service Committee, was kicked off in our Fellowship in November. The program supports UUSC humanitarian and social justice work in the U.S. and around the world. You can find out more at <http://www.uusc.org/guest>. There are still boxes available at the Fellowship. Boxes will be collected January 16. Our goal is that 50% of our members/families will make a contribution in this program.

Several members of the board participated in leadership training in Sheboygan on January 8<sup>th</sup> – Servant Leadership in the UU Community.

On Saturday, January 22, we invite Open Circle members and participants to attend a Board Listening Session from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., to reflect and share perspectives on the question, "*Where do we want to be in 5 to*

*(continued on page 2)*

## GET INVOLVED WITH OCUUF!

### Invitation to Open Circle Listening Session

All participants in OCUUF are invited to attend and participate in a Listening Session from 9:00 to 10:00 on Saturday, January 22, 2011. The Board is particularly interested in your thoughts on the question: "Where do we want to be in 5 to 10 years as a fellowship?" Following this listening session, the Open Circle Board and leadership team will participate in a planning retreat.

### Eco Food Group Meeting

The OCUUF Eco Food Group will have their next monthly meeting at 8:00 AM on February 5th at Dan & BJ's. If you are interested in attending and would like more information, please contact Jeanne McDowell 251-0499 or Karen LS 921-2675.

### Religious Education

Be a teacher! We \*need\* adults to teach in the Religious Education program on the first and third Sundays of the month. Lessons are fully prepared and ready to go--if you can read, you can teach RE! Please contact RE Director Monica Walk at [monicawalk@hotmail.com](mailto:monicawalk@hotmail.com) to talk about teaching and to get on the schedule.

### Green Sanctuary Program

For details about the OCUUF Green Sanctuary Program (GSP) contact John McDowell at [eastbrook06@gmail.com](mailto:eastbrook06@gmail.com).

### Men's Group Announcements

The OCUUF Men's Group will begin breakfast gatherings on the first Sunday of every month. *Where:* Ramada Inn. *When:* 8:00 a.m. Next meeting will be. For more details contact John McDowell at [eastbrook06@gmail.com](mailto:eastbrook06@gmail.com).

### Book/Video Club

Will meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8 pm at UU. Begins on January 18<sup>th</sup> at which time books & videos will be selected for the rest of the year based on the titles entered into the hat draw. The book club will also be meeting at the same time on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

(continued from page 1... *Message*)

**10 years as a fellowship?"** Following this, the board and committee chairs will be conducting a retreat and planning workshop facilitated by Judy Goldsmith.

We look forward to Rev. Dottie Matthews, Myron Eschowsky, the Pot Luck, and more.

There are many people who make Open Circle possible in many ways, large and small. They tend to our building, our fellowship, our community, and our spirit. Thank you everyone.

Peace be with you,

*Jeffrey Reed, OCUUF Board President*

DEB DOLL OFFICE HOURS  
Deb will be available at the  
OCUUF office on Tuesdays  
from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

## WORSHIP FUNSHOP MARCH 19


Coming March 19 our Student Minister, Christina Leone, will host an afternoon "Funshop" (why call it a Workshop when it's going to be fun??) on worship.

What do we mean when we use the word worship? Why do UU services follow the structure they do? Can we create more meaningful worship among ourselves specifically for our unique Open Circle UU Fellowship? If you've ever wanted to be more involved in worship, have some feedback, or just learn something new, keep an eye out for more information about the March 19th Worship Funshop!

# JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 
2 Discussion: New Year's Resolutions <i>OCUUF Men's Group at 8 AM at the Ramada</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Service: The Meaning of Grace by Christina Leone	10	11	12	13 <i>Food for Thought meeting at 6:00 PM</i>	14	15
16 Service presented by: Dottie Matthews <i>OCUUF Sunday Group Meeting at 6:30 PM</i>	17 <b>Martin Luther King Jr Day</b>	18 <i>Book Club meeting at 8:00 PM</i>	19 <b>(Cold) Full Moon</b> 	20	21	22 <i>OCUUF Listening Session 9 to 10 AM (followed by Board/Leadership Retreat)</i>
23 Topic: Peacemaking by Myron Eshowsky	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Community Potluck and Discussion	31					

# FEBRUARY 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <b>Imbolc and Groundhog Day</b> 	3	4	5 <i>Eco Food Group Meeting at 8:00 AM</i>
6 Service Presented by: Sally Cissna <i>OCUUF Men's Group at 8 AM at the Ramada</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12 <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>
13 Topic: Green Sanctuary by John McDowell	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 	15 <i>Book Club meeting at 8:00 PM</i>	16	17	18 <b>(Quickening) Full Moon</b> 	19
20 Service: Standing on the Side of Love and Justice by Christina Leone	21 <b>President's Day</b>	22 <b>Washington's Birthday</b>	23	24	25	26
27 Topic presented by: Robert Ashmore	28					

## HEY ALL YOU FACEBOOK FANS!

OCUUF has an informal group located on [Facebook](#). If you are on Facebook, please look us up and join us. Any member can post a comment or add an event. Schedule an impromptu outing; post a link to a fascinating website. All are welcome!



# HEART TO HEART

A retreat for couples, sponsored by Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, will be held on **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2011** at The Pilgrim Center in Ripon, WI.

Pilgrim Center is a 75-minute drive southwest of the Fox Valley area located on beautiful Green Lake. The retreat is patterned on the well-known Marriage Encounter program and, although our presentations come from a Unitarian-Universalist perspective, the opportunities extend far beyond any boundaries of faith.

All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome -- same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried.

This will be an opportunity to **focus on your relationship** and to deal with important issues that may be skipped over in daily living. This weekend experience is designed to enrich the communications and intimacy of your relationship by emphasizing personal reflection and couple dialogue. A team of experienced Unitarian-Universalist volunteer couples will lead you through a series of presentations.

**Participants are not asked to share with the group**, but rather, to spend time writing in their journals and then talking privately with their partners. Former participants have said that their weekends stand out among the most meaningful gifts they have given to themselves, and their experiences have been an affirmation of the importance of their relationships, their friendships, and their love for each other.

The retreat is a complete program that includes **full days and evenings of activities**. (*Approximate hours are: Fri 7:45 PM to 11:00 PM; Sat 7:30 AM to 11:00 PM; Sun 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM.*) The structure incorporates a series of presentations by team couples, personal written reflection, and private couple's dialogue. There will be a short block of free time late Saturday afternoon for you to enjoy the nature trails or to relax. This is a casual weekend, so dress/pack informally. Our group has reserved the entire "Retreat House" building where you and your partner will have a private sleeping room with a shared bath.

**Space is limited to the first 15 couples** who send in their completed registration forms and payments. The cost includes two nights lodging, five meals Saturday and Sunday, and program expenses. Because of our Pilgrim Center contract obligations, **retreat registrations canceled after February 1, 2011, cannot be refunded** unless an alternate couple is found.

**Weekend Cost:** \$330 per couple

Includes: 2 nights lodging and 5 meals

If the weekend cost is too high and would prevent your being able to attend, please contact Rev. Dottie Mathews.

#### **Registration:**

Space is limited to: 15 couples

Reservation Deposit: \$100

Full Payment Due: February 1, 2011

Checks payable to: **Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

Mail to: c/o Heart to Heart

P.O. Box 1791 □ Appleton, WI 54912-1791

#### **Retreat Leaders:**

Tim Watson & Peter Smaby

Beth & Bart De Stasio

Cheri Bricco & Paul Reiser

**E-Mail:** [h2hvuuf@gmail.com](mailto:h2hvuuf@gmail.com)



## HONORING ELLEN FLOOD—PLEASE HELP ME OUT...

Hey All OCUUF Members,

I need your help! I would love to do a creative montage of memories about Ellen Flood for the March/April 2011 newsletter, but I didn't know her as well as so many of you did. Please give me pictures and brief memories about your time with her. You can send pictures, if digital, and typed up memories through email to [stephcevergreen@yahoo.com](mailto:stephcevergreen@yahoo.com). I do have scanner at home, so I can also scan in any photographs you have that are not in digital format. Please leave these in the OCUUF office. I will pick them up by February 20. Please make sure you write your name on the picture, and I will leave all pictures in the OCUUF office after March 5 to retrieve.

# EDITORIAL CREATIVE CORNER

By Stephanie Catrina Evergreen

THAT's right! I've usurped this column! It's all mine! Mine all mine! I'd be willing to share with anyone daring enough to be creative! I Love, Love, Love to write. I could fill this entire newsletter with extraordinary phrases full of genius and rampant cleverness, but I'm guessing so could many of YOU! ☺

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But for now, I'll tell you about my feelings during January and February. It's cold, it's dirty, and I'm usually broke from **too much fun** over the holidays. It seems I end up here every year for the past ... I'm sticking with 28... (that's where I decided to stop counting birthdays) years. Every year, I vow I will find a better way to deal with the "dog" days of winter when the snow takes on the luster of, well, it just plain looks like dirt, doesn't it? I'll walk more because fresh air is good for me. I'll settle in and drink more hot chocolate because chocolate is good for me. I've come up with many good ideas!

Then I started to think about **Winter**. A time of hibernation and rest. A time to let sleeping "dogs" lie. Especially now, I push for change in my life. Faster. Faster! **FASTER!** But this is a time to let seeds lie in wait underneath the snow. A time for ideas to simply roll about gently in the mind. What will come from these seeds, these ideas? When the frost of Winter melts away to reveal the beauty of growth allowed simply to wait for the right time to bloom.

Well, patience, while a virtue, has never really been one of my strong points.... ☺ I hope you take my ideas and run with them. I might struggle with it!

# JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

## January 2011

### Jan 2

*Discussion:* New Year's Resolutions

### Jan 9

*Service Topic:* The Meaning of Grace  
*Presented by:* Christina Leone

### Jan 16

*Service Presented by:* Dottie Matthews

### Jan 23

*Topic:* Peacemaking  
*Presented by:* Myron Eshowsky

### Jan 30

Community Potluck and Discussion

## February 2011

### Feb 6

*Service Presented by:* Sally Cissna

### Feb 13

*Topic:* Green Sanctuary  
*Presented by:* John McDowell

### Feb 20

*Service Topic:* Standing on the Side of Love and Justice  
*Presented by:* Christina Leone

### Feb 27

*Topic Presented by:* Robert Ashmore

\*\*All services are held at Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship located at 19 E Third St in Fond du Lac at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted.\*\*

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- 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 lives of individuals and the Fond du Lac community.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

19 E Third St  
Fond du Lac WI 54935.  
Phone: (920) 924-8598  
Email: [OCUUF@tds.net](mailto:OCUUF@tds.net)

#### **Board Members:**

Jeffrey G. Reed - President  
[jreed@marianuniversity.edu](mailto:jreed@marianuniversity.edu)  
Paisley Harris - Vice President  
[paisley.harris@uwc.edu](mailto:paisley.harris@uwc.edu)  
Tracy Gravelle - Secretary  
Ruth Lane - Treasurer  
Jerry Danner – Member-at-Large

#### **Committees and Chairs**

**Membership Coordinator:** Madonna Bowman  
**Religious Education:** Kris Evert  
**Service Planning:** Sylvia Reed  
**Hospitality:** Susanne Dennis  
**Building Maintenance:** John McDowell  
**EcoFood Group:** Jeanne McDowell  
**Men's Group:** John McDowell  
**Green Sanctuary:** John McDowell  
**Library Committee:** Linda Moore  
**Décor Committee:** Madonna Bowman  
**Diversity:** Paisley Harris

### Next newsletter deadline:

Please send submissions for the March/April 2011 newsletter to Stephanie Evergreen via email at [stephcevergreen@yahoo.com](mailto:stephcevergreen@yahoo.com) no later than February 20, 2011. Thanks in advance!