

Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Newsletter

October
2010

Message from the Fellowship President

Greetings OCUUF Members and Friends,

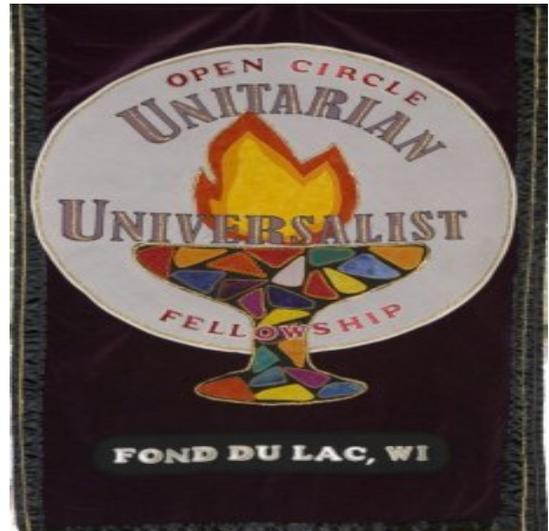
Welcome back from summer! Our 2010-11 service year is under way ... And what a beautiful start we have had!

Gathering for our reunion in Water Communion on September 12th was memorable. It was great to see everyone. There were so many wonderful contributions in the sharing of summer experiences and mingling the waters. It is always such a blessing to be reunited in this way. Thanks to all.

We welcomed Christina Leone, our new student minister, a fourth-year student at Meadville-Lombard Theological Seminary, to her role as service leader on Sunday, September 19th. In her first service with us, she treated us to a much appreciated, thought-provoking message, "The Off-Center Church." I found her reflection on our first, fourth and seventh principles very meaningful. I appreciated the explanation of the flaming chalice, possibly originating in the 15th century with Czech heretic Jan Hus, used by the Unitarian Service Committee during WW-II, and placed off-center in the Unitarian Humiliati tradition in the 1950s. Two other take-aways for me were the need to live the question and that it is easy to be open-minded with other open-minded people. Thank you Christina!

On the 19th, we also formally welcomed to the fellowship people who have become official members over the past year or so and presented Membership Certificates to them. Many of these people are already active, involved members of our community. Welcome again to: Hattie Balian, Jerry Danner, Rebecca Dennee', Deborah Doll, Stephanie Erickson, Kris Evert, Matt Gazo, Deborah Gunther, Carl Harrmann, Sheila Koepke, Ruth Lane, Audrey Linn, Natasha Malloy, Jeannie McDowell, John McDowell, Michelle Mouton, Tamara (Tammy) Prus, Sara Prus Winland, and Bradley Seibel.

Within the UUA community, it is customary for a new minister to meet with fellowship leaders in what has become known as a "Start-up Conversation." Facilitated by Rosie Geiser from Fox Valley UU, on Saturday, Sept. 18, members of the Board and Committee Chairs had an opportunity to meet with Christina Leone to discuss talents and expectations, goals and hopes for the year ahead. Among the many topics we shared were a desire to begin discussion of what it means to be a healthy congregation, concerns about enhancing our religious education program especially for our youth and the need for teachers, improving our new member orientation and member development, and improving communication within our fellowship. The discussion yielded many ideas to be explored.



We are told that two moments are critical in interaction with a visitor to the fellowship: immediate arrival and the time immediately after the service. If a visitor is not greeted on arrival and no one talks with the visitor within 10 minutes of the end of the service, the likelihood is very high they will not return. In recognition of this, we have initiated the practice of having greeters at the door on Sunday morning to help welcome visitors. If you are interested in being a greeter, please sign up.

Providing better orientation for new members to help them learn about Unitarian Universalism and be more comfortable with our fellowship is definitely on our radar screen. Working with our membership coordinator Madonna Bowman, in the near future we will be looking at ways to spread the word and increase understanding.

This summer, Sylvia and I participated in a most delightful UU dinner-for-eight. I have talked to several others who enjoyed this marvelous new activity with other groups from our fellowship. To our host and dining companions and to the arrangers, thank you for the wonderful evening.

This summer we also benefitted from a number of interesting programs. The talents of so many were contributed in experiencing UU Paganism, yoga, humor, a drumming circle, new age predictions, environmental stewardship, and more – thank you to our service leaders. And thank you to our Service Planning Committee for arranging these experiences.

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Get Involved with OCUUF!

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 to talk about teaching and to get on the schedule. We will need four teachers for each RE Sunday, beginning Sept. 19--two for the younger classroom and two for the older classroom.

Green Sanctuary Program

The OCUUF will begin our own Green Sanctuary Program (GSP) in October. The first meeting will be October 17 at 8:30 a.m. at the UU fellowship building. Our initial task will be to go over the application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy, decide on a GSP chairman and, if time allows, begin to set our own path to meeting GSP goals. So far eleven of us have signed up to go on this quest. Please feel free to attend if you would like to check us out. For more details contact John McDowell at 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 Oct 3. For more details contact John McDowell at eastbrook06@gmail.com.

Food for Thought Announcements

Food for Thought, an offshoot of the Open Circle Eco-Food group, is a monthly meeting open to anyone interested in learning more about how to eat ethically while enjoying delicious, healthy food grown in a way that sustains the earth and the farmers who provide it. This year's focus will be on Sustainable Agriculture and each month we will either discuss a previously assigned article or view a video on a related topic. The next Food for Thought meeting is on October 14 at 6:00 P.M. at the fellowship. Please watch the announcements for more information or e-mail Karen Lindberg-Schuppe at klindberg-schuppe@charter.net if you wish to be added to the distribution list.

Sunday Traditions Help

Hospitality: We need two people to sign up to bring treats each 1st and 3rd Sunday and one each 2nd and 4th. People really appreciate the treats, and we've been a bit short on people signing up, so please take a turn or two! Please sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Hospitality area by the Religious Education Board.

Greeters: We'd like to have someone greet newcomers each Sunday. See sign-up sheet by the Religious Education Board for details.

Song practice: Those interested in running through our songs or hymns on our first and third Sundays can show up at 9:45 am. No sign up necessary.

National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding

On Tuesday, October 5th at 7pm we will celebrate "The National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding" at OCUUF. The service will begin at 7pm and will include a candlelight vigil and the sharing of 2 personal recovery journeys via a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) signature program "In Our Own Voice." The service is open to the public, and anyone interested in understanding more about mental illness is invited to attend.

If anyone is interested in starting a book club related to exploring more of the books mentioned in the UU World magazine please contact Bev Gudex at (920) 948-1556.

Fiesta Hispana

Fiesta Hispana, a cultural event, will be held on Saturday Oct 2, 2010 from 12:00 to 8:00 PM at UW-Fond du Lac. Music, food, booths, and more will be there. Mark your calendars and come celebrate Hispanic culture.

Attention: Pictures Needed for Halloween Service

As part of the Halloween service, Liz is asking for members of the church to bring in pictures (or momentos) of loved ones (human or non-human) that have moved on from this Earth to help create an honorary altar space to remember our ancestors and loved ones when the veil is at its thinnest. Any questions? Please speak to Liz.



OCUUF OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM until 12:00 noon

If any member needs to schedule an activity that requires the use of the building, please contact Deb Dool by e-mail (OCUUF@tds.net) or speak with her personally.

Thank you,
Deb Doll

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Over the summer, we acquired a new computer software package for the office. It will allow us to keep better records of members, contributions, committees, e-mail addresses, and much more. Our new Administrative Assistant has been getting to know the system and inputting data. Thanks to Terry Keuler (past treasurer), Ruth Lane (current treasurer), and Deb Doll (Administrative Assistant) for their efforts in selecting and implementing this new system.

Unfortunately, Kim Hughes has left the fellowship and resigned as Chair of the Religious Education Committee. We thank her for her leaderships and wish her and her family all the best. The good news is that Kris Evert has stepped up to chair the R.E. Committee. She and her husband, Jerry Danner (our new Board Member-at-Large) are both taking an active role in R.E. activities – thank you.

At the Board meeting this month, John McDowell presented a status on our Green Sanctuary activity. Clearly aligned with the Seventh Principles, we are moving ahead with application for recognition as a Green Sanctuary church. This will touch many areas of our fellowship – for example, energy conservation, reuse and recycling, communication, religious education, worship, and more. You will be hearing more from John and his committee as we proceed.

The board's monthly financial review showed us to be in reasonable financial shape for now.

<u>Operating Statement</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Current Year to Date</u>	<u>YTD % of Budget</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Previous Year to Date</u>
Total Operating Income	\$2,142	\$5,942	16%	\$43,477	\$4,291
Total Operating Expenses	\$4,058	\$5,025	12%	\$43,120	\$1,844
Net	\$(1,916)	\$1,917		\$357	\$2,447
<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Vision Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Balance 8/1/2010	\$23,689	\$37,332	\$39,542	\$88,473	
Balance 8/31/2010	\$21,773	\$37,372	\$40,592	\$87,648	

A major Board concern relates to our building. At present, our operating expenses do not include rent or mortgage – we carry a pretty positive balance. As of July 1, 2011, however, we will have to begin paying on a mortgage. In order to minimize our mortgage principle and achieve the lowest possible monthly mortgage payment starting July 1st, we need to accumulate as much money as possible in our building fund between now and then.

I want to thank our new board members for their involvement and commitment. I also want to thank our committee chairs and the many volunteers who make this such a great fellowship. Food and hospitality are important – thank you to the many contributors and participants.

I close with a thought with which we opened our September board meeting, a message from Rebecca Ann Parker, in her book *Blessing the World*,

*Your gifts
 Whatever you discover them to be
 Can be used to bless or curse the world.*



Peace be with you,
 Jeffrey Reed, Board President

Are you a member, but haven't been receiving your *UU World Magazine*?

Our new Administrative Assistant Deb Doll brought this to our attention and is now updating our membership records with the UUA. If you've had a recent address change, please send your new address to Deb at ocuuf@tds.net. In the meantime, you can view the last few issues of *UU World* at <http://www.uuworld.org/>.

Christina's Corner

By Christina Leone

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write a monthly column for your new newsletter. If we haven't had a chance to meet yet, I'd like to introduce myself: I'm Christina Leone, the new 2010-11 Student Minister for OCUUF. I am a 4th-Year student at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, ready to enter search for a settled ministry position for next year.

I have had two visits to OCUUF so far, once as a visitor to your lovely Water Communion service, and the following week as the worship leader on September 19th when I preached a sermon entitled "The Off-Center Church." In that sermon, I talked about the importance of questions... "Live the questions," as Rainer Maria Rilke says, until someday you might find that you have lived into an answer.

During that service on September 19th, there were a number of new visitors, which is always a joy to see. Many people remarked to me during the fellowship hour how important it is that their questions are welcomed at OCUUF and in Unitarian Universalism. We do not always have to have the answer. That is the joy of being UU. As a minister and worship leader, it is my job to continually pose questions that will challenge you. I was told once that the true job of ministry is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. Community life is not always sunshine and daisies... We grow most when we are exposed to new ideas, and we engage those ideas honestly.

I mentioned in my sermon on the 19th that we are a covenantal faith. What does that mean? A covenant is an agreement, but it is bigger than that. We agree to "stay at the table" and continue in discussion and discernment, even in disagreement, with the guidance of love as the test of our interactions. Even when we are ready to throw up our hands in exasperation, we remind ourselves of our covenant to one another and to the vision of this beloved faith, and we continue in love. The Spirit of Love is strong at OCUUF, and I know that you will continue to honor your covenant as we engage with new, exciting, and challenging programs this year.

I will be with you each month on the third weekend of the month, serving as your worship leader and assisting in leadership in other ways. Your Board and I

met on September 18th to discuss the coming year and agreed that I would work with the Religious Education program and also teach some adult UU identity courses in the coming year. I hope you will join me! In the meantime, if you haven't signed up to teach R.E.... do so! Interaction with the young people of OCUUF is one of the greatest ways to "live the questions." Your faith will be challenged and strengthened. I promise.

Blessings on your ministry to one another... See you October 16th and 17th! –Christina

"Diversity Matters Now!"

Diversity Matters Now! is a dynamic workshop designed to address diversity issues and enhance leadership qualities in all participants. Through a series of lecturettes and activities that promote deep introspection, personal story sharing, and community building, Cherine and Arthur work with participants to explore diversity and develop a collective sense of purpose. Together, participants learn about practical strategies to realize their goals on and off campus, especially as they relate to engaging with diversity, culture and power.

When?

Wednesday, October 6, 2010
from 1:00-4:30 pm

Where?

Ripon College

Please Note:

Workshop is free, but you must pre-register at <http://cw.marianuniversity.edu/Diversity/>

Other related resource:

A free interactive workshop with International Peace Workers, Arthur Romano and Cherie Badawi:

<http://www.wolfmanproductions.com/diversitymatters.html>

Sponsored by the Higher Education Diversity Initiative Task Force, a collaboration of Marian University, Moraine Park Technical College, Ripon College and the University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac.

October 2010 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 12-8:00 PM Fiesta Hispana at UW-FDL
3 8:00 AM Men's Group meeting at Ramada Inn 10:00 AM Service: Cultivating a Philosophy of Abundance	4 5:45-6:45 PM UU Yoga with Jeanne McDowell	5 7:00 PM National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding at OCUUF	6 1-4:30 PM Diversity Matters Now! at Ripon College	7	8	9
10 10:00 AM Service: Hmong Presentation	11 5:45-6:45 PM UU Yoga with Jeanne McDowell	12 6:30 PM OCUUF Board Meeting	13	14 6:00 PM Food for Thought meeting at OCUUF	15	16
17 8:30 AM Green Sanctuary Program meeting 10:00 AM Service: The Masks We Wear	18 5:45-6:45 PM UU Yoga with Jeanne McDowell	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 AM Community Potluck	25 5:45-6:45 PM UU Yoga with Jeanne McDowell	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 AM Service: RE- Halloween Celebration						

October Sunday Services

Creative Corner

Fall Equinox Tanka

By Tammy Prus
c.2010

Sounds of the bagpipe
And the smell of warm, wood fire
Carried on the wind

First day of Fall Equinox
Brings the feeling of magic

The Search

By Tammy Prus
c.2010
(A "Thank You" to Christina Leone)

The search is the center
Of our spiritual home
A dance of questions
Begins the journey
But there is no end
Only more questions
As we journey through the labyrinth
Of the Universe
To the center
And out again
A spiral dance

A Halloween Poem

By Tammy Prus
c.2010

Halloween is coming soon
So grab your bags and costumes
Pumpkins, apples, tricks, and treats
So many delicious foods to eat
But don't forget the most important thing
Children have doorbells to ring
So please enjoy the beauty of Fall
And A Happy Halloween to all!



Banner, Sylvia Reed/Photo, Conrad Brimhall

10/3

Service Topic: "Cultivating a Philosophy of Abundance"
Presented by Rev. Scott Gerard Prinster

The most prominent themes in our country's current political debate, news reports, and advertising messages is the fearful conviction that there won't be enough to go around -- enough money, enough time, enough freedom, and so on. What is the spiritual root of this noxious fear, and how can free ourselves from its influence? We'll explore together the sources of abundance and how we can reclaim a sense of abundance in our lives.

10/10

Service topic: Hmong presentation facilitated by Paisley Harris and led by Ger Vang.

10/17

Service topic: The Masks We Wear presented by Christina Leone
Happy Halloween! Join as as we explore the many masks we wear every day of the year, and the tricks and treats that come along with them.

10/24

Community Potluck

Bring your own dishes and some food to share and join in fellowship and eating!

10/31

Service topic: RE-Halloween Celebration (all ages)

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.

Bless All Who Serve

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), our UU church without walls, has about 3,500 members scattered all over the world. We have a military ministry at www.clfuu.org/military and as a result are helping to manage the distribution of a wonderful, new meditation manual for UUs and others in the military. It's called **Bless All Who Serve**, is pocket-sized, and has readings, prayers, and even hymns from many faith traditions. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) printed the books with the help of generous donors who paid to have copies printed for military people and their families, military chaplains and UU ministers. The CLF is managing the distribution of these free, individual copies of the book.

If you would like a copy, and are in the military, are a family member, or you are a UU minister, please let me know. If there is someone in your family who is deployed or living in another area who would like a copy, the CLF will be happy to mail this book to them. It might make sense to mail one to a person who is deployed and one to a family member at home. The rules around this are flexible. The idea is to get these wonderful books into the hands of those who need them.

For those who don't quite meet the criteria, **Bless All Who Serve** is available for \$8.00 at the UUA bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1263>.

For those of you who are members of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), **Bless All Who Serve** is also available to borrow from the CLF Library.

Contact Lorraine with the names of friends and their families in the military who would like a copy. She will need their mailing address(es). Email her if you have any questions.

Lorraine Dennis, Executive Director
Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
ldennis@clfuu.org
617-948-6166

Shamanism and Healing

with Myron Eshowsky, M.S.

Saturday, Nov. 6 Full-Day Workshop — 9am—4:30pm

Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

19 E. 3rd Street, Fond du Lac, WI

\$50 per person (Send sign-up slip to address above with check made out to OCUUF) - call Reeds (920) 926-1664 for information

Potluck lunch

Shamanic spiritual traditions are based in understanding how we as human beings survive the challenges of living, and the effects those challenges have on our souls. Those healing traditions seek to reconnect our sense of aliveness, wonder, curiosity and belonging to the web of life. Myron will present an overview of how shamans work with the spirits to facilitate healing. Healing is viewed as healing the spiritual aspects of a person's illness and no distinction is made between emotional, mental and physical issues. They are all seen as spiritual.

The workshop is didactic as well as experiential. Participants will learn approaches for working with one's own healing as well as the healing of others. Myron will teach the shamanic journeying method for attendees who have not done so previously and prior experience with shamanism is not required.

Participants should dress comfortably, bring pillows/blankets for being on the floor, drums and/or rattles if you have them, a journal, a small plain colored bowl, and one raw egg. As much as possible the workshop will address the needs of the attendees.

Myron Eshowsky, M.S., is a shamanic healer in Madison, Wisconsin. He has taught and written about the integration of shamanic approaches to modern problems for over three decades. He has taught throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and South Africa/Zimbabwe. He has provided consultation and healing services to community and mental health centers, prisons, tribal governments, hospitals, universities, the United Nations, and corporations. He was the first shamanic practitioner to be covered by a health insurance plan in the U.S. to provide shamanic healing.

He is the author of the highly acclaimed book:

Peace with Cancer: Shamanism As a Spiritual Approach to Healing.

NAME _____ E-mail Address: _____

Phone (home/cell): _____

ADDITIONAL PERSONS ATTENDING: Phone (work /cell): _____

NAME _____

NAME _____ TOTAL ATTENDING: _____

NAME _____

Please send check for \$50 per person to: OCUUF, 19 E. 3rd St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Probable food/drink item for potluck: _____

(sandwich meats/cheeses will be provided — bring drinks, salads, desserts, other foods that do not require cooking)

Unitarian Universalist Guiding Principles

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

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.

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

Board Members:

Jeffrey G. Reed - President
jreed@marianuniversity.edu
Paisley Harris - Vice President
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 November 2010 newsletter to Stephanie Erickson via email at erickson_steph@yahoo.com no later than October 20, 2010. Thanks in advance!