

**Lake Fellowship
Mission Statement:**

*To provide opportunities
for learning, personal
growth and service
in an atmosphere of
freedom and fellowship*



Fellowship News

LAKE FELLOWSHIP OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, 2011

Lake Fellowship is a lay-led Unitarian Universalist congregation. We meet Sundays from the week after Labor Day to the week before Memorial Day. There is no program between Christmas and New Year's.

Adult Program: 10:30 a.m.

- Childcare can be provided during adult program (please call to inquire).

Lake Fellowship is located in an A-frame building one block west of Hwy 19 on Glen Road in Shorewood.

- Mailing address:
Box 174, Excelsior, MN, 55331
Telephone: 952-474-8064

Chairman's Corner

by Dan Larson

Hello everyone. Where did the summer go? May and June were wet and cold and just about the time I was starting to enjoy being outside after the 110 degree heat indexes of July, everyone was talking about the State Fair. Well regardless, there were several fun activities many of us participated in since we last met in May. The annual canoe trip at Wild River State Park was great with the tradition of some wet weather, or minimally a serious threat of rain that chased some of us home a bit early. And more recently a majority of our community met at the Hermanns' summer party – baby birds, volleyball, swimming, good food, and fellowship. The book club held meetings and families connected for dinners and other fun summer activities. Watch for upcoming activities and get-togethers throughout the year, including a day's worth of fun on September 24th – for details see 7/27/11 email sent by Terry McGlynn on behalf of the head of our Celebrations committee, Les Kraus.

We have been searching for a replacement Religious Education (RE) teacher as Catherine Russin decided not to come back this year. She took a full-time teaching position at Orono Middle School and is also in the process of working towards earning her Master's degree. If anybody has any ideas or knows of someone that might be

interested in the RE position, please contact Vicki Larson (dvlarson@frontiernet.net).

Marnie Karger and I are once again on Program Committee this year and will look to continue the tradition of excellent programs at LFUU. We have some great programs lined up in the fall that will be led by both internal and external speakers. We are looking for another person or two to join our committee so Marnie and I can eventually transition the responsibilities to someone else. As always, we welcome any ideas for speakers, books or topics to discuss, performers, etc. that we might want pursue for a future program.

The new website has been up and running since April. I think it is taking everyone a bit of time getting used to subscription lists and signing up to receive updates via email on any forum topic of interest. I hope that it starts getting used more and more as we head into the year. If anyone wants some pointers or perhaps is interested in a workshop of sorts, let me know. We can possibly set something up with Matthew Tift and/or Marnie Karger.

This will be my third and final year on the Board and as Chair. If there is any issue, concern, or question that I can help with or bring to the Board, please feel free to call or send me an email. There has been some shift in volunteers for the various committees this year. An updated list will be posted at our first meeting on September 11. There are still a few holes that need filling where we will need someone to step-up and help out.

I look forward to another great year at LFUU. It will be nice to reconnect with everyone again.

Dan Larson
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"The important thing is to not stop questioning."
– Albert Einstein

Programs

September 11 — Water Ceremony

Fellowship members, please bring to the program a small amount of water from a place that is special to you. During the program, people will, one by one, pour their water together into a large bowl, and tell why this water is special to them. The Water Ceremony, also sometimes called Water Communion, was first used in Unitarian Universalist worship in the 1980's.

September 18 — To DREAM or not to DREAM: A discussion on the merits of the DREAM Act

The DREAM Act is legislation that would give eligible young people who were brought to the U.S. as children the opportunity to legalize their immigration status and work towards citizenship. To move from being undocumented to being a U.S. citizen, eligible young people would be required to pass background checks, be of good moral character, graduate from high school and go on to attend college or serve in the military.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) came up with the idea of DREAM Sabbath 2011 to educate and spread awareness of these issues through worship in anticipation of the bill again being brought up for a vote this fall. Religious congregations of all faiths are being recruited to celebrate DREAM Sabbath 2011 between September 16 and October 9.

As is our tradition, instead of worship, we will engage in a process of learning and discussion. Laurie Gauer, our Social Justice Chair, will provide basic information about the DREAM Act and then facilitate a discussion about it: you are encouraged to educate yourself before the program and share what you've learned. Standing on the Side of Love, the organization promoting the event to UU congregations, offers these websites as resources: <http://www.uua.org/immigration/resources/index.shtml> and <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>. To find others, "google" DREAM Act.

September 25 — The American Dilemma - Individualism vs. Community

Today's program will feature ideas and discussion based on a Chautauqua Lecture given by E.J. Dionne, Washington Post columnist and weekly National Public Radio commentator, broadcast 7/26/11 on Minnesota Public Radio's Midday program. All are encouraged, but not required, to listen by going to: minnesota.publicradio.org/www_publicradio/tools/media_player/popup.php?name=minnesota/news/programs/2011/07/26/midday/midday_hour_2_20110726_64.

Lake Fellowship UU member Les Kraus will present the topic and preside over our discussion.

10/2 — Ethical Decision-Making, Part 2

Jim Tift will facilitate a follow-up discussion to his presentation last February on developing a framework for ethical decision-making. He will contrast the seven ethical principles of UU for adults as well as children with consequentialist and absolute principles often applied in ethical decision-making. He will also illustrate the application of these ethical principles through the use of a case study. During the last twenty years, Jim has taught courses and workshops on ethics for nurses, social workers and others working in healthcare and human services.

October 9 — Do People Really Understand What the Bible Means?

People interpret the bible through their own biases and personal motives. In order to truly understand the bible one needs to be an expert on the lives and times of the people who wrote it. This includes understanding the colloquial phrases, politics, family life, humor, the architecture, etc. Very few people have such expertise.

We shall discuss ways that individuals misunderstand, misuse and/or abuse biblical content. Examples of such occurrences will be explored. This will be done through a thought-provoking and yet humorous approach. Join in the learning and fun.

Our presenter, Louis Asher, is a retired Researcher/Statistician and instructor. He worked at 3M Co. for 39 years and was known as a very practical, motivating and extremely entertaining/fun instructor. He now volunteers in organizations that deal with habitat conservation, climate change and renewable energy. In the 1970's Louis taught Sunday school at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul with an emphasis on two subjects: the Old Testament and Comparative Religions.

October 16 — The Challenge of Dialogue

Of the 3 types of conversational styles – debate, discussion, and dialogue – dialogue is by far the most challenging and has been found to produce the most learning on the part of the participants. It's also been found to be the most difficult and frustrating because of the demands it places on the listener. Because we UUs are committed to learning, we will engage in a program of dialogue as a prelude to the juicy topic on October 23rd: Exploring How our Cynicism Supports (or not) our UU Principles. Susie Rosenthal, who has worked in the field of dialogue for over 25 years and still finds it a tremendous challenge herself, will facilitate this program.

October 23 — Exploring How our Cynicism Supports (or not) our UU Principles

Susie Rosenthal is back to put our newly forged dialogue skills to test. We will use the method of dialogue, not to answer a Yes/No question of whether our cynicism is justified, or even what it is that we are cynical about. Rather we will examine the UU principles and live in the question of how whatever cynicism we might have helps to ground us in the UU principles...

or not. Be ready to stretch your point of view, to be surprised by what you hear, and to let go of your own point of view.

October 30 — Concert: Michael Monroe

For today's program, we are pleased to welcome back multi-instrumentalist Michael Monroe for a live performance. Michael has been performing and composing original music for four decades and makes his home in a solar-powered cabin in Grand Marais. Among his many handcrafted guitars are some that were hewn from wood salvaged from the bottom of Lake Superior.

About his style, from his website:

His unique creation of music leaves his audiences mesmerized as he blends his rich vocals, guitar, bamboo and glass flutes, combining musical styles of acoustic folk and jazzy reggae. Michael's original music and compelling energy bring a powerful style that is as much fun as it is innovative, music and technology working together powered by creativity... and he recycles his music on stage with his "live" layering/looping technique.

You can read more about Michael Monroe at his website, <http://www.michaelmonroe.info>

November 6 — TBA

November 13: Minnesota and the 2012 Presidential Elections.

Minnesota is at the center of the 2012 presidential elections. Michele Bachmann is and Tim Pawlenty was a candidate, and the state is a frequent destination of many presidential visits. This talk examines the connections between Minnesota and national politics, offering insights on what to look for in 2012.

We welcome back our speaker, David Schultz, to present this timely topic. David is a Professor and Editor for the Journal of Public Affairs Education (JPAE) at Hamline University School of Business.

11/20 — Thanksgiving Celebration

Today we celebrate with our annual Thanksgiving potluck. Before our meal we will spend some time sharing what makes each of us thankful. Please watch for a sign-up sheet for bringing food to share.

November 27 — TBA

Web Connections...

Lake Fellowship Web Page: www.lakefellowship.org

Unitarian Universalist Association, representing over 1000 liberal congregations in North America: www.uua.org

Prairie Star District, the upper midwest district of the UUA: www.psduua.org

Friends and members of Lake Fellowship of Unitarian-Universalists are invited to

Sangha

...a community to practice mindfulness and compassion in the spirit of the Buddha

9:00 to 10:00 am, every Sunday
before the regular program at the A-Frame

All are welcome regardless of meditation experience.

Bring pillows or a meditation cushion and 1 or 2 blankets

We are guided by Fellowship member Susie Rosenthal Kraus who has practiced Buddhist meditation for 16 years.

Questions? Contact either
Susie Rosenthal Kraus, 952-240-0108,
susan.srksrk@gmail.com

or

Laurie Gauer, 952-474-4951,
gauer_mn@yahoo.com

What do Unitarian Universalists Believe? The Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

- 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.

This newsletter is published bi-monthly for the Lake Fellowship Unitarian-Universalists and friends. Editors are Terry McGlynn, 952-470-9501, terry.mcglynn@mchsi.com and Beatriz Aguerrevere, 952-937-8725, baguerff@me.com
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