

**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

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2012

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. These will be my parting words as Chair. I will be leaving the Board of Trustees after four years, two as Chair. I enjoyed working with the other Board members and contributing to our community – keeping it a vibrant, fun, and welcoming place for like-minded individuals to get together.

LFUU members and friends had a busy winter season with book club meetings, small group dinners, our first movie night at the A-Frame, and many interesting programs on Sunday mornings. It certainly was a mild winter which to me was refreshing in comparison to last winter. Of course, that did mean that there was no McGlynn skating/broomball rink (or party) and limited chances for other typical Minnesota winter fun. Good thing we have summer with all the fun fellowship opportunities that come with the warm weather.

There are some events being planned these next couple months including a spring clean-up (April 21st), LFUU Auction (June 9th), and another movie night (April 13th). Additional details will be announced and sent out soon. The Board also discussed and decided on a date for the Annual meeting. It will be on Saturday, May 12th – Cocktails / Social 4:30 pm, Meeting 5:00 pm, Potluck and fellowship after the meeting. A sign-up for the potluck will be posted soon. Terry McGlynn will be sending out the formal communication for the annual meeting in the next few weeks.

The Board met on March 18th and discussed a number of items; here are a few I would like to share that likely will be discussed at the annual meeting.

- Children's RE Teacher – This has been a top priority of the Board and the RE Committee this past year. We have tried advertising with postings in the area, at a couple of local colleges, and on-line at United Seminary website. We have gotten through this year with member volunteers and just having child care with some of the older kids helping out. The goal is to find a regular RE teacher and/or babysitter before the start of next year. A sub-committee was created to pursue this goal more aggressively with the Board approving additional funding to help entice someone to fill that role(s).
- New Board positions – There are two Board positions opening up heading into next Fall. Tim McGlynn made some announcements and there have been a couple of individuals who expressed interest in committing to a two-year position.
- Video / Audio System – The Board approved funding to have Don Penn purchase a video projector and sound system to be permanently installed (this is not the huge projector Don was going to donate, as an upgrade to the electrical system would have been needed and there would have been mounting challenges). The projector will be both PC and Apple compatible to be used for Sunday morning presentations, and for social events such as movie nights. The audio is planned to be mounted off the floor and be wireless. Don will be donating some microphones which will be used for music performances and possibly for speakers for those that have difficulty hearing on occasion. Don will be doing the installation himself as he has a lot of experience in this. Thanks Don!
- Auction – The Board decided it is about time to have another fundraising auction. Our savings is down a little and with some upcoming expenses and additional reserve needed for any building maintenance, we want to have some extra funding without further impacting current savings balances. An LFUU garage sale was discussed as another potential fundraiser that might be organized this summer. Basically the parking lot would be opened for members and friends to bring items to sell, with a percentage of the proceeds going towards the LFUU general fund. Any unsold items would be taken home by the seller and not left on-site.

We will be looking for volunteers to change positions and/or be added to some committees heading into next year. There are many who would like a break or to try something new. Any committee head that wishes to do something new or drop current responsibilities

can contact me before the end of this season. I will assist in seeking other volunteers to come in and lend a hand. Ideally those that want a change will find a replacement or the additional help they need and report any changes to the Board. With a community as small as ours, everyone needs to consider what they can do to ensure we are sustainable.

Also as a reminder, only members are allowed to vote at the annual meeting (a person must declare his/her desire to be a member at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting), although I am not seeing that there is anything as of now that will require a member vote this year. Anyone considering membership can contact the Membership Committee (Vicki Larson or Marilyn Vialle) or anyone on the Board (Tim McGlynn, Kate Leith, Sharon Dana, Don Penn, or me). We'd love to grow our membership base with anyone interested in officially joining as a member.

Again, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Board Chair these past two years. I know heading into next year that the leadership will sustain our wonderful community and address any open issues with diligence and thoughtful analysis.

Feel free to contact me anytime you have a question or concern. Also let me know if there is an item you would like to see on the annual meeting agenda.

Peace,

Dan Larson
larsondnav@gmail.com
(cell) – 612.802.8611

"You must be the change you want to see in the world." – Mahatma Gandhi

Get Connected, Stay in Touch

Have you registered yet for your account on the improved Lake Fellowship web site? It's quick and easy to do, and you'll be able to read and add comments in our member forum. Visit the web site at www.lakefellowship.org, scroll down along the left side until you see the "User Login" box. Click the "Create new account" link; a new page will load where you create your username, enter your email address, and complete the verification code. That should do it! If you have any questions, please contact Marnie at Marnie.Karger@gmail.com.

Programs

March 11 — The Death Penalty

Is belief in the death penalty in conflict with anti-abortion views? Alternatively, is being pro-choice in conflict with beliefs against the death penalty? How do these views fit with our UU principle of the worth and dignity of each human being? "All people on earth have an equal claim to life, liberty, and justice – and no idea, ideal, or philosophy is superior to a single human life." Would your view of the death penalty change if someone killed a member of your family? Lake Fellowship members Dan Larson and Chris Hall will lead an open discussion on this controversial topic.

March 18 — "A Journey into Shamanism"

Timothy Cope is a writer, storyteller, firewalker and shamanic practitioner who has explored the shamanic path for over 29 years. He is on the faculty of the Foundation for Shamanic Studies and teaches workshops throughout the upper Midwest. He lives in Minneapolis where he maintains a private shamanic practice. In his presentation, Timothy will give a brief description of shamanism and its core principles, lead the congregation in a short shamanic journey, and allow plenty of time for questions.

You can read more about Timothy and his work on his Web site: www.rattledrum.com.

March 25 — Come As You Are

With many of our members planning to be elsewhere this Sunday, those of us remaining will meet at the fellowship and plan our morning meeting once we arrive. We may stick around and enjoy an impromptu political discussion, perhaps chat about good films we've seen or books we've read, or, we may venture out to find some good victuals at a neighboring establishment. Join us if you can, for a "come as you are" and "fly by the seat of your pants" sort of Sunday.

April 1 — "Good Teaching Practices" presented by Grant Pylkas

A teacher at Tartan High School in the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Grant Pylkas has taught college, middle school, and high school for the past fifteen years. Receiving a Masters Degree in both Management and Education, Grant has long been an advocate for children. He has served on the Board of Directors for Dakota County Technical College and has taught in the College of Education at the University of Minnesota.

Having a passion for teaching has been his calling card. After attending the "Teaching for a Change" summer conferences every June for the past seven years, he finally found the inspiration to pen his first novel, *Sneak Teaching*.

Now retired from teaching, Grant speaks and leads discussion groups on a regular basis.

Programs continued...

April 8 — Spring Celebration, London and Vail Fehr Inclusion & Dedication Ceremony, and Potluck

Before our traditional Spring Celebration this Sunday, we will enjoy a new ceremony: Susie Rosenthal will lead us in an Inclusion and Dedication ceremony to welcome Vail and London Fehr (Rachel Dana's 4-year old twins) to our religion and our Lake Fellowship community. Following this short ceremony, the children of Lake Fellowship will present a brief program highlighting the gifts of Spring, and we'll follow that with a potluck meal. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the A-frame.

April 15 — "Mary, The Kayak Lady" presented by Mary Shideler

Long on spirit, Mary Shideler did not let her short stature interfere with a quest to paddle all 1,007 lakes in northern Minnesota's Itasca County. Sometimes with the help of friends, but often on her own, she carried her kayak through brush, truded across bogs in tall boots, and put up with hordes of mosquitoes and legions of wood ticks. In close-up encounters, she observed birds and animals in their forest and wetland habitats and became adept at identifying wildflowers. Along the way, she also learned to trust her own capacity to overcome obstacles, including her fear of being alone. Her book, *The Kayak Lady*, is a collection of stories and photos—a mix of adventure and fun—that documents Mary's experiences over 15 years. Today, she shares with us some of those stories and adventures.

April 22 — "With A Song In His Heart" a Musical Performance by Joseph DeMasi

In his creative collection of original material, performer Joseph DeMasi will focus on the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism using music, song and humor. He touches on such topics as equal rights for all, protecting the environment, and finding spiritual fulfillment. He has presented this program to over 50 UU fellowships throughout the country from CA to OK, from MN to NY. You can read more about Joseph on his website, josephdemasi.org.

April 29 — "Travels in India" presented by Colin Wendt

Lake Fellowship member Colin Wendt spent 3 weeks in India during December/January. Along with about two dozen other pre-med students from the University of Minnesota, he participated in a wonderful program offered through the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM, for short) in Mysore, India. Colin will share some of his photos, stories, and thoughts, from this life-changing experience.

May 6 — TBA

May 13 — First Principles, First Feelings

Tom Vellenga will make his case for the necessity of, and strategies for, persuading more Americans to get involved in community and adopt a practical, progressive approach to self-governance. Tom is president of Heartland Democracy. During the Clinton administration, he was a senior policy advisor to White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta and to Energy Secretary Federico Peña. Earlier, he served with the Agency for International Development and several Congressional staffs. After he and his wife moved to his native Minnesota to raise their children, he became executive director of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) and an administrator at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School. A charitable non-partisan group, Heartland Democracy activates and wins over Midwesterners to practical, progressive goals through civic empowerment and coherent framing of values and ideas.

May 20 — End of the Year Celebration & Talent Show

This marks our final formal gathering of the season. It will include a potluck cookout (bring a dish to share and something to grill), and a talent show.

May 27 — No Program (Memorial Weekend)

The Lake Fellowship congregation will not meet again until next fall. Please visit the Web site (www.lakefellowship.org) for updates and invitations to summer activities.

Inclusion and Dedication Ceremony — Sunday, April 8th

Please join the Fellowship in the first ceremony to bring children of our community into our religion. Rachel Dana, the mother of London and Vail Fehr, has requested that our Fellowship provide a ritual in which our community will formally embrace her children. Susie Rosenthal will lead us in a ceremony to create a sense of belonging for the twins, who have just turned 4, and to provide an opportunity for us to dedicate our intention of supporting the twins to thrive within the Unitarian Universalist principles.

Save the date...

Friday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. – Movie Night at the A-frame

Back by popular demand! Doors open at 7:30 p.m., movie starts at 8:00 (we may run 2 movies at once: one for kids and one more adult-themed; contact Don Penn if you have movie suggestions/requests: donaldpenn@yahoo.com)

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. – Spring Clean Up

Bring your gloves, rakes, and energy, for our annual spring cleaning at the A-frame. A few hours of group effort should refresh our space and our spirits!

Saturday, May 12, 4:30 p.m. – ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Join us for cocktails at 4:30 p.m.; the meeting will begin at 5:00 sharp and will be followed by a potluck dinner.

Saturday, June 9 – Auction Night at the A-frame

This popular Lake Fellowship fundraiser is always lively and entertaining! With all of the resources and creativity of our friends and members, you're certain to find something that you simply must have (bring your checkbook)! Please contact our auctioneer, member Les Kraus (leskraus@gmail.com), to tell him what you'd like to contribute to be auctioned. Remember, all proceeds go to the Lake Fellowship general fund.

Newsletter Articles' Submission

The editors welcome articles or updates from Lake Fellowship committee heads or members for publication in our newsletter. The preferred submission format is digital (copied to an email). Submissions can be sent to:

Terry McGlynn (terry.mcglynn@mchsi.com) or
Beatriz Aguerrevere (bagerff@me.com).

**The deadline for submissions to the next
Newsletter is August 15th, 2012**

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 who has practiced
Buddhist meditation for 16 years.

Questions? Contact either
Susie Rosenthal, 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, bagerff@me.com
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