

**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

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 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. It has been a while since our last newsletter and update on what is going on at LFUU. So with that, please excuse the length of this note from me.

We continue to search for a permanent RE (Religious Education) teacher without much luck in tracking down any candidates for the position. We have some word-of-mouth inquiries out and we also have postings at United Seminary and Crown College. In the interim, a few of our adult members have been taking turns downstairs teaching and getting to know the kids better (and vice versa). This is a discussion point at Board meetings and a priority to come up with a permanent solution before next fall. If anyone is willing to post an ad around town or if you know someone who might be interested in this position, please contact Vicki (dvlarson@frontiernet.net).

LFUU has also had some wonderful social events worth mentioning. We had an outing to the Bakken Museum that included some outdoor fun and a fantastic sunset dinner at The Tin Fish on Lake Calhoun, finishing the evening with a bonfire at the home of social director Les Kraus. The Halloween party planned by Rachel Dana was a hit. Those attending dressed up in some creative costumes and we had the first use of our new fire pit, courtesy of Tim McGlynn – Thanks Tim! We had a couple of good potlucks for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays, as well as our first winter Solstice

party. Vicki Larson organized that event which included a yule log hunt, s'mores over the bonfire, drumming, poetry and other readings, singing, and wassail ("drink hail"). We had a great time and everyone seemed to enjoy the alternative winter celebration. I hope to see this as a new LFUU tradition. There are plans to move forward starting in January with a monthly movie night at Fellowship. These will be casual, fun evenings with movies for both kids and adults; the main focus will be on just getting together to socialize and getting to know each other, especially anyone new to the Fellowship.

There have been some good programs this past fall and early winter - most of which were led by in-house contacts. We have such a great pool of talented individuals within our Fellowship who have vast experience – or opinions ;) – in a wide variety of topics. Marnie Karger and I still need another person or two to join the committee to lend a hand and get a feel for what we do to coordinate programs. I am in my third year and Marnie in her second year and we'll be looking to transition out in the coming year or two. If interested, please talk to either of us. As always, we welcome any ideas for speakers, books or topics to discuss, performers, etc. that we might want pursue for a future program.

Mark Plewka and Robin Dodson organized another successful effort for Kids Against Hunger, as well as a morning of volunteer raking. We raked at two houses in need of help this year and had a good time giving back to the community. The LGBTQ group "We Get You" continues to meet monthly at the A-Frame. The group has dropped in size, but those who still come appreciate the use of our facility as a safe haven to meet and just hang out for a few hours together. Laurie Gauer is our contact with the group and will maintain that relationship and LFUU's involvement with this group moving forward.

The Board is looking to update the electrical system in the A-Frame. The building is already under-powered as the circuit breaker flips quite frequently if the wrong combinations of electric items are turned on simultaneously. Don Penn has a projection / audio system he is donating that will require more power to come into the building. In addition, there is talk of removing the large, inefficient gas water heater and replacing it with smaller, green system that would run on electricity. Estimates from contractors are being

Chairman's Corner continued

compiled and the work should start in the coming month or two. The Board also discussed doing an auction fund-raiser (in the spring) to cover the cost of this electrical upgrade in addition to other expenses. More on that to come soon.

Finally and as always, please feel free to contact me on any issue, concern, or item you would like to raise with the Board.

Dan Larson
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*"A good scare is worth more than good advice."
– Ed Howe*

Programs

January 8 — Climate Change: What do we really know? Presented by Dr. John Abraham, Associate Professor, University of St. Thomas

What is our current understanding of climate change and what can we do about it? John Abraham is a teacher and researcher in the field of thermal sciences. His work has taken him to developing regions of the world where his research team has developed low-cost, clean, and reliable energy sources for impoverished regions.

January 15 — Musical Performance: Pat Bacon

Pat is a singer/songwriter from Maple Plain, where he resides with his wife and four children. His songwriting and storytelling can be at times humorous, and at times serious, but is always thought-provoking and entertaining. Religion, raising children, politics, and growing old are just a few of the topics on which he pontificates. For samples of his music, visit www.patbaconmusic.com or search his name on iTunes.

January 22 — "Doubts, Questions, Uncertainties, and the Need to Be Lost" presented by Richard Terrill

While we're busy trying to gain control over our destinies, we might consider the life advice of Rebecca Solnit, who argues in her book *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*, "That thing totally unknown to you is usually what you need to find, and finding it is a matter of getting lost." What value might the state of being "lost" hold for us as UUs?

Our speaker today, Richard Terrill has graduate degrees in creative writing and in American culture. He taught creative writing at Minnesota State University for many years, and taught as a Fulbright professor in China, Korea, and Poland.

January 29 — "SOPA – What it is, what it's for, and what it could do" presented by Dr. Matthew Tift

Lake Fellowship's resident Open Source Geek, Matthew Tift, will share with us information regarding the creation of and potential power of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). You can learn more about SOPA at: <http://fightforthefuture.org/pipa/>

February 5 — "The Pagan-UU Connection" presented by Emberly Hermann

Local Earth Spiritualist/Pagan, Emberly Hermann will lead a program designed to reveal the similarities and differences between Paganism and Unitarian-Universalism. The program will be especially timely as the Pagan celebration of Imbolc occurs in the beginning of February as well.

February 12 — Musical Performances: Carol Zimmerman and Don Penn

We welcome the return of Carol Zimmerman and our own Don Penn to our modest "stage" for a morning of original songs and music.

Along with her own originals, Carol sings pop songs from eras past to hits of today. She has done music for films, children's videos, company promos, jingles, churches, schools, and she is a regular performer/speaker for MOPS International (Mothers of Preschoolers). Carol can be found several times a week playing and singing with horn-player extraordinaire Jeff Carver at the "School of the Wise II" bistro in Chanhassen.

Don, an experienced singer-songwriter in his own right, will perform as the opening act for Carol.

February 19 — "Burning Center, Porous Borders" presented by Eleazar Fernandez

In spite of the hoopla and euphoria of global village, walls of division and exclusion are rising, hearts are constricting, and moral imagination shrinking. In response to these challenges, Eleazar Fernandez will articulate a way of being a community of faith in our globalized world—a community with a burning center and porous borders. With passion and openness, this faith community is committed to the work of wall-busting and bridge-building, peace-building, and the creation of a just and hospitable society. Today's presenter is a Professor of Constructive Theology at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

February 26 — Generations Panel Discussion: Parenting Then & Now

Back by popular demand, we welcome another Generations Panel program! This time the multi-generational panel will be asked to present thoughts and stories related to parenting and being parented.

We'll focus on how these varied perspectives have changed or remained static through the years.

March 4 — “Being Different Together: The Gift, The Challenge” presented by Jean Greenwood

It is no secret that polarization characterizes much of our civic dialogue. While we cherish diversity, at least in principle, we often find ourselves exasperated and despairing in the face of caustic attacks on our values and perspectives. Let's consider how we might engage collaboratively and constructively in these charged and fragmented times. Our presenter Jean Greenwood is a Presbyterian minister who has been active in the field of restorative justice since 1991, as mediator, facilitator, circle keeper, researcher, writer, international consultant and trainer in victim offender dialogue, the circle process, and wider applications of a restorative paradigm.

Book Club Update

The next book club meeting will be on January 15, 2012 at Beatriz Aguerrevere's home. Potluck dinner will be at 6:00, followed by a discussion of *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver at 7:00.

The book club changed its regular meeting to the third Sunday of each month (1/15, 2/19, 3/18, 4/15, etc).

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 or Beatriz Aguerrevere.

The deadline for submissions to the next Newsletter is February 26, 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 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 c/o Lake Fellowship, PO Box 174, Excelsior, MN, 55331.