



Since 1868
Unitarian Church 3707 Eastern Avenue Davenport, Iowa 52807
Engaging Minds, Growing Hearts, Seeking Justice

Quad City Unitarian

February 15, 2010

Volume 62, Issue 4

Sunday Mornings

- Forum, 10 a.m.
- Service, 11 a.m.
- Children's Church, 11 a.m.
- Coffee time takes place in the lounge on the lower level following the service.

Newsletter (QCU)

The newsletter (QCU) is published the first and third Mondays from August to mid-June and once during July. The QCU is free to pledging members and friends. Others are requested to pay \$25/year for the hardcopy QCU, but the electronic QCU is free to all

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline is

**MONDAY
FEBRUARY 22
BY 9 A.M.**

Communication Information

Phone: 563-359-0816
Email: qcuu@mchsi.com
Web: www.qcuu.net

Calendar

See www.qcuu.net

SERVICE, 11 A.M.

February 21

"In Defense of the Civil" - Rev. Mary Moore

What has happened to the concept of civility these days --- in our world, in our neighborhoods, in the electronic media, perhaps even in our own congregation? How do we treat one another, speak to and about each other? These are some of the questions we will be exploring on this morning.

February 28

"Trust" - Rev. Mary Moore

American Church Historian Martin Marty (one of my professors in graduate school) recently wrote about how the concept of "Trust" was coming to the fore now in a time of corporate, political and moral betrayals. I'll be exploring this idea and the implications which it might have for our lives and for this congregation.

FORUM, 10 A.M.

February 21

Kathleen Seusy and Curtis Roseman:

Echoes From Riverside Cemetery, Moline

A new book authored by Kathleen Seusy, Diann Moore, Curtis Roseman and Regena Schantz tells carefully-documented stories of the lives of 109 people buried at Moline's Riverside Cemetery. The lower tract of this cemetery is one of the oldest in the area, and the upper expansion was designed by William Le Baron Jenney, known as the "father of the skyscraper." John Deere, Willard Velie, and the son of Charles Dickens are among the famous people buried on this beautiful river bluff. The presentation will describe the book and highlight the lives of some of the people featured in it. The presenters will have copies of the book for sale.

February 28

Gene Conrad: The Selma Voting Rights March

This Sunday we will celebrate Afro-American History Month, through the Afro-American experience, by looking at voting rights through the martyrs of the 1965 Selma voting rights movement. We'll see images of the events then and get a glimpse of Selma today.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Preschool - 6th grade, 11-12 a.m.

ROPE (Jr. High) - Sr. High, 10-11 a.m.

Nursery (6 mo.-3 yr.), 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Winter units of the Preschool-6th grade curriculum "Holidays and Holy Days" include:

Our New Year, Huichol Indian Day,
Martin Luther King Day, Chinese New Year,
Chinese Dragon Celebration, Powamu,
Susan B. Anthony Day and Mardi Gras.

||| **Kid's Coffee House and Silent Auction 2010** |||
March 14 at 12:30

||| **in the Unitarian Church Sanctuary** |||

||| Kid's sign up NOW to share your talents and interests! ALSO, bring in your gently used toys or books to donate to the silent auction. You will have the chance to bid on items that other kids donated and all of proceeds will go to support our church. |||

||| Hey Adults, EVERYONE is invited! Bring family and friends to support our talented group of kids! We're serious about the "Coffee" part and we will be serving coffee upstairs! |||

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

COMING UP--Classes, Discussions, and Blogs. Pick the one(s) for you this spring.

The committee on Adult Religious Education has approved six class offerings in the near future. There may be others as well. We think this ministry is important for our church as we try to grow personally and as a group. Please consider participating in one or more classes of your choice.

1. Non Violent Communication---Having the Heart of a Giraffe

Barb and Ashley are facilitating this workshop on Sundays in February at 10:00 a.m. in Room A.

2. Feminine Identity in the 21st Century: What do Women Want?

Lori will facilitate this discussion group open to women of all ages and backgrounds. It will meet in the Community Room on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, beginning on February 28 from 6:00 p.m. through 7:30 p.m. and extend into April.

3. NurtureShock: New Thinking about Children

Ashley Francis will facilitate a discussion about the book "NurtureShock" on two Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The dates are March 15 and March 29. Find information and also blog at www.nurtureshock.com.

4. A Reading Group on David Korten's AGENDA FOR A NEW ECONOMY (2009)

A brief examination of Wall Street's definition of wealth and economic growth with discussion of how to reorganize to build localized economies in balance with the Earth. This global peacemaking course will be held on Thursday nights in April at 7:00 in Room 1A.

5. The Bhagavad Gita: Gandhi's Spiritual Reading

Gandhi read from this text daily. Nancy Huse will lead discussion and reflection on the ancient poem. Like Gandhi we will be reading the work in translation. We will increase our knowledge of context and see how and whether Gandhi's favorite spiritual work guides our own journeys. The class will meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., beginning in May.

6. "A New Earth: Awakening to your Life's Purpose" by Eckhart Tolle--an electronic discussion group.

An exchange about spiritual growth and peacemaking. Join us on our website beginning in June.

Religion is Love is Action

"We are the ones we've been waiting for" from a sign at a senior center.

Local social action is not only very important to the members of our congregation; it is where you all work hard and shine. With that in mind, let me quote from a small part of the Social Justice Job Description written and approved in 2006.

VOLUNTEER POSITION:

Social Justice Liaison: Elaine

PURPOSE: To promote involvement in the various social justice activities engaged in by our membership.

Kids for Hunger

On Saturday, February 13, at 1:00 p.m., we will join others from around the Quad Cities for a two-day marathon. We will join others and represent our congregation in this community event. The people of Haiti will benefit from your generous support. **And a very special thank you to Ann Hailey for organizing this and for provided the above information.**

Davenport Boys and Girls Club/First Presbyterian Church

We have been invited to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Davenport in their efforts housed at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport. The program there works with about 70 inner city elementary age youth from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

They need some tutors or homework helpers but are open to other help (art and talent) also. Initially we might help with the meal they serve to the kids and their families on Wednesday from 5 to 6 PM. Interestingly, they can really use some of us to just come and have dinner sitting with and visiting with the children and their families. For more information or to make a reservation for Wednesday night dinner contact me by email or phone. I will provide more information to all as we work forward on this connection. Contact Elaine Kresse at 563 -391-4361 or samnlane3@yahoo.com

"I've seen and met angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives." Tracy Chapman

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Did You Know?

An Accredited Interim Minister is a specialist in the field of ministry. In addition to being fully qualified and experienced as a settled minister, an Accredited Interim Minister must go above and beyond with specialized training and meet continuing education requirements. The designation is earned only after meeting training standards and requirements, and approval by the UUA Director of Transitions and a panel of experts. Interim Ministers are expected to communicate with a Mentor in the Accredited Ministry Program on a monthly basis, and with the District Representative every 6 months of each Interim Period. Written Progress Appraisals are shared with the UUA representatives every 6 months of the Interim Period.

Did You Know?

The success of an Interim Ministry is measured by the progress the congregation makes towards achieving its interim goals. The more a congregation is able to come to terms with the five developmental tasks of the in-between-time, the greater their chance for success with new pastoral leadership. These tasks are:

1. Claiming and honoring its past and engaging and acknowledging its griefs and conflicts.
2. Recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs and challenges.
3. Clarifying the appropriate leadership roles of minister, church staff, and lay leaders; and successfully navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition.
4. Making appropriate use of District, UU Association, and other outside resources.
5. Developing a renewed vision and strong stewardship, ready to make a commitment to new growth, new professional leadership, and embracing the future.

The work of an Interim Minister is to provide the congregation with assistance on their developmental tasks. In addition to the normal tasks of ministering --as preacher, pastor and teacher-- to the congregation, an Interim Minister is called upon to courageously raise the needful issues in the congregation, to work cooperatively with the church leadership on these and other areas they identify, and to support the congregation in reaching beyond the dominant culture to include the multicultural world in social service and social justice. Our success is a shared undertaking.

Did you know?

Every six months an Interim Progress Appraisal, completed independently by the combined church leadership and the Interim Minister, must be submitted to the UUA Director of Transitions and District Executive, to provide a picture of the congregation's progress toward its interim goals.

OCCASIONAL COFFEE HOUSE AND SILENT ART & SERVICE AUCTION

Unitarian Church; 3707 Eastern Avenue; Davenport, Iowa [563-359-0816]

Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6, 2010

Doors open at 6 p.m. -- Performance starts 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10 Adults and \$5 Children

Homemade Food and Adult Beverages will be available

- The Occasional Coffee House & Art & Service Auction has been A Quad Cities tradition since 1988 show casing an evening of acoustic music in a coffee house style setting.
- The Coffee House is co-sponsored by the Unitarian Church & Hersong
- Find the Coffee House Informational Table in the Unitarian Church foyer and:
 - a) Take a flyer to post in the community
 - b) Take a Silent Auction form and donate or solicit a donation
[Art, Service, Themed Baskets]
 - c) Sign up for a volunteer position for the event

So far, the line up for performers are:

Friday night performers include:

- Rose N' Thorns
- Zlolti Village Chorus [Pending]
- Chris Dunn
- Mark Ridolfi
- New Twist on the Campbell Band
- Hersong
- Mike Wallace

Saturday night performers include:

- Moulton Hill Trio
- Brindin Sawyer [Hill]
- Armonia
- Coleman Harris
- Koyko and Bob Nakamaru [Pending]
- Pat Walke-Blue Grass

PSD Annual Conference

**Roots & Wings: Weaving Multigenerational Dreams
Early Registration Now Open**

New this year: lower registration fee for Young Adults, Youth, and Children!

- We are deeply grateful to the **Riverboat Development Authority of Davenport** for a generous grant that allows us to reduce registration fees for young adults and youth and to eliminate registration fees entirely for children, including infants and toddlers.
- Our goal is to attract younger folks to the conference, helping us to re-invigorate our congregations and District and to engage future leaders.
- Please note that these fee reductions and eliminations are *for this year only*.

Registration Fees

Registration fees do not include the cost of accommodations.

- **Adult** (age 36 and over)
 - \$140 per adult on or before March 16, 2009
 - \$160 per adult March 17, and after
- **Young Adult** (ages 18 through 35)
 - \$80 per young adult on or before March 16, 2009
 - \$100 per young adult March 17, and after
- **Youth** (Grades 7 through 12)
 - \$50 per youth
- **Child** (infants, toddlers and under Grade 6)
 - \$0 per child accompanied by a registered adult

Registration Deadlines

- **Adults and Young Adults**
 - Early registration deadline: March 16, 2010 11:59 p.m.
 - Online registration deadline: April 8, 2010, noon.
 - Mail in registration deadline: received by April 8, 2010, noon in Davenport.
 - Registrations received after April 8, including walk-ins, may or may not be accepted, depending upon the conference hotel's ability to provide meals. We highly recommend you register by April 8.
- **Youth and Children**
 - Deadline for Registration **and** Permission Forms – received by April 8, noon in Davenport. (This includes on-line and mailed registration forms as well as mailed permission forms).
 - No registrations for children and youth will be accepted after April 8, because of the need to provide staffing and supervision for these ages.

To register online go to <http://www.psdoua.org/AnnualConference2010/Registration>.

INFORMATION

THE ANNUAL ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY CELEBRATION

The Annual All Church Birthday Party Celebration will be Sunday, February 28, after the service! For those of you who don't know, there will be tables for each month of the year, complete with decorations and birthday cake. Find your table and enjoy cake and conversation with adults and children who share your birthday month. This is a fun multi-generational event that helps build a sense of community within our church.

If you'd like to be in charge of a table, please let me know and you can pick whatever month you like. Doing a table includes bringing cake, plates, napkins, and any decorations you wish for your month. But hurry if you want to get your first choice!

Come celebrate with us!

BOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKS

It's always a pleasure to help with the church Rummage Sale. Given the popularity of books to UUs, we realized that we might be missing an opportunity to provide a service, while helping out the church's Building Maintenance Fund.

WE NEED BOOKS! We need lots of books. Downstairs, we'll put up a bookshelf or two and stock it with your donations. There will be a box where you can leave your money—honor system, naturally—after choosing your books.

Keep the book or, if you like, write your name in it and return it after you've finished. Others will enjoy seeing who else has read the book and they can discuss it with you. We'll have a section for kid's books, too, so please donate any of those you might have.

We hope this will be a popular, ongoing fundraiser for the church. The success depends upon you. We'll be so grateful for your help and donations.

Sincerely,

The Church Mouse bUUK Nook team,

CONNECTION CIRCLE

Building You Own Theology

If what we believe is important, then what the bleep do we believe?

What we believe is important, but how many of us really know what we do believe or why we believe it? Let's get together in a Connection Circle setting and do Theology as UU's do it; an hour and a half at a time. By "Theology" we mean the field of study, thought, and analysis that discusses religious truth. That means that we humanists can do "theology" too. In fact, theology is probably too important to be left only to those who believe in God. The sessions will be based on the book "Building Your Own Theology" by Richard S. Gilbert, an old UU classic, but new material will be used including some from the book and movie "What the Bleep Do We Know". The group will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings beginning March 6 and go for eight weeks. Sign up by calling the church office, 563-359-0816 or by using the sign up sheet in the foyer.

KITCHEN CLEANING DAYS

The Prairie Start District Meeting is happening in April. I know you will all be so excited to participate in these two wonderful preparatory events. Here is your opportunity to get them on your calendar before anything else (like a trip to the world surfing championships in Hawaii or a visit to the Louvre) can get in the way.

We will be having two cleaning days at the church--the first is on March 20 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The second will be on April 10 during the same hours. Bring your favorite cleaning tools and come on over. We will dust and vacuum stairways, clean up the clutter that is unclutterable, wipe up the fridges and the other kitchen areas, etc.

I'll brew up some snacks. Mark your calendar now, but don't worry. There will be a reminder or ten.

The Kitchen Witch

CENTRO MAYA PROJECT UPDATE FROM SAN JUAN

As I near the end of my 4-month stay in San Juan La Laguna, Guatemala, I wanted to provide a little basic information related to Guatemala, San Juan, and our church's Centro Maya Project.

Guatemala is a poor developing country whose economy is still based on agriculture. Wealth and land distribution are highly skewed with about 80% of the population living in poverty and 50% living in extreme poverty and surviving on about \$3 a day. Slightly over half of the population are indigenous Mayans composed of 21 different linguistic groups and subcultures. These Mayans are the poorest Guatemalans with the least amount of land. San Juan La Laguna is one of 4 small Mayan cities on the western side of Lake Atitlan in the Western highlands that speak Tz'utujil. They will learn Spanish when, and if, they attend school. The local economy is almost totally coffee-based with a few families owning most of the land, and jobs for the poor are generally available only during the short coffee-picking season when pickers can make about \$5 a day.

The Centro Maya Project focuses on helping some of the poorest of Mayan families, especially those with disabled children, cope with the vagaries of near absolute poverty. A family that we added to the food program last month exemplifies this focus. Cati is six years of age, has a thyroid problem, Down Syndrome, currently weighs 26 pounds, and lives with her mother. They rent space in a two room shack with walls made of cane and a sheet metal roof -- along with three other female-headed families for a total of 14 people. Cati and her mother sleep on the dirt floor, and the mother's income of 60 cents per day is based on making crocheted hackey-sacks to sell on the street. Needless to say, their inclusion to the food program has been greatly appreciated and makes survival for all of those 14 people a little easier.

In addition to the monthly food program which gives the equivalent of \$35 worth of food to 17 families (with over 100 children) the Centro Maya Project includes 14 family gardens, distribution of water filters, distribution of hearing aids, medical assistance, scholarships to enable children to attend school, and the distribution of shoes, glasses and clothes, and probably others I'm not remembering.

While it's not possible to write in much detail, let me share a few of the things that have occupied some of my time over the last few weeks. The garden project of Salvando Vidas is going well and 14 families have small plots that are flourishing with radishes, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, beans, and other vegetables. We provide the land, seeds, water, organic fertilizer, and a fence to keep out the free-range chickens that simply love to eat emerging vegetables. The families work the land. Now we are in the dry season, therefore everyday families are stopping by to water their gardens. We are one of the few Green Spaces in San Juan because we have water. Earlier this week one woman harvested five cauliflowers and excitedly told me she was going to eat one for supper and sell the other 4 to neighbors for about 60 cents each. She was excited as she, like the other families, own no land upon which to have a garden. We have a large wooden home (box) for thousands of red worms that continuously eat the vegetable peels and provide some of the organic fertilizer needed to keep our soil rich.

The new school year started last week and several of us spent about four days helping with the scholarship program, "El Fondo Para Mi Escuela." Forty-eight children each received the equivalent of \$125 of school supplies that includes a backpack, notebooks, a dictionary, a recorder, school clothes, etc. These items are required for every student and prevent many of the poorest children, especially girls, from attending school. Over half of those receiving the scholarships are girls. Our church's ROPE children have been raising money for a 15 year old disabled child's education, Domingo, paying not only for his scholarship but also for an aide that sits by him during class to take notes and bring him to and from school. This is the beginning of Domingo's second year in school as it was only last year that Guatemala permitted disabled children to attend public schools. Though he is 5 years older than his classmates, going to school has been the most exciting thing that has happened to him thus far in his life.

Finally, tomorrow I will accompany Santo (the father of a family in the food program) to a hospital in Antigua to see if he can get a free appointment to see a group of medical specialists from the U.S. who are donating their services for a week during 2010. He has extreme headaches, a liquid that emerges near his eye, and he is steadily losing his sight. We will leave at 3:00 a.m., travel by chicken bus, and be hoping for the best. Jeanne had great luck last summer at this hospital when Faces of Hope, a medical team from California, repaired cleft palates of two of her children from Centro Maya Xe'Kiyaqasiwaan, the Center for children and adults with disabilities.

Almost all of these projects have been, and continue to be, dependent on the collaboration of Jeanne, Benedicto, Maria, and funding that has come through the Unitarian Church. Nothing could have been achieved without the untiring and altruistic efforts of our Mayan collaborators, Benedicto and Maria.