



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

# Quad City Unitarian

January 18, 2010

Volume 62, Issue 2

## 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  
JANUARY 25  
BY 9 A.M.**

## Communication Information

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

## Calendar

See [www.qcuu.net](http://www.qcuu.net)

## SERVICE, 11 A.M.

### JANUARY 24

#### Religious Services Committee: "H-E-Double Hockey Sticks"

This week we will take on a rare topic for a UU church, Hell. Safe to say that in a congregation of humanists, buddhists, pagans and Liberal Christians, not to mention Universalists, there is not much talk of perdition. Should this mean that there is nothing to say on the subject? RSC Members Allen Bertsche and Dustin Oliver, along with a guest Hellologist (we are not making the term up) from Augustana College will delve into the many interpretations of the underworld. What do concepts of Hell, Hades and eternal damnation tell us about the human condition, about our fears and needs, and how can we as UU's relate to a concept that seems so distant from most, if not all, of the belief systems in our tradition? That, and, weather permitting, we will test to see if it can really be frozen over, thus giving hope to Cub fans everywhere.

### JANUARY 31

#### Rev. Alan Egly: "Reprise: I've Gotta Be Me"

A workshop leader once said that preachers usually have just one sermon that is repeated in variations. I've found this true. Some UCD members might agree that the point is well-taken in reference to me! The sermon will be an introduction to newer UCD members and a reminder from the earlier years for others. Ken Hill will sing the theme as I speak of how I came to believe that each of us yearns to be "me". Melissa Anderson will sing the verses as we teach the children to sing "I Believe in Living." In our return to 1987 I've invited Alice Spencer to accompany our singing.

## FORUM, 10 A.M.

### JANUARY 24

#### John Gardner and Mark Ridolfi: Vision for the Future On the first day of the new year, the Quad City Times editorial board published this challenge: What Planning needs to begin today to create the Quad Cities we will celebrate in 2020?

The Times editorialized that the community we enjoy today is the result of the 80 page Vision for the Future presented to the community on Jan. 1, 1989. John Gardner, publisher of the Quad City Times during the 1980s, and Rob Small, publisher of the Moline Dispatch/Rock Island Argus, got the QC media together to provide the concept and initial funding for a strategic planning process involving the entire community and resulting in the Vision for the Future that guided the Quad Cities out of the farm depression and to the present.

Mark Ridolfi is editorial page editor of the Quad City Times. John Gardner served 10 years before his retirement in 2000 as president/CEO of the Quad City Development Group. This forum will provide an opportunity for us to discuss the future of the Quad Cities with two of our most important community leaders.

### JANUARY 31

#### Catherine Weideman: Sierra Club

Join Cathy Weideman for trips from coast to coast with the Sierra Club. Learn about service outings offered by the Sierra Club that combine great scenery, hard work, and new friends.

View from the 'Rim

**Exciting Sunday Morning Service Feb. 7 UUs Just Returned from Australia -- Attended Parliament of the Religions with Dalai Lama, President Jimmy Carter, Thich Nhat Hanh, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Prof. Dr. Hans Kung, Jim Wallis, and more!!**

I wanted all UCD folks to know that on Feb. 7, the Sunday after Rev. Alan Egly leads the service (and members vote on whether to designate Rev. Egly as Minister Emeritus – when I hope they vote in the affirmative!!) there will be another not-to-be-missed service at UCD.

UU Rev. Michael Brown and 7 other members of the Peoria, IL UU Congregation who are just back from attending the Parliament of Religions in Melbourne, Australia will be sharing their once-in-a-lifetime experiences with UCD.

We'll have the opportunity to hear from them about the keynote presentations and about a few of the workshops they attended (out of over 600 which were offered,) to see some of the images which they brought back with them, and to learn of their reflections upon the Parliament.

I look forward to enjoying all of this rich experience at UCD with many of you on Feb. 7.

With warmest regards, as always,

Your interim minister,

Mary

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Regular classes resumed Sunday, January 10

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.

YOUTH GROUP JANUARY 24 NOON - 3 P.M.

Youth (6th grade-Sr. High) are invited to attend the Youth Group for lunch at 12 noon and then ice skating from 1 to 3 p.m. at the QCSC, located next to the Modern Woodman Park in downtown Dav-  
enport. Meet at church at 12 noon. We hope to see you there!

**HOW CAN YOU HAVE THE HEART OF A GIRAFFE? LEARN HOW IN FEBRUARY.**

**Adult Religious Ed Class :**

***Nonviolent Communication and Us***

***Sundays 10:00 Room A Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28***

This workshop will be using material from Marshall Rosenberg, author of Nonviolent Communication, A Language of Life. Rosenberg created a method that helps both parties meet their needs at the interpersonal level. The workshop will give practice in communicating observations, feelings, needs, and requests. Rev. Mary bought a few copies of the Rosenberg book to loan out. If you would like to borrow one of those, please contact the office at 563-359-0816. You can also obtain the book in a local library, or online.

## INFORMATION

**GAMES & PIZZA AFTERNOON**

**Saturday, January 30, 1 p.m.**

Come join us for games & pizza at the church on the last Saturday of January.

- Bring your favorite games and we'll find opponents for you.
- I understand there's a new type of Scrabble, where everyone plays at the same time. I'll see if we can find a copy.
- Also bring a dish to share, if you like.
- Tea-type snacks welcome too – we'll have coffee and tea during the afternoon.

## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### IMPORTANT MARK YOUR CALENDARS CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday, January 24, Congregational Meeting Vote on By-Laws  
Sunday, January 31, Congregational Meeting Vote on Alan Egly as  
Minister Emeritus

### CONGREGATIONAL INPUT NEEDED!

Board of Trustee members have been calling all UCD community members for recommendations of voting church members to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee. If, for some reason, you have not been contacted, or gotten back to, by a board member, we still want your input.

Following are some criteria for you to consider in suggesting names which will be given to the Nominating Committee. *Excluding* current board members and transition team members, we are looking for people to serve on the Search Committee WHO...

- ...have the interests of the whole church in mind rather than a single focus within one particular group.
- ...are cooperative and work well with others.
- ...are generous givers.
- ...are excited about the *future* of our church.
- ...have the energy and time to commit over 18 months to this effort, with at least once -a-week meetings and travel to other UU congregations to hear Pre-Candidates preach.

Given these qualifications, whom would you most TRUST to serve on the very important Ministerial Search Committee? What about this person makes you recommend her/him? Who else and why?

**THANK YOU FOR CARING AND FORSHARING YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS!**



**Save the Date**  
**April 23 - 25, 2010**

## **OUR TRANSITION: CAN I LIVE WITH THAT?**

Our congregation is in the midst of changes that for some of us seem like being on a raft going through rapids on a raging river. We cling to the old ways, old attitudes, old structures. One of those transitions has to do with the size of our congregation.

“That ‘change is inevitable; misery is optional’ is truer than many of us care to admit. Somehow, we imagine that it is possible to live without change. Actually, we can no more live and not have change than we can jump without feeling the impact of gravity. In each case, inevitability links the two. To live is to grow; to grow is to change. Therefore, to live is to change, and any thought that we can avoid change in life is pure illusion.”\*

Church size is based on worship attendance numbers. Our congregation is now a Program size church, a fact that may surprise many of us. For years, we thought we were a Pastoral size church (50 to 150), just on the cusp of becoming a Program size church (150 to 350). It happened when we weren’t looking or paying attention. But here we are. Now what?

First, we must understand that at the transition from Pastoral to a Program size church has particular characteristics. In moving from small to large sizes, congregations find it hard to retain the democratic feel, to discover the necessary talent, and to ask clergy accustomed to other roles to assume new ones. This is part of our work during this interim period. As you will see in the following size descriptions, there are challenges for each size, but the overriding plus is that growth, if embraced, will create substantially more opportunities to live our principles, create a rich spiritual environment, and reach out to a suffering world.

Transitions disrupt patterns of congregational life. Transitions take most of us out of our ‘comfort zones.’ But when have individuals or organizations ever become better by hanging on to the status quo for dear life?

It is in the transition between pastoral and program size that congregations face the greatest challenges. Congregants resist the loss of the minister relationship that moving to a program congregation necessitates. They also resist the transition from being a single-celled organic whole to becoming a multi-celled organizational structure.

The following descriptions are taken from “Size Transitions in Unitarian Universalist Congregations”:

### **Family Size Congregations**

A family size congregation is a small congregation that operates like an extended family. Just as in the famous tavern from the television series Cheers, in a family size congregation, “everybody knows your name.” Such congregations often have part-time ministers who tend to adopt the chaplain role—leading worship and giving pastoral care.

### **Pastoral Size Congregations**

A pastoral size congregation is a coalition of two or three family and friendship networks unified around the person and role of the minister. The minister maintains a direct ministerial relationship with each member by coordinating the work of a small leadership circle, personally conducting worship, and leading small group programs such as adult religious study. The governing board usually operates like a committee, arranging much of the day-to-day life of the congregation. Members recognize each other’s faces, know most people’s names, and notice if someone new is present at worship.

### **Program Size Congregations**

The program size congregation is known for the quality and variety of its programs. Separate programs for children, youth, couples, seniors, and other age and interest groups provide entry points to congregational life for a wide range of people. The minister’s crucial role is to recruit, equip, and inspire a small circle of key program leaders—lay and ordained, paid and unpaid. This ring of leadership might include the choir director, the director of religious education, the adult education director, and the new member committee chair. Working as a team with the minister, these leaders reach out to involve others as program participants and as leaders. The leadership circle shares broadly in decision making (among perhaps fifty people), and the laity share pastoral care.

One of our transitional tasks is to take time to understand who we are culturally and then use what we learn to create a foundation for change. We need to explore what we value and relate it to the future we are planning for this congregation.

The Transition Team asks every member of this congregation to examine carefully her/his reactions to the changes taking place and ask, “Why am I resisting this change? Could this change make our congregation better? Can I live with that?” This should be our new mantra: “Can I live with that?”

Sincerely,

Your Transition Team

\*From “Size Transitions in Unitarian Universalist Congregations”