



In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita
founded in 1887

February 2010

From the President

President-elect Trina Wheeler had the audacity to phone me on Thursday, January 14, to suggest that we host a candlelight vigil on Sunday, January 17, to provide an opportunity for our community to come together to grieve and honor the people of Haiti. "This Sunday?" I asked. "Well, I don't think we could manage it tomorrow or Saturday, do you?" she replied.

The speed with which this vigil fell into place, and the solid turnout, testifies, I think, to how eager our church community is to do what churches do. We have always known why we are here: to take care of one another. On this particularly Sunday, we had a chance to remind ourselves not only of what we are here to do, but also of how well we do it.

Thank you to the many individuals who found speakers, spread the

(Continued on page 4)

Reeb Award Exhibit—a multi-media exhibit—opens Jan 31

Historic photographs, fine art by established and emerging artists, and more.... The exhibit provides a glimpse into our history, with a creative openness to the possibilities of the present.

(Reception, February 28)

Sunflower Community Action to be 2010 James Reeb Award recipient

The Reeb Award Task Force is pleased to announce that it has selected Sunflower Community Action as the recipient for the 2010 James Reeb Award.

Sunflower Community Action is a grassroots, non-profit organization whose mission is "to unite and empower people to achieve justice and equality for all." They work with communities to develop leadership to take action on issues of poverty and racism to make neighborhoods better and safer places to live. They teach people the skills they need to identify common problems and seek possible solutions and

(Continued on page 6)

Help us acquire more hymnals

Have you noticed our scarcity of hymnals on Sunday mornings? Have you ever been in a position where you couldn't even look on with some one? Well, we have a plan to raise funds for additional copies (\$28 each). Beginning Sunday, you'll see some jars around the church inviting you to contribute spare change—or dollars—to the cause. OR, if you wish, you may contribute the full amount of one hymnal and we will affix a bookplate acknowledging your gift.

Elaine Bulatkin

Come One, Come All~ ~ ~ and come early

We're thrilled to see so many folks at our Sunday services, and hope to see even more in the future. Some Sundays we even have had to scramble to find seats for everyone! We add folding chairs when our attendance runneth over, but please note that most Sundays there are seats available in the house, even if the back rows are full. Check out rows closer to the front, or better yet, plan to arrive a few minutes earlier to ensure that you find the seating you prefer. Thanks to Rev. Carter and everybody else who are helping to fill our church!

Our Seven Principles

The Worship Committee is creating a monthly series of services about the seven fundamental principles of Unitarian Universalism. The first service will be February 7, *Inherent Worth as the Foundation of Unitarian Universalist Faith*.

The Worship Committee is looking for stories, songs, personal reflections or homilies that portray the spirit of our principles. If you would like to contribute to a future service on our principles, please contact Amy Geyer, 440-3097, Carol Clark, 683-2747, or Marsha Diggs, 687-6424. Please leave a specific message on answering machines.

Marsha Diggs

In Touch

with The First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Wichita

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*The deadlines for In Touch and for the
monthly Calendar are the third
Wednesday of each month. The next dead-
line is Nov. 18 to be mailed Nov. 25. Please
submit items for this issue to:*

newsletter@firstuu.net

*or bring items to the church office.
Late submissions may be omitted.*

Minister's Musings

Why Don't You Grow Up?

Running around naked is my son's favorite sport. After bath time, unless my wife grabs him, or I wrestle him to the ground, he'll streak nonstop for an hour or more. He's two. We just want him diapered, into jammies, and into bed. But the chase is on. Tamal shrieks "but he got away" and flees. Laughing, he squints back over his shoulder to see if we're gaining. We're not, but we wish he'd take his eyes off us, and just for a moment stop his headlong flight to notice the wall in front of him.

Every so often we drop to the floor panting. Then Tamal wails, "want you to run around.". He continues ratcheting up the demand until we resume. But when we've no time for such antics and bring him down, squirming like a weasel, his protests split the ears. The indignation and water works are dreadful, unrelenting. Will the next door neighbors phone the local police? We try to shush him and hurry. Sometimes we just give up and let him run naked while we catch our breath, reminiscing on when life was a never-ending game, and sleep was death.

Whether he is conscious of it or not, in performance Mick Jagger incarnates the exuberance, and impulsivity of a two year old. It's why his band is called *The World's Greatest Rock and Roll Band*. All the world will pay to see a dancing, singing man, be he aged 20, 40, or 60. It doesn't matter. As long as he beams smiles and pouts, shakes his locks, rolls his eyes, pokes out his tongue and laughs—as long as he breaks the rules, reinvents sanity, mocks caution, ridicules decorum, throws off tedium, eludes restraint—as long as he subverts convention, he indulges us in the vicarious thrill of being two years old. Forever. Conventions are for capsizing, joys for tasting. Sex is heaven, fun is God. The party is forever. Nothing like a two-year old to teach us stodgy old farts how to live in the now.

But in addition to those who are literally two, and those who are two by dint of theatre, there is another company of souls who are two by transformation of consciousness. These are the changed ones, those who have achieved enlightenment. They know more than is known by the natural twos, and less perhaps than the thespians. They know, by realization, that to be eternally free one must have acquired perfect love for the personality of Godhead. Ye must be as little children, indeed.

Rev. David Carter

R.E. Corner

P4P...P4P...P4P...That's Pennies for Peace. We are participating in Pennies for Peace, a program designed to educate children about the world beyond their experience and show them that they can make a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time. Our campaign will run through the end of March and we are asking all congregation members to gather their pennies and bring them to church. There is a jar in the church library in which you can deposit your coins, (and yes, we'll take quarters and dollars, too!) The children and youth are excited about this project. We will be involved in several activities over the next few months which will help them not only gain a better understanding of global peace, but will also encourage them to be part of the solution. P4P...P4P...P4P

WayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSu



“The Romance of Italy” Valentine's Day Dinner

There will be a romantic, candlelight dinner at the church at 6 pm. on Sunday February 14th. The menu will include antipasto, salad, bread, dessert, water, tea, coffee, and wine. Diners may choose one of three entrees: meat lasagna, vegetable lasagna, or vegan pasta with “meat” balls.

The dinner will cost \$15.00 per person or \$10 for a child-size portion if paid in advance by Sunday, February 7 or \$20 per person after February 7 or at the door. Wine will be available for a suggested donation of \$4 a glass.

Child care will be available for \$5 per child and will include a light supper of macaroni & cheese, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, applesauce, rice crispy treat, and fruit juice.

Please contact Karen Kimmel at karenkimmel@cox.net or 686-2731 with offers to help with the following:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| food or drink preparation and/or donation | cashier at the event |
| setting & decorating the tables | set up |
| Publicity | clean up |
| ticket sales | other |

Order Form for 1st UU Valentine Dinner Sunday February 14, 6 pm

Please fill out one per person.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please circle your choices & return with payment to Karen Kimmel or Kat in the church office.

Entree Choice	Portion Size & Cost		Pd after Feb 7
	pd by Feb 7		
Meat Lasagna	Regular \$15	Small \$10	\$20.00
Vegetable Lasagna	Regular \$15	Small \$10	\$20.00
Vegan Pasta Dish	Regular \$15	Small \$10	\$20.00
Child Care & light supper	\$5		\$5.00

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From the President

(Continued from page 1)

word, prepared the building, guided people through our lot and building, helped the speakers and musicians, and, especially, contributed, with their presence and their pocketbooks. I'm sure I'll miss someone, but especially thanks to Trina, who created, organized, and headed up the whole thing; David Carter, who rounded up the speakers and musicians, and spoke himself; Corey Swertfager, who handled the sound, computers for online giving, programs and inserts, planning, and troubleshooting; Dianne Walter, who designed and distributed the poster and website art; Melanie Jenney, who helped me write and get press releases out to as many places as possible, did her own networking and publicizing, and was a greeter; Charlie Jenney and Kent Rowe, who manned the parking lot; Charlie King, who provided security inside and outside the building; greeters Shakun Gaekwar, Susan Hund-Milne, and Kathryn Vernon; Jack Regehr, for getting info on our site quickly; Anne Bailey, for not only processing the funds we collected (most went to the UU Service Committee, who will send 92 percent of donations directly to Haiti) but also for advising on related legal and practical matters; Joe and David Brewer for passing the baskets; and Mo Pollack and Del Smith, for providing child care. And thanks to each of you who shared the evening with us.

At least two network TV stations reported, Channel 12 and Channel 10, and we received brief mention in Saturday's *Eagle*. Best of all, between the collection at Sunday's morning service (which also was designated for Haiti) and the evening's vigil, we collected just two dollars and change short of \$2,000.

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting report

The proposed budget for FY 2010-2011, election of a new Nominating Committee, and By-Laws amendments were presented to the congregation January 24 at the Mid-Year Meeting. The budget, which shows a substantial increase in pledged income, provides for a full-time minister. For full details, stop by the church office.

There was some discussion on By-Laws changes but, lacking the full text of the changes, the congregation voted to take up this item at a special congregational meeting before which members will receive the exact wording of all the changes. This meeting will be called in the near future.



Newly elected Nominating Committee, left to right, Wendy Haynie-Cosby,

I look forward to reading your nominations, which have already begun to come in, for our "Volunteers of the Year" recipients, to be honored along with the efforts of all First UU volunteers at the annual meeting. This event is not intended to be exclusionary, but rather one that celebrates all our contributions to the church, and more specifically, an excuse to celebrate at our summer gathering.

(Continued on page 5)

Members in Profile

JACK REGEHR

Jack Regehr's reason for joining the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita was one simple, philosophical conviction than no religion can contain or have a monopoly on God. In fact, Jack was raised and still is a Mennonite. His family first settled and farmed in the Inman area in 1876. He lived in Brazil for three years, working as a Mennonite volunteer on a housing project with the progressive arm of the Catholic Church. He's also a graduate of two Mennonite colleges—Hesston and Bethel. It was conversations with professors and fellow students—liberal-minded Mennonites—at Bethel that led him to his strong feeling that "God is bigger than any one religion." At a Bethel alumni party, Jack ran into his friend Melissa Mitchell, who told him about First U.U. "It sounded pretty cool," he said, "so I decided to start attending in 2007."

He finally joined in 2009, a year rendered even more special by his fall wedding in the church to long-time UU member, Judy Naillon. Jack and Judy are expecting their first child in August, and he is busy reading books on fatherhood.

In addition to Hesston and Bethel, he is also a graduate of Wichita State University. His five degrees include liberal arts, human services, international development, Spanish, and computer information technology. For First UU, he manages the church web site and is currently planning a new site.

Making Your Summer Plans?

If you're already dreaming about the warm, sunny days of summer 2010, consider attending a UU camp.

Camp StarTrail, Prairie Star's new multigenerational camp near Ashland, Nebraska will be August 1-6, 2010. "The camp was beautiful, the camp staff was wonderful, and the company was terrific." That was one happy camper's summary of her experience last summer. At Camp StarTrail campers of all ages explore and celebrate Unitarian Universalism through a variety of workshops and worship opportunities. The main speaker will be UU minister, singer, songwriter, and humorist Meg Barnhouse. After hearing Meg at a religious educator's conference, one participant said, "My advice to all, if you have a chance to hear Meg Barnhouse, don't hesitate. I never will again." Registration will be open in February.

Watch www.psduua.org/Camps for more information about Camp StarTrail, CampUniStar, and Midwest UU Summer Assembly.

April 10, 2010 Economic Justice Workshop

Lead by: Reverend Richard Gilbert
Location: Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Time: Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM.
Cost: \$20.00, Lunch will be provided

Richard S. Gilbert retired in June 2005 after serving 44 years in the Unitarian Universalist ministry in Cleveland, Ohio, Golden, Colorado, Ithaca, NY, and for 32 years at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. He received an M.Div. from St. Lawrence University Theological School, a D. Min. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and an honorary doctorate from Starr King School for the Ministry. He is the author of the Building Your Own Theology adult religious education series, as well as three Skinner House Books: The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and Practice, How Much Do We Deserve? An Inquiry in Distributive Justice and In the Holy Quiet of This Hour, a book of meditations. Currently he is part-time Social Justice Coordinator for the St. Lawrence Unitarian Universalist District, does guest preaching, social justice workshops and is working on several books including the religious life of Susan B. Anthony and the history and philosophy of UU religious education.

His workshop will be on economic justice with a focus on Iowa and the Midwest. **Those interested in working on the Iowa Social Justice Network will have dinner with Reverend Gilbert at 6 PM Saturday night.** On April 11, 2010, Reverend Gilbert will also lead the Adult Forum at 9:45 AM, and preach on Sunday at 11 AM at Peoples Church.

Contact Reverend Tom Capo at Peoples Church 319-362-9827 or email him at tcapo@uuma.org for information and to register. Childcare will be available upon request. Please make childcare request by April 1, 2010

From the President *(Continued from page 4)*

Thanks in advance for all you do for our church.

Additional board discussion regarding the installation of a gate at the Bainbridge entry to our parking lot revealed the importance of clear communication with the congregation and especially our neighbors on the reasoning behind our action. Among myriad reasons for the board's decision to proceed with the gate—which include undue wear and tear on driveways not built to withstand high levels of fast-moving traffic, and possible litigation (even if unfounded) in the event of an accident—the primary concern is safety, certainly for church staff and members, but also for residents. We do not undertake this action in defiance or ill consideration of our neighbors, the majority of whom do not drive through the lot at high speeds, but out of concern for the safety of all who are in or near our church. I will do all I can to help clarify our concerns throughout the neighborhood before the gate is installed.

I am very pleased to welcome Suzanna Mathews as the new chair of the worship committee. Thank you for taking on this role for our church!

Every Month at First UU:

Full Moon Dances are open to both women and men. Join in the dance to connect with the earth's power, celebrate the elements, and discover your personal power. **Sat. 2/27**, 7:00 pm
Information: Kathy Hull 267-3860.

New Moon Circle meets at the church. Intended to complement the Full Moon Dances, we offer this time to gather on the New Moon for study, meditation, and ritual exploration of earth-centered spiritual growth. **Fr, 2/12, 7:00 pm**. Information: Kathy Hull, 267-3860.

Eclectic Readers group meet the 3rd Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the church. Contact: Anne Bailey, 943-3861 for information.

Book Discussion Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joe Brewer, 2531 N Roosevelt. You are welcome to attend whether or not you have read the book. Information: 686-8575

Ethical Eating group meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30. Bring a vegan dish to share. Contact Dianne Waltner, dwaltner@sbcglobal.net, or 946-1115 for additional information.

Personnel Committee meets the 4th Sunday from 10:15 to 10:50 am in the church library.

Family Choir meets at 10 a.m. the 2nd Sunday to practice the song for that service. All ages welcome. Information: Denise Jackson-Simon, 644-2022

Monday Movie Night meets the Third Monday at 7 p.m. Critically acclaimed movies. Vivien Minshull-Ford, selects the films and leads the discussion after each showing. Series coordinator, Del Smith, 612-0826.

Dinners for Eight. Date varies. Contact Nancy Milner, 685-7682.

Every Week at First UU:

Southwind Sangha Zen Buddhist Meditation meets at the church. Introductory session, 7 pm, first Wednesday. Also meets 8-9 am on Sundays, 7-8 pm on Wednesdays and 6-6:45 pm on Thursdays. Half day retreat on third Saturdays, 8 am to 12 noon. Information: <http://www.southwindsangha.org/>, or Kathryn Riley, 84-8819 or Del Smith 612-0826.

Tai Chi classes. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 per class. Dress comfortably. Information: David Larsen, 612-4726 or davidlarsen@sbcglobal.net

Adult RE meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Current topic: The Old Testament.. Corey Swertfager, 201-6921

Meditation and Book Discussion Tuesday, 6 p.m., Bob Feleppa, 304-9170

The Book Discussion Group will meet at 7:00pm Tuesday, February 10 to discuss *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson—One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time. It is the true story of one of the most extraordinary humanitarian missions of our time. You are welcome to join our group whether you have read the book or not. Call 686-8575 for further information.

Eclectic Readers will meet on Friday, February 19 at 11:30 am to discuss Robert A. Heinlein's *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*. Bring your lunch and join us.

Documentary February 16 Movie Pick

Acclaimed filmmaker Wener Herzog got a National Science Foundation grant to visit the U.S. research station established according to the Antarctic Treaty rules. He spent several weeks at McMurdo to document life among the dedicated scientists who conduct research at 'the end of the world.' thus the title of his movie, *Encounters at the End of the World* (2008). He asks curious questions and takes the audience to locations few humans have visited, the wondrous place known as the Big Ice. It's a fascinating travelogue. It's also the first documentary we've shown in the several years since Movie Night became a regular part of First UU's program offerings.

Vivien Minshull-Ford will introduce the film at 7 pm and lead the discussion after. Bring snacks to share. Decaf coffee provided. All are welcome.

Green Sanctuary Committee will not meet in February.

Sunflower Community Action *(Continued from page 1)*

work with decision makers to put the solutions into action.

Sunflower victories include more than 400 blighted properties brought up to code, dash cams in police cars, access to in-state college tuition for undocumented students, recovery of \$1 million in wages stolen from Kansas workers.

Sunday, February 28 is James Reeb Sunday. Our church service will be centered around his life and sacrifice. Following the service there will be a reception honoring Sunflower Community Action and presentation of the cash award.

We invite you to be part of this special day as we put our UU beliefs into action.

Elaine Bulatkin for the Task Force

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 6p Buddhist Discussion Group	<i>2</i> 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	<i>3</i> 6p Membership Com 6:30 Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Med	<i>4</i> 6p Buddhist Meditation 7p Financial Commitment Committee	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 8a Buddhist Med 9:30a Adult RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	<i>8</i> 6p Buddhist Discussion Group 6:30p Meatless Monday	<i>9</i> 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	<i>10</i> 4:30 Commun Team 6:30 Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Med 7:30p Book Discussion at Brewer's	<i>11</i> 6p Buddhist Meditation 7p Aesthetics Committee	<i>12</i> 7pm New Moon Circle	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 8a Buddhist Med 9:30a Adult RE 10a Sec Sun Singers 12:15p Leaders Coun 6p Valentine's Dinner	<i>15</i> 6p Buddhist Discussion Group 7p Movie Night 7p Worship Committee	<i>16</i> 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	<i>17</i> NEWSLETTERCAL- ENDAR DEADLINE 6:30 Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Med 7p Board Meeting	<i>18</i> 6p Buddhist Meditation	<i>19</i> 11:30 Eclectic Readers Group	<i>20</i> 8a-12p Buddhist Silent Retreat 6p Private— Sedgwick County Democrats Health Panel Discuss
<i>21</i> 8a Buddhist Med 9:30a Adult RE 9:30a RE Committee 9:30a Seeking Circle (off-site)	<i>22</i> 6p Buddhist Discussion Group	<i>23</i> 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	<i>24</i> 9:30a Newsletter Mailing 6:30 Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Med	<i>25</i> 6p Buddhist Meditation	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 10a Caring Committee 7p Full Moon Dance
<i>28</i> 8a Buddhist Med 9:30a Adult RE 10:15a Personnel Committee 12:30p Reeb Award Reception						

First Unitarian Universalist Church
7202 E 21st St N
Wichita, KS 67206

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See our website
at
Firstuu.net

Sunday Programs at First UU

Every Sunday: 9:30a Adult Religious Exploration
11:00a Children's Religious Exploration
11:00a Worship Service

2/7 *Inherent Worth as the Foundation of Unitarian Universalist Faith,*
Marsha Diggs, Presenter

In the first of a planned series, the history of the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism will be explored. Although we are a non-creedal faith, our Seven Principles are the beliefs which we share and celebrate. Our first principle will be the foundation which we build out understanding of all the principles upon.

2/14 Protecting the earth - Rev. David Carter

2/21 James Reeb's life and sacrifices - Rev. David Carter

Vision Statement

It is our vision:

To be a growing, inclusive, vital congregation that encourages shared values amidst differing beliefs and nurtures creative exploration of intellectual and spiritual paths.

To be a visible community leader that promotes human equity and compassion, and celebrates life through the arts.

Mission Statement

Our mission, consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles, is to provide a joyful, safe, healing environment where diversity is embraced. We will inspire and uplift the whole person through enriching programs and services for all ages, and serve the larger community through social action and active promotion of the arts.