



# In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita  
founded in 1887

September 2010

## UU Singles Labor Day Potluck Picnic



September 6, 5:00pm  
at the church

Everyone is welcome!

No RSVP needed

You do not need to be single to attend

## *Is the Way One? Buddhism, Liberal Religion and the Yoga Tradition*

Friday, September 17, 7:00pm

The ancient path and its relevance to today will be the focus of the joint presentation by Rev. David Carter of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita and Rev. Taiun M. Elliston at 7 pm, Friday, September 17, in the Meeting House.

Each will speak on the topic, "Is the Way One? Buddhism, Liberal Religion and the Yoga Tradition." with a question and answer period following the formal presentations. A reception in the Gathering Space with light refreshments follows.

Rev. Elliston, Abbot of the Atlanta Soto Zen Center, will be in Wichita for the annual retreat of Southwind Sangha. He was ordained as a Zen Priest in 1970 in Chicago by Matsuoka-Roshi, with whom he continued study until 1983. He completed training with Seirin Barbara Kohn of Austin Zen Center (Suzuki lineage) and completed transmission ceremony with Shohaku Okumura (Uchiyama lineage) in 2007.

Rev. Carter was ordained a Hindu monk at the Bharati Center in Brooklyn, NY, and completed his seminary training in India. The two met last year during the Sangha's annual retreat at First UU and planned a program for this year.

The program is open to the public, with a suggested donation of \$5.00. Childcare will be provided upon advance request. Information: Del Smith 612-0826 or Kat Allee, 684-3481.



## Women Without Purses to play at First UU

Friday, September 24, 7-9pm—Save the date!

We will have a great evening of entertainment brought to us by Women Without Purses. These multi-talented musicians are Carla Venable, guitar & vocals; Kathryn Minick, oboe, harmonica, clarinet; and Cheryl Hobson, bass, violin and keyboard. They play a unique blend of folk, blues and rock with a positive message. Carla Venable writes most of their songs but their performances are really a collaborative effort.

A \$5.00 donation is suggested.

## The Growing Church

Attending the Midwest Leadership School last month in Beloit, WI, was a wonderful mountain top experience for both Pat and me. I wanted to share with you one of the new books that was released just prior to the school—Thom Belote, Ed., *The Growing Church*.

The book is a series of essays written by a group of UUA's ministers that serve some of the fastest-growing Unitarian Universalist congregations in the United States. The book relates their success stories and insights about their individual church and their growth in

spirituality, membership and mission. The book was edited by Thom Belote, who serves as minister of the Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church in Overland Park, Kansas. In his seven years there, the congregation has grown by more than fifty percent.

(Continued on page 3)

## 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 deadline is Sept. 15 to be mailed Sept. 22. Please submit items for this issue to:*

*newsletter@firstuu.net*

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

## A Note of Sympathy

Our heartfelt condolences to **Courtney and Les Ruthven** on the passing of Courtney's mother. Also, our condolences go to Courtney Johnson and her family on the passing of her father-in-law.

The Caring Committee

## Minister's Musings

### Staying on Top: A Duffer's Guide

I stay on top of things. Like when I first met Séahnetair and Sābāčhair Arianch. They strolled into the health food store where I was working (and trying to look busy), and right away I was on top of who they just had to be – two initiates from ancient Kamit. Okay, to begin with, the way long dreads, long but neat and aristocratic. Also, they were very clean, both of them, and serene looking. Next, they were clad Afro-centrally, but with subtlety and high taste. And finally, their demeanor cued me –their bodily movements full of grace, their limbs and countenances effulgent like sunshine. Yeah, Kamitic priest and priestess I figured. So naturally I said to them, “Hetepu.” ‘Course, I was toned down for my job, so they couldn't see who I was right off. The pony-tail that begins to suggest that just maybe I don't go with the flow –you know, consumerism, TV, aspartame, the American Dream, etc. – was hidden from view. But they were shocked anyway, that I was there in Arkansas, that I had peeped their show first thing, that I knew Ra and his teachings. And so we laughed and talked about the Kamitic way of life and before too long we had to part but not before agreeing to supper; Manmo and I'd cook for us all and they'd dine *chez nous* Friday.

So come Friday Manmo and I knocked ourselves out, practically emptied our larder with the fixins: fresh mango nectar, a salad, a vegetable medley casserole, and a North Indian vegetable porridge served with creamy gourd soup, two kinds of savories, two chutneys, puffed breads, and for desert a peanut butter chocolate chip pudding prepared Bengali style. Of course, after the meal Manmo and I could barely move to see who it was knocking at the door. Well, she's the younger by more than a few years and somehow made it to the door to get a look-see. “Never saw these two before,” she exclaimed, and then proceeded to describe to me Séahnetair and Sābāčhair Arianch. “Omigod! I forgot. I told them to come tonight. Lord, we cooked and ate everything in the house, and I told them be sure and bring an appetite. They'll be disappointed, no, they'll be offended”.

But I stay on top of things. I told her to invite them in, tell 'em I'm in the kitchen putting the finishing touches on the meal. “Make' em feel at home”, I whispered, “and whatever you do, don't let them come in the kitchen”. Well, I never cooked so fast in my life, and to this day I don't know how I put together a second knock down drag out, but I did. I worked my behind off, you see, so it's no wonder I managed to eat as if I were hungry. I was! After the ordeal of making a fine something out of nothing, I'd worked up an appetite. But how Manmo did it I still don't know. Our friends loved the meal, and years later, we told them all about the cover-up.

‘Course, ‘once burned, twice shy’, right? I stay on top of things, remember? So some months later when Gary and Tatiana invited Manmo and me for dinner, we were right on top of it. “Dinner at your place, this Thursday; don't worry, we'll be there with bells on.” A few days later as Manmo and I dined heartily on a six course meal in our favorite restaurant, we wondered why Tatiana, who waitressed there, kept looking at us so strangely. Finally, just before her shift ended and she was out the door headed home, “Aren't you coming to our house at 1, like we planned”? It was 12:30. “Gary's still cooking and we've been busy prepping dishes since yesterday afternoon.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## R. E. Corner

The countdown is on...only 2 more summer Sundays and then it's the kick off to our new "Sunday School Year". We have had wonderful activities all summer long provided by congregation members. Since July 25, Frank Ruf has shared his knowledge of scale models; we cooked with Wendy Haynie-Cosby; David Brewer had us singing folk songs; Connie Pace Adair taught laughter yoga; and Mo and Lara Pollock had everyone acting with theater games. Our final summer Sunday will surely be a first at UU—flag rugby, with a focus on sportsmanship, of course. Yahoo! Sounds like tons of fun!

Speaking of fun, we've got a great line-up for this year with lessons and activities focusing on what it means to be a UU in the world. I'm really excited about the new materials I've been gathering and I'm thrilled to see the new faces who have joined us this summer. We are in for an exciting year.

See you at church. Remember...it's much more fun when you are there!

Peace and Love,  
Denise Jackson-Simon DRE

WayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSu



### Good Reads, Great Prices

Now that the kids are back in school, summer vacation just a memory, visit the Challice Bookstore and buy a book or several good books. There are lots of mysteries and novels. The prices are very reasonable, as posted on the bookshelf in the Library. Make your selection and drop your money in the basket on the shelf.

Donations are welcome, but please be discriminating and only donate books you'd urge another UU member or friend to read. If in doubt, ask LaRilla Combs or Del Smith, who can usually be found on Sundays before and after church.

Del Smith

## Minister's Musings *(Continued from page 2)*

You didn't forget, did you?"

"Forget? 'Course not. We're just having a little snack to, uh, tide us over. Uh huh, we'll see you and Gary in a few."

Well, they were sure proud of the ten course meal they made us. A real knock down, drag out. And tasty it was; heaven. Diet wise, though, I think preps that rich're called 'the paramedic special,' and for good reason. We only survived the back to back meals because the preps, rich as they were, were all veg and all cooked with so much love and devotion. And, because well, hey—we *stay on top of things*.

Rev. David Carter

## The Growing Church *(Continued from page 1)*

According to Peter Morales, president, Unitarian Universalist Association, "Growing our movement is not an institutional need. Growing Unitarian Universalism is a moral imperative. It is the moral equivalent of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. These essays by ministers who have led some of our fastest-growing churches share their passion and their wisdom. This is essential reading for everyone who want to see our faith thrive".

The book is available from [www.uua.org/skinner](http://www.uua.org/skinner)

Mike Felton

## Swan Song

This is the last issue of *In Touch* under my editorial hand. Over the past 35 years I have been editor four or five times—I've lost count. I've always really enjoyed this job, especially with the advancements in desktop publishing. I do not paint or draw, so the layout of newsletters and other publications helps satisfy my creative side.

The death of my husband last year set in motion a new journey through life for me. I don't know just where it is taking me but I'm along for the ride. Freeing myself of deadlines will really add to my enjoyment of the "trip."

The ever-capable Melanie Jenney is taking over as editor and will be doing the October issue. Please submit all your news and announcements to her by the third Wednesday of each month.

Elaine Bulatkin

## YMCA Isn't The Same

I've written (and sent) the following letter to Janet Miller on the Wichita City Council regarding the proposal to have the YMCA run the services that the Parks & Recreation department currently handles. I thought it would be of interest to you.

Jeanne de Grasse

Dear Representative Miller,

I would like to express my concern about the proposal to have the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) operating recreation programs for the City of Wichita. My concerns are:

The YMCA is a religion-based organization with a specific mission and set of goals. I do not believe the City should use public money to support a private religious organization. Yes, I understand they receive grants and other funding from various sources. Contracting with them to run Parks and Recreation services and represent the City in our neighborhoods goes beyond that.

The YMCA, because of its religious structure, has engaged in discriminatory practices. I and my partner of 13 years have been turned down for a family membership because we are not "legally married" –which, given the current laws in Kansas, is not within our control. We have friends who are a straight couple with children, who were not "legally married" and who were also denied a family membership. Will the City allow the YMCA to impose its private rules on all of the citizens of Wichita while representing the Parks department?

What will become of the instructors and staff working at the various Parks and Recreation locations? The City has some excellent people working for them right now and it would be a shame to lose them due to some merger. I am not reassured that the YMCA has quality, qualified instructors or staff due to their wage structures.

It was my understanding, perhaps erroneously, that the YMCA (and the YWCA – what has become of them?) was an organization meant to serve underprivileged people and provide access to services they might otherwise not be able to utilize. It appears to me, judging by the new buildings and their locations that the mission has shifted to serving more upscale neighborhoods/areas where their clientele have more disposable income. Will the City park buildings still be used? Will there be a move to abandoning them in favor of using the YMCA buildings? How will this affect access for the people of those neighborhoods?

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my concerns as a citizen of the City of Wichita. We have always been very happy with the strong representation in our District VI and appreciate all of your hard work.

## Healthy Tip from the Sedgwick County Health Department Importance of Washing Reusable Shopping Bags



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

Reusable shopping bags have gained popularity since they are good for the environment, are strong, reliable, and hold more than plastic bags. However, if they are not washed regularly at high temperatures they could be harmful to your health.

Unwashed bags may contain bacteria left by raw meat packaging. Children and the elderly may be in the greatest danger because they are particularly vulnerable to bacteria like *Escherichia (E. coli)*. *E. coli* are a large group of bacteria that is found in the intestines of animals and humans. Most types of *E. Coli* are harmless, but some can make you sick.

You do not need to stop using reusable shopping bags. There are easy ways to protect yourself from illness caused by bacteria left in these types of shopping bags:

Hand or machine-wash the bags thoroughly on a weekly basis at a high temperature.

Separate raw foods that may leak from other food products.

Keep the bags out of the trunk or rear of your car where hot temperatures make it easier for bacteria to grow.

Your whole family will love it!

*Unitarian-Universalist regional*

# Cluster

**What:** A refreshing getaway to a gorgeous, rustic weekend with UUs from the southern part of the Prairie Star District

**When:** Flexible between Friday and Saturday, October 8-10, 2010

**Who:** Unitarian-Universalists families and friends from Kansas, Western Missouri, and Nebraska. *Youth welcome to all programs!*

**Where:** White Memorial Camp and Conference Center, Council Grove Lake, near Council Grove, KS. Heated cabins and bunks available, or bring a tent.

**Why:** Boost your spirits, relax deeply, meet UUs from other Societies in our district, enjoy a beautiful and natural prairie and lake setting at a gorgeous time of year, give the kids a change of pace with planned activities and supervision on Saturday.

<i>Friday, October 8</i>			
9:00 am	Early campers welcome	All pm	Child care leaders take kids for games And outdoor recreation. Hiking, personal time, play with children, sports.
	Unstructured walking, reading, Relaxation, socializing available All day.	1:00 pm	Compassionate Communication at Home—the language of non-violence. Ages 12 & Up. –Rev. Nietfeld
Noon	Dutch treat lunch at Hays House (Council Grove)	3:00 pm	Historic UU Groups in KS. Our rich past. UU Rev. Michael Nelson
1:30 pm	Bike ride (BYO bike). Meet Outside Hays House (Council Grove).	4:00 pm	Standing on the Side of Love. Immigration reform, politics, and UU Values.
6:30 pm	Pizza dinner (dutch treat)	5:30 pm	Dinner provided (meat or vegetarian)
Later	Games, musicians' circle, ice Breakers.	Evening	Sunset watching, campfire, songs, star-Gazing, games
<i>Saturday, October 9</i>		<i>Sunday, October 10</i>	
8:00 am	Breakfast provided	8:00 am	Full breakfast provided
9:30 am	Yoga and meditation. Reading, Relaxation, hiking available all day.	9:30 am	All ages service: "Peacemaking Ethics" UU Rev. Thea Nietfeld and musician Patrick Bihlmaier
10:00 am	"Theatre for Peace" - moving from Bloody Kansas to nonviolent methods: Reverend Thea Nietfeld and Patrick Bihlmaier	11:00 am	Cleanup and plan for next year
Noon	Lunch provided		Afternoon enjoyment of the facility Available. Optional lunch at Hays House.
		1:00 pm	Cleanup and farewell.

**REGISTRATION INFO AND MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.UUCLUSTER.INFO](http://WWW.UUCLUSTER.INFO)**

Prices are for adults and youth 5-17 unaccompanied by parents. Accompanied by a parent, deduct \$5.00 each. Children under 5 are free.

**Includes lodging, activities, childcare, 3 Saturday meals, Sunday breakfast.**

Friday-Sunday.....\$89.50 per person—cabin housing; \$77.50 RV + \$20 electrical - first person; \$47.50 tent 1st person  
Friday-Saturday.....\$57.50 cabin housing; \$51.50 RV + \$10 electrical - first person; \$36.50 personal tent 1st person  
Saturday-Sunday.....\$63.50 cabin housing; \$57.50 RV + \$10 electrical - first person; \$42.50 personal tent 1st person

## 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. Wed. 9/22, 6:30 pm **Mabon** holiday potluck, followed by dances. 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. Tues. 9/7, 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: Marsha Ebaugh, 683-4782

**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 pm. Meal followed/accompanied by round table discussion. Bring a vegan dish to share! Contact Dianne Waltner, 946-1115 or [dwaltner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwaltner@sbcglobal.net), for additional information.

**Monday Movie Night** meets the Third Monday at 7 p.m. Critically acclaimed movies. Kathryn Vernon selects the films and leads the discussion after each showing. Series coordinator, Kathryn Vernon, 210-2731.

**Membership Committee** meets the 4th Sunday at 10:00 am.

**Personnel Committee** meets the 4th Sunday at 10:15 am in the library.

**Dinners for Eight.** Date varies. Contact Maxine Wells, 681-0442 or Marcia Ellsworth, 688-5352.

**Music Committee** meets the 4th Sunday following the service.

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## Every Week at First UU:

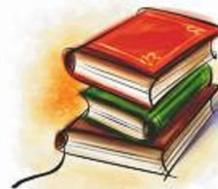
**Southwind Sangha** Zen Buddhist Meditation meets at the church. Introductory session, 7 pm, first Wednesday. Also meets 8-9 am on Sundays, 6-7 Buddhist Discussion, 7-8 pm on Wednesdays and 6-6:45 pm on Thursdays. Half day retreat on third Saturdays, 8 am to 12 noon. Information: <http://www.southwindsangha.org/>, or Kathryn Riley, 684-8819 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](mailto:davidlarsen@sbcglobal.net)

**Adult RE** meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the southwest corner R.E. room. Current topic: Questions of Value Corey Swertfager, 201-6921

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

The **Book Discussion Group** is reading *Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism* by Susan Jacoby. At a time when the separation of church and state is under attack as never before, *Freethinkers* celebrates the noble and essential secularist heritage that gave Americans the first government in the world founded not on the authority of religion but on the bedrock of human reason. We will meet at 7:30 on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at the home of Joe Brewer. You are welcome to join us for discussion whether you have read the book or not.



The September book choice for **Eclectic Readers** is *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver. It tells the story of a small town in Appalachia during a single, humid summer, when three interweaving stories of love, loss and family unfold against the backdrop of the lush wildness of Kentucky mountains. It is Kingsolver's fifth novel. The narrative follows Deanna, a solitary woman working as a park ranger, Lusa, a widowed farmwife at odds with her late husband's tight-knit family, and Garnett, an old man who dreams of restoring the lineage of the extinct American Chestnut tree. Bring a lunch and join us on Friday, September 17 at 11:30am.



**Movie Night**, Monday, September 20, 7pm. This month we will watch *In the Mood for Love*, a romance between two betrayed people--takes place in 1962 Hong Kong. Well written, acted, and directed with fine cinematography. Not your usual romance--Very Hot! Contact Kathryn at 210-2731.

# September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30p Children's Meditation 6:30p Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Meditation	2 6p Buddhist Meditation	3 <i>Office Closed for Labor Day Weekend</i>	4
5 8a Buddhist Meditation 12p First Sunday Lunch <i>There will be no Meditation Classes today. Adult Re is canceled in honor of Labor Day.</i>	6 <i>Office Closed for Labor Day Weekend</i>  5pm UU Singles Picnic <b>(Potluck)</b> 6p Buddhist Discussion	7 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi 7p New Moon Circle	8 5:30p Children's Meditation 6:30p Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Meditation 7:30p Book Discussion at Brewer's	9 6p Buddhist Meditation 7p Aesthetics Committee	10	11
12 8a Buddhist Meditation 9:30a Adult RE 9:30a Meditation Class 12:15p Leadership Council	13 6p Buddhist Discussion 6:30p Meatless Monday	14 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	15 NEWSELTTER AND CALENDAR DEADLINE 7p Buddhist Meditation 7p Board Meeting <i>There will be no Meditation Classes Tonight.</i>	16 6p Buddhist Meditation 7p Private Event- NOW Meeting 7p Worship Committee	17 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group 7p <i>Is The Way One?</i> A Public Presentation with the Southwind Sangha and Reverend	18 8a-2p Southwind Sangha Annual Retreat
19 8a Buddhist Meditation 9:30a Adult RE 9:30a Meditation Class 9:30a RE Committee 9:30a Seeking Circle (off-site)	20 6p Buddhist Discussion 7p Movie Night	21 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	22 9:30a Newsletter Mailing 5:30p Children's Meditation 6:30p Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Meditation	23 6p Buddhist Meditation	24 8p Women Without Purses Concert - A Public Presentation at First UU	25 10a Caring Committee 12p-5p Private Event- Mandy Bell and Chrys Hajek Commitment Ceremony
26 8a Buddhist Meditation 9:30a Adult RE 9:30a Meditation Class 10a Membership Committee 10:15a Personnel	27 6p Buddhist Discussion	28 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	29 5:30p Children's Meditation 6:30p Meditation Class 7p Buddhist Meditation	30 6p Buddhist Meditation		

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

Return Service Requested



See our website  
at  
[Firstuu.net](http://Firstuu.net)

## Sunday Programs at First UU

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

**9/5** It's Creativity Sunday!—Marsha Diggs will be presenting.

**9/12** Reverend David Carter will be discussing the challenges in our lifestyles brought about by changes in technology, the world, and the environment.

**9/19** Vickie Sandell-Stangl, President of Americans for Separation of Church and State, will be presenting.

**9/26** Reverend David Carter will be discussing the inspiration poetry gives us throughout our lives.

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### ***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.