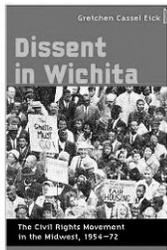


## ECLECTIC READERS CHOICES:

# From Civil Rights in Wichita to Thought-filled Dogs!

Our February 17 selection is non-fiction, "Dissent in Wichita: The Civil Rights Movement in the Midwest, 1954-72," by Gretchen Cassel Eick, Professor of History at Friends University.

Many in our congregation will be familiar with events described in the book, which won several awards when published in 2001. An Amazon reader's review (Lou Heldman, formerly of the Wichita Eagle) read: "[Eick] introduces us to a fascinating cast of activists at the center of the local struggle, a few of whom also played national roles."



Quite a few members of First UU are among that "fascinating cast."

The book works on two levels -- both as a narrative for the lay reader and as a well-documented study for academics.

As Bradbury wrote in his Wichita Eagle review, the book "must be considered an essential read for anyone interested in the history of race relations in Wichita or hoping for a foundation to begin understanding where those relations stand today.

Additionally, however, the book is an excellent primer on the national civil rights movement."

Our March 16th choice answers a question many have asked: "What is my dog thinking?" Garth Stein's third novel, "The Art of Racing in the Rain" offers an answer.

Enzo is a lab terrier mix plucked from a farm outside Seattle to ride shotgun

with race car driver Denny Swift as he pursues success on the track and off. Denny meets and marries Eve, has a daughter, Zoë, and risks his savings and his life to make it on the professional racing circuit.

Enzo, frustrated by his inability to speak and his lack of opposable thumbs, watches Denny's old racing videos, coins koanlike aphorisms that apply to both driving and life, and hopes for the day when his life as a dog will be over and he can be reborn a man.

When Denny hits an extended rough patch, Enzo remains his most steadfast if silent supporter.

The group meets on the third Friday at 11:30 for a brown-bag lunch and a discussion of the current book.

## Card Party Feb. 18

Pat Felton will host Susan Richardson's "Card Party" on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at our church.

It's a fun and free opportunity to turn your greeting cards and other potential "discards" into all sorts of reusable treasures. ALL types of greeting cards can be recycled so bring ALL of your others as well.) No prior art or craft experience is required, just the desire to explore new horizons.

Please RSVP to to Susan secondnavysun@yahoo.com by Wednesday, Feb. 15, to reserve your space and ensure the proper amount of hand-outs. If you have any questions, call Susan at 722-8673. This event is not for little children; however, young persons 12 and above with adult supervision are welcome.

Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. to encourage all attendees to arrive in time to get settled and be seated and ready to have fun promptly at 10:00. From 10-1 p.m. you will be encouraged to put your newly discovered craft skills to work (no prior craft knowledge required).

Make plans now  
to attend the  
Chamber Music concert  
on Sunday, Feb. 12  
at the church.

Look for details to  
follow in the Update.

For more information,  
call Carol Neighbor  
at 269-1506.

[Continued from previous page]

one who authentically represents a tradition, you not only touch his or her tradition, you touch your own.  
(p. 6)

By his exceeding virtue, his rejection of parochialism, and his spiritual intrepidity, Hanh has achieved a dual citizenship when it comes to religion! In this, he brings to heart and mind many UUs whom I know and love.

WWW.FIRSTUU.NET

Writers and public speakers sometimes consciously, and sometimes unconsciously, use spurious etymologies. When used intentionally, pseudo etymologies may be aimed at catalyzing intuitive knowledge, or inducing a new way of looking at an old, familiar idea.

For example, the word "universe" can be said to be the amalgam of the words "unity" and "diversity." Etymologically speaking, however, such

a statement is false. But the idea that there exists, underlying all the diversity we encounter in the world, a hidden unity, is one I like.

Let us let paradox stand. UUs have no problem with a paradoxical universe, one that includes theistic non-theists, Christian Buddhists, and the like. We have no problems with dual, triple, or even universal citizenship.

Why Nhat?

## 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. Information: C.U.U.P.S. of Wichita, (708) G0-CUUPS or (708) 402-8877. E-mail is cuupsk@gmail.com, or on Facebook.

**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.

**C.U.U.P.S. of Wichita**, has New Moon Circle and Full Moon Dances, where the New Moon Circle is a time to gather, for study, meditation and ritual exploration of earth-centered spiritual growth and Full Moon. For more information: C.U.U.P.s of Wichita, phone (708) GO-CUUPS or (708) 402-8877, cuupsk@gmail.com, or on Facebook.

**Eclectic Readers** group meet the 3rd Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the church. Contact: Del Smith, 612-0826

**Book Discussion Group** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the church. You are welcome to attend whether or not you have read the book. Information: 943-3861

**Ethical Eating group** meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Meal followed/accompanied by round table discussion. Bring a vegan dish to share! Contact Dianne Waltner, 946-1115, or dwaltner@sbcglobal.net, for additional information.

**Membership Committee** meets the 4th Sunday at 10 a.m.

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

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

**Music Committee** meets the fourth Sunday following service.

## EVERY WEEK AT FIRST UU

**Tai Chi classes** on Wednesdays, 7 p.m., \$5 per class. Dress comfortably. Please first contact David Larsen, 612-4726 or davidlarsen@sbcglobal.net

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

**Meditation: Establishing a Practice** taught by Rev. Carter. This class is an introduction to Sitting Meditation, helping students learn to bring about a state of inner peacefulness and happiness, learn to reduce stress and to integrate the personality. The class also discusses the philosophy, goals, and techniques of the Science of Yoga. For further information, feel free to contact Rev. Carter by email at Minister@FirstUU.net.

**Meditation and Book Discussion** on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Contact: Bob Feleppa, 304-9170

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*Albert Einstein:* "A human being is part of a whole, called by us the Universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

## YRUU Art as Activism Project

*By Melanie (and Charlie) Jenney*

A group of teenagers with First UU have spent the last couple of months doodling on little pieces of paper.

We're creating art cards (or ACEOs) for an "Anonymous Art" project. Art cards are small artworks made from many different media. The only thing they have in common is that each one is 3 1/2 X 2 1/2 inches.

We've experimented with stamps, colored pencils, watercolors, pens, pastels and collage. Anne B has shown us how to "Zentangle." She also showed us some fabric art cards she made.

Vernon McGee has shared his art with us, reprinting some at art card dimensions for us to use. He's also donated frames and some other tools.

We've talked with Jim H about the possibility of an exhibit in our foyer of our works in April or May, then we plan to distribute the art cards in public places around Wichita as gifts to strangers.

On the back of each card will be a label with a short statement of our intention (once we figure out exactly what that is!) with, we hope, a link to a page on the First UU website to track each piece. (Are you familiar with the "Where's George" on dollar bills?)

We're talking with Brent W and Jack R about how to accomplish that goal.

People who find the art can keep it or pass it on. We just want to send out a positive expression to the universe, perhaps doing our own teensy bit toward our UU goal of world community... even with those we don't know and probably never will.

We're making it up as we go along but I think we're having fun. I know I am! We've had some good discussions, made some new friends, and we hope to do additional activities together... maybe Final Friday, a lock-in at church, a "stuff swap," etc.

We'll keep you YUUpdated!

WWW.FIRSTUU.NET



# In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Wichita

Founded 1887



## Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to Dan Reagan on the passing of his father, Roscoe R. "Rocky" Reagan on Jan.6, 2012.

Our condolences to former member Peggy Browning on the recent passing of her husband, William Browning.

## From Your Treasurer

Church income through 12-31-11  
\$59,858.61

Expenses through 12-31-11  
\$64,425.88

Net Loss (\$ 4,567.27)

We have had to make payments late, make purchases on a credit card and postpone needed building maintenance.

Remember, no gift is too large, no gift is too small. Ask our President or a Board Member how you can help if you are unable to support the Church financially.

Thank you,  
*Anne Bailey, Treasurer*

**There are people  
who have money and  
people who are rich.**

**-Coco Chanel**

## Church Directories

The new church directories are ready!  
Pick yours up at the church!

## Worship Committee Remarks

When our children are little, we coax them into trying new foods, saying things like, "How do you know you don't like mushrooms if you've never tried them before?" and "Try it, you might like it!"

Occasionally, we are going to take the same approach with hymns.

Most of the time, the minister and the worship committee members who prepare the Sunday Service scripts try to select hymns that are well-known and easy to sing. We know that many people in the congregation appreciate being able to sing the opening and closing hymn with confidence.

We also know that there are other members of the congregation who tire of singing the same hymns with such frequency. These members would like to learn – or at least try – new and different hymns that fit with the themes and topics of the service. After all, how will we know if we can ever get the hang of it – acquire the taste for it – if we don't try? And with some of these hymns it will take practice (lots of practice!) before we are singing them like old pros.

So, going forward, look for a mix of old and new, familiar and unfamiliar. Some Sundays you can sing out loud and proud because you will know that hymn cold. Other Sundays, you may find yourself stepping out of your comfort zone, trying to count beats and figuring out what words go with what notes. We probably won't sound like the St. Olaf choir either way. ;) And we on the WC will probably get hymn selection wrong some of the time. We probably won't like every thing we taste. But that's OK and we appreciate everyone's best effort to try to make it work. And if it doesn't, we won't force feed it to you.

For the Worship Committee,  
*Suzanna Mathews, Twitter: @AWESuz*  
[www.suzannamathews.com](http://www.suzannamathews.com)



## Pianist Needed

The Music Committee would like to have the congregation help us in finding a replacement for Jenny Bowen as our accompanist. We are sorry that Jenny is leaving and know that we will miss her playing, but her plans require a move sometime in late March.

If anyone knows someone who is capable of filling this position, please contact the church office or Jean Vaughn (941-3538 or [njv1930@att.net](mailto:njv1930@att.net).) We are presently putting notices out in various places and hope to have some applicants soon.

Thanks,  
*Jean Vaughn*



# In Touch

The newsletter of  
The First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Wichita  
is published monthly

316-684-3481  
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office@firstuu.net

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president\_elect@firstuu.net

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and Friday  
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newsletter@firstuu.net

Webmaster: Jack Regehr  
web@firstuu.net.

The deadline for In Touch  
and for the monthly  
calendar is the third  
Wednesday of each month.

Please submit items to  
Newsletter@FirstUU.net  
or bring to the church office.

LATE SUBMISSIONS MAY BE OMITTED.



## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### Does Thich Nhat Hanh Really "Worship" Christ?:

(Clarifications on my January newsletter article)

Re-reading my last newsletter article "Are You a Christian?" I reflected that I ought to have used more precise

language to describe Thich Nhat Hanh's relationship to Christ.

For example, in his book *Living Buddha, Living Christ* (1995), Hanh speaks at great length about his love of Christ and Christ's teachings. Still, Buddhists traditionally refer to themselves and their practices as "non-theistic," and my concern is that someone, Hanh himself perhaps, another Buddhist, or any number of thoughtful persons from some other tradition might object to my use of the word "worship" when I write of Hanh that "he *worships* Jesus as part of his daily spiritual practice." For clarity's sake, then, let me quote Hanh himself directly from *Living Buddha, Living Christ*:

When we look into and touch deeply the life and teachings of Jesus, we can penetrate the reality of God. Love, understanding, courage, and acceptance are expressions of the life of Jesus. God made himself known to us through Jesus Christ. (1995, Riverhead Press, p. 35)

That is a theistic statement if ever there was one! Still, I have had second thoughts about using a term as theistic as "worship" to signify what Hanh is doing when he relates to Jesus on his altar. Maybe he would identify it as "being mindful of," "communing with," or "honoring" Jesus.. So, while the reverential language Hanh uses in portraying his regard for Jesus made me think "worship," in retrospect, I had misgivings. Why? Because theistic terminology is anomalous to conventional Buddhist discourse.

Hanh, of course, transcends conventionalism. He states: "God made himself known to us through Jesus Christ." What courage Hanh evinces here; for the sake of dialogue, he risks being disowned by Buddhist and Christian alike! The neophyte Buddhist might find fault with Hanh's reification of the idea of God. And the neophyte Christian might vilify Hanh as a non-Christian upstart who dares offer insight into the life and teachings of humanity's one and only savior, while estranging himself from salvation by his devotion to Buddha and His teachings.

But Hanh is a risk taker. Earlier in the book, he speaks about how his meetings with saintly Christians like Reverend Heinz Kloppenburg, Father Daniel Berrigan, Father Thomas Merton, and Dr. Martin Luther King allowed him to recognize the authentic spirituality that sets apart those who truly follow the example and teachings of Jesus from those who do not. Those meetings transformed Hanh. Of these meetings, he writes:

The moment I met Martin Luther King, Jr., I knew I was in the presence of a holy person... Through men and women like these, I feel I have been able to touch Jesus Christ and His tradition. (p.5)

So Hanh avers that because of the holiness of genuine Christians, Jesus and His teachings are a palpable spiritual reality for him, a reality he honors and declares unapologetically as being entirely consistent with his vocation as a practicing Buddhist spiritual leader. Hanh continues:

On the altar in my hermitage in France are images of Buddha and Jesus, and every time I light incense, I touch both of them as my spiritual ancestors. I can do this because of contact with these real Christians. When you touch some-

[Continued on next page]

# February 2012

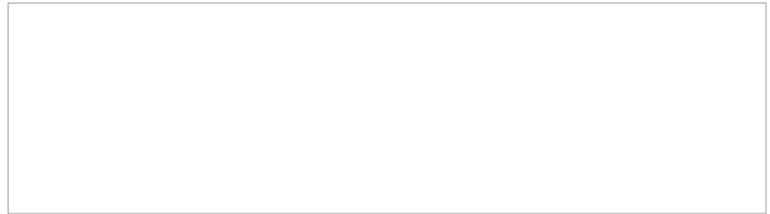
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 9:30 Adult RE 11a Sunday Service 12p 1st Sunday Lunch</p>	<p>6 6:30 Full Moon Dance and Potluck for Imbolc</p>	<p>7 6p Buddhist Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Worship Committee</p>	<p>1 7p Tai Chi</p>	<p>2 7p FCC Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 4p Private Party</p>
<p>12 9:30 Adult RE 9:30 Meditation Class 11a Sunday Service 12:15 Leadership Cncl 3p Chamber Music</p>	<p>13 6:30 Meatless Monday</p>	<p>14 6p Buddhist Meditation and Book Discussion</p>	<p>15 7p Tai Chi 7p Board Meeting Newsletter &amp; Calendar Deadline</p>	<p>16 7p NOW Meeting</p>	<p>17 11:30 Eclectic Readers Group</p>	<p>18 10p Card Party</p>
<p>19 9:30 Adult RE 9:30 Meditation Class 9:30 Seeking Circle 11a Sunday Service 7p New Moon Circle</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 6p Buddhist Meditation and Book Discussion</p>	<p>22 9:30 Newsletter Mailing 7p Tai Chi</p>	<p>23 7p FCC Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 10a Caring Committee</p>
<p>26 9:30 Adult RE 9:30 Meditation Class 10a Membership Committee 10:15 Personnel Committee 11a Sunday Service 12:15 Music Committee 5:30 pm CUUPS Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6p Buddhist Meditation and Book Discussion</p>	<p>29 7p Tai Chi</p>			

*Return Service Requested*



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

www.FirstUU.net



**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:  
Middlesex**

We will be talking about Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides at our next gathering on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012.

We meet at the Church beginning at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month.

Middlesex tells the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides, and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family, who travel from a tiny Greek village to Prohibition-era Detroit, to suburban Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

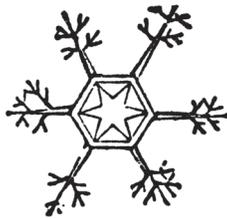
You are welcome to join our group whether you have read the book or not. Please call Anne Bailey at 943-3861 for further information.

**Sunday Programs**

9:30 a.m. Adult Religious Exploration

11:00 a.m. Children's RE and Nursery

11:00 a.m. Worship Service



The Eskimos had 52 names for snow because it was important to them: there ought to be as many for love.

*~Margaret Atwood*

**CD Version of Sunday Service Available**

Copies of the Sunday Service are now available on CD for \$5 each. Please see Staci Steddum for details.



**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.