



# In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA  
FOUNDED 1887

## News From Your Board Of Trustees

- Bonnie Till, President

**Sign on 21<sup>st</sup> Street:** The Board and many members of First UU are committed to erecting an electronic sign on 21<sup>st</sup>. Three sign companies have submitted proposals and bids. All the bids are fairly similar. However, only one of the three companies will allow us to pay ½ down and finance the remaining amount over two years at 0% interest. Bottom-line: The Board and Congregation need to find the financing to make the sign a reality. Many avenues are being explored-- No decision has been made. If you are committed to having a sign and want to be part of the conversation, please contact Bonnie Till (722-8208).

**Facilities Rental Policy:** The Board has asked Marsha Diggs with the assistance of Office Manager, Anita Culp, to review the Facilities Rental Policy. Diggs will present any proposed revisions to the Board at the August meeting.

**Locking Door Handle for Meditation Room:** The Camarata Cellista group requested a locking door handle on the door to the room where their 14 cellos and 1 base were stored. This was done and the expense was covered by the Chamber Concert Fund. The door can only be locked or unlocked by using the key. The two keys are located in the church office.

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## Annual Meeting Report

-Bonnie Till

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, June 15, immediately following the Sunday service. The first item of business was the election of two new Board members to serve terms from 7-1-2014 to 6-30-2017, and the election of the 2014-15 Nominating Committee. The election results were as follows:

Board Members:	Nancy Milner Mike Diggs
Nominating Committee:	Amanda Diggs Jana Rambo Bonnie Till

Rev. David Carter and President of the Congregation, Bonnie Till, presented reports. In addition, a report on the revisions to the by-laws was read by Bonnie Till in the absence of By-law Task Force chair, Jamey Findling.

The Covenant of Healthy Relations was presented by Task Force member Nancy Milner. There was brief discussion. Lara Pollock (second: Jana Rambo) moved the acceptance of The Covenant of Healthy Relations. The motion passed.

Charles Merrifield, chair of the Stewardship Committee, presented the FY2014-15 budget. There were a few questions and some discussion.

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## Treasurer's Report

-Anne Bailey, Finance Committee

Just a few more days to get your final pledge payments in for our fiscal year which ends June 30. We will, of course, accept your contributions at any time. We will be sending out thank you letters confirming pledges for fiscal year 2014-2015 in the near future. Income continues to exceed expenses and we should finish the year in the black. Thanks for your continued support.

# In Touch

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

[www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net)

Member  
Unitarian Universalist  
Association

Minister: Rev. David Carter  
[minister@firstuu.net](mailto:minister@firstuu.net)  
(316) 684-3481

President: Charles Merrifeild  
(316) 688-5352

Office Manger:  
[officemanager@firstuu.net](mailto:officemanager@firstuu.net)  
(316) 684-3481  
Anita Culp

Director of Religious  
Education:  
Denise Jackson-Simon  
[simontrio@aol.com](mailto:simontrio@aol.com)  
(316) 644-2022

Webmaster: Jack Regehr  
[web@firstuu.net](mailto:web@firstuu.net)

Newsletter Staff

Copy Editor: Del Smith  
[wichitadel@aol.com](mailto:wichitadel@aol.com)

Layout Editor:  
Rolando Gomez  
[shadoe7@mac.com](mailto:shadoe7@mac.com)

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

## Good Times At First UU: A Pictorial Record

-Del Smith

We have an "outward and visible sign" that First UU is indeed "A Happening Place," thanks to Charles Merrifeild and Marcia Ellsworth who donated a digital photo frame. The photos are not dated, but are in chronological order.

The earliest photo is of Peter and Anita dancing during a service last year, possibly "Humor Sunday." A few frames later pictures taken during the workshop Thea Nietfeld led in June of 2013 come up. The other workshops she facilitated, including the last one in January, are pictured. The most recent pictures are, fittingly, of the annual meeting in June of 2014 when the Covenant of Healthy Relations was adopted.

And in between there's all kinds of fun, meetings, work, happy times!

The slide show is fun to watch and will be edited and updated at some future point. In the meantime, selected photos from ongoing congregational activities will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

Thanks, Charles and Marcia. Now let's all enjoy the (slide) show!

## Welcome To Our Child Care Provider: Gabby Garrett

Hi, I'm Gabby Garrett, Sunday morning child care provider and recent East High School graduate. I have attended and been a part of the UU church for about 7 years. I have also participated the RE program through the years. I'm grateful for the experience and understanding I've gained through attending the Sunday lessons. The Seven principles shape my personality today and my action towards others. I've learned lessons I'll carry along for the rest of my life.

## Antiques, Collectibles, Jewelry Booth

Notice: Seeking antiques, collectibles, and vintage items, as well as jewelry, for the church's booth at EcoFest (October 11).

I am heading up the booth so please contact me if you have anything to donate. Donors will receive a church document for tax purposes on which you can list what you consider to be the market value of your donation. As chair of this project, I will be glad to visit with you about items that you have in mind for donation. I will accept donations of small items such as jewelry beginning right now. Due to storage issues, I cannot accept larger items until after Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

However, I would like to know as soon as possible if you have items you would like to donate. Please email me with a list or description. A photo would be better yet but not necessary. This will be a major part of the EcoFest fundraiser so please be as generous as you can.

Contact me: Susan Hund-Milne, 832-1599, [susanhm@cox.net](mailto:susanhm@cox.net)

## HEART & SOUL: A Memoir Writing Workshop

Marguerite Regan asks: “Do you wish to write the story of your most meaningful experiences, a story that you can pass on to children and grandchildren or even possibly publish? Would you like to breathe new life into old memories, discover stories within your life that you never knew existed, and reconnect with the people and places that touched you most? Would you like to write with a greater sense of place and feeling? Or how about forming new friendships with and gaining motivation from a community of writers? Then this workshop might be for you.”

Marguerite, Associate Professor of English at Newman University, will facilitate this workshop, which will meet on Saturdays, beginning July 12 and concluding December 20 (except holiday weekends and EcoFest Saturday). Hours are 12 Noon to 2 pm and coffee and tea will be available. However, it’s “bring your own snack or lunch.”

It’s a fundraiser for the church. For members, \$50 (or \$35 for retired, students, underemployed). Non-members will pay \$75. A bargain at any price!

CAVEAT: Space is limited and it’s possible the workshop will be full by the time this is published. Check with Marguerite, [reganm@newmanu.edu](mailto:reganm@newmanu.edu).



Rev. Carter, Nancy Milner and Deborah Burnham admire the gift from Homorod Szenpal, our partner church in Transylvania. Nancy and Debbie Wadman spent several days with the minister and the people of the village. They delivered our gifts, cards and funds raised at the March 29<sup>th</sup> annual dinner and auction hosted by the Partner Church Committee,

Betty Hensley chairs the committee along with Debbie. If you look out the sanctuary window toward 21st Street you can see the Partner Church Tree. It is a replacement for the gift tree from Transylvania, which Betty brought back with her some years ago. That tree did not survive transplanting from our Fairmount location. This tree still serves as a living symbol of our connection.

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: ...  
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; ...*

## WHAT A MUDDLE!!

A gaggle of geese, a murder of crows,  
 And fishes form schools as everyone knows.  
 Sheep form packs or flocks or hurtles,  
 But a bale or dole refers to turtles.  
 Crocodiles make a bask and chickens a peep.  
 Cockroaches are an intrusion, leopards are a leap.  
 Porcupines are a prickle which is easy to see.  
 Buffaloes can be stubborn and are an obstinacy.

Troups are apes, kangaroos or baboons;  
 Pelicans are pods; don't know about loons.  
 There are animals called droves, herds and coveys.  
 Others form packs, beds, knots and be vies.  
 Dogs and seals have young ones called pups.  
 Does anyone know? Do guppies have gups?  
 Mice are a mischief; storks are a mustering.  
 Cats are a clowder or a pounce when they are clustering.  
 Goldfish are a troubling and giraffes are a tower.

Owls form parliaments and confer by the hour.  
 Hawks are a boil, a cast or a kettle.  
 Goats are a trip and love to meddle.  
 Butterflies are a flutter; flamingoes, a flamboyance;  
 Gnats are a horde, but to me they're an annoyance.

With Google to help me, I could add more terms,

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association,  
 covenant to affirm and promote: ... Justice, equity, and compassion in human  
 relations; ....*

## Adult Religious Exploration Class New Series: "Long Strange Trip"

Starting July 20, the class will view "Long Strange Trip," a history of Unitarian Universalism. The six-part video series by Ron Cordes, a UU from Bedford, MA, starts with the beginning of Christianity and carries through to current times. If you think the title of the series somehow familiar, you're probably right! It's homage to a Grateful Dead song and reflects that Cordes is a "Deadhead" or fan of the band. One review noted, "Ron is no dry historian. He's wet and wild. Congregations should use his films to stir their enthusiasm!"

The class meets at 9:45 AM Sundays at the church. This would be a great time to join the group! The series will be available for viewing at other times to enable more members and prospective members the opportunity to learn about our rich history.

## RE Corner:

- Denise Jackson-Simon (DRE)  
 We're off to a great start with our summer RE program. We only have one slot to fill, so if you're interested, August 24 is available. Just sign up on the sheet on the office window. June's list of activities included Native American studies with Aubren Lewis, Railroading with Frank Ruf, Gymnastics with Brianna Ninemire, "Magic Wands" with Anne Bailey, and a trip to the Humane Society with Elaine Edens.

July promises to be just as much fun with lessons ranging from video games to collage. Please plan to join us for summer fun! And a great big thank you to our congregation members who

## Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> With Us

You are cordially invited to the UU Holiday Party Group "Fourth of July Party." Come help us celebrate the 238<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We'll enjoy a potluck dinner, and then play games. Some of us may go watch fireworks at Bradley Fair afterward.

Friday July 4

5:30 pm

First UU Church of Wichita



# July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00p UU Craft Night	2 7:00p Committee on Ministry	3	4 5:30p Holiday Party and Potluck	5
6 No Adult RE 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	7	8	9 7:00p Worship Committee	10	11	12 12:00p Heart & Soul Writing Workshop 12:00p Private Event 7:00p Full Moon Dance
13 9:45a Adult RE 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	14 6:00p Zen Friends 6:30p Ethical Eating Vegan Potluck	15 7:00p EcoFest Committee	16 7:00p Board Meeting Newsletter & Calendar Deadline	17 7:00p NOW Meeting	18 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	19 12:00p Heart & Soul Writing Workshop
20 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult RE 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	21 6:00p Zen Friends	22 6:30p Dismantling Injustice Action Group	23 2:00p Newsletter Mailing	24	25	26 10:00a Caring Committee 12:00p Heart & Soul Writing Workshop
27 9:45a Adult RE 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	28 6:00p Zen Friends	29	30	31		

Who's Who @ First UU: 2014-15

**OFFICERS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President – Charles Merrifield  
 President-Elect – Vivien Minshull-Ford  
 Board of Trustees  
     Mike Diggs  
     Elaine Edens  
     Jamey Findling  
     Magda Garrett  
     DeeDee Jordan  
     Nancy Milner  
     Cristan Vitkus

Co-Treasurers – Anne Bailey & Marsha Diggs

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Adult RE - Corey Swertfager  
 Buildings/Grounds - Tom Moore  
 Caring - Jana Rambo and LaRilla Combs  
 Children's RE – Wendy Haynie-Cosby  
 Communications - Del Smith  
 Denominational Affairs - Mike Diggs  
 Finance:  
 Financial Commitment- Charles Merrifield  
     (Stewardship – Elaine Edens)

Kitchen Mavens – Magda Garrett  
 Membership - Anne Bailey  
 Music - David Brewer  
 Partner Church - Betty Hensley and  
     Debbie Wadman  
 Personnel – Janet Roberts and  
     Magda Garrett  
 Social Action - Louis Goseland  
 Worship - Marsha Diggs

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

David Brewer, Chair  
 Marcia Ellsworth  
 Kathy Hull  
 Susan Hund-Milne  
 Lara Pollock  
 Jana Rambo

Every Week at First UU

Adult Religious Exploration, Sunday, 9:45 am – Corey Swertfager, 201-6921  
 Chalice Bookstore – Marque Payne, 941-8385  
 Social Justice Task Force, Sunday, 12:15 pm – Louis Goseland, 204-9972  
     (exception: when there is other church business, i.e. congregational meetings)  
 Zen Friends of Wichita, Monday, 6:00 pm – Bob Feleppa, 683-9295

Every Month at First UU

Board Meeting – third Wednesday, 7 pm – Charles Merrifield, 688-5352  
 Book Discussion – second Wednesday, 7 pm - Anne Bailey, 943-3861  
 Caring Committee – fourth Saturday, 10 am – LaRilla Combs, 733-2089  
 Craft Night – first Tuesday, 7 pm – Anita Culp, 744-2840  
 Dinners for Eight – dates vary, Marcia Ellsworth, 688-5352, Sigrid Trombley, 683-7075  
 Eclectic Readers – third Friday, 11:30 AM, Del Smith, 612-0826  
 First Sunday Lunch – Magda Garrett, 765-3352  
 Leadership Council – second Sunday, 12:15, Vivien Minshull-Ford, 683-9295  
 Meatless Monday (Ethical Eating) – second Monday, 6:30 PM, Dianne Waltner, 946-1115  
 Music Committee, fourth Sunday after church  
 Newsletter Deadline – third Wednesday, evening – Del Smith, 612-0826  
 Newsletter Folding – fourth Wednesday, 2:00 PM – Del Smith, 612-0826  
 Pagan Group – Seasonal ritual and potluck feasting – Kathy Hull, 204-9956, Anne Bailey 943-3861

As announced

Garden Group – Anita Culp, 744-2840

## Minister's Annual Report, June 2014

-Rev. David Carter

For our beloved spiritual community at First UU, last year's annual meeting signaled the end of a period of rigorous challenge and protracted growing pains. We weathered the difficulties with remarkable grace and cooperation, based on our love for one another and for the principles and sources of our UU identity. Joyfulness was restored and joyfulness can be discerned in all our activities and projects. Let us rejoice in the activities we shared together that resulted in this outcome.



Briefly, since this time last year, as a community we have consistently demonstrated the best values of the Unitarian Universalist tradition – an unflagging commitment to democratic process; meaningful social activism resulting in building community with those around us; responsible stewardship of our church, leading to steadily improving fiscal health and a modest but encouraging growth of our membership; sustained collegiality in our interpersonal dealings.

In a word, First UU is once again a public church. Once again, without equivocation, we proclaim our identity as servants and agents of Love. Once again, we are a welcoming church, unapologetically, and view our mission as the call to bless the world. We do so by manifesting the core beliefs of progressive religion. This means many things: we stand on the side of Love, acting in many ways to uphold the worth and dignity of all living; we are committed to bringing about justice for all members of society, ensuring that all receive fair and equitable treatment.

We oppose institutions and practices that actively support or promote oppression and injustice; we continue to promote the arts, and we encourage our members and friends to come together in this safe, sacred space we have created to freely and responsibly pursue the search for truth and meaning, each according to the light of his or her conscience, and each according to the revelations of his or her advancing consciousness.

Of course, we all have experienced that activity can be “work” when it is tedious, joyless, and enervating. But, as Twain's Tom Sawyer illustrated, activity can be “play” when it lifts the spirit, when it sparks the song, when it scratches the itch, when it fulfills the craving, when it follows the holy passion residing within the heart's deep core. So, we are at choice. So, now let us PLAY!!!

Yes, we have much activity ahead of us to “do.” But, it need not be “work.” Let it be play. Today, we live as all have lived in the past. That is, we live in the best of times and the worst of times. So, as we go forward, I want to reiterate my message today – beloveds, NOW LET US PLAY!

Play what? Here's what: Let us play the part of agents of Love, servants of truth and beauty. The world is clamoring for Love, Truth, and Beauty. Let us play the part of prayerful, confident, visionary community builders, playing for the ascendancy of equal rights, freedom, and justice. The world is desperately craving restorative justice for the crimes and travesties of the past. Let us PLAY as dreamers envisaging a better, richer, kinder, and more beautiful world. The world is waiting to dance free of fear.

So, let us PLAY for keeps. And let us be confident of success, because the power is ours to PLAY to win. After all, the earth and its bounty are not ours as an inheritance from our ancestors. Rather, the earth and the fullness thereof is a sacred trust we tender as its faithful stewards, entrusted to protect and preserve its goodness and its beauty for our children's children, and for theirs, without end, for the joyful celebration and perpetuation of Love. This year just past has been a good year. Today we are together at the beginning of an even better year. It starts right now, this morning. Thank you very much.

## News From Your Board Of Trustees - continued

**“No Gun” sign:** The Board agreed that the decision to post or not to post the “No Gun” sign on the door of the church is a congregational decision. Given that the sign was posted on our front door by a previous Board without congregational input, the current Board decided to remove the sign until the will of the congregation is known.

**Church Finance Workshop:** Rev. Carter is corresponding with Lisa Presley, church financial advisor in the MidAmerica Region office, Rev. Michael Nelson (Manhattan Fellowship), and Rev. Thea Nietfeld (Salina and Hutchinson Fellowships) to organize a Church Finance Workshop in the Fall of 2014.

**“Making the Annual Pledge Drive Obsolete”:** Michael Durall has had a new book published, “Making the Annual Pledge Drive Obsolete”. The Board plans to launch a congregational read of this book and discuss the possibility of making the annual pledge drive obsolete at First UU.

*Together we can make First UU the church we want it to be!*

## Annual Meeting Report -continued

The budget was passed by the required 2/3 majority.

The final business was the election of Vivien Minshull-Ford as the new President-elect. The motion passed by acclamation.

## Zen Friends of Wichita

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

Zen Friends of Wichita is changing its meeting day from Wednesday to Monday at 6:00 and will reconvene at First UU on July 14 after a brief hiatus. According to Bob Feleppa, Zen Friends offers an approach to stillness and openness through sitting meditation and lively book discussions. The group has been meeting at First UU for about eight years and holds a silent retreat once a month.

Zen Friends, who come from varying meditation backgrounds, are currently reading Robert Aitken’s book “Taking the Path of Zen.” Meetings are friendly and informal: “Zen Friends gives one the opportunity to wear a Hawaiian shirt and a wristwatch to a meditation session,” says Don Deaton, who also sits with the more formal Southwind Sangha Soto Zen group. Harold Schlechtweg welcomes the opportunity to talk about important things in a supportive environment and “not feel separate.” Kathryn Vernon, who created and caretakes the Zen Friends Facebook page, feels that Zen Friends enriches the spirituality of a person’s life, regardless of religious preferences, and for artist Don Coons, group meditation helps focus individual practice.

If you would like to know more about Zen Friends of Wichita, call Bob Feleppa at 683-9295 or visit us on Facebook.

GRILL, BABY,  
GRILL!

We're going traditional with First Sunday Lunch on July 6th. Magda and Friends will fire up the grills and serve the burger of choice to our vegans, our vegetarians and our carnivores. The rest of us will bring the "go withs" -- condiments, chips, pickles, veggie sticks, whatever's traditional at a cookout for you. We're supplying dessert -- ice cream bars and cool pops. Altogether now, "Grill, Baby, Grill!"

Dillon’s Gift Cards  
Available

The church now has Dillon’s Gift Cards available for purchase at \$5.00. After purchasing the card, load it at the store for whatever amount you choose and use it at Dillon’s for groceries, gift cards for other stores and gasoline. The church benefits by 4% on every purchase made using the Gift Card. Painless giving! HINT: If you don’t get to church to buy a gift card, just send a \$5.00 check to Anita Culp, Office Manager, and she’ll mail the card. Write “Dillon’s” on the memo line.

## July Worship Schedule

7/6 Jennifer Winn: *"Outside the Box"*

Jennifer Winn is a progressive social activist seeking to restore justice and transparency to Kansas government by her bid for election to the office of Governor. She has quite a story to tell.

7/13 Rev. Carter: *"At The Pure Fountain"*

Poetry is the distillate of truth, beauty, and Love. In his journey, Rev. Carter subsists on these for spiritual life. Come, partake with him of this spiritually nourishing repast.

7/20 Emira Palecios: *"Women For Kansas"*

A grass roots group organized to take back Kansas from the conservatives.

7/27 Michael Diggs: *"Sherlock Holmes or Why is logic so appealing?"*

Are you a member of the Baker Street Irregulars? Perhaps you have noticed the recent resurgence of Sherlock Holmes on the Big and Small Screens? Come explore how the continuing popularity of Holmes reflects trends in our society and faith.

## UUA Mid-America Region: Some Fun Facts

Pop quiz: What 12 states make up our region? An easy way to remember them might be connecting their Native American language name with the state name. Thanks to UUA Mid-America website for the information.

**Kansas** is easy: From the name of the Kansa people, meaning "south" for People of the South Wind.

According to the website [www.native-languages.org/state-names.htm](http://www.native-languages.org/state-names.htm) twenty-six of the names of the fifty United States of America are based on words in Native American languages. Of those twenty-six, twelve are in Mid-America:

**Illinois:** "Illiniwek," the name of the Illini people, meaning "best people."

**Indiana:** the only one of our 13 MidAmerica states which is not named with a specific Native American name.

"Indiana" means Land of the Indians or Land of Indians. Multiple Native American nations are a significant part of Indiana history, including the Miamis, Chippewa, Delawares, Erie, Shawnee, Iroquois, Kickapoo, Potawatomes, Mahican, Nanticoke, Huron, and Mohegan.

**Iowa:** A tribal name of the Ioway people, meaning "sleepy ones."

**Kentucky:** from "Kentake," an Iroquois place name meaning "meadow land."

**Michigan:** "Mshigem" or "Misigami" are Potawatomi and Ojibwe names for "great lake." English speakers call the great lake Lake Michigan.

**Minnesota:** "Mnisota" is the Dakota Sioux name for the river English speakers call the Minnesota River. It means "cloudy water."

**Missouri:** The name of a people native to the area, "Missouria, came from the word "mihsoori," meaning "big canoe people."

**Nebraska:** "Nibthaska" or "Nibrathka," the Omaha-Ponca and Otoe names for the river which English speakers call the Platte River, meaning "flat river."

**North Dakota:** From the Dakota, meaning "the allies."

**Ohio:** from "Ohiyo," the name which English speakers call the Ohio River in the Seneca language, meaning, "it is beautiful."

**South Dakota:** From the Dakota, meaning "the allies."

**Wisconsin:** "Wishkonsing" is the Ojibwe name for the river which English speakers call the Wisconsin River. The Ojibwe sources say the meaning of "Wishkonsing" is unknown.

\*Prairie Star, Central Midwest and Heartland Districts have joined together to create MidAmerica Region. <http://midamericauua.org> [midamerica@uua.org](mailto:midamerica@uua.org)

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# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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7202 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St. N.

Wichita, KS 67206

[www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net)



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## From Our Book Reading Groups

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### **Wednesday Evening Book Club:**

We will not be meeting in July due to travel and vacations. We will reconvene on Wednesday, August 13 to talk about John Esposito's book *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam*. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, there has been an overwhelming demand for information about Islam. As a leading expert, John Esposito has found himself called upon to speak to a wide range of audiences. Out of this experience, he has identified the most pressing questions people consistently ask about Islam. Join us for lively discussion, even if you have not yet read the book. - Anne Bailey, 650-4905.

### **Eclectic Readers Group:**

Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin* is the July 18<sup>th</sup> selection. Atwood, a Canadian, has published more than 25 books, including fiction, poetry and essays. Many consider this novel, which won the prestigious Booker Prize, possibly her best work. It's hard to pin down the genre as several rich stories are woven together. The *Christian Science Monitor* reviewer wrote "Atwood's crisp wit and steely realism are reminiscent of Edith Wharton.... A wonderfully complex narrative." - Brown bag lunch at 11:30. - Del Smith, 612-0826.