



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA
FOUNDED 1887

UUs and Friends Enjoy Storytelling

Nancy Milner

Over the weekend of April 27-28, First UU Wichita members Millie Cherryholmes, LaRilla Combs, Marcia Ellsworth, Charles Merrifield, and Nancy Milner, plus four other Wichita friends, joined hundreds of attendees from neighboring states to hear nationally renowned storytellers at the 25th Annual Downs' Storytelling Festival in tiny Downs, Kansas, on Highway 24. The newly renovated train depot, former hot spot for the railroad town, served as a venue for performances.

Storytellers Andy Offutt Irwin, Bil Lepp, Dinosaur "Dino" O'Dell, Kim Weitkamp, and Pippa White recounted humorous and poignant tales of peculiar relatives, learning the seven continents, an abusive childhood, orphan trains, and child labor. Local residents, in costume, took on the personas of historical figures such as Jesse "Buffalo" Jones, Elsie Reasoner, and pioneer women. Tall tale contestants told whoppers to win a shovel for a year. The winner told about being captured by pheasants, turning tables on hunters during hunting season.

Festival-related fundraisers included sales of storytelling compact discs, shirts, and stickers at the 1919 Memorial Hall lined with locally made quilts, a book sale at the Downs' Carnegie Library built circa 1905, breakfast at the United Methodist Church, and supper with the storytellers.

The performers' and small town's contagious ebullience buoyed the experience. Most of the UU attendees are repeat customers and will probably travel north in 2019 to attend the 26th Annual Downs' Storytelling Festival the last weekend of April.

Pictured left to right: Nancy Milner, Charles Merrifield, LaRilla Combs.



RE Corner

Denise Jackson-Simon DRE

Summer Sundays in Children's Religious Exploration are led by congregation members. There will be a variety of topics and activities, all sure to be fun. It's a great time for an inter-generational experience and to learn something new.

Hope to see you all this summer at UU!

In Touch

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

www.firstuu.net

Member
Unitarian Universalist
Association

Minister: vacant
316-684-3481

President: Holly Terrill

Office Manager: Anita Culp
office@firstuu.net
316-684-3481
M, Tu, F: 9:30am- 2:00pm
W & Th: 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Director of Religious
Exploration:
Denise Jackson-Simon
simontrio@aol.com
316-644-2022

Webmaster: TBD
web@firstuu.net

Newsletter Staff

Copy Editor: Suzanne Miller
millerbuchhorn@gmail.com

Layout Editor:
Rolando Gomez
shadoe7@mac.com

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

Ripples LaRilla Combs

The Caring Committee is the arm of the church that acknowledges events in our members' and friends' lives such as illness, surgeries, and bereavements. We also acknowledge celebratory events such as birthdays, weddings, births and graduations.

We are saddened that our beloved long-time member **Betty Hensley** passed away May 11. A memorial service will be held at First UU, 11 a.m., Saturday, May 26, with a luncheon to follow.

Good news! **Lila Arnold** has recovered from pneumonia and has returned to the Life Care Center. Lila welcomes visitors.

Congratulations graduates!

- **Alex Meyer**, daughter of Holger Meyer, graduated May 9, 2018, from East High School.

- **Teresa Conduff** was awarded an Associate's of Art, Liberal Arts, degree from Butler Community College this spring.

- **Zora Jenney**, daughter of Melanie and Charlie Jenney, graduated from KU on May 13, 2018. Her degree was in English, with a minor in Spanish. She was a Hall Scholar in KU Honors Program. Zora will be moving back to Wichita in June to attend KU Medical School.

What touches one of us affects us all. In caring for one another we are cared for.

The Prospector *Lila Arnold*

Like gold,
joy is where you find it.
I pluck it from clean running streams
with channels marked by change in currents.
I have grown to learn
the value of sky-thrusting trees
and shade, sweet springs
welling up in the softer grasses,
and the rainflower fragrance of wind.
I have grown old learning
to see gold everywhere.

At Last! First UU's History Archived!

Del Smith

Our church has a long and proud history, but until very recently our past was packed into an assortment of cardboard boxes and miscellaneous containers.

Anita Culp told her friend Carol Grant that recent photographs and other materials were accumulating to a level that was daunting, even more challenging when one took into account those cardboard boxes and miscellaneous containers in the storage room, moved from 1501 Fairmount to 21st Street.

Carol volunteered to help us, but it's not the first time she has offered her help in archiving an organization's accumulated memorabilia and documents. She helped set up the archives for the Kansas Firefighters Museum and continues to work there. "I enjoy doing this type of work, must be the librarian gene in me!" Carol commented. She was introduced to archival work when working on her Master of Library Science at Emporia State University in the early 2000s. Part of the ESU program was spending a week at one or two national parks as volunteers, and that's where Carol learned about archival work. She continues to volunteer at national parks, including Pecos, New Mexico; Rocky Mountain Park in Colorado; and Fort Scott, Kansas, among others.

"The beautiful handwriting in some of the old record books and correspondence, along with black and white photographs, plus learning about First UU's history and people" was rewarding to Carol from the time she began her work the last day of January until she finished in early May.

Now that the files are set up, Carol suggests that members bring in things they don't want to keep so we can add to our church's history. One caveat: please identify the people in photographs and date the materials. Use special archival pens, available from Anita, when writing on the back of photographs.



Pictured: Carol Grant working in the currently vacant minister's office.

Music Committee Notes

Jana Rambo

Having sponsored three concerts in March and April, the Music Committee will be less busy for a while. Those of us who attended the Tom Neilson and Roy Zimmerman concerts thoroughly enjoyed them and hope they'll be back. Hearing the music live is a much different experience than listening to a recording, and there's the bonus of interacting with the musician. I continue to be amazed at the abilities of people who write songs. I'd like to hear from congregants who haven't attended concerts about what keeps them away. What would influence you to come to a concert?

We are still working toward improving music for Sunday services. We feel it helps congregational singing to have Sharon leading us, but she's not always able to be at services. We would like to recruit someone to fill in when Sharon is gone. If you can help, please let me know.

We continue to invite people to join the committee. We meet after church on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Poetry Reading at the “Java Hut”

Vivien Minshull-Ford

The poet we called “The Poet” declined the mic
 He would mouth reams of verse at us
 from several tables away
 above the roar of the espresso machine
 while we strained our ears to know
 where each poem began and ended
 We imagined quatrains in which hand-tinted calligraphies,
 curlicues of words, soared like lovely mythic birds
 up through the smoke into the beaten tin ceiling
 like run-on lines, iridescent reptile creatures
 would disappear into holes before we could catch them
 In his neat Oxford shirt, his dapper moustache
 The Poet held our eyes and our ears captive
 while we heard not one single word.

Pagan Circle at First UU

Anne Bailey

We meet again on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 7:00. We will be talking about and honoring the Egyptian Goddess Isis and attempting to reclaim her name.

Join us for guided meditation, singing, chanting, and sharing of our lives and experiences. Bring your drums, rattles, shakers—your voice and smiling face. We will share cakes and wine, or probably cookies and juice.

All are welcome—If you have questions, call:
 Anne Bailey, 316-650-4905;
 Linda Jordan, 316-512-6652; or
 Paul Peare, 316-312-5235

Thanks, Anita

Thanks to Anita Culp, Office Manager, for stepping up to format *In Touch* this month. Rolando Gomez's work involves travel and long hours, and he was unable to do the formatting for this issue.

June 2018

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:00p Pagan Circle Bellona Celebration
3 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	4	5 3:00p Membership Committee 6:30p Zen Friends 7:00p UU Craft Group	6 7:00p Committee on Ministry 7:00p Worship Committee	7	8	9 10:00a Caring Committee
10 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:30p Leadership Coun- cil	11 6:30p Vegan Potluck	12 6:30p Zen Friends	13	14	15 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	16
17 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Annual Congregational Meet-	18	19 6:30p Zen Friends	20 4:00p UU Craft Group 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	21	22	23
24 9:45a Adult Relig Explor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	25 1:00p Movie Group	26 6:30p Zen Friends	27 1:30p Newsletter Mailing 7:00p Board of Trustees	28	29	30 6:30p UU Humanist Dinner and Meeting



Unitarian Universalist Association Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
(Adopted by the 1984 and 1985 General Assemblies)

Who's Who @ First UU

FIRST UU OFFICERS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President— Holly Terrill
 President-Elect—Doug Wilson
 Board of Trustees—Kathleen McGee, Bonnie Till, Anne Welsbacher, Jana Rambo, Holger Meyer, Joe Lozano, and Lori Young
 Treasurer (interim)—Anne Bailey

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adult RE—Frank Ruf
 Aesthetics—TBD
 Building & Grounds—TBD
 Caring—LaRilla Combs and Jana Rambo
 Chalice Lighters Ambassador—Bonnie Till
 Children's RE—TBD
 Chalice Book Store—Joe Lozano
 Communications—Anne Welsbacher
 Custodian—Linda Jordan
 EcoFest—Marcia Ellsworth and Vivien Minshull-Ford
 Finance—Charles Merrifield
 Financial Commitment—TBD
 Fundraising—Marcia Ellsworth and Vivien Minshull-Ford
 Green Sanctuary—Linda Jordan
 Hospitality—TBD
 Kitchen Mavens—TBD
 Librarian—Nancy Milner
 Marketing—TBA
 Membership—Bonnie Till
 Music—Jana Rambo
 Partner Church—Debbie Wadman
 Personnel—TBD
 Program Development—TBD
 Social Action—Sharon Kniss
 UUA Denominational Liaison—Mike Diggs
 Worship—Anne Welsbacher

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Charles Merrifield, chair; LaRilla Combs, Linda Jordan, Paula Peare, Rachel Rutledge, and Frank Ruf

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Peter Ninemire, Vivien Minshull-Ford, and Rolando Gomez

GROUP CONTACTS

Craft Night—Anita Culp
 Digerati Buchgemeinschaft—Rolando Gomez
 Eclectic Readers—Del Smith
 Fourth Monday Movie Group—Del Smith
 Garden Group—Anita Culp and Linda Jordan
 Humanist Group—Charles Merrifield
 Occasional Book Club—TBA
 Pagan Group—Anne Bailey Linda Jordan, and Paula Peare
 Zen Friends of Wichita—Bob Feleppa and Vivien Minshull-Ford

Annual Congregational Meeting - June 17 Candidate Biographies

At the annual meeting, members will be voting for three Board of Trustees. Candidates are:

Masud Chand:

The position of a Trustee would be a great privilege and if I were to earn that responsibility, I will look forward to fulfilling it to the best of my ability. As a firm believer in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the importance of justice and equity in all our relations, I will strive to ensure that as a Trustee, these principles guide my actions throughout my tenure. As a professor and an educator, I see the principles that underlie the Unitarian Universalist tradition as a living manifestation that can help us better ourselves and our communities; as a globalist who has lived and/or worked in four different continents, I am acutely aware of how the lack of these create conditions ripe for oppression and intolerance. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I will ensure that I keep learning as a person, while simultaneously contributing my talents and judgment to the betterment of the congregation and our community to the best of my abilities. In my spare time, I like to work with animals, read, travel, and watch TV/movies.

Jayne Henry:

I was born in Minnesota where I grew up on a farm and was raised Catholic. After high school I graduated from the University of Minnesota. At a young age I always questioned the “Church's judgement” of religion. I believed in acceptance and respect. I was introduced to the UU Church and found that the seven principals were a must in this world. I became a member of UU a year ago. I serve on the caring committee, membership committee. I help greet and enjoy helping with first Sunday lunch.

Linda Jordan:

I am a native Wichitan and have been a member of First UU since the late 70's. I am a retired social worker with a mental health background. I enjoy gardening, especially growing low maintenance, native Kansas plants. I participate in the Green Sanctuary program. I like it because it combines human social justice with concern for the environment. Environmental justice is a goal we are working on in our church by taking action steps.

Charlie King:

I've been a member since October 2008. I attended many non-Sunday morning events in the 1970's and 1980's while attending Wichita State University and (eventually) graduating with a Theater Major under Dr. Welsbacher, my original connection and introduction to Unitarianism-Universalism. Being intrigued by the Green aspect of the new building, upon my first visit I read about church events and groups and decided to show up on a Sunday in September ... and it didn't take too long to sign the Book. I took over the grounds and watering chores the first 2 summers as a member. I worked with Suzanna Matthews on the Worship Committee for a year and talked my mother into playing Christmas carols for the sing-alongs. She claimed she mainly volunteered just to hear Dick Welsbacher read one of the Christmas stories. Somehow I got on the Board of Trustees in July, 2012, but resigned in April, 2013, due to Mom's failing health. It's been a long slow return and now I've been asked by the Nominating Committee to run for the Board of Trustees.

Linda Shriver

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

A new President-Elect, Andrew Davis, will also be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Andrew Davis

I have been a member of First Unitarian Universalist Church since June of 2017. I earned a BA in Religion and MA in Communications with an emphasis on interpersonal and organizational communications from WSU, in 1982 and 2008 respectively. Since joining the church I have given three sermons to introduce the idea of Shared Vision to the congregation—focusing on gratitude, justice, and wisdom—and hope to continue working to help the congregation develop a shared vision for our future as we move through the process of selecting a new minister. I believe strongly in honoring the diversity of our congregation, by seeking ways to embrace both-and rather than either-or approaches to planning and problem solving. I will be retiring in May after 31 years working in the Wichita Public Schools, mostly as a classroom teacher, but also working in Human Resources. As the Alternative Compensation Program Coordinator, I organized and led community visioning workshops to engage representatives of all public school stakeholders in community conversations that explored alternatives to traditional pay structures. As the Evaluation Liaison for Secondary schools, I organized and led administrator and teacher workshops to train employees to utilize a new evaluation system and drafted exemplar goals by which teachers will be held accountable in the new system. Finally, I have spent much of my career training both teenagers and adults to become skilled leaders and transition managers both within and outside of education.

Help Fill in the Blanks!

Vivien Minshull-Ford

In an art work, negative space can be a great element. However, this is not true in a newsletter, where something missing means, well, something is missing. You may have noticed that the May edition was noticeably short of content, and our editors Suzanne Miller and Rolando Gomez, who always do a terrific job, had to resort to larger font and illustrations.

This is, therefore, a shout out for submissions from congregation members who like to write. Suzanne asks for “creative musings,” and she means poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction; *Pensées* (“fragments on theology and philosophy” a la Blaise Pascal); gardening reports and tips; wildlife observations; recipes, perhaps for dishes we all enjoyed at First Sunday Lunch; photos and other reproducible visual art related to First UU; or other interesting items. Political rants may not be appropriate for the newsletter but sharing about other topics or causes you are passionate about would be great.

Any submissions will be subject to some editorship and will not necessarily be included right away, but the editors would welcome having a stockpile of useful and entertaining gap stuffers for whenever there’s a shortage of articles.

June Sunday Services

Annie Welsbacher

Sunday services in June feature speakers from organizations focused on youth and their families and on gifts that inspire change. We'll also hear a presentation from Andrew Davis and another from First UU poets.

June is also the month when First UU holds its annual meeting, this year on June 17. Be sure to make plans to stay for this important meeting when we'll vote for officers and a budget for the next fiscal year.

On June 3, Andrew Davis is the featured speaker. In addition, the First Sunday Lunch this month does double-duty as the board joins in with a special Pave the Table thank-you repast to celebrate the end of our annual Pave the Way stewardship drive.

On June 10, Miriam Overholt of Legacy Camp will speak. Legacy Camp, which began in 2004 and was developed under the auspices of Legacy Ministries, offers classes in art, music, and dance to juvenile offenders and other children.

On June 17, First UU poets are back by popular demand following their April 1 service. For this return engagement, the poets join Eric Whetmore, on piano, to participate in an improvisational poetry-music performance. Come for the pleasure of words and the surprise of music backing up the words.

Participating poets are Sigrid Trombley reading Lila Arnold's poems, Suzanne Miller, Vivien Minshull Ford, Del Smith, Jean Vaughn, and Diane Wahto.

On June 24, Surinder Moore, executive director of Alternative Gifts International, will speak. This organization's work extends far beyond its popular Alternative Gifts Fair market, held every fall. AGI is a nonprofit, interfaith agency that provides education for people of all ages about global needs and raises funds to respond to those needs.

Water Ceremony

Anita Culp

The church will hold a Water Ceremony during the Sunday Service on September 9. So as you travel this summer, bring back a sample of water that you can share in the service.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

7202 E. 21st Street N
Wichita, KS 67206
www.firstuu.net

Eclectic Readers

Last Bus to Wisdom, by Ivan Doig: 11:30, Friday, June 15. Brown bag lunch before discussion which begins around 12 noon.

"By the time he died in April [2015] at age 75, Ivan Doig had created a body of work that helped shape our understanding of rural working-class life in the postwar American West. Raised by Montana ranchers in the 1940s and '50s, Doig lived most of his adult years in Seattle but never really left Big Sky Country. From his early memoir, "This House of Sky," to this final novel, "Last Bus to Wisdom," Doig often gave Montana a leading role. Partly because of this emphasis, his work has been hit or miss for me.... "Last Bus to Wisdom" is more than not bad. It's one of Doig's best novels, an enchanting 1950s road-trip tale that swaps Kerouac's *Sal Paradise* for a plucky 11-year-old named Donal Cameron."—*New York Times* review. (Del Smith, 316-612-0826)

Digerati Buchgemeinschaft

Come join the Digerati! We are an online book club. Join us in plotting, er, planning, our next literary conquest! Discussions will take place at *Goodreads*. You can join us at <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/177877-digerati-buchgemeinschaft>. Contact Rolando Gomez, shadoe7@mac.com, for questions on how to join.