

**Stevens Point**  
**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
**February 2008 Newsletter**



**Presidents' Report** – *Carol Weston & Julia Weiser*

We are more than half way through this fiscal year. We are past the shortest, darkest days of the winter. Ground Hog day is upon us - the halfway point between winter and spring! As a Board, we are focusing on what we need to accomplish before the end of the fiscal year; the annual canvass, finalizing our weekly service schedule, and follow up on action from our December meeting. The Board would like to recognize the work of the Program/Service Committee. Thus far, our services have been of high quality and professionalism. It is because of the planning of Program/Service Committee (Clara Cleve, Rae Canfield, Michele Bjella and Carol Weston) that we are enjoying such thoughtful and inspiring services. We encourage you to visit the Fellowship to benefit from these exceptional services.

It is with pleasure that we announce that the Fellowship has full board representation. Shannon Chronister stepped in to fill a vacant Member At Large position and Rae Canfield accepted the position of Board Secretary. THANK YOU Shannon and Rae for volunteering for these open positions. The Board is more effective when there is full representation.

We are also excited to inform you that Mary Schmidt accepted our newly approved Music Coordinator Position. Mary is a UWSP Music major. Mary was extensively involved in the music program at SPASH before attending UWSP. She has great connections with the local high school as well as the University music programs. We're sure that with Mary's help, we'll be able to incorporate more music into our weekly services. Mary is also one of our childcare providers. WELCOME MARY!

**Music Sunday – February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Calling all musicians! We invite you to share your musical interest and talent at our annual Music Sunday Intergenerational Service. All levels and abilities of musicians are welcome or you can simply share a recording of one of your favorite musical pieces. Music Sunday is a chance to celebrate music in our lives and share our love of music with each other. If you would like to participate in Music Sunday by performing or playing a recording, contact Steve Bjella at 715-345-9779 or [sbjella@charter.net](mailto:sbjella@charter.net)

After the Music Sunday Service, join us for a pot luck lunch in the basement of The Springs. Please bring a dish to pass and your own eating utensils.

**Member Profiles**



Welcome to our newest member, Shannon Chronister who joined us on November 18, 2007. Originally from Slinger, Wisconsin, she has lived in Stevens Point for about one year where she is the Coordinator of Student Involvement and Employment at UWSP. She was first introduced to Unitarian Universalism when in high school by a friend. Since then she has been reading about UUism and attending UU congregations in the communities where she has lived. Most recently she went to services in Rockford, IL which has a fairly large church. She has already volunteered to serve as a member at large on the Fellowship Board. Shannon is also involved in the Rotary Club and is on the Empty Bowls Committee. We look forward to getting to know her better in the coming weeks.

Nancy Stevenson is one of the founding members of the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in 1966. This “gnarly veteran” (her words) and her husband George along with two other couples felt that something was missing in Stevens Point. They had all come from communities where they had been involved with UU congregations and wanted that for their children and themselves. Nancy was raised in a Unitarian church; her parents, grandparents, and great parents were all members of UU churches congregations in Massachusetts.



Nancy is also a founding member of the local Audobon Society and active in birding. She is involved with teaching about, counting, and observing birds. Each year, she participates in the annual Christmas bird count. She has been teaching about birds at The Clearing in Door County for 31 years.

Nancy is the mother of 3 sons, Art, Ken, and Sam all of whom live in Wisconsin. She also has 4 grandchildren whom she gets to see fairly often.

### **Planning Your Memorial Service II – March 2, 1:00 pm**

We had a very successful first workshop on Planning Your Memorial Service. There was a lot of information shared and helpful discussion. Participants decided to hold a second workshop in order to share our ideas for our memorial services with each other. Participants are asked to bring their notebooks with completed forms to this next workshop. There will be an additional \$5.00 registration fee for this second workshop to cover our costs for lunch.

If you did not attend the first workshop but would like to participate in this second workshop, you are welcome to join us. Your registration fee would be \$10.00 to cover the cost of materials and lunch.

Contact Clara, Julia or Carol if you have any questions.

### **Chalice Lighters Membership Drive**

Is it time for you to become a Chalice Lighter? Chalice Lighters support UU congregations throughout the Central Midwest District that want to actively increase their membership. Chalice Lighters commit to donating a specified amount of money three times a year to support a worthwhile project. Three times a year, Chalice Lighters receive a letter telling them which congregation has been chosen to receive the grant. The letter includes a “call” for a contribution to be sent in an enclosed envelope. The entire process is called “the call.” Each Chalice Lighter writes a check for their pre-committed amount and returns it to the District office. Donations can be made at the following levels:



- Basic \$10
- Believer \$20
- Builder \$50
- Benefactor \$100
- Beacon \$250

Through these donations of \$10.00 to \$250.00, 3 times a year, Chalice Lighters help build a fund to enable Central Midwest District (CMwD) congregations grow in staff, building, programs, or, to fund new congregations. During 2007, the fund awarded \$21,000 to two congregations, and about \$10,000 has been added to the emerging congregations fund. Our Fellowship will be having a membership campaign for Chalice Lighters. You can sign up online to be a Chalice Lighter at: [http://www.cmwd-uua.org/content/index.php?option=com\\_facileforms&Itemid=94](http://www.cmwd-uua.org/content/index.php?option=com_facileforms&Itemid=94) Or look for the Chalice Lighter membership form in the weekly order of service.

**Chalice Lighters- Igniting Dreams**

## **Martin Luther King Community Celebration**

Our Fellowship helped sponsor a VERY successful Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Over 114 residents showed up to pay tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. and his leadership role in the civil rights movement. Our UU Fellowship had wonderful representation. Thank you to all who came out to support this event.

Professor Emeritus Paul Mertiz and the Honorable Judge Fleishauer presented a brief history of the civil rights movement and highlighted why this justice issue is important today. Participants enjoyed music by UWSP vocalist and joined in singing important hymns of the civil rights movement. After the formal program, residents gathered over refreshments to informally share their own memories of the era and discussed what work needs to be done in our community to continue the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. The coordinating organization for this first annual MLK Celebration was Justiceworks. Supporting organizations were: Frame Presbyterian Church, Newman University Parish, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, UWSP Music Department, UWSP Multicultural Resource Center, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Stevens Point Quaker Meeting, Baha'i Faith. A video of the full program is available online at: <http://wellness.uwsp.edu/mlk2008/>

## **Thank You to Our Members -**

Our members have been very busy volunteering their time, talents and resources for the Fellowship.

- Clara Cleve, Bev Pede, Shannon Chronister and Bill Hettler for leading RE programs.
- Carolyn Greenlee for leading the Youth Discussion Group
- Billy Hettler for being an RE Assistant.
- Jenny Howard and Mary Arnold for coordinating the opening and closing of the church for our weekly services and all the individual members who have helped set up and bring snacks
- Carol Weston for acting as Monthly Service Coordinator for January.
- Michele Bjella for coordinating our environmentally focused service with Amy Heart.
- Ron Chapman and Julia Weiser for providing music for our services.
- Kelly Mortenson for designing the posters and bulletin inserts for the Community Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration.

Thank you to everyone for being a part of this Fellowship and the care and concern you show for its continued success!

## **Committee News**

### **Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is scheduled at 9:00 am on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> in the Springs basement. Please send your agenda items to the board by Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

### **RE Update**

A big thank you to all our members who have volunteer to lead RE lessons in January and February. We have teachers through the month of February! The lessons for March are as follows:

- Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> - Daniel Chester French, Sculptor (Session #27 - Building)
- Mar 9<sup>th</sup> - Try Something New! (Session #28 - Exploring)
- Mar 16<sup>th</sup> - No Lesson Spring Break
- Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> - No Lesson Spring Break
- Mar 30<sup>th</sup> - Treasure Maps & N.C. Wyeth (Session #29 - Exploring)

If you would like to teach one of the March RE lessons, please sign up on the volunteer board or contact Kelly or Dorothy.

The RE Committee would like to recognize the excellent work that Joanne Martin and Mary Schmidt are doing with the children of the Fellowship. Their dedication and consistent presence makes our childcare services an excellent service for our members and friends. Thank You Joanne and Mary!

## **Social Action**

As approved by the membership at our December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, Community Collections will occur twice a month, with an additional collection on the fifth Sunday of the month. The organizations scheduled to receive collections from the Fellowship are:

- February: House of Peace & Cultural Festival
- March: Arts Alliance of Portage Co., Boys and Girls Club & Habitat for Humanity
- April: Project Smile & Second Harvest
- May: Humane Society & Project Fresh Start

## **House of Peace Meal**

Our Fellowship will donate a meal at the House of Peace on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Social Action Committee members will be calling Fellowship members about donating a component of the meal. Food contributions needed by 4:30 pm, the meal starts at 5:00 pm. Contact Joanie (345-1250) if you would like to contribute a food item.

## **Green Sanctuary Committee**

Get a fresh helping of conversation about local food and sustainable agriculture each week -- catch "The Tuning Fork" radio program, "The show that tunes you in to what's on your fork." On 90FM, 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

## **Point of View**

*Point of View is the member section of the newsletter. Information shared in the Point of View is diverse and does not reflect the official position of the Fellowship on any topic. The intent of this section is to provide a forum for sharing all points of view on spiritual, religious and other issues which relate to our 7 Principles, in order to facilitate continued personal search for truth and discussion among members and friends.*

## **The Way Crows Really Fly**

The wintertime crows fly in at ten o'clock.  
They don't fly the way they are reputed to.  
For them, no straight shot, no hint of stick-to-itiveness,  
no commitment to complete a journey as the crow flies.

They come from the woods to the south:  
a group of three beginning and ending their flight,  
free to improvise en route.  
They alight in different trees as their stopping places,  
varying the height and breadth of the branches they choose.  
If they caw, they topple and rebalance like a gyroscope.  
Some fly past their daily destination of the feeding station,  
looping back, as if to confuse all those who would shadow them,  
three large black birds conspicuous against the snow,  
pretending they don't know each other.

I've been saving the best part, the very best part:  
the way they land and take off in front of my eyes.  
Feathered gymnasts, they do little forward rolls  
on pointy toes and propel themselves into the air again  
like dandelion seeds that can't decide whether to stay with the grasses  
or rise to dance in the wind again.

The crow's flight is a journey fueled by imagination,  
an improvisation of whimsy,  
by dancers who are not bound by gravity.

*by the Rev. Cynthia B. Johnson, CLF member,  
from her book The Way Crows Really Fly.*

Submitted by Carol Weston; contact her at 715-345-1735 if you have questions or comment on this submission.

## CMwD News

### UU Women Winter Retreat, "Dancing on the Threshold of Balance", February 22-24, 2008

CMwD women will gather again at North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois, **February 22-24, 2008**. Keynote speaker will be the [Rev. Shirley Ranck, PhD](#), author of the ground-breaking adult religious education curriculum "[Cakes for the Queen of Heaven](#)." [Additional information and registration](#).

### Travel and Meet UUs

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area? The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 28 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations. Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added.

**District Assembly, St. Louis Friday April 25 through Sunday April 27** Mark your calendars now and save the date because you won't want to miss this year's District Assembly. The highlights of this year's assembly will be conversations, speeches and worship services about taking lessons of the past and using them to shape our religious future. The keynote speaker will be [Diana Butler Bass](#), the author of multiple books and an expert in religious trends in America. In her research she has discovered that successful congregations share an intensity and seriousness about practicing and "walking their talk." She speaks of how these diverse congregations embrace their authenticity by drawing upon their traditions and through these connections practicing worship, practicing justice, practicing hospitality and more.

## Our History



*Intergenerational Nov 2006*

## Schedule of Services

Date	Service
2-3-08	"Answering the Call to Grow" Rev. Darrel Richey
2-10-08	Music Sunday Intergenerational
2-17-08	"The Wisdom of Solomon" Rev. Don Wheat
2-24-08	"In Gods We Trust" Richard Olson
3-2-08	"The World Only Spins Forward" Rev. Scott Prinster
3-9-08	"Moment of Bliss" Rev. Craig Schwalenberg
3-16-08	"A Sabbath Service for Evolutionists and Creationists" Larry Weiser
3-23-08	TBA
3-30-08	"JusticeWorks" - Kitty Munck (UUA Justice Sunday)

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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[info@spuuf.org](mailto:info@spuuf.org)



**Services are held at The Springs, 2820 Plover Springs Dr., Plover, WI 54467**

Services and religious education start at 11:00 a.m. Sept through May

Childcare is available

Summer services are individually scheduled.



**The Uncommon Denomination**