



▶ JUNE SUMMER SERVICE,
ICE EVENTS, HYMNAL
DRIVE 2



▶ CONGRATS, CMWD NEWS,
SPUUF FUN NIGHT
..... 3



▶ UPCOMING SERVICES
..... 4

Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist *fellowship*

President's Message

Annual Meeting Report, April 2009

About thirty people participated in our Annual Meeting and Potluck on April 26. A packet of reports and information was distributed to those in attendance. Most of these were also sent electronically to everyone earlier. If you want a printed copy, there will be some available the next 3 Sundays in May. I hope that everyone takes a chance to read the reports prepared by many different members. I was impressed with all the things the Fellowship has accomplished this year.

The Canvass Report summary in the packet indicates general satisfaction with the services, leadership, and facility. A longer detailed summary with more specific comments on presentations is available on request from Julia Weiser. The Service/Program report details the many types of presentations and services we have had this year and displays a great variety and balance in the topics. There is still time to sign up for committees. The more input and help makes things easier on the leadership. Thanks to Ron Chapman for the detailed Treasurer's Report. We passed the budget as presented to the membership.

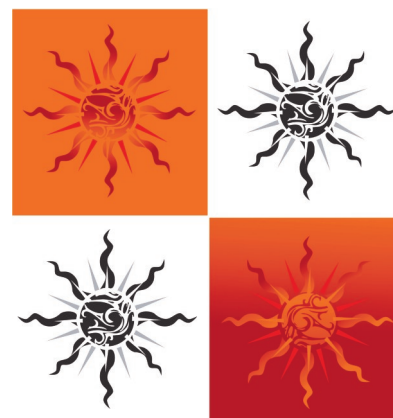
The following have agreed to be officers for next year and were duly elected: President - Mary Arnold, Vice President - Carol Weston, Secretary - Rae Canfield, Treasurer - Ron Chapman, Past President - Julia Weiser, Members at Large - Jan Nitz, Michele Bjella, and Amy Kurka. Committee chairs are also encouraged to attend and participate in all Board meetings, as are any members.

Most of the discussion centered on the needs of the building we are inhabiting and costs thereof. Everyone agrees that we like having our own place that is accessible and safe. But there are some major improvements that need to be considered, namely insulation and furnaces and replacing the northwest corner wall. Bill Hettler made a video presentation showing our past meeting places, and work done and costs incurred so far on the present building, and a list of present needs. He then made a recommendation from the Facility Committee to use some of our capital/investment funds to pay for these needed improvements. At present we are not paying rent to the Community Industries because we are being given credit for the money we spend on improvements. We hope to get an agreement for a longer lease to guarantee payback of our expenditures. After much discussion the group voted unanimously to spend funds to pay for insulation and high energy efficient furnaces. We will now prepare grant proposals to Focus on Energy to help defray some of these costs. Hopefully we will know soon how much the grants will be. We hope to do the work this summer. For more details contact Bill Hettler or Carol Weston.

One of the best parts of the meeting was the sharing of all the wonderful food that everyone brought. There were so many dishes that I could not even sample all of them.

It is difficult to thank all those people who have made this UU year a success. At the risk of forgetting someone, I will not attempt to list all of you. It has truly been a fellowship effort. I especially appreciate the work of the Board and all committee chairs.

Julia Weiser, President



June Summer Service!

The first summer service will be Sunday, June 14 at the fellowship building. The program will begin at 5 p.m. with a potluck—please bring a dish to share and, as always, bringing your own utensils is encouraged!

The service will begin at 6:15. The topic of the service will be our second Welcoming Congregation workshop. The workshop will be highly interactive and discussion-based, focusing on advocacy. What DO you say when people make derogatory or homophobic remarks? Through case studies, discussion, and role playing we will come up with responses to help confront these types of situations.



“We must be aware of the real problems of the world. Then, with mindfulness, we will know what to do and what not to do to be of help.” -THICH NHAT HANH

Upcoming I.C.E. Events

Stevens Point as an Eco-municipality

On Sat., May 23, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Pinerias room of the Portage County Public Library, Interfaith Community for the Earth (I.C.E.) is hosting an event titled: “Stevens Point as an Eco-Municipality: What is it? Where are we now and where are we going?”

Amy Heart, Chairperson of the Stevens Point Sustainability Advisory Commission will be the main speaker. Amy serves as Stevens Point Alderperson and Programs Director of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. She will be covering what an eco-municipality is and some history of the beginning efforts. In 2008 the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point passed a Resolution declaring Stevens Point an Eco-municipality, following a Task Force and subcommittee recommendation described in the city document "A Pathway to Sustainability".

This event will expand our knowledge of how the recommendations of the committees (transportation, food, parks and tourism, water, etc.) can be translated in Stevens Point and the surrounding area. There will be short breakout sessions. Community members and groups are invited to participate. For more info call Diane at: 344-1063.

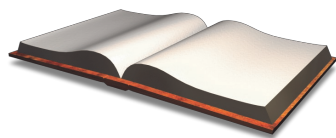
Midwest Renewable Energy Association Fair

The MREA Energy Fair is June 19—21 in Custer, Wisconsin. I.C.E. is presenting a workshop on ecological justice on the Sunday of the fair. Go to <http://the-mrea.org/> for program schedule and details.

HYMNAL DRIVE!

Calling all hymnals! Did you borrow a hymnal at some point in time? Please bring it back to the fellowship before summer so that we can take inventory.

Even if all hymnals are returned, we are about ten short to be sure we have enough for everyone at any given service. Please consider sponsoring the purchase of a new hymnal for only \$32. If you're interested in giving this gift, please contact Julia or Carol.



CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU!

Congratulations to the new slate of fellowship leaders for 2009—2010:

President—Mary Arnold

Vice President—Carol Weston

Secretary—Rae Canfield

Treasurer—Ron Chapman

At-Large—Amy Kurka, Jan Nitz, Michele Bjella

THANK YOU very much to Julia Weiser, our outgoing president, and to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, passion, and leadership to the fellowship this past year!

“Respect is love, The heart is also love --- and so are you.”
Swami Chidvilasananda

Central Midwest District (CMwD) News

The Central Midwest District is one of 20 districts working to further liberal religious values as part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The district covers all or part of five states – Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan and Indiana – and serves over 80 congregations with over 12,000 members.

Online Workshop May 5 and 14

The CMwD is offering an online workshop, 10 Best Practices for Difficult Economic Times, presented by Wayne Clark. In these difficult economic times, it is especially important to explore best stewardship practices to help your congregation focused on its ministry.

Wayne Clark is currently director of Congregational Stewardship Services for UUA.

The workshop will be offered twice: Tuesday, May 5 at 7 p.m. (Central time) and Thursday, May 14 at 7 p.m. (Central time). The workshop is 75 minutes long and consists of a slide show and a simultaneous conference call. Participants need high speed internet and a separate phone line.

To register, go here:

<http://www.psduua.org/Workshops/TenBestStewardshipPracticesForDifficultEconomicTimes>

Cardboard City

Over 300 Unitarian Universalists from more than a dozen congregations in the Central Midwest District slept outside in cardboard boxes on the evening of March 21 raising awareness of homelessness and raising more than \$9,000 which will be donated to homeless shelters and food pantries in their local communities.

Social Change and Green Sanctuary Happenings

Fun Night, Saturday, May 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

The Social Action – Green Sanctuary members will host an evening of relaxation and fun for kids, teens, adults. Come enjoy games, music and light refreshments; feel free to bring a friend to SPUUF.

Interested in participating in SPUUF's Social Action/Green Sanctuary activities? Please contact Michele at michelebj@yahoo.com or 345-9779 for meeting times/dates.

May Services

This is a list of the upcoming Sunday morning services at the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please visit www.spuuf.org for a calendar of services.

- May 3** "Letting Go and Surrendering" - Celia (singer/songwriter)
- May 10** "The Greatest Theologian" - Rev. Don Wheat
- May 17** Flower Communion & End-of-Year Recognitions

I have never known anyone to convert to Unitarian Universalism. One does not become a Unitarian Universalist, rather one realizes that he or she is one. What we hold in common here is a home. For various reasons, we weren't comfortable with mainstream America's political, economic, religious or cultural values. The religion of our parents was too confining for us so we have chosen our own. We have sought something with a universal dimension to it, something that seeks to break down the walls between black and white, male and female, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, and communist and capitalist.

Excerpt from meditation taken from book IN PURSUIT OF JOY
by Donald H. Wheat (Minister Emeritus)
Third Unitarian Church of Chicago

*Thank you to Bev for contributing
the quotes and passages in this newsletter.*

STEVENS POINT
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP



**Services are held at the
Stevens Point Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship,
located at 3116 Algoma Street,
Stevens Point, 54481.
Services begin at 10:00 a.m.**

**Child care and Religious
Exploration classes for
children are available.**

**Visit www.spuuf.org for more
information.**

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3116 Algoma Street
P.O. Box 361
Stevens Point, WI 54481
www.spuuf.org
info@spuuf.org



The Uncommon Denomination