



▶ SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2



▶ INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES 3



▶ UU ON THE WWW 4

○ JULY/AUGUST | ○ 2010

Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist *fellowship*

General Assembly 2010!

By Shannon Williams

On Thursday, June 22 and Friday, June 23, Carol Weston and I attended the UUA General Assembly in Minneapolis.

It's difficult to articulate the experience. It felt powerful to be among so many UUs. The energy in the convention center was electric and uplifting.

Both days were full of workshops and lectures. During each breakout session, there were literally 20 different choices. I attended workshops on lay-led worship, ideas for worship "in a new age", what generations are looking for in a congregation, a lecture about folklore in theology, a lecture about ethical eating and its impact on the environment, and a workshop on Green Sanctuary.

On Thursday night, Carol and I attended a large service. It was my first time participating in what I would describe as the "mega-church" experience. I was really moved by the choir and by the sheer number of voices that filled the cavernous convention hall.



The purpose of the service was to recognize UU ministers in different stages of their career—new graduates, newly ordained, and retiring. Carol and I were both impressed with the diversity in terms of age and gender.

Before I departed on Saturday morning, I participated in the social witness event. About 1,000 UUs walked together from the convention center to a nearby park where the Twin Cities Pride festival was being held. About half of us wore Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts and the other half held up signs. Once we arrived at the park, there was a 45 minute program about marriage equality. Peter Morales, the UUA president, addressed the crowd. The most moving part of the program was a call and response proclamation led by several Twin Cities ministers of different religions. The ministers would take turns reading statements and the crowd would respond "Those who stand on the side of love do not stand alone!"

I am very energized and excited to share all the information I learned at GA throughout the year. Thank you very much to the board and the fellowship for supporting my attendance at GA!

What's Going On?

Fellowship, Green Sanctuary, Community Summer Activities

Submitted by Michele Bjella, Green Sanctuary

Ah, summer...your Green Sanctuary Committee, Board and Service committees have coordinated SPUUF Summer gatherings (see below). Community wide there is a motherload to do - garden tours, even a chicken farm tour offered this summer, all right in our own backyard. We do live in a place that has pretty special things happening.

Green Sanctuary last met in May, Highlights are plans to do a Book Sharing group discussion this coming fall with Menu for the Future, a six session course exploring the connection between food and our sustainability. We also checked out films we hope to show in an upcoming film series coordinated with Interfaith Community for the Earth churches.

Another SPUUF Green Committee meeting will take place on July 15 at 4:00 PM, just preceding the July Film and Potluck night. All are encouraged to come and bring a friend. For committee info, please call 345-9779.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES:

July 11 The members and friends of the UU Fellowship will share hobbies and food at 11:00 am. There will be a brief service. Bring your hobbies such as art, juggling, gardening, music etc. to share with others. Also bring a dish to pass. For more information contact Julia Weiser, 344 7769.

July 15 SPUUF Film Night and Potluck at SPUUF: Join in at 5:00 PM for a Potluck dinner followed by the film "Pale Male" At 6:00 PM. The film conveys the adventures of a daring red tail hawk who manages to thrive in the urban atmosphere of New York City. Bring some food of your choice to share and we'll provide the beverages. We use re-usables at potlucks, so either bring your own plates/service or feel free to use the silverware and plates always available at the fellowship.

August 15 Garden Tour and Potluck – Details/location To Be Announced – look for email and postcard notices,

August 19 Film Night and Potluck at SPUUF: Join in at 5:00 PM for a Potluck dinner followed by a film, to be confirmed (Slated: "A Chemical Reaction").

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

July 11 Poultry Tour - Stockton residents, Rose and Gary Ross, have graciously volunteered to host a tour of their poultry operation. Rose annually raises three flocks of 300-400 meat chickens using a cage-system that can be moved across their fields to give the birds access to new pasture daily. On our tour, we'll have the opportunity to view the set-up with chickens almost ready for "harvest" using the moveable cages and also a new flock of chicks only days old. After the tour we'll take time for discussion, questions, and refreshments. **7:00 p.m. 630 Oak Road North, Custer, WI.** Please wear appropriate walking attire. Questions? 592-4051. Sponsored by: Sustainable Stockton. All are welcome.

Beginning July 15 Vegetable Garden Walks—Join the UW Extension and Central Rivers Farmshed on seven Tuesday evenings for a walk through some of Portage County's private vegetable gardens. For more information, including locations, visit <http://portage.uwex.edu>.

Volunteer Opportunities: There are many one-time volunteer opportunities in our community this summer, including: Brews, Brats, and Bands, Project Fresh Start, Garden Parade, Relay for Life, and more! For details and sign up information, visit www.volunteersrock.org!

Congratulations!

SPASH Class of 2010 members Julie Canfield, one of the 22 valedictorians, and Billy Hettler, Class President, were recognized at the May service. Julie will attend UW-Madison and Billy will attend UW-Eau Claire.

Good luck! Come back and visit!



What's Your Match?

Are you interested in getting more involved at SPUUF? Or how about trying something new within the fellowship? Committee work is a great way to get to know other members, bring your passion and talents to the fellowship, and learn something new. At SPUUF we have a lot of committees; how do you know which one is right for you? Here are some very brief descriptions of our committees. To find out more, check out a meeting, chat with members who have previously participated on a certain committee, or connect with a board member.

Service - responsible for the weekly services, including finding a guest speaker, planning the other components of the service (readings, Story for All Ages), and lining up music.

Religious Exploration - responsible for the religious education for the school age children. There are opportunities ranging from working with the chair(s) to select the lessons to assisting the RE leaders.

Membership - recruit new members, plan ceremonies, keep in touch with members

Social Justice - identify issues and motivate members to become informed and/or take action

Green Sanctuary - coordinate services, plan activities, educate members, etc. on issues and topics related to the UU principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

Building and Grounds - responsible for the maintenance of the SPUUF building

Finance - responsible for the long-term investments of SPUUF

Welcoming Congregation - maintain and promote SPUUF's status as a Welcoming Congregation



YOU have something to share!

What is your passion? Your interests? Your expertise? Everyone has something to share. Will you consider presenting at a service this year?

The Service Committee is currently planning the speaker line up for this year. We REALLY would love to have some SPUUF members included in the schedule. If you're interested, please contact Shannon Williams at swilliam@uwsp.edu and we'll find the date that works the best for you!

UU on the WWW

I am still in awe of the internet even though it's become a part of my everyday life. The amount of information at my fingertips never ceases to amaze me. The WWW is also a great way to get connected to UUs around the world. Check out a few of my favorite resources! -*Shannon*

UU Planet TV (<http://www.uuplanet.tv/>)

Explore the world of Unitarian Universalism through this virtual TV channel. Watch videos on everything from GA speakers to UUSC projects to "what is Unitarian Universalism?".

Belief-O-Matic (<http://www.beliefnet.com/Entertainment/Quizzes/BeliefOMatic.aspx>)

Even if YOU don't know what faith you are, **Belief-O-Matic™** knows. Answer 20 questions about your concept of God, the afterlife, human nature, and more, and **Belief-O-Matic™** will tell you what religion (if any) you practice...or ought to consider practicing.

UU Blogs (<http://blogs.uuworld.org/>)

Published by UU World, find blogs about parenting, UUs in the media, and more.

Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (<http://www25.uua.org/ufeta/>)

This is an organization of UUs that focus on the seventh principle. Their activities focus on the interdependence of humans and animals.

UU're At Home (<http://uurehome.com/>)

Traveling? Consider finding your lodging on this web site!

STEVENS POINT
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP



Services are held at the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, located at 3116 Algoma Street, Stevens Point, 54481.

We are currently in our summer session. For up-to-date information about our summer services, please visit www.spuuf.org.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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The Uncommon Denomination