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○ NOV./DEC. | ○ 2010

Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist *fellowship*

Our Whole Lives—a program for all ages

In early October Dorothy Ginnett, SPUUF's Religious Education Coordinator and Michele Bjella, RE committee member, had the opportunity to attend a weekend of training called "Our Whole Lives", known as "OWL". This training focused on the seventh through twelfth grade program levels. OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum for both faith and secular communities. OWL was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church Board of the United Church of Christ.

OWL is a positive lifespan program which fosters an awareness and experience of the integral relationship between spirituality and sexuality. What drew Dorothy and Michele, both educators in other fields, to take training in this wonderful program? Michele and her husband sought the OWL program for their son a number of years ago, and he attended the Wausau UU OWL program, resulting in a great experience. Dorothy is now looking at OWL classes for her preteen and other youth in the RE program and community. The hope is to provide OWL programming locally in Stevens Point. OWL education enables young people and their families to obtain accurate information, articulate their values, develop relationship skills and learn responsibility in sexual relationships.

Our training session was held at the lovely First Unitarian Church in Rochester, Minnesota. We found ourselves surrounded by fellow UU and UCC participants who were committed to working hard to present OWL in their Religious Education communities. Given the needs of young people at the formative stages of development, we found the content and activities of OWL to be pertinent and timely for youth and became inspired to share OWL with others. With Dorothy's past training in OWL kindergarten through 1st and 4th -5th grade levels, we look ahead to making OWL available sometime this year and we welcome any questions or interest you may have in talking with us about it. In addition, we hope to complete the OWL series training by sending two UU people to the Young Adult/Adult OWL training in January 2011.

We'd like to acknowledge the financial scholarship provided for this training by both the Order of the Eastern Star of Wisconsin (Grand Chapter of the O.E.S.) obtained through Rae Canfield's efforts and our own SPUUF fellowship, which made the training possible. When a religious community takes an active role in promoting education and justice in human sexuality issues, we then support the inherent worth and dignity of all people. In the near future we hope to share more information about the benefits of OWL. If you would like more information on OWL, please contact Dorothy Ginnett at dginnett@charter.net or 715-341-6318.

Michele Bjella and Dorothy Ginnett

Links for OWL: UUA <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/>
UCC <http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/our-whole-lives.html>

Fellowship Financial Update

Financially, the Fellowship has been off to a good start. Approximately half of our pledging units have payments applied to them; a few have received total payment. There has been enough cash flow this fall, to cover our expenses. Because of member support, the service committee was able to bring in five professional speakers this fall and four guest musicians. Our religious education teachers were able to attend an Our Whole Lives training, and childcare is available weekly to our families and guests for our services. These components of our budget are critical to ensure that the Fellowship provides the types of services and opportunities members indicate are important.

The Fellowship now has the software program Quickbooks, to help keep track of the Fellowship's finances. This program makes it easier to track Fellowship finances. The program was used to create invoices for each pledging unit. Payments received are applied to your individual invoices which are sent back to you, after each payment. Hopefully you will find this helpful in keeping track of how much you owe on your pledge.

If you ever have any question on your pledge or Fellowship expenditure, don't hesitate to contact me. On behalf of the entire board, THANK YOU for your continued financial support of the Fellowship!
Carol Weston, Treasurer

Place of Peace

SPUUF served the Place of Peace dinner on Nov. 4th and went home with only a scoop of potatoes leftover! Everyone seemed to enjoy the meal of crazy meatballs, scalloped potatoes, French style green beans, dinner rolls, and several kinds of dessert.

Thank you to those who were on hand for serving and clean up: Deb Ayers, Rae Canfield, Bill Hettler, Cory & Kate Searles and Carol Weston.

Thank you to Rae for coordinating the project and to all those who donated menu items: Deb, Rae, Carol & Bill, Cory & Kat, Mary Lou Judy, Julia & Larry Weiser and Shannon Williams.



Fellowship Strategic Planning

The Fellowship board of directors have scheduled a strategic planning meeting for Sunday, January 9th from 12 – 3 p.m. We'll have a potluck after the service and then start the strategic planning meeting. We'll review the current plan which was approved in November 2006 and make preliminary plans on our next course of action. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.



THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes out to all who helped with SPUUF this fall, including our weekly volunteers, committee chairs and members, Julia and Ron for always providing music, Vice Heig and volunteers for raising \$350+ for the Fellowship with our first-ever rummage sale, Rae Canfield for writing a grant for Dorothy and Michele to attend the OWL training, and much, much more. The time and talent of all our members is what makes this such a special community. THANK YOU!

Guest At Your Table

On November 21, we'll open our Guest at Your Table program with an intergenerational service.

When we bring home our Guest at Your Table boxes and place them prominently where we regularly gather, our families and friends have the chance to delve into several real struggles for justice and how UUSC advances human rights in the United States and around the world.

With each box comes a copy of *Stories of Hope*, which helps children, youth, and adults learn more about how UUSC works to change our world for the better. The stories introduce human-rights champions like Carolina Lara, a youth leader of a movement in Ecuador that successfully lobbied to have the human right to water included in the country's new constitution.

Consider making it part of a mealtime ritual to read through one of the stories and discuss its meaning and how we can help. When we share our blessings with our "guests," we ensure that UUSC and people like Carolina can continue their important work.

And thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling your good works!



Meet a Member!

The Membership Committee is beginning a new tradition! In every newsletter we will "meet a member" of the Fellowship. This month's member is **Jan Nitz!** Thank you to Rae Canfield for putting this together.

What is your hometown? **Stanley, Wisconsin**

What brought you to the Stevens Point area? **New job at Land's End.**

What is your favorite color? **Red**

Do you have a favorite book? **Poisonwood Bible**

What are your favorite past times? **I like "homestead" projects such as canning and sausage making.**

Do you have any hobbies/collections? **Any kind of sewing/quilting.**

Is there a location/site that produced awe, or something of great beauty & wonder that made an impression on you? **I made a trip to London and I still marvel at the "oldness" of the streets and buildings I saw.....things in use today that have been there for hundreds of years.**

Is there someplace you've never been that you'd like to visit? **Mexico**

What is the last movie you saw? **"MILK"**

Do you have any specific duties at SPUUF? **I'm the board Secretary this year and Chair of the Welcoming Committee.**



Thank you to Rae Canfield for writing a grant to the Order of the Eastern Star of Wisconsin to assist Michele and Dorothy in attending OWL training.

Photo includes:

Front: SPUUF grant recipients Michele Bjella & Dorothy Ginnett along with Ruthann Christensen - Chairman of the ESTARL Committee.

Back: doing double duty are Cheryl Cantu & Rae Canfield, members of both SPUUF and Arbutus Chapter-Stevens Point, OES

Service Schedule

Up-to-date information about services can be found at www.spuuf.org.

November 14—*"Unveiling the Hijab—The Many Colors of the Veil"*, Fizza Razvi

November 21—*Guest at Your Table*, Intergenerational

November 28—*"Turning Inside Out"* - UUA Minister Video Lecture by Rev. Marlin Lavanhar

December 5—*"Doing Divinity the Hindu Way"* - Corinne Dempsey

December 12—*Natural Disasters or Acts of God: a Philosophical Perspective*, David Williams

December 19—*Winter Holidays*, Intergenerational

December 26—No Service



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 St.

P.O. Box 361

Stevens Point, WI 54481

www.spuuf.org



The Uncommon Denomination