

UU Update

December 2007

Volume 11, Issue 12



We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.



DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES



December 2
ONCE UPON A TIME
The Rev. Cynthia B. Johnson

If a young child climbed on your lap and asked you the story of the first Christmas, how would you tell the story? What would you say if the child then asked, "Is the story true?"

How do we share this season with all the stories, traditions, customs, and symbols that are different from our own?

Music: Hans Christian, cellist;
Gerri Friedberg, piano

December 9
THE HOPE OF THE WORLD
The Rev. Phillips Sweet

What is the central task of your life? What is the purpose of your earthly existence? What is left for you in the end, to give even death

a meaning? A reflection on the meaning of hope.

Service Leader: Jeff Berger
Music: Gerri Friedberg, piano

December 16
A CHRISTMAS SEASONING
The Rev. Joan Shiels

A savory sampling of succulent stories of the season — sweet, sour and surprising.

Service Leader: Chuck Lauter
Music: Gerri Friedberg, piano

December 23
4:00 P.M. holiday service & party
A CELEBRATION OF TRADITIONS
Cynthia Stiehl

Join us for a candlelight Holiday service celebrating many traditions. Members of the Fellowship will present readings, songs, and

other surprises.

Music: Cyndy Stiehl and others

December 30
RECLAIMING OUR LIVES
FROM THE GODS WE WORSHIP
Allin Walker, Sheila Saperstein

What gods shall we worship in 2008? A playful, celebratory, sing-along service to welcome in the new year with Allin and Sheila. A bit of something to stimulate everyone to discover ways to detach ourselves from those things we have assigned god-like status in our lives. A good service to bring visiting family members, grandkids and people looking for a slightly different way to begin this new year.

Music: Ellen Shahbazi, piano

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Jacquie Polzin

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David Link

Art Gallery

Julie Bresnahan
Sally Malm

Denominational Affairs

Sarah Naber

Adult Enrichment & Long Range Planning

Myrna Cohn

Cultural Affairs

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Past President

David Hansell

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Garrett U. Cohn

The excitement throughout the community following the Sunday November 11th membership meeting was a sensation that I could feel, and many others admitted to also. And rightly so. The congregation's unanimous vote was not just the first step toward a goal we all had put into our strategic plan back in November 04. It was a really a culmination of the first tangible step toward moving to a new level of activity and growth for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County.



As most of you are aware, since the June meeting the Board has been looking at property and testing the concept of whether we should and/or could move to a new location, as well as researching an addition to our existing building. Moving to a new location is not only just the physical move, but includes such mundane issues as how many new chairs for a larger hall, and ordering more books, employing professional piano movers, deciding on whether to accept the configuration as is or plan improvements right away and many more details yet to be dealt with. Then there is the effect of our current building on our plans. This of course begs the initial question of raising money for the Pledge drive.

I am not going to request, plead or argue about how much money to pledge in this letter. We are all individuals and as such have individual needs and individual abilities—proving we are upholding Universalism's creed. Suffice to say the more

we raise now, the smaller our mortgage payments for the future will be. The Board anticipates (if our offer is accepted) that we can experience the Spring in a new environment. This environment will assist us in furthering the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's presence and all which that can mean to Door County.

On behalf of the Board, and myself, Thank you.

CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee coordinates assistance to members and friends who have a need. The rotation of coordinators changes every three months with back-up calls taken by previous coordinators.

During December and January the "first call" that you make for assistance will go to **Gerri Friedberg**.

Please let her know of your needs and also the needs of others (if you have their permission). She will coordinate visits, phone calls, rides and food, send flowers and cards and just be supportive.

Other members may assist by providing the food or assistance that the coordinators request. Call the current coordinator if you would like to be added to the list of people providing services.

Gerri Friedberg: 868-1342
gwf13@dcwis.com

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alnjudy@dcwis.com

Sally Malm: 854-7235
rsmalm@dcwis.com

Myrna Cohn: 839-9154
myrnaL5@dcwis.com

Helene Di Iulio 854-2312
helened@dcwis.com

DOLLARS AND \$ENSE

Juliana Neuman, Treasurer

This month I'd like to offer some excerpts from the talk I gave at our membership meeting on November 11, especially for those of you who could not be present.

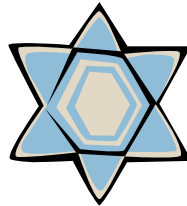
I started by emphasizing that any solution to our need for more space will involve two major requests of our members and friends. First, there must be a successful capital campaign. That campaign is being conducted by Al Johnson of our Finance Committee, and most of you have already received special pledge forms from him. *Please send them back as soon as possible.*

Secondly, if we succeed in purchasing the Windflower building we will need more revenue to cover higher mortgage payments until our current building has been sold. In April you will receive a letter asking you for your regular annual pledge for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009). I estimate that our pledge goal for the next two years will have to be 30 to 40% higher than it was this year. We have 90 members right now; 78 are pledging, along with 15 loyal Friends of the Fellowship. The average pledge per individual is about \$600, or \$1200 per couple. If we could increase the average pledge to \$800 each for the next two years, our goal would be met. Of course, working with averages means that some people are contributing more and others less, to the best of their ability, and that is the way it must be.

Our financial position has been excellent. For the past several years we have had surplus revenue, making it possible to pay down the principal on our mortgage and to build up our cash reserves. Those re-

serves (over \$30,000 at present) will make it possible to cover the unbudgeted expenses we may incur during the current fiscal year, including move-in expenses.

I realize that supporting the purchase of a new building means a financial stretch for most of us for the next two to three years, but I want you to know that I am convinced that we can do this and that we won't regret it. The alternative is stagnation: if we remain in our current space, we will continue to be limited in several respects and we won't see (at least not more than once or twice) the new people who may have an interest in joining us and contributing to our community.



ADULT ENRICHMENT

Myrna L. Cohn

Adult Enrichment Chairperson

PEOPLE'S CHOICE MOVIE

**Dec.4 - *Something's Gotta Give*
6:30 Social / 7:00 Movie**

Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson) is a perennial playboy with a libido much younger than his years. During what was to have been a romantic weekend with his latest infatuation, Marin (Amanda Peet), at her mother's beach house, Harry develops chest pains. He winds up being nursed by Marin's reluctant mother Erica Barry (Diane Keaton), a successful New York playwright. In the process, Harry develops more heart pangs.... for Erica, an age-appropriate woman whom he finds beguiling. However, some habits die hard. When Harry hesitates, his charming thirty-something doctor (Keanu Reeves) steps in and starts to pursue Erica. And Harry, who has always had the

world on a string, finds his life unraveling.
128 min.

Sneak Preview:

Jan. 8th - *Road to Perdition*

BUDDHIST WAY

Kathy Navis' recent presentation "Buddhism – How to Change Your Life by Changing Your Mind" was



Kathy Navis presenting

just terrific. There were seven members in attendance and eight guests. Her knowledge of this subject is so broad and so much a part of who she is, that her presentation was more than just informative. It was a sincere and honest portrayal of the path that is her life.

In addition, Kathy gave the participants ideas for incorporating practical parts of the practice into everyday life without having to turn their lives upside down. The importance of Meditation was stressed and the seminar ended with 15 minutes of meditation. I hope she will return in the spring so that those of you who missed this opportunity will have another chance to hear her.



Kathy Navis and some of the participants from her Zen Buddhism presentation.

BOOK GROUP

The December Book Group will read and discuss *Suite Francaise* on Wednesday, December 5th. The January book group gathering will discuss *The Elephanta Suite* by Paul Theroux. **Please note that the date is January 9th instead of the usual first Wednesday** (in deference to New Year's),

Book Group meets monthly from 1-3:00 P.M. It is open to all; if you have a friend who would like to participate, just invite her/him. If you have a book you would like to host, please contact **Myrna Cohn** at : myrnaL5@dcwis.com.

December 5th *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky

Hosted by **Myrna Cohn**
8092 East Oaks Dr., Baileys Harbor
(The Oaks)
MyrnaL5@dcwis.com 559-2559

January 9th *The Elephanta Suite* by Paul Theroux
Hosted by **Gerri Friedberg**
7548 Bluff Pass Building 2, Unit 6,
Egg Harbor gwf@dcwis.com 421-1786



H. E. L. P. ADOPT A FAMILY

Helene Di Iulio

The Women's Group and Social Responsibility Committee will **Adopt a Family** again this year. We will be assigned a needy family (anonymously). A list of their "wishes" will be posted at the Fellowship and also sent out via email.

Please sign up (alone or with another member) to purchase a gift that a child or a mom requests. Any cash contributed will be used to buy a gift certificate for food or gasoline, if appropriate.

Helene, coordinator 854-2312.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Ellen Shahbazi

Tuesday, December 4 at 10:00 will be the time of our annual holiday decorating fling. Come with wonderful ideas and all the trimmings you can find. Bring a sandwich if you wish.

Jane and Rich Delcarson have generously donated this season's tree. **Dave Link** will wave his magic light saver wand/saw and magically have it ready in its designated spot for us to make it sparkle.



THE MITTEN TREE

Please bring new children's mittens, hats and scarves, purchased or hand knit, and one, two, or all three, to decorate our holiday tree.

This is the seventh year for this wonderful tradition. All garments are donated to *Clothe My People* for distribution to needy kids.

THE FINAL PICK-UP

Phil Hansotia

The UU Fellowship clean-up on highway 42, north of Ellison Bay, was completed November 7 after a cancellation due to high winds. The highway was swept of its trash in little over an hour, in cool but pleasant weather.

Volunteers included **Ray Di Iulio, Margot Warch, Lynn Berger, Lynn and John Lees, Al Johnson, Marilyn and Phil Hansotia**. Thank you all for helping.



THINK GIFTS

The UUFDC Artist's Note cards will be wonderful "stocking stuffers" for friends and relatives, especially those who appreciate "use-up-able" gifts. Please support this Women's Group fund raising project!

Each package contains eight cards and envelopes (two each of four images) for \$10. The artwork was provided by **Sally Malm, Myrna Cohn, Cynthia Johnson and Jane Delcarson**.

Call **Helene** at 854-2312 or email helened@dcwis.com to place an order.

"BLUE" CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For many people in Door County, the Christmas season doesn't bring joy and happiness. They may be facing the holiday after the death of a loved one or a divorce. They may be suffering from emotional trauma or feel pressured or overwhelmed by the holiday.

To spiritually support people who dread Christmas, Joan Shiels is offering a "Blue Christmas" service at Hope Church at 7 P.M., Tuesday, December 18. The service is open to the public.

The evening will feature music, readings, meditations and reflections that provide spiritual comfort in dark times. "There is so much forced joyfulness at Christmas. For many, many people this Christmas will be 'blue'

(continued on page 7)

HONORING OUR OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Dottie Gerrits

Helene Di Iulio
Billie Ryan-Hohman
Dottie Gerrits
Al Wittenkeller
Johns Lees
Phil Hansotia
Al Stuart
Lynn Lees
Karen Cruz
Ellie Kaage
Stella Brown
Sarah Stuart
Juliana Neuman
Cynthia Johnson
Gerri Friedberg
Marilyn Hansotia
Sally Malm

Welcome to new member Carol Soper. Carol has been a Friend for a long time, and is presently organizing the Circle Suppers. If you are interested in participating, contact Carol at 854-9653.

Also a warm welcome to my friend Diane Daniel, who signed in as a member November 18th. Many of you know Carol, and I hope you will meet Diane soon.

DECEMBER OFFICE HOURS

1st -22nd — T/W
10:00-2:00

23rd - 30th — F/Sa
By appointment

No office hours Jan. 1st

Happy Holidays
from the UUFDC staff



LADIES LUNCH

SPECIAL PLACE
TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

DECEMBER 15
12:00 NOON

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
DETAILS LATER

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS !



- 5 Lynn Berger
- 5 Phil Sweet
- 14 Sally Malm
- 14 Sheila Saperstein
- 15 Allison Greaves
- 17 Dottie Gerrits
- 17 Lynn Lees
- 17 Steve Uglinica
- 18 Ron Stein
- 31 Carol Stevenson

NOTE CHANGE:

**JANUARY
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

WEDNESDAY
December 12th

KUDOS

To **Helene Di Iulio** who a year and a half ago took over tallying the Piggly Wiggly receipts. Prior to Helene, **Jo Ann Thomas** had done the job for over four years. "I didn't mind doing it, but thought we should give someone else the opportunity to participate."

So, Kudos to **Carrie Link** who "stepped right up!"

Kudos to all who save and submit their receipts. UUFDC will be receiving a check for **\$265** for the past six months.

Kudos to **Julia Van Roo Bresnahan** and **Jacque Polzin** for organizing the Reuse-Recycle Art Project, which brings canvas and string bags to our congregation, replacing the plastic bags that increase our use of oil and are so damaging to our environment.

Thank you all!

Happy 
Hanukkah



THE KOESSL MANOR

CAPER

The place: UU Fellowship

The date: Oct. 31st

The time: 4:46 PM

The story you are about to read is true; none of the names have been changed since no one there was innocent, not by a long shot. I was working the night watch out of the Insanity Division. Saw a blond dressed as Tweetie try to climb out of her car. She waved sweetly, balancing a plate of Twinkies, and, almost falling on her pert little beak, entered the building. I followed, keeping my distance.

Pointedly ignoring me, a Brazen Hussy, slugging an almost-empty bottle of Jack Daniels, lurched by. A bald guy in a tight white t-shirt smiled and held out a cleaning product. Mr. Clean, no previous record. The Three- maybe four - Witches shimmied in next, all looking for their brew, making screechy, cat-like noises over a table heavy with desserts. Even spattered Jacksona Pollacka showed up, accompanied by Pop-Eye, the Sailor. A tall Smithie, with a fortune's worth of pearls around her neck, gushed over the punch.

A game began, a sort of ID thing with infamous names taped on backs. The Farmer in the Dell, with the name "Picasso" on his back, interrogated a decidedly underdressed Housewife, asking if he was dead or alive. She responded, "Dead." Short 'n sweet. I like that in a woman.

It was about then that we noticed The Guy. Sitting in a corner, with a face a little like a constipated Nixon in a bee helmet, he made no comment. Arms crossed over a plaid flannel shirt. Jeans. Boots. Suspenders. The Door County uniform, nothing

special. But the guy clammed up, wouldn't play The Game, y'know what I mean? I had a funny feeling... he had Terrorist written all over him.

My attention was diverted by a new game, 25 or so old Unitarians playing Musical Chairs. The Hussy banged away on the Stradivarious piano. A coupla' Dinosaurs were eliminated early, and even the hideous green-masked Corpse went down without a whimper. One tall Architect used his cane to smash the Housewife right above her



Steve The Corpse won the coveted Ceramic Pumpkin for "Scariest" AND "Most Creative."

bedroom slippers, but she shoved the guy out of his chair like it was electric and he was o-u-t. Finally, it was a showdown between the Housewife and a tough dude called Tony From Milwaukee, a set-up for Domestic Violence in my book.

Instead of the expected mayhem, though, Frau Housewife sat the Dude on her lap and they both got first prize. (The prize? "Pledge Paid!" for a year.) Other prizes went to Prettiest Witch Hubba-

Hubba Helene, and Steve The Corpse won the coveted Ceramic Pumpkin for "Scariest" AND "Most Creative."

And the Terrorist? Last anybody saw of him, he was headed out toward The Pig. Beware of sour grapes and sniff yer brats before ya fry 'em. is my professional advice.

These are just the facts, people.

Dumb-da-dumb-dumb
from,
Sgt. TGIF,
(AKA your Program Chair)

("Blue Christmas" continued from page 4)



and their pain is made deeper by the way our culture seems to be joyfully oblivious to their difficult circumstances," says Pastor Joan.

Doors to the church will open at 6:30 p.m. for quiet reflection and the service will start at 7 p.m.

SUCCESS SPELLS SAVIN' TIME AND MONEY

Marilyn Hansotia

This is the twelfth edition of our electronic newsletter. More than 50% of you have chosen this method of distribution. We've heard positive comments from people who like receiving it on their computers no matter where they are. Most print it upon receipt. So, there's a challenge: we would like to encourage everyone with an email address to opt for the electronic UU Update. It would save the expense and time spent printing, folding, addressing as well as the cost of postage.

Please consider this change to benefit our budget and the environment. If you would like to make the switch, contact Gayle at the UU office: uufdc@charterinternet.com.









UU Update

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 Web page: uufdc.org

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Sunday Service-10:30AM	UUFDC December Calendar of Events						
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mondays — Mah Jongg 1:00P.M.	2	3 Mah Jongg	4 SIT Hang Greens Movie	5 Book Group Chanukah	6 	7	1 / 8 
Tuesdays — Sit Meditation 7:30A.M.	9 SS	10 MJ	11 SIT Board	12 Newsletter deadline	13	14	15 Ladies Lunch
4 — Movie, <i>Something's Gotta Give</i> , pg. 3	16 SS Car Pool	17 MJ	18 SIT Blue service	19	20 	21	22
4 – Hanging of the Greens 10A.M. pg. 4	23 4:00 Holiday Service & Party	24 MJ	25 Christmas Loaves & Fishes	26	27	28 	29
5 —Book Group discusses <i>Suite Francaise</i> . pg. 3	30 SS	31 MJ					
11 — Board Meeting 4:00							
12 — Early Update deadline due to holiday week.							
15— Ladies Lunch at noon							
16 — Car Pool Sunday							
18 — Rev. Shiel's "Blue Christmas" service pg. 4							
25 — Loaves and Fishes Community Christmas Dinner at St. Rosalia's Church							