

UU Update

December, 2010

Volume 14, Issue 12



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP
OF DOOR COUNTY

Our mission is to be a community of faith committed to the freedom of intellectual and spiritual inquiry and to the promotion of the worth and dignity of all persons, through service to its members, friends and the larger community.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

December 5 – The Rev. Joan Shiels BE PREPARED

That's the motto of the Boy Scouts. "Be prepared for what?" someone once asked Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. "Why, for any old thing" said Baden-Powell. *The Reverend Joan Shiels is a long-time friend and frequent speaker at our Fellowship.*

Music: Bob Judd, Piano
Service Leader: Toby Mason

December 12 - The Rev. Cynthia B. Johnson DEEPENING OUR FAITH THROUGH MUSIC

What we sing in our Sunday services not only reflects our beliefs but also shapes them. We'll travel through Unitarian Universalist history to see where we've been and where we're going. Come prepared to sing, listen, and be amazed! The service will alternate words and music.

Cynthia, a member of our Fellowship, is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister. Among her greatest pleasures are family and friends; reading, writing, and painting; and pondering.

Music: Kärin, Alan and Anya Kopischke, Cyndy Stiehl and the UU Choir

December 19 – Cyndy Stiehl MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART

Candlelight service at 4:00 PM

A Holiday celebration of songs and words inspired by Howard Thurman's reading "The Work of Christmas." After the songs of the angels and when the shepherds are back with their flocks we celebrate together in a service that features the UUFDC Choir and congregational singing. We end with our favorite version of Silent Night with the room bathed in the glow of candlelight.

Cyndy Stiehl has been a UU since 1975 having served three congregations on their Boards and four congregations as choir director and soloist. Currently, she is choir director and Board President of UUFDC and loves the work and time to serve this wonderful congregation. As a professional mezzo-soprano, Cyndy has performed to benefit UUFDC, American Folklore Theater, Birch Creek and the Peninsula Music Festival. She is most proud of two recitals sung with two-time Grammy winner, John Browning including works by Samuel Barber and Richard Cumming who wrote songs just for her.
Music: Kärin Kopischke, piano, and the UU Choir



A hearty holiday potluck follows this service. Everyone is asked to share a food item. Please contact Julia Bresnahan (jmb37@aol.com) or sign up at the Fellowship to list the item you will bring.



December 26 – Phil Hansotia REFLECTIONS AT THE END OF THE YEAR: SEEDS OF CHANGE

This program is based on an essay by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster. It reflects on the American character and some unique elements that molded it. It has elements that speak to our present experience and may be helpful when we think of possibilities for the future.

My wife Marilyn and I moved to Ellison Bay in 2004, after retirement. We have enjoyed the UU community, and Door County's many friendly groups. I was born and schooled in India, and came to the USA as a young physician. We spent 35 years in Marshfield, before moving to Door County.

Visit our website: uufdc.org.

Services are Sundays at 10:00 A.M. at 10431 Water Street (Hwy 42) north of Ephraim.

Listen to or download Sunday sermons on our website uufdc.org.

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Alan Kopischke

Social Responsibility

Bob Lindahl-summer
Chuck Lauter-winter

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President's Column

By Cyndy Stiehl

Your Governing Board met on November 9 with two new things on the agenda. First we elected Helene Di Iulio to the Board as chair of Education and Enrichment. This will be a reporting position—she is not in charge of events—and those planning events will communicate with Helene. Thank you, Helene for your dedication to UUFDC.

Secondly, our Administrator, Pat Crow reported about organizing the office and making office machines, computers and programs all work together. Pat also spoke about assisting Board members to enhance and make their work easier. Pat, we are so happy to have you at UUFDC.

We accepted a letter from Dave Hansell announcing the end of the Eco-awareness Task Force. The Board is considering next steps toward making all aspects of UUFDC—building, members, life styles—greener.

Building & Grounds presented reports about our buildings. Koessl has some serious repair needs. Because we want to sell it, we are loathe to spend money to make these repairs. So, we have decided to list it at a lower price. Our Water Street building has been assessed for energy efficiency and we are awaiting bids for the suggested improvements. You will be kept apprised of any major decisions.

Gratitude is my favorite thing. As I write this we are busy planning for Thanksgiving; a lovely secular holiday where, traditionally, we thank our early American ancestors, rejoice at a bountiful harvest and look forward to more goodness. I try to live the spirit of Thanksgiving every day by acknowledging the good things in my life—I call it “thanking my lucky stars”—and feeling gratitude and appreciation in my heart. UUFDC receives much of my gratitude for the place, the people, the searching, the questions, and, sometimes, answers. Take time for gratitude. It makes you feel great.

Dollars and Sense

by Juliana Neuman, Treasurer

As we enter the month of December, please remember that the Fellowship depends on your generosity for its programming and activities. If you have a year-end contribution to make to UUFDC for 2010, it must be received at the Fellowship or postmarked no later than December 31st.

In January, everyone who has given money to UUFDC in 2010 will receive a letter acknowledging total contributions, and those who pledge will receive a second letter documenting the status of their pledge.

Best wishes to all in the holiday season!

DONATIONS

A generous contribution in memory of Flora Kramar was made in late October by Yvonne and Richard Griebel of Burlington, Wisconsin.

In November, Sally Malm donated a portion of her painting sale proceeds to the Fellowship. Sally also donates her time to the upkeep of the Art Gallery.

Social Responsibility Committee

By Chuck Lauter

Last July SRC began an outreach to the local Hispanic community, specifically the Door County Hispanic Resource Center (HRC). Since then members of the Fellowship have attended festivals and hearings on legal issues related to Hispanics, have assisted in the HRC office, and have designated a social justice contribution to HRC. We have proceeded slowly, not wanting to impose our ideas on this growing relationship. Now we have been asked to help. Many of the Spanish-speaking adults wish to learn English and need tutoring help. The ESL teachers at Gibraltar, Sevastopol, and NWTC have helped us make this connection. About ten women currently wish this assistance and we have about ten tutors from the Fellowship and others, but we believe the program will grow. If you are interested in tutoring or training tutors, please contact Meg Vermillion for more information.

Continued on page 5



Historic Garments at UU Gallery

Award-winning theatrical and opera costume designer Karin Kopischke presents historic renderings of Door County women in “Garments of Our Foundation” at our UU Gallery in December. The exhibit features portraits of ten compelling women from Gibraltar’s history, the result of 9 months of research, writing, sketching, painting and fabric-swatching.

The ten women include members of the Claflin, Thorp, Noble and Duclon families among others, spanning the decades from 1842 to 1918. Kopischke approached each subject as she would a character in a play, researching the available facts of their lives and the historical context. The renderings are augmented by historic fabric swatches and notions and accompanied by first-person narratives.

“In what I call ‘Historical Rendering,’ I am taking theatrical costume rendering one step further; from a means to an end to a work of art in itself,” says Kopischke. “I seek fascinating, real-life characters that have been lost in time, and represent them in a fully-explored rendering, showing their significance in their time, their place and their story.”

Kopischke earned a self-designed degree from Lawrence University in Studio Art and Piano Performance with a theatre emphasis. Kopischke regularly

designs costumes for top regional theatres and operas around the country, including Peninsula Players.

“Garments of Our Foundation: Pioneering Door County Women and Their Clothing” is funded by the Gibraltar Historical Association and by grants from the Wisconsin Arts Board and the Peninsula Arts Association, with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibit will move to the Link Gallery in January, where Kopischke will conduct a week-long workshop with high school students as part of Friends of Gibraltar’s Door County History Year.

The Gallery is open to the public Sundays from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, and 1:00-3:00 PM, Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays.



Dickinson Poetry Series Highlights Caleb Whitney

Baileys Harbor firefighter, Caleb Whitney, will be the featured poet in the UU Fellowship’s Dickinson Poetry Series on December 8 at 7:00 PM.

Writing in isolation for more than ten years, Whitney never really addressed any audience other than himself. Intrigued by Linda Aschbrenner’s critiques of the poetry entries to the 2008 Hal Grutzmacher contest, he sent several poems to Linda’s journal *Free Verse*. “Her open admonishment to pursue publishing is the sole reason I entered the *Wisconsin People and Ideas* annual contest,” he explains. The resulting place-winning, publishing, and reading at the 2009 *Book Festival* in Madison opened the door to sharing

all of his work.

Whitney’s separation of the “internal” audience from the more traditional “external” audience has been the result of using free verse poetry as a way to personally come to terms with his experiences as a rural firefighter. Inspired by two local poets (Barbara Larsen’s *Pine Ridge, 1937* and Mark Turcotte’s *Exploding Chippewas*), he worked and reworked many of his poems for years in order to pare them down to just the essence of each event described.

Having moved to downtown Baileys Harbor as a bachelor in 1994, Whitney is now a husband, father, self-employed landscape gardener, fourteen-year veteran and Assistant Chief for Baileys Harbor Fire. His poetry has been printed in the *Peninsula Pulse*, *Free Verse*, *Verse Wisconsin*, *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, and the *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar*.

The Dickinson Poetry Series, recently described in a *Pulse Picks* review as “a lovely evening, for poet and non-poets alike,” features a well-known poet each month providing an opportunity for that person to read. Others in attendance are then invited to read their poetry. The series is free and open to the public.

Happy Birthday to our Members and Friends with December birthdays:

- 2-Robert Fickes
- 4-Sheila Saperstein
- 5-Lynn Olson
- 5-Phil Sweet
- 5-Kathy Toerpe
- 13-Vicky Carmen
- 14-Sally Malm
- 15-Alison Greaves
- 15-Rob Story
- 17-Dottie Gerrits
- 17-Lynn Lees
- 17-Steve Uglinica
- 17-Chris Weidenbacher
- 18-Ron Stein
- 19-Pat Crow
- 19-Anya Kopischke
- 27-Bob Dunworth
- 31-Carol Stevenson



Help Decorate Our Mitten Tree

In early December, Bob Lindahl and Ray Di Iulio will venture out onto Robert and Liesbeth Fickes's land in search of our holiday tree. They will cut, transport and set it up in the Gathering Room. When their work ends, our fun begins. It is time to decorate our tree.

Mittens, hats and scarves, that ultimately will provide warmth to those in need in Door County, are being collected now for our tree. Any size, shape or color will be greatly appreciated, by the girls and boys of all ages who will wear them and by those who will enjoy the tree during the holiday season. Buy them, knit them, or donate them from your stash of new winter clothing. A green plastic bin is in the foyer awaiting your contribution.

Let's fill our Mitten Tree and give warmth – from our hearts and our donations – this holiday season.

Cynthia Oliver
920-854-5919

Movies That Matter

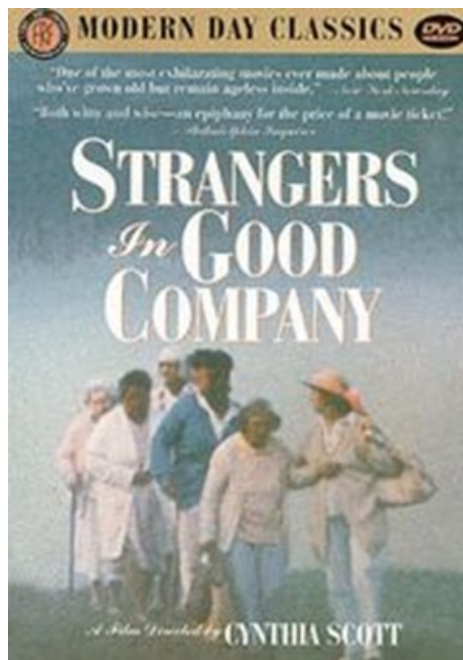
By Lu Schilling

"STRANGERS IN GOOD COMPANY" will be shown Tuesday, December 21 at 4:30 pm. The film depicts a fictional survival story of a touring group of octogenarians that is stranded when their tour bus breaks down.

What would you do? One blue-haired woman removed her pantyhose to

fashion a fish net to catch supper. Another wants to give up and die right there in a beautiful, remote, and peaceful wilderness.

We may see them as old, but their actions and spirit suggest playfulness, creative energy, and wisdom. We soon regard them as sisters at recess giggling at the novelty of their unexpected adventure, happy to be in good company. When they reach a dilapidated and deserted house, it offers no amenities; no beds, no electricity, no water, no food. Each woman approaches the situation in a different



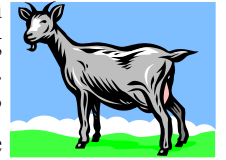
way, but there is a buoyancy and resourcefulness about them in spite of some possible apprehensions concerning rescue and survival.

The film elicits thoughtful discussion about aging. Be prepared for a slower pace than an action film. The emphasis is on ordinary events that will reveal information about the lives and characters of the central figures. Stereotypical impressions of the old, especially those that suggest they are uniformly feeble and uninteresting, are dispelled; impositions of age have not prevented them from having lives that are meaningful and interesting.

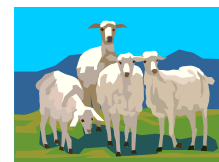
Alternative Gift-Giving

By Meg Vermillion

How can anyone not find excitement in giving an animal to a family that not only provides sustenance but is reproductive with the offspring being shared with neighbors and friends? That is the premise of the Heifer International, an organization that has paired gifts of livestock with recipients to help build a better future for themselves and their communities.



Our Social Responsibility Committee concluded that an effective direction



for our Fellowship was to encourage all 100+ members and friends to give to Heifer! Our suggestion is that you include your grandchildren in this effort. There is nothing more fun than browsing the Heifer catalogue, filled with pictures and animal stories from all over the world. Have your grandchild chose an animal, explaining that this will be a part of their holiday gift that they are sharing with the world so that everyone can have food on their table.



Several committee members have been doing this for years and can attest that everyone benefits, your own family and the family receiving the animal. One can contribute to a portion of an animal, helping you to decide how much you want to give to Heifer. There are catalogues in the entry way and you can also go to the web site: heifer.org to request a catalogue.

We all agree that there is a great deal of hope found in the generation of our grandchildren, as many of them are already world citizens or at least are aware! We ask you to support their awareness and act to help developing countries.

SRC Continued from page 2...

Guest At Your Table (GAYT) began on November 21. This is UUFDC's major effort to financially support the work of the UU Service Committee (UUSC). Several years ago UUFDC had 5-8% of its members joining UUSC. Since we began emphasizing GAYT we have had greater than 25% participation and qualified as "Creators of Social Justice" (the banner in the sanctuary) and received the James Luther Adams award. But, far more important than the recognition is the work accomplished by UUSC with our money. They've defended refugees in Darfur, supported workers in Mexico, organized agricultural workers in the Southern US, and continue to help rebuild after Katrina. UUFDC budgets a \$1/member contribution to UUSC, but that is a small amount compared with the contributions from members last year. Please give generously at the GAYT in-gathering.

SRC is currently charged with making social justice contributions on behalf of the Fellowship. This quarter we've again designated Youth Haiti (YH) as the recipient to aid that nation struggling against continuing disasters. YH works on sanitation projects, currently much in need, and education for sustainable agriculture. This is our second contribution in two years; we feel very close to this organization and are aware of its results. It was founded and is run by a nurse from Milwaukee. A board member lives in Baileys Harbor and has addressed us on the work of YH.

From the Fair Trade Cart

By Meg Vermillion

Quick Mocha

Latte:

1 Cup prepared Fair Trade coffee

1 Tsp. to 1Tbs. (to taste) Fair Trade Hot Cocoa drink mix

Stevia or sugar - to taste

Vanilla Soy or Almond milk - to taste

Also, consider a Fair Trade gift basket for the holidays. Or give chocolate bar(s), tea or coffee as a host/hostess gift. Spread the practice!



UU Book Club Brunch

By Helene Di Iulio

The UU Book Club December meeting will be a brunch on Wednesday, December 1, from 11AM 'til 1 PM at the Fellowship. Each participant should bring her favorite kind of sandwich to share. To fill out the menu, two members are bringing soup, and others have signed up to bring veggies, chips, pickles, and dessert.

All past, current and future book club members are invited to attend the brunch. No book will be discussed at the brunch, but a book for January will be chosen and titles for the next six-months will be selected. Suggestions are welcome. Every participant is asked to bring a book (bi-lingual if possible, for ages 2-10) which will be given to Hispanic Center children for Feliz Navidad.

The February book is the Door County Big Read's selection *Fahrenheit 421* by Ray Bradbury. Copies of *F-421* will be available free at your local library on January 1.

The book club meets the first Wednesday of every month. The 2011 start time will be decided on December 1.

Santas Needed

The Social Responsibility Committee is looking for 11 "Santas" to provide snow jackets for 11 children from the Hispanic community. Sally Malm and Julia Bresnahan will have the names and ages of the children for members or friends who would like to take part in this gift-giving at the Christmas season.

New Board Member

Who is it that is a charter member of UUFDC, created the *Update* newsletter, did all the publicity in the early years, chaired the publicity, program and caring committees, served as secretary, and published most of the books, brochures and orders of service for many years?

If these are not enough clues, the correct answer is Helene Di Iulio! And now Helene has been appointed to the Governing Board to fill the Education and Enrichment position. She will coordinate all the various activities in this portfolio. And with all her vast experience, we know she will do it well!

Thanks to Lynn Lees, previous E & E chair, for all her hard work setting up our RE program.

UUFDC is fortunate to have such talented volunteers in our midst.

Get your Tamales Here!

Yes, right here in northern Door County!

The Hispanic Resource Center is partnering with our Social Responsibility Committee in selling tamales. The cost is \$10 per dozen, either chicken or pork. Order forms are available at the Fellowship and are due by December 11th. The tamales will be available for pick up at the Fellowship December 19th. For more information, contact Juliana Neuman or Garrett Cohn.

Feliz Navidad!





UU Update

Mailed Subscription: \$15 per year
 Emailed Subscription: No charge
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 Email: contact@uufdc.org
 Submit information to
Marilyn Hansotia
mhansotia@charter.net
Web page: uufdc.org
 Sunday Services: 10:00 A.M.

UUFDC December Calendar of Events

For the most up-to-date calendar, please see our website: uufdc.org/calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11 AM Book Club 1-3 PM Gallery	2	3 1-3 PM Gallery	4
5 10 AM SERVICE Rev Joan Shiels 11-12:30 Gallery	6 1-3 PM Mah Jongg 1-3 PM Gallery	7	8 7 PM Dickinson Poetry Caleb Whitney 1-3 PM Gallery	9	10 1-3 PM Gallery	11
12 8:15 Choir Rehrsl 10 AM SERVICE Rev. C. Johnson 11-12:30 Gallery	13 1-3 PM Mah Jongg 1-3 PM Gallery	14 4 PM Governing Board	15 1-3 PM Gallery	16	17 1-3 PM Gallery	18
19 2:30 Choir Rehrsl 4 PM SERVICE Cyndy Stiehl POTLUCK	20 1-3 PM Mah Jongg 1-3 PM Gallery	21 4:30 PM MTM <i>Strangers in Good Company</i>	22 1-3 PM Gallery	23	24- 1-3 PM Gallery	25
26 10 AM SERVICE Phil Hansotia 11-12:30 Gallery	27 1-3 PM Mah Jongg 1-3 PM Gallery	28	29	30	31	

Winners of the Thanksgiving Quiz (left to right):
 Ray Di Iulio, Grace Bernhard, Gerhard Bernhard,
 Phyl Mielke and Joe Carpenter.

