



JANUARY 2009 PROGRAMS

JANUARY 4 "PERSONAL RELIGIOUS JOURNEYS"

For the latest installment in our popular Religious Journeys series, Fellowship members Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson and Pat Embers will tell us how experience, reason, and intuition have guided the evolution of their personal religious convictions. Contact *Scott Tanona* at 537-6208 or stanona@sbcglobal.net

JANUARY 11 "STORIES"

Several members of the Fellowship share their thoughts on how telling stories and the free use of metaphor helps shape their perspectives. Contact/convener is *Jennifer Askey* at 537-1272 or jda127@gmail.com

JANUARY 18 "EXILED NO MORE"

Reverend Michael Nelson reflects, "Ida B Wells, an African American feminist, has not received the recognition she deserves for her campaign against lynching in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. How do we traverse the sometimes treacherous trail of good works necessary to make this world a better place for all people, including ourselves, without letting anger and righteousness cloud expansive vision?" Contact *Michael* at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net

JANUARY 25 "THE BENIGN INDIFFERENCE OF THE UNIVERSE"

Reverend Charles Stephen, Minister Emeritus of the Lincoln, Nebraska, Unitarian Church writes, "It took centuries of time before people began to realize that the universe did not care about them--and, to be sure, not all realize it yet. With the help of Mark Twain, Charles Darwin, Albert Camus, and common sense, I will hold forth on that theme." Contact/convener is *Abigail Conrad* at 537-0176 or aconrad@ksu.edu

UU FELLOWSHIP OF MANHATTAN

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SUNDAY SERVICES
begin at **10:45 AM**
at **481 ZEANDALE ROAD**

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ITALIAN DINNER AT THE FELLOWSHIP

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! The Social Committee will host an Catered Italian Dinner at the Fellowship on Saturday, **JANUARY 31**, at 6 pm. Please plan to join us! Watch for the sign up sheet. More information will be provided in the Sunday Order of Service announcements in January, and on the Fellowship's email list serv. For more information, or to learn how you can help, contact our Social Committee chair Courtney Markle at 537-1027 or clmarkle@hotmail.com



UUFM is a WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Learn more about the Welcoming Congregation initiative at www.uua.org/visitors/justicediversity/6252.shtml

In early December, Michael Nelson suggested that members and friends might like to hear some of my reflections in the January edition of The UUFM Voice. Somewhat reluctantly, I accepted the assignment. Thus began a nearly month-long quest for a suitably thoughtful topic. Several times I believed I'd found the perfect blend of anecdote, reflection, and clever twists of the tongue, only to realize that each had some irreparable flaw as I explored the idea further.

I arrive at this moment still seeking an elusively meaningful reflection. It is 11:30 pm on Christmas day. The prettily wrapped packages have been opened in the company of beloved family. "Ooohs" and "aaahs" have been expressed over the special qualities of each gift, with hugs and fitting appreciation all around. Bags, boxes, and bows are stowed away for reuse next season. Now--a home baked cookie festively drizzled with green and red frosting at the ready--I settle into my favorite, well-worn recliner, and fire up the Mac intent upon the quest ...

I close my eyes and begin to sort through random Fellowship memories. It's been nearly 20 years since my dear friend Charlie Shrimplin convinced me to accompany her to a Sunday program at the Fellowship. I can see Charlie sitting next to me in the back of the old sanctuary on an icy Sunday morning. Her pen scratches furiously as she captures a neatly twisted bun and deeply stooped shoulders wrapped in the warm folds of a shawl belonging to Dorothy Miller. Dorothy was among the founding members of our Fellowship. She was a strong, self-assured UU woman, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know her and learn from the purposeful life she led. I am sweetly reminded of Dorothy, and the beginnings of our community, every time I pass by that sketch, which now hangs--often overlooked--in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room.

The scene shifts forward nine years, and I stand looking into the new sanctuary. My eyes follow the rising sweep of warm wood to sunlight pouring in through the high cupola. I am struck by the simple beauty of our new meeting space. When the building expansion was first suggested, I did not jump on board. The substantial loan that would be required seemed excessive, but the special building fund--seeded with a generous donation by Margaret Grayden--quickly grew. Our new sanctuary and modernized kitchen facilities were completed with the turn of the millennium, sparking a period of growth I had not foreseen. Meaningful new projects flourished, and we signaled our collective desire to become a safe and

supportive home for LGBT individuals and their families by completing our certification as a Welcoming Congregation. Young families came, new students appeared in Religious Education, and now so many children regularly attend classes that we have chosen, as a community, to add a DRE to our professional staff.

I am thankful for those early members whose vision launched and nurtured this community, for those who stubbornly held on as our congregation aged and seemed on the verge of disappearing, and for the new members and friends who join us each year adding their distinctive and unique energy to our growing family. The Fellowship draws me out of a small world of family and old friends. It presents opportunities to join in positive action impacting the wider world. It invites me to meditate on, and participate in, things larger than myself.

And so, as the old saying goes "Good Lord willin' and the cricks don't rise," I'll see you all here in another 20 years,

Sue :)

MICHAEL NELSON'S SCHEDULE

This month, Reverend Michael Nelson will be available in the Fellowship office on:

Wednesday,	January	7 -	4 to 6 pm
Thursday,	January	8 -	4 to 7 pm
Tuesday,	January	13 -	4 to 6 pm
Thursday,	January	15 -	4 to 7 pm
Tuesday,	January	20 -	4 to 7 pm
Wednesday,	January	21 -	3 to 5 pm
Wednesday,	January	28 -	3 to 5 pm
Thursday,	January	29 -	3 to 5 pm

During office hours, call Michael at the Fellowship at 537-2349. Meetings may be arranged at times other than posted office hours. Please contact Michael at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net to make arrangements.

UUFM BLOGS !!!

It's a shame that so much of our creativity doesn't get beyond UUFM. Working with Michael Nelson and the Communications Committee, we have set up a blog at <http://uufm.wordpress.com>, where members and friends can express their creative side. The goal is to create a welcome mat, where someone might think, "I enjoy reading this and want to know more about the religious community behind it." Creative writers and photographers who would like to be added to the blog as authors should contact Dale Askey at 537-1272 or dsa06512@gmail.com

RE NEWS

REFLECTIONS - MARIA SNYDER, DRE, DEC 23, 2008



December was an exciting month. In RE we took some time to celebrate the holidays. We celebrated the Northern Buddhist Festival of Lights, the Solstice, and Hanukkah. These were my first attempts at writing curricula and planning RE activities. I have learned a lot from this experience and

expect to plan more activities and curricula in the future.

December also included the "Lighting a Fire" service celebrating the steps we are taking in building the RE program. I want to say "thank you" to Michael, Sandy, and Carolyn for speaking. This was also a big learning experience for me, putting together my first order of service.

In January we will celebrate the New Year with some New Year's wishes. Then we will get back to our Timeless Themes, learning about our Judeo-Christian heritage. We will also be collecting soup to help the Social Action Committee collect soup for Souper Bowl Sunday.

We are also looking forward to a couple of events outside of the classroom this month. We hope you will join us on Saturday the 10th for bowling at the K-State Student Union. This event will begin at 3 and some of the bowlers are talking pizza to follow. We will also hold our first Overnight of the year for the K-2 kids.

We are planning an intergenerational Sunday on February 22. If anyone is interested in helping plan that I would love some input. I am also working on a "New Teacher" training class, so if you have thought about helping in RE and want to attend that class please let me know.

On a personal note, I have finished my first round of finals and am happy with my grades. It was a bumpy ride learning how to balance school, family, work and sorority life, but I made it through nearly unscathed. If you have not stopped by the stage to see the office please do.

Maria

Contact Maria during her office hours, seen at right, at 537-2349 or email dre@uufm.net

YOUTH CHOIR

The UUFM Youth Choir rehearses in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary), on Sunday, **JANUARY 4**, and **JANUARY 18**, at 10:15 am. Learn more from *Sarah Nuss-Warren*, 537-3586 or nusswarr@gmail.com

JANUARY RE EVENTS

We hope all parents and kids will be able to join us on Saturday, **JANUARY 10**, for **bowling** at the K-State Student Union. We'll meet at 3 pm, at the lanes on the Union's lower level and bowl until about 6 pm. There's talk of pizza afterwards!

Kindergarteners, and first and second graders won't want to miss the **K thru 2 sleepover** at the Fellowship on Friday, **JANUARY 30**. Learn more about these fun activities from DRE Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

THIS YEAR IN RE ...

The Fellowship offers organized Sunday morning religious education experiences for students from preschool through high school. Childcare is available for younger children.

This year's theme is "Exploring our Judeo-Christian Heritage." Programs for all ages--pre-school through senior high--draw from various curricula and introduce our children to religious literature that is central to North American culture and to Unitarian Universalist heritage. Children will become familiar with their cultural heritage, and the human issues that inspired these scriptures: the timeless themes of transcendent power, human responsibility, love of freedom, speaking out against injustice, respect for the beliefs of others, love of one's neighbor, and forgiveness.

To learn more about Youth Religious Education at UUFM, and to learn how you can contribute to our youth activities, contact DRE *Maria Snyder* at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net

MARIA SNYDER'S SCHEDULE

Maria will be available in the Fellowship office on:

Friday,	January	2 - 9 am to 12 pm
Saturday,	January	3 - 11 am to 3 pm
Sunday,	January	4 - 10 am to 1 pm
Tuesday,	January	6 - 1 to 5 pm
Wednesday,	January	7 - 2 to 6 pm
Thursday,	January	8 - 4 to 7 pm
Wednesday,	January	14 - 11 am to 3 pm
Thursday,	January	15 - 4 to 9 pm
Saturday,	January	17 - 11 am to 3 pm
Sunday,	January	18 - 10 am to 1 pm
Wednesday,	January	21 - 12 to 4 pm
Friday,	January	23 - 12 to 4 pm
Saturday,	January	24 - 11 am to 4 pm
Sunday,	January	25 - 10 am to 1 pm
Wednesday,	January	28 - 1 to 4 pm

During office hours, call Maria at 537-2349, or drop by the Fellowship building. Contact Maria by email at dre@uufm.net

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The **MEN'S LUNCH** meets EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 12 noon, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Bring a desire for stimulating conversation and a sack lunch for yourself. Contact Charley Kempthorne at 564-1118, or Jack Warren at 539-4073 or jomega@ksu.edu



The **UU DRUM CIRCLE** will meet on Friday, JANUARY 9, at 7 pm, in the Fellowship's new sanctuary. Members, friends and guests of all ages are invited to bring their rhythm instruments and drum with us. Instruments are also available to borrow. Learn more from Pat Embers at 539-2819 or embers1@cox.net

Monthly **CRAFT GROUP SOCIALS** continue at the Fellowship. Anyone interested in sharing company and/or advice while working on craft projects is invited to join us on Sunday, JANUARY 11, following the morning service, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Bring your supplies we'll some crafting and social time! You are welcome to bring a snack to share if you like. Learn more from Courtney Markle at 236-1563 or clmarkle@hotmail.com

The **WOMEN'S LUNCH GROUP** meets Wednesday, JANUARY 14, at 12 noon, in the Living Room of the main building at Meadowlark Hills. All interested Fellowship members, friends, and guests are invited! Contact Florence Schwab at 539-0976 or fschwab@cox.net, to learn more.

MEDITATION resumes this month on Thursday, JANUARY 15, in the new sanctuary, from 5:30 to 6 pm, before our regular Third Thursday Supper. Come take a deep breathe after a long day, and then join us for a meal and conversation. Learn more from Michael Nelson at (913) 961-2626 or minister@uufm.net

THIRD THURSDAY SUPPER gathers on JANUARY 15, at 6 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). You may bring food to share, but it's not required. Bring your smile, family, friends, and guests, and let Rev Michael Nelson, Susan Turner, and Maria and Dusty Snyder take care of dinner! Contact Sue at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net to learn more.

Fellowship member Ana Franklin offers a free, introductory **VEDIC CHANTING CLASS** to interested Fellowship members and friends of all ages on Sunday, JANUARY 25, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, at her yoga studio. Ana has been chanting for more than ten years and would love to share this wonderful practice of listening with everyone. Please let her know if you plan to attend at 341-9908 or yogaconnection@gmail.com

The UUFM **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** has donated a book discussion kit of ten books to the Manhattan Public Library in memory of founding Book Group members Bettie Dale and Doreen Shanteau. The kit, containing the book *Jayber Crow*, by Wendell Berry, will be available for checkout in January in Manhattan and throughout Kansas through interlibrary loan. *Jayber Crow* will be the title discussed at our next meeting on Wednesday, JANUARY 28. New members are always welcome. Learn more from Lorrie Cross, 539-7883 or lmcross@kansas.net

The UUFM Social Committee will host a **CATERED ITALIAN DINNER** at the Fellowship on Saturday, JANUARY 31, at 6 pm. A sign up sheet will be posted, and more information will be provided in Sunday Order of Service announcements, and on the Fellowship's list serv. For more information, or to learn how you can help, contact our Social Committee chair Courtney Markle at 537-1027 or clmarkle@hotmail.com

WHITHER THE SUNDAY MORNING FORUM?

The UUFM Program Committee will convene a meeting of interested members and friends at 9:30 am, on Sunday, **JANUARY 11**, in the large RE room to determine whether to restart the Sunday adult discussion forum and how best to structure it, should we decide to do so. Contact Michael Oldfather to learn more, and share your thoughts before (or following) the meeting, at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu

SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND CREATIVITY

The UUFM Aesthetics Committee seeks members and friends who would like to share their interests and creativity in a variety of ways.

SHARE, LEARN, GROW: Volunteer to create a display illustrating something important in your life--a trip, a biographical summary, activity or hobby, favorite poet, author, or any interest or expertise.

ARRANGEMENTS: Sign up on the list in the kitchen to provide floral arrangements for Sunday morning services.

EXHIBITIONS: We are looking for photography, paintings and drawings by members and friends to exhibit in the narthex and hall. Contact one of the committee members if interested.

Learn more from Lorrie Cross at 539-7883 or lmcross@kansas.net, Anne Marchin at 539-3026 or annemarchin22@hotmail.com, Harriette Janke at 539-0865 or ahjanke@sbcglobal.net, Monta Manney at 537-0624, or Kim Belanger at 587-8107 or kgardenbelanger@yahoo.com

UUFM SINGERS

The Choir rehearses this month on Saturday, **JANUARY 17**, at 1 pm, and on Sunday, **JANUARY 18**, at 9:30 am, in the new sanctuary. Learn more from Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or mou812@ksu.edu

SOCIAL ACTION AT UUFM

VOLUNTEER AND SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

REFRESHMENT PROVIDERS are needed each week to host coffee time following Sunday services. Volunteers make coffee, provide a light snack of no more than two or three food items, and take care of the necessary clean up. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the kitchen. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** in February!!! Ask Gwen Geiselman at 776-4505, or Betty Banner at 776-1887 or bettybanner@gmail.com, to learn more.

This month, Fellowship volunteers prepare and serve **HAPPY KITCHEN COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** on Friday, JANUARY 9, and JANUARY 23, from 7:30 to 9 am, at St Paul's Episcopal Church. Occasional **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to fill in when regular volunteers are absent. The meal is free and all are invited to join us for good food and fellowship. Of course, your donations are welcome. Learn more from Anne Marchin at 539-3026 or annemarchin22@hotmail.com

GREETERS share a smile as folks arrive on Sunday morning; encourage visitors to sign our guest book; answer questions; and help to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere at UUFM. This is a great way to give to the Fellowship with a minimal investment of time. Learn more from Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com to learn more.

Fellowship volunteers periodically deliver government food commodities to individuals unable to pick them up from **FLINT-HILLS BREADBASKET**. If you can share two hours of your time during an upcoming delivery, it would make a world of difference to someone. For more information, contact Pat Weisenburger at 539-4711 or patw@ksu.edu

The **MANHATTAN ALLIANCE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE** (MAPJ) meets regularly, working for peace and justice issues. MAPJ has worked closely with our Fellowship for many years, and invites interested Fellowship members and friends to learn more. Please contact Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net to learn more.

HELPING HANDS SUNDAY

On the second Sunday of each month our Social Action Committee designates an agency or association to receive the offerings for the day. On JANUARY 11, **THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MANHATTAN** will be the recipient of our collection. This agency serves young people between 6 and 18 years of age. They supply a safe environment that encourages positive behavior. They also have a summer program to address latchkey children. A representative from the agency will provide a brief summary of the program on January 11. Visit the Boys and Girls Club web site at www.bgclubmanhattan.com to learn more.

All cash contributions and checks placed in the offering basket on the second Sunday of the month will go to the Helping Hands Sunday beneficiary, and should be made out to UUFM. Write "UUFM" in the memo line if you wish your contribution to benefit the Fellowship. Learn more from our Helping Hands Sunday coordinator Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or yvcq67lacy@sbcglobal.net

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE AND CFLS

Fair Trade products are offered for purchase at the Fellowship following Sunday programs. Regular, decaf, whole bean, and ground coffees, as well as chocolate, and tea are available. Special orders can be taken. To learn more, or to purchase Fair Trade products, please contact Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net or ask her on Sunday mornings. Learn more at www.equalexchange.com



Anne also coordinates the sale of COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLs) on Sunday mornings, in support of the Fellowship's efforts to encourage green living.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



Football fans are looking forward to Super Bowl Sunday, which falls on February 1, this year. The long-standing **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** collection for the Flint Hills Breadbasket is scheduled on February 1, as well. Continuing the success of our recent Holiday collection for the Breadbasket, we will be collecting for Souper Bowl Sunday, this month. Please bring lots of hearty and delicious canned soups to the Fellowship throughout January and deposit them in the wicker basket in the narthex. Your contributions will be delivered to the Breadbasket each time the basket fills. Go UUFMers! Learn more about this important community project from our Social Action Committee chair Pat Weisenburger at 539-4711 or patw@ksu.edu

WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends,

The UUFM Executive Board met on Thursday, December 11, 2008. After the approval of the minutes



and the treasurer's and minister's reports, we discussed three topics. The Board agreed that past-chair Eric Banner would lead a fund drive for additional chairs for the new sanctuary. Studies suggest that visitors and potential

new members feel often superfluous if they enter a space in which about 80% of the seats are taken. Visitors often feel that there is no room for them if the room appears crowd-ed. Since we embrace growth of the fellowship we need to add more chairs to accommodate our visitors and make them feel comfortable.

The Board voted 5:1 (chair does not vote) to endorse the nomination of the Rev. Peter Morales for UUA President. A new UUA President will be elected during General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City this summer. In order to receive a nomination a potential candidate needs endorsements from a certain number of congregations. The Board felt that helping a candidate being nominated is an important part of the democratic process. UUFM will have the opportunity to send delegates to the GA to vote for our new UUA president, which will be discussed at a later Board meeting.

Long Range Planning Committee chair Brice Hobrock presented the work of the committee. The committee revised their old job description and reviewed 2005 and 2007 member surveys. The surveys showed the following topics to be high on the priority list: Professional ministerial leadership and support staffing, quality growth patterns and membership, religious education programming and staffing, social action programming, and quality programming meeting the members needs. We have made great progress in the staffing area by hiring a half-time minister in 2005, increasing our administrator's time to 50% shortly thereafter, and just recently hiring a DRE. Thanks to the great work of the Programming Committee, our Sunday programs are outstanding and do meet the needs of our membership. The Long-range planning committee will now focus on a timetable and the financing of increasing the minister's time to 75%; property development issues, including play ground, parking, building expansion, and

grounds; emergency preparedness, and proactive approaches to increasing membership.

Chair-elect, Dale Askey, announced that he will leave for Germany in March 2009 to spend 3 semesters in Leipzig and, therefore, will be unable to serve as Chair during the next fiscal year. Thus, the Board will have to discuss during the January 2009 Board meeting how to go about filling the Chair position for the coming year. Decisions of the Board will be guided by the by-laws, practicality, and common sense. Fellowship members are encouraged to talk to any Board member if they have concerns about the leadership of the Fellowship.

Wishing all members and friends of the Fellowship a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2009. May all of us find peace of mind and the strength to act in harmony with our principles,

Elke Lorenz

UUFM Executive Board Chair

Contact Elke at 539-3527 or ellorenz@uufm.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board meets Thursday, JANUARY 8, at 7 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Members and friends of the Fellowship are welcome and encouraged to attend. To learn more, contact Executive Board Chair Elke Lorenz at 539-3527 or ellorenz@uufm.net

RECYCLING UU WORLD MAGAZINES

The Welcoming and Membership Committee would like to thank everyone who generously donated their old UU World magazines. The committee is still accepting magazines (just put them in the committee's box above the coat rack in the hall). Also, for those who will be serving as Sunday morning greeters, the committee has put together brightly colored folders, which are laying beneath the visitor nametags on the desk in the narthex. Please give a folder to our first time visitors when you greet them. **THANK YOU!** Learn more about Welcoming and Membership activities from committee co-chair Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com



SUNDAY COFFEE PROVIDERS

January 4: Christopher Renner
 January 14: Ken and Pat Embers
 January 21: Shirley and Brice Hobrock
 January 28: Aaron Ford

THANK YOU to our coffee hosts! Volunteers make coffee, serve a simple snack, and clean up afterwards. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Learn more from Betty Banner at 776-1887 or bettybanner@gmail.com, or Gwen Geiselman at 776-4505.

A NOTE FROM BETTY: Many people choose to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries by providing special snacks for Sunday coffee time near the date.

Administrator's Schedule

In January, Susan Turner will be available in the Fellowship office on:

Thursday, January 1 - 12 to 5 pm
 Monday, January 5 - 3 to 5 pm
 Tuesday, January 6 - 12 to 5 pm
 Thursday, January 8 - 4 to 7 pm
 Monday, January 12 - 3 to 5 pm
 Tuesday, January 13 - 12 to 5 pm
 Thursday, January 15 - 4 to 9 pm
 Thursday, January 22 - 12 to 5 pm
 Saturday, January 24 - 11 am to 6 pm
 Monday, January 26 - 3 to 5 pm
 Tuesday, January 27 - 12 to 5 pm
 Thursday, January 29 - 12 to 5 pm

Call Sue at 537-2349 during office hours, or drop by the office. She may be reached at any time by email at office@uufm.net

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

January 4: Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson
 January 11: Cathy Hedge
 January 18: **volunteers needed**
 January 25: Pat Embers and Aaron Ford

Greeters are vital to creating a welcoming atmosphere. This is an easy way to support the Fellowship, when you only have an occasional hour to give. Learn more from Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net to **UPDATE YOUR MAILING, PHONE, or EMAIL** information, or to cancel your subscription to this newsletter. Members and friends may also reach Sue during her posted office hours (*seen at center left*) at 537-2349.

If you have been considering **BECOMING A MEMBER** of UUFM, please contact our Welcoming and Membership Committee co-chairs, Mary Westfall at 539-5397 or westyks@hotmail.com; Cathy Hedge at 537-1101 or cjhedgewriter@yahoo.ca; or Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or jo.maseberg@gmail.com for information and assistance.

Fellowship members may receive the UUA magazine **UU WORLD**, without cost. Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net. UU World may be viewed online at www.uuworld.org

Join in email discussions of interest to Fellowship members and friends on our **EMAIL LIST SERV**. List serv members may choose to receive each message individually; as one daily "digest;" or check messages by logging into our list serv web site. Contact list serv moderator Ruth Welti at welti@ksu.edu to subscribe.

UUFM bookkeeper Kathleen Oldfather announces **ELECTRONIC PAYMENT** of your pledge contributions is now available. If you wish, pledge installments can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. There is no cost for this service. Ask Kathleen at 537-3738 or koldfather@yahoo.com, or pick up literature and a payment form on the info table in our narthex.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net, **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY MORNING** with announcements and events for inclusion in the Sunday morning Order of Service bulletin. Remember to check the bulletin each week for important announcements of upcoming activities and events.

CARING FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

If you could use a hand, or if you know members or friends who are experiencing life challenges, and would appreciate assistance, please let our Caring Committee know. Contact Caring Committee co-chairs Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or yvcq67lacy@sbcglobal.net, or Barbara Hacker at 587-8002.

BUILDING USE AND SCHEDULING

Please check with Susan Turner to be sure your desired date is available before finalizing plans for committee meetings, Fellowship activities, or private events that will be held in the Fellowship building. To confirm building availability and schedule your activity, or for more information, contact Sue at 537-2349 or office@uufm.net

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the February edition of *The UUFM Voice* is Thursday, **JANUARY 15**. Please send news, meetings, announcements, and events to Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net

ADVENTURES AHEAD -- A NOTE FROM CHAIR-ELECT DALE ASKEY



I am about to embark on two adventures, one of a fairly personal nature, the other more a family odyssey.

In late January, I am headed to Weissensee, Austria, to compete in the *Alternatieve Elfstedentocht*, a 200K speed-skating marathon. For those not quick with Metric conversions, that is 124 miles. No, I am not insane, and have reasonably high expectations for finishing with a decent time (hopefully around nine hours if conditions permit). The race takes place on a beautiful Alpine lake in southern Austria, and draws well over 5,000 skaters and spectators, 99% of whom come from the Netherlands. I've been training for this event for quite a while, and am very excited about facing the challenge it presents.

Not long after that, our family will enter a period of logistical and emotional turbulence, as I will be heading to Germany around March 1 to fill a three semester visiting professorship at the University of Applied Sciences in Leipzig. Greta will join me over the summer, and will spend third grade in a German school, learning all sorts of new things. This living arrangement will certainly be a bit chaotic, but we're looking forward to all of the adventures and new experiences it will bring, too. The position ends in July 2010, so will be about a 16-month commitment. It is comforting to know that we belong to a supportive community such as UUFM when challenges arise.

This means, of course, that I must, with some regrets, resign my position as chair-elect of the Fellowship. My six months in this role have been quite interesting, and my understanding of and appreciation for UUFM have grown as a result. After I return, perhaps Michael Oldfather can call me again and ask me if I'd be willing to take on the chairship!

BECOMING A CHALICE LIGHTER

The Prairie Star District Chalice Lighters (CL) program has existed since 1984, awarding grants for growth to UU congregations in our eight-state area. Our Fellowship was awarded a grant to help hire our first minister in 1994, and we received a second grant to expand and renovate our building in 2000, and now, just announced, we will receive a grant to help with the cost of hiring our first DRE.

Chalice Lighters support three projects each year with money coming from individuals who sign up to be Chalice Lighters. Being a CL entails receiving information about a congregation and its project and sending \$20 to the Prairie Star District for that grant--total of \$60 a year.

In early 2009, we at UUFM along with a few other churches will have a campaign to increase the number of CL people. We will have some special activities in February. This is very appropriate since we have benefited greatly from these grants. UUFM presently has just 8% of our members being Chalice Lighters. Our goal is to increase that to 35%, a challenge but achievable. If you are interested in becoming a Chalice Lighter, see the brochures and forms on the information table in our narthex. Completed forms may be returned in the Sunday morning collection basket, or talk to Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net

CAMP STARTRAIL 2009

If you're already dreaming about the warm, sunny days of Summer 2009, consider attending a UU camp, sponsored by the UUA's Prairie Star District.

Camp StarTrail will be held August 2 thru 7, 2009, near Omaha, Nebraska. Join us for a multigenerational camp that celebrates and explores Unitarian Universalism, in the beautiful rolling hills of the Platte River Valley. From the morning Celebration, to the workshops, to the evening Vespers and campfires, there will be fun and good conversation. If you'd prefer to sit in a rocking chair and read a good book, you'll enjoy the quiet of the woods, lake, and sky. Photos of the camp are available on the Prairie Star District Web site at www.psduua.org/CampStarTrail. Registration will open in mid-January. Watch the District's Web site at www.psduua.org for more information.