



# THE UUFM VOICE

JANUARY 2010  
VOLUME 48, ISSUE 8

## JANUARY 2010 PROGRAMS

### JANUARY 3 "MIDWINTER DANCING"

We'll move the chairs out of the way as Enid Cocke and Mark Moser teach us folk dances from Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Enid will speak on how dancing has enabled humanity to survive the trials of life through the ages. Contact Mark at 537-5028 or mark@grapeviner.com

### JANUARY 10 "STRUGGLE"

Reverend Thea Nietfeld reflects, "Obstacles and opponents can make effort difficult. What we do in the face of these makes all the difference ... Does the faith we have patched together serve us when obstacles and opponents block our way? In this season of reflection and resolutions, noticing how faith supports persistence through difficulties could be deepening. Your example of what works for you will be honored." Contact Thea at 537-2349 or thean@ksu.edu

### JANUARY 17 "WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?"

Richard Pitts, Executive Director of the Wonder Workshop, leads a conversation exploring how each of us can carry on Martin Luther King's tradition of service to others, and how we can continue to pursue the dream in 2010. The program incorporates multicultural music. Contact/convener is Dick Beeman at 539-9369 or rbeeman@cox.net

### JANUARY 24 "UNDER THE RAINBOW"

KU librarian Tami Albin joins us to present her Under the Rainbow public history project, collecting oral histories of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (GLBTIQ) people in Kansas. Her project gives voice to the diverse experiences of GLBTIQ Kansans, and will provide an open access collection of shared experiences. Convener/contact is Alley Stoughton at stough@k-state.edu or 341-3041

### JANUARY 31 "OPPOSITES"

Reverend Jill Jarvis muses, "Life is filled with opposites, forces operating against each other within ourselves and in the world. As spiritual liberals, our task is to hold the tension between life's polarities, allowing them to co-exist through creative struggle. Join us as we consider this place of transformation, where something new, something unexpected, may emerge." Contact/convener is Jennifer Askey at 537-1272 or jda127@gmail.com

### UU FELLOWSHIP OF MANHATTAN

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Manhattan, KS 66505  
(785) 537-2349  
office@uufm.net  
[www.uufm.net](http://www.uufm.net)

REV MICHAEL NELSON, minister

BRICE HOBROCK, Executive Board Chair

(785) 776-3175  
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SUNDAY SERVICES  
begin at 10:45 AM  
at 481 ZEANDALE ROAD

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### CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Mark your calendar for the UUFM Social Committee's fabulous annual Candlelight Dinner on Saturday, JANUARY 23, at 6 pm, at the Fellowship. This year's menu will feature Moroccan dishes, and exotic entertainment is planned. Cost is \$12.50 for adults, and children under 10 are free. Contact Shirley Hobrock at 776-3175 or shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com no later than January 20 to make reservations for yourself and your family.



### UUFM is a WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Learn more about the Welcoming Congregation initiative at  
[www.uua.org/visitors/justicediversity/6252.shtml](http://www.uua.org/visitors/justicediversity/6252.shtml)

## **MICHAEL'S MUSINGS - REV MICHAEL NELSON, DECEMBER 24, 2009**

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My sixth year of working with you began in December. The oldest among us announces that he finds himself experiencing immense joy. So the babies and the eldest shine forth their light while some of us, haggard from too much pressure, are frenzied by too many obligations or meaningless jobs (thankfully I am not one of them.) Then there are those who live with great loss, finding their way through the darkness. Shadow finds us all, no matter what age, just as lightness can. Some days proffer a mysterious mix.



and hill---becoming more skilled at navigating time's rapids, knowing when to reflect upon deep pools ... Oh, my turtle friend has one more thing to say, "Don't leave beauty behind in the old year ..."

May you have all the time you need!

*Michael*

*Michael will be on sabbatical from January 1, 2010, thru May 31, 2010. During this time, he will be available only in case of an emergency. Please contact him through Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or office@uufm.net, or DRE Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net*

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The snow that fell so beautifully a couple of weeks ago now lies in patches in the meadow and through the woods as a wind rages from the north promising more winter precipitation. Last week, while I drove into Manhattan, turning off of Drover's Trail onto Boulder Road I saw, to my wild surprise, four swans curving over Hay Meadow Road. I watched them arc for 1 and 1/2 miles--a delight on a gray morning as are the ten hens that arrived on solstice day. We've gathered 16 eggs in 2 days in shades of beige and brown, warm and perfect in the hand, the shape and feel of a miracle. They roost in the rounded cellar beneath the first house the Bredows built after their arrival from Prussia in the 1870's. Their great-great granddaughter sent me pictures of the place from the teens and 20's. Chickens were everywhere and the old house was their coop. Standing vacant for over 40 years, the roof let go, but the cellar is in perfect shape and with an addition of outdoor quarters the hens have made it their home.

A turtle carved by the Huichol Indians, rests on top of my roll-top desk. Beaded in orange, red, turquoise, sky-blue, mid-night blue, browns, black and yellow she tells me, "Time matters so much less than you think." "But," I say, "it goes so fast." She laughs, "Don't be fooled by your vantage point." That's all she will say for now. So I ponder the lowest level of time that exists beneath all things, before all things and I wonder what will come out of this sabbatical. I have my plans and hope they will be fruitful. The root of sabbatical, Sabbath requires a day of rest, the cessation of usual activity, a time to observe what is holy/whole; what is sacred, saturated with meaning. As a Unitarian Universalist my command to be open, yet discerning, guides me to seek the equipoise between the silly and the sound, play and the profound, the high and low and the great stretches of sky



### **THOUGHTS FROM THEA - REV THEA NIETFELD**

Happy New Year! For the next few months, I am available to respond to UUFM leaders and members because Michael, my friend and colleague, asked me to help. Although I did not take one, I believe that congregations benefit from ministerial sabbaticals because they enable longer-term relationships between ministers and congregations.

I will be supporting the Fellowship by providing one service each month and attending Board meetings as a consultant. I'm interested in supporting implementation of the new Covenant of Right Relations [*see page 8 of this newsletter*] and exploring the possibility of small group ministry. As a community minister, my primary work will continue to be with K-State's School of Leadership Studies and Nonviolence Studies. Our sister congregation in Salina relies on me for regular programs and consultation.

Its good to be among you, in struggles and in celebrations ... See you in church on the 10<sup>th</sup>,

*Thea*

#### **REVEREND THEA NIETFELD'S OFFICE SCHEDULE**

Thea will be available in the Fellowship office on:

- Sunday, January 10 - 12:30 to 2 pm
- Sunday, January 24 - 12:30 to 2 pm

During office hours, Thea may be reached at the Fellowship at 537-2349. Please contact Thea at 918 207-2444 or okiethoreau@yahoo.com to schedule longer visits or consultations.

# RE NEWS

## REFLECTIONS - MARIA SNYDER, DRE, DECEMBER 21, 2009

The New Year is a time for looking back to see how far you have come and for looking ahead and planning what you hope to do in the year to come. It is also often a time for resolutions.



This last year has meant lots of changes for me personally and there are certainly more to come this year. I found my ground here at the UU just before I sort of lost my

footing, due to taking on far too much this past semester. I learned my lesson, and am taking on far less in my classes this semester. We have lots to look forward to in RE also.

We have two more intergenerational services scheduled. I have learned so much from each one that we produced, and I think they will keep getting better. The lessons I learned, get the kids involved early and often. So the kids help me select the story and decide who will play parts, and choose how much they will talk during the service. Our kids are growing confident and having fun in front of the congregation. I have learned better ways to prepare them. Most recently I learned that if we want to include more kids, I need to recruit help, which I will do earlier and with more information in services to come.

One of the changes that happened due to my coming on board was the changes to the stage. This meant saying goodbye to the mural that was in the teen room. The tweens and teens are hoping to plan a new mural, and an overnight to get it painted.

Thanks to all who have made this last year go so great and I am looking forward to what 2010 has in store for us.

Maria

## YOUTH CHOIR

The UUFM Youth Choir takes a well-earned break in January. All kids who enjoy singing are invited to join us when rehearsal resumes in February. Learn more from Sarah Nuss-Warren at 537-3586 or nusswarr@gmail.com

## RE NEEDS YOU!

*We are looking for teachers and helpers. The teens need teachers for our music curricula. We need helpers to keep the rooms clean and organized, and help on special projects. We will be looking for guest teachers for the Summer Postcards program again this summer. Learn more from Maria Snyder at 537-2349 or dre@uufm.net or RE Committee co-chairs Sandy Nelson at 341-0135 or sandralounelson@yahoo.com and Kathleen Tanona at 537-6208 or kmtanona@hotmail.com*

## TEENS - POPCORN THEOLOGY

Teens, tweens, and parents are invited to join us for Popcorn Theology every other Friday, at 6 pm. On **JANUARY 8**, we'll watch *Hoosiers*, and explore the freedom of forgiving and the importance of seeking forgiveness in religious traditions all over the world.

On **JANUARY 22**, we'll view *The Field of Dreams*, exploring the idea behind dreams and the quest for meaning in life. We will also consider how heaven can be likened to a place "where dreams come true."



## MARIA SNYDER'S SCHEDULE

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

Friday,	January	1 - 2 to 5 pm
Monday,	January	4 - 2 to 5 pm
Friday,	January	8 - 3 to 6 pm
Monday,	January	11 - 2 to 5 pm
Friday,	January	15 - 2 to 5 pm
Monday,	January	18 - 2 to 5 pm
Friday,	January	22 - 3 to 6 pm
Monday,	January	25 - 2 to 5 pm
Friday,	January	29 - 2 to 5 pm

During office hours, call Maria at 537-2349, or drop by the Fellowship building. Contact Maria by email at anytime at [dre@uufm.net](mailto:dre@uufm.net)



CAST OF THE "WIZARD OF OZ," CREATED AND PERFORMED BY STUDENTS AND ADULTS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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The **MEN'S LUNCH** meets EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 12 noon, in the Fellowship's large RE room. Bring a desire for stimulating conversation and a sack lunch for yourself. Learn more from Jack Warren at 539-4073 or [jomega@ksu.edu](mailto:jomega@ksu.edu), or Charley Kempthorne at 564-1118 or [charleykempthorne@dishmail.net](mailto:charleykempthorne@dishmail.net)

The **UUFM DRUM CIRCLE** gathers on Friday, JANUARY 8, at 7 pm, in the Fellowship's New Sanctuary. UUFM members, guests, beginners and regulars, and those of all ages are welcome. Bring your favorite instrument, or there are also plenty of instruments available to borrow. Learn more from Pat Embers at 539-2819 or [embers1@cox.net](mailto:embers1@cox.net)

This month, the **UUFM SINGERS** rehearse on Sunday, JANUARY 10, and JANUARY 31, at 9:30 am, in the new sanctuary. The Youth choir will be taking a break in January. Learn more from Michael Oldfather at 537-3738 or [mou812@ksu.edu](mailto:mou812@ksu.edu)

The **WOMEN'S LUNCH GROUP** meets Wednesday, JANUARY 13, at 12 noon, in the Manhattan Room, at Meadowlark Hills. We will order from the menu. Learn more from Florence Schwab at 539-0976 or [fschwab@cox.net](mailto:fschwab@cox.net)

The Manhattan Martin Luther King Jr. Committee announces events taking place in commemoration of **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY** this month. On Saturday, JANUARY 16, Emmanuel Cleaver speaks at the Manhattan High School East Campus at 7 pm, followed by a candlelight walk to First United Methodist Church. On Monday, JANUARY 18, a prayer breakfast gathers at 8 am, at the Clarion Motel. Cheryl Brown Henderson, sister of Linda Brown, a plaintiff in the Brown v. Board of Education case, will speak. Also on JANUARY 18, beginning at 10 am, there will be a variety of activities at Manhattan Town Center, including music, speakers, and community service projects.

The UUFM Open Circle hosts two **PAGAN / WICCAN** gatherings this month. On Saturday, JANUARY 16, at 6 pm, the circle gathers in the Fellowship's Inez Alsop room for a potluck meal and class, the *Celtic Path*. On Saturday, JANUARY 30, at 6 pm, join us for a potluck and class focusing on *Candle Magic* and the *Imbolc Ritual* in the Inez Alsop room, and around the Fellowship fire circle. Learn more from Zac Bailey at (417) 619-5300 or [zac.bailey@us.army.mil](mailto:zac.bailey@us.army.mil)

**THIRD THURSDAY SUPPER** gathers on JANUARY 21, at 6 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). This is not a potluck. You may bring food to share if you wish, but it is not required. Just bring your smile, family, and friends and join us for supper and great conversation! Learn more from Susan Turner at 537-2349 or [office@uufm.net](mailto:office@uufm.net)

The **UUFM BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** gathers at 7 pm, Wednesday, JANUARY 27, at the Geiselman residence. We'll be reading "*Still Alice*," by Lisa Genova. Learn more from Gwen Geiselman at 776-4505.



The UUFM Social and Welcoming Committees will host a Welcoming Brunch before the morning service on Sunday, JANUARY 17, at 9 am. New members and friends interested in becoming more connected within the Fellowship are invited. Ask Shirley Hobrock at 776-3175 or [shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com](mailto:shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com), or Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or [welcome@uufm.net](mailto:welcome@uufm.net), to learn more.

## CREATING AND LEADING MEANINGFUL SERVICES

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Join us on Saturday, **JANUARY 30**, from 10 am to 5 pm, for a workshop focusing on Creating and Leading Meaningful Services, led by Rev Jill Jarvis, consulting minister of the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence. Our Fellowship offers many opportunities to be involved in programs, but few of us have any training in creating and leading UU worship. Workshop participants will learn about the history, theory, art and craft of Unitarian Universalist worship, and will learn to work together as a team to create and lead high-quality Sunday services.

This workshop is for Fellowship members and friends who are interested in helping create and lead UUFM services, from those who have never convened, to those who have created and led whole services. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided. Participants should bring sack lunches. Some preparatory reading is required.

To learn more, or to sign up for this fantastic opportunity, contact Alley Stoughton at [stough@k-state.edu](mailto:stough@k-state.edu) or 341-3041, before January 25.



## UUFM CANDLELIGHT DINNER

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Mark your calendar for the UUFM Social Committee's fabulous Candlelight Dinner on Saturday, **JANUARY 23**, at 6 pm, at the Fellowship. The menu will feature Moroccan dishes, and exotic entertainment is being planned. Cost will be \$12.50 for adults, and children under 10 eat free. Contact Shirley Hobrock at [shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com](mailto:shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com) or 776-3175 before January 20, to make your reservations.

# SOCIAL ACTION AT UUFM

## VOLUNTEER AND SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

Our Welcoming and Membership Committee is seeking a few volunteers to help form new **REFRESHMENT AND GREETING TEAMS**. This is an easy way to give to the Fellowship with a minimal investment of time--only three Sundays each year. Learn more from Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or welcome@uufm.net, or Elke Lorenz at 539-3527 or ellorenz@uufm.net

Sunflower **CASA PROJECT** offers independent study training for volunteers who wish to make a difference in the life of a child in the foster care system. Learn more--email sunfcasa@interkan.net or call 537-6367, or visit <http://casa.manhattanks.org>. There is a child waiting for your voice--become a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for a neglected child in the court system.

This month, Fellowship volunteers will prepare and serve **HAPPY KITCHEN COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** on Friday, JANUARY 8, and JANUARY 22 from 7:30 to 9 am, at St Paul's Episcopal Church. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to occasionally fill in for regular helpers. 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 Shirley Hobrock at 776-3175 or [shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com](mailto:shirleyjhobrock@hotmail.com)

The **MANHATTAN EMERGENCY SHELTER** needs our help! The shelter is experiencing a severe budget deficit due to recent government cutbacks. Many small items are needed, such as disposable razors, individual soaps and shampoos, deodorant, ibuprofen, pacifiers, kids' socks, nail clippers, gloves, and warm hats. Non-perishable FOOD is most needed at this time. Contributions may be placed in the box decorated by RE students in the southwest corner of the narthex. Learn more from Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or [socialjustice@uufm.net](mailto:socialjustice@uufm.net)



**Shepherd's  
Crossing**  
FAITH HOPE LOVE

Eat at **SIRLOIN STOCKADE** on the *Third Tuesday* each month. Sirloin Stockade will donate a generous part of the cost of your meal to Shepherd's Crossing to assist families with rent, utilities, or prescription medication. Give this coupon and your receipt to the cashier at Sirloin Stockade on Tuesday any time after 11 am.

## HELPING HANDS SUNDAY

Each month our Social Action Committee designates an agency or association to receive the morning offerings on the second Sunday. On Sunday, **JANUARY 10**, our morning collection will benefit the **MANHATTAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**, serving children ages 5 to 18 at eight locations providing both after school and summer care. Their programming focuses on five core areas: character and leadership development; education and career development; health and life skills; the arts; and sports, fitness and recreation.

All cash contributions and checks placed in the offering basket on the second Sunday of the month go to the Helping Hands Sunday beneficiary, and should be made out to UUFM. Write "for UUFM" in the memo line if you wish your contribution to benefit the Fellowship. Learn more from our Helping Hands Sunday coordinator Betty Banner at 776-1887 or [bettybanner@gmail.com](mailto:bettybanner@gmail.com)

## EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE AND CFL SALES

**FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS** are offered for purchase at the Fellowship following Sunday programs. Whole bean, ground, and decaf coffees, as well as chocolate, and tea are available. To learn more, or to purchase Fair Trade products, ask Anne Cowan at 537-2025 or [anne\\_cowan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net) or ask her on Sunday mornings.



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. Bulbs are \$4, and may be purchased for your own use, or donated to families seeking help from Shepherd's Crossing.

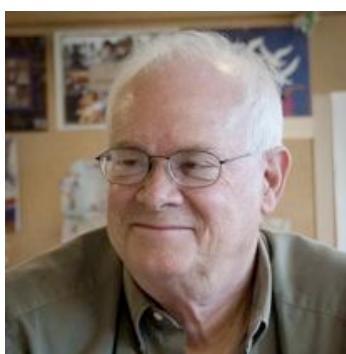
## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Social Action Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, JANUARY 13, at 5:30 pm, in the Inez Alsop room. Discussion will include the selection of future beneficiaries of Helping Hands Sunday collections. Those interested in Social Justice at the Fellowship are invited to attend. Learn more from Social Action chair Yvonne Lacy at 539-4404 or [socialjustice@uufm.net](mailto:socialjustice@uufm.net)



## **WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR - BRICE HOBROCK, DECEMBER 15, 2010**

"We value each person's worth ... work together cooperatively and in friendship ... approach each other in good will ... allow for mistakes and have an expectation that we will forgive each other ... recognize that our different experiences may lead to disagreement ... practice respectful acceptance ... patiently negotiate to reconcile conflicts and choose friendship over irreconcilable differences." Thus, our Seven Principles are supplemented by the newly minted **UUFM COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS** facilitated by Thea Nietfeld and Michael Nelson and approved by the UUFM Board in December. Thanks to many of you as well for your participation in the process. This is a living document and we welcome comment and suggestions. Kim Belanger and Maria Snyder have agreed to serve as an "Advocate Team" to promote the **Covenant** and **Process**. Thus, we invite you to read the result as posted at UUFM or on the website, and stand by for information about upcoming programs and events where you will have an opportunity to discuss this new addition to our Fellowship.



**Brice Hobrock**, UUFM Executive Board Chair

Contact Brice at 776-3175 or [bhobrock@uufm.net](mailto:bhobrock@uufm.net). View the Covenant of Right Relations on our website, at [www.uufm.net/media/RightRelationsDraft.pdf](http://www.uufm.net/media/RightRelationsDraft.pdf), or read the Covenant, with an introduction from Rev Thea Nietfeld, on page 8 of this newsletter.

## **PSD ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Prairie Star District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations will hold the PSD Annual Conference, April 23 to 25, in Davenport, Iowa. This multi-generational conference features family-centered activities, workshops, speakers, worship, and opportunities for networking with UUs from across our District. Learn more, and register at the early-bird rate, at [www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2010](http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2010). Flyers and registration forms will be available to pick up from the information carousel in the narthex later in January.

## **DREAMING OF SUMMER?**

If you're making plans for the warm, sunny days of summer 2010, consider attending a UU camp.

Camp StarTrail, Prairie Star's new multigenerational camp near Ashland, Nebraska, will be held August 1 to 6. At Camp StarTrail, campers of all ages explore and celebrate Unitarian Universalism through a variety of workshops and worship opportunities. The main speaker will be UU minister, singer, songwriter, and humorist Meg Barnhouse. Registration opens in February.

Information will be posted on the carousel in the narthex as it becomes available, or learn more about Camp StarTrail, Camp UniStar, and Midwest UU Summer Assembly now at [www.psduua.org/Camps](http://www.psduua.org/Camps)

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

The Executive Board meets Thursday, **JANUARY 14**, at 7 pm, in the Inez Alsop all-purpose room (old sanctuary). Interested members and friends are invited to attend and observe the proceedings. Learn more from Board Chair Brice Hobrock at 776-3175 or [bhobrock@uufm.net](mailto:bhobrock@uufm.net)



PRAIRIE STAR DISTRICT CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES  
PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING PARADE OF BANNERS,  
AT THE PSD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2005, IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN.



## GREETING AND REFRESHMENT TEAMS

- Jan 3: Michael and Kathleen Oldfather, Buddy and Bobette McGaughey  
 Jan 10: Abigail Conrad, Diane Barker, and Thea Nietfeld and Steve Shelton  
 Jan 17: *Membership and Welcoming Committees*  
 Jan 24: Courtney Markle, Sylvia and Dick Beeman, and Jennifer Askey  
 Jan 31: Betty Banner, Colina and Stewart Stanton, Bernd and Enell Foerster, Dick and Sylvia Beeman

Coffee and greeting teams consist of one leader/coordinator, and three or four helpers to provide Sunday morning greeting and refreshments. Teams sign up for only three Sundays each year.

**WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO FORM THREE OR FOUR ADDITIONAL COFFEE AND GREETING TEAMS.** Ask Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson or Elke Lorenz at 539-3527 or [elorenz@uufm.net](mailto:elorenz@uufm.net) to learn more.

*THANKS SO MUCH* to everyone who has already volunteered to join or lead one of our teams! Learn more from Welcoming and Membership Committee chair Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or [jo.maseberg@gmail.com](mailto:jo.maseberg@gmail.com)

### **Administrator's Schedule**

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

Monday,	January	4 - 3 to 5 pm
Tuesday,	January	5 - 12 to 5 pm
Thursday,	January	7 - 12 to 5 pm
Monday,	January	11 - 3 to 5 pm
Tuesday,	January	12 - 12 to 5 pm
Thursday,	January	14 - 4 to 7 pm
Monday,	January	18 - 3 to 5 pm
Tuesday,	January	19 - 12 to 5 pm
Thursday,	January	21 - 4 to 9 pm
Thursday,	January	28 - 12 to 5 pm
Saturday,	January	30 - 11 am to 6 pm

Call Susan at 537-2349 during office hours, or drop by the office. She may be reached at any time by email at [office@uufm.net](mailto:office@uufm.net)

## HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or [office@uufm.net](mailto: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 Susan during her posted office hours (*seen at bottom left*) at 537-2349.

If you have been considering **BECOMING A MEMBER** of UU FM, please ask our Welcoming and Membership Committee chair, Jo Maseberg-Tomlinson at 477-2759 or [jo.maseberg@gmail.com](mailto:jo.maseberg@gmail.com), or Rev Michael Nelson at 913 961-2626 or [minister@uufm.net](mailto:minister@uufm.net), for information and assistance.

Fellowship members may receive the UUA magazine **UU WORLD**, without cost. **UU World** is also available on audiotape, for those with visual or reading difficulties. Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 539-3272 or [office@uufm.net](mailto:office@uufm.net). Read **UU World** online: [www.uuworld.org](http://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](mailto:welti@ksu.edu) to subscribe.

UU FM bookkeeper Kathleen Oldfather would be happy to help you set up **ELECTRONIC PAYMENT** of your pledge contributions. 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](mailto:koldfather@yahoo.com), or pick up literature and a form from the information rack in our narthex.

### **SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please contact fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 537-2349 or [office@uufm.net](mailto:office@uufm.net), **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY EVENING** with announcements and information 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](mailto:yvcq67lacy@sbcglobal.net), or Barbara Hacker at 587-8002, or let us know at 537-2349 or [office@uufm.net](mailto:office@uufm.net)

### **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](mailto:office@uufm.net)

### **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for submissions to the February edition of *The UU FM Voice* is Friday, **JANUARY 15**. Please send news, meetings, announcements, and events to Susan Turner at 539-3272 or [office@uufm.net](mailto:office@uufm.net)

# UUFM Covenant of Right Relations and Conflict Resolution Process

Reverend Thea Nietfeld comments on this newly adopted statement, *Healthy congregations are often supported by covenants and processes for inevitable conflict. A covenant links principles with behavior as a statement of aspirations. A conflict resolution process reduces anxiety with planned steps toward resolution.*

*As you may have noticed from reports on the Old Sanctuary bulletin board since October, UUFM members have been thinking together about what causes congregational stress and conflict and how we want to treat each other when we have issue disagreements. The results of these open conversations were adopted by the Board at its December meeting:*



## **UUFM COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS**

- We value each person's worth and welcome people of all ages to participate in Fellowship life.
- We gather to support each other in our personal and community growth.
- Our congregational life provides opportunities to practice working together cooperatively and in friendship, keeping the greater good of the whole at heart. We approach each other with good will, allowing for mistakes and with an expectation that we will forgive each other.
- Recognizing that our different experiences and paths may lead to disagreement, we intend to practice respectful acceptance. Since we need to work together, we will patiently negotiate to reconcile conflicts and choose friendship over irreconcilable differences.
- Practicing right relations in our Fellowship encourages character growth and naturally extends caring qualities into other relationships.

## **UUFM CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS**

- We encourage patient self-reflection in times of conflict for personal growth. Members are invited to apply reflection questions that are posted on the bulletin board. Individuals may choose to seek counseling from the minister.
- Members or groups in conflict are invited to first attempt to respectfully resolve issues with the original people or Committee involved.
- If it is not possible to respectfully solve the conflict among the original people/groups, they are encouraged to involve a mediator. Those involved could agree on and choose the minister, another member of the fellowship, the Conflict Resolution Promoter or Team, a consultant from UUA, or a community mediator.
- The UUFM Board will be the final decision-maker for conflicts unresolved by mediation or where mediation is not useful. If the Board is involved, any leader may contact the Prairie Star District Office for assistance.
- This process will supplement rather than displace other congregational decision-making processes and structures.