

Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

May 2006 Newsletter

Annual Meeting – Pot Luck

Please join us in the Annual Meeting – Pot Luck celebration on Sunday, May 7th at 11:00am. This is an important meeting for the organization of the Fellowship yet it is also a time of celebrating another successful year! Important items on the agenda include: election of officers, approval of 07 Budget, committee reports, voting on Fellowship communication procedures and planning for next year.

Please bring a dish to pass so we can incorporate a brunch into the meeting. (Food is an important part of this meeting. We like to enjoy ourselves while we work. ! ☺) The meeting/pot luck will run from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. in the basement at The Springs. Members and Friends are encouraged to attend!

Sustainable Travel to Worship

In honor of Bike to Work Week, May 13th – 19th, the Wisconsin Interfaith Climate & Energy Campaign is promoting the “Sustainable Travel to Worship” event Sunday, May 14th. Individuals are encouraged to travel to church that day by ride sharing, bicycling, walking or riding the bus. How appropriate that the “Sustainable Travel to Worship Day” coincides with our service that day on “Central Wisconsin Land Conservation” with Jo Seiser!

Intergenerational Flower Ceremony Service

Please remember to bring a flower to share during the communion at this service as we celebrate our diversity and our common humanity. This is our last weekly service of this fiscal year.

SPUUF Hymnal Drive

Many times over the last year during our services, we were short on hymnals. The Fellowship is sponsoring a short “Hymnal Drive” between now and May 21st to try and increase the number of hymnals on hand. Hymnals cost \$28 each to order from the UUA. If you are willing to make a contribution for one or more hymnals for the Fellowship, please send your check, made out to SPUUF to our P.O. 361, Stevens Point, WI. 54481. One large order for new hymnals will be made at the end of May, so we'll have additional hymnals on hand for the start of the fall services.

If you have taken a hymnal home to read, please return it to the Fellowship before May 21st.

Thank You Emily and Bobbi

Our childcare providers, Emily Pockat and Bobbi Rohrs, have done an outstanding job for us this year. They have been extremely dependable and organized and have provided a safe and loving environment for the children of this Fellowship! The childcare services received very high marks in our canvass. I think everyone understands how important a job these two have in our Fellowship and recognize the professional manner in which they provide it. The good news is that both Emily and Bobbi will return for next year. Bobbi will be on a semester abroad for first semester but she'll be back after that. Please tell them thanks the next time you see them!

Board Meeting

Mark your calendars! The next SPUUF board meeting is Sunday, May 21st at 9:00am. at The Springs library. **Please note the 9:00 am. start time.** All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please send Julia or Carol any agenda items for the meeting. The agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Report on CMwD Annual Assembly

Six members of our Fellowship participated in this year's district assembly: Michele Bjella, Ron Chapman, Jean Rumsey, Dorothy Ginnett, Jackie Dlack-Hickman and Carol Weston. Sessions they attended include: financial stewardship, conflict resolution, peace advocacy, recruiting volunteers, UUA liturgy, intergenerational services, serving boys in a fellowship and more! The key note address was given by Rabbi Michael Lerner of the Beyt Tikkun Synagogue and author of “*The Left Hand of God*”. Rabbi Lerner

shared the findings of a 29 year old study he has conducted tracking the shifting to the political right within the middle class in American. Some key findings of the study show:

- Environments of the working class have evolved to an impersonal and “everyone is replaceable” mentality - Individuals must maximize power and money to retain position
- This effects how people view others and relationships are based on “What can you do for me?” or “How can I use you to my advantage?”
- This type of environment creates a high level of insecurity and a deep level fear within people
- There is no shared purpose, or sense of working together on a higher goal or purpose; thus individuals are feeling isolated and scared.
- This has created a spiritual crisis in U.S. because for many individuals purpose in life came from their work
- The conservative right was the first to recognize and name this problem and have successfully provided an avenue for many Americans to search for meaning in their lives.
- The politically liberal need to accept and recognize the need people have to feel connect to a higher purpose or power (God) and accept this belief structure as equal to any other point of view otherwise the middle class will continue to move toward the political right.
- Liberal religions can join forces with the political left by speaking out on their views of religion and God to provide another choice for people.

Much of the information they gained at the district assembly was shared at the May 7th service, however; members are available for individual questions and will continue to share new insights gained at upcoming planning meetings for the 2007 fiscal year. Additional information on Rabbi Lerner and the Tikkun Community can be found at: <http://www.tikkun.org/community>

Second Harvest

The [Second Harvest Food Pantry](#) is scheduled at The Springs on May 9th and 23rd.

The Tuesday schedule is:

- Set up 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- Food distribution 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Close 8:00 – 9:00 pm

Volunteers are needed for any shift or for the entire evening. If you cannot volunteer your time, donations of food and/or money are also needed. Checks can be made to “Second Harvest Food Pantry.” Please contact Mary Wright 341-5655 if you have questions on the program. Otherwise step right up and get involved!

Thanks to.....

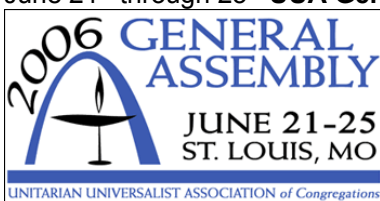
- Clara Cleve, Julia Weiser, Carol Weston and Jane Shoup for coordinating the April programs
- Carol Weston, Julia Weiser and Bill Hettler for organizing the Intergenerational Earth Day Service
- The SPUUF Players – Billy Hettler, Steve & Michele Bjella, Marcia Johnson and John Rendall for the skit on Intergenerational Earth Day.
- All who have helped open, close and bring snacks for our weekly services.
- Jean Rumsey, Carol Weston, Ron Chapman, Dorothy Ginnett, Julia Weiser and Michele Bjella for sharing what they learned at the CMwD Conference.
- Dorothy Ginnett, Julia Weiser, Marcia Johnson and Jean Rumsey for leading RE programs in Apr.
- Dave Johnson for coordinating the Highway Cleanup program and for those members who participated.
- Bill Hettler for making a wooden structure onto which to hand our principles banner in the sanctuary.
- Any other member or friend who contributed to the Fellowship this past month!!

News From the UUA and CMwD

- The Rev. Dr. Ian Evison has accepted the position of Congregational Services Director in the Central Midwest District. His tentative start date is July 1, though he will undoubtedly be involved in some district events before that time. Ian is currently serving as Director of Research for the Alban Institute, a position he has had since 1998. From 1995 until 1998 he was Academic Dean and Interim President of Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago.



- Friends of the UUA is conducting its **End of Fiscal Year Fundraising Phonathon** in May. Members of the Fellowship may be called from the Friends of the UUA. In the past year, members of the Friends of the UUA provided over \$1 million dollars in funding, roughly 13% of the UUA budget. **Contributions are totally optional.** Our Fellowship does contribute \$1785 to the UUA yearly.
- Saturday, May 6, **“Starting a New UU Congregation for Emerging & Forming Religious Communities - How to Get Started, Create Systems and Develop Organization & Programs”** at Eliot Chapel, Kirkwood, MO 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
- Friday-Saturday, May 12-13 **“Stewardship Workshop for Emerging and Small Congregations”** with Jerry King - Connecting Mission/Vision to Programs; Programs to Budget; Budget to Pledges - northern Wisconsin location TBA
- CMwD announces the creation of [The Network of Spiritual Progressives](http://www.spiritualprogressives.org/). Information on the Spiritual Progressives and its **“Spiritual Activism Conference”**, May 17-20th is available at its website: <http://www.spiritualprogressives.org/>
- June 21st through 25th **UUA General Assembly** in St. Louis, Missouri. <http://www.uua.org/ga/>



- July 15-22, 2006 [Midwest Leadership School](#), Beloit Wisconsin
- Aug 4-6, 2006 Summer WomanSpirit “Passion, Power, Pleasure” at [Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center](#) in Watervliet, Michigan.

Calendar of Events

May 7:	Annual Meeting – Pot Luck
May 9:	Second Harvest Food Pantry 4 – 9 pm
May 12-14	“Engaging Our Theological Diversity” – Adult Enrichment Spring Retreat
May 14:	“Central WI Land Conservation” Jo Seiser Sustainable Travel to Worship Day
May 21:	Intergenerational Flower Ceremony – last service of this fiscal year weekly services
May 23:	Second Harvest Food Pantry 4 – 9 pm

2005 – 2006 Board:

Presidents	Carol Weston	715 345-1735
	Julia Weiser	715 344-7769
Vice President	Stefan Shoup	715 754-4833
Treasurer	Ron Chapman	715 344-0070
Secretary	Jane Shoup	715 754-4833
Member at Large	Vince Heig	715 592-4239
Member at Large	Clara Cleve	715 341-4791
RE Chair	Dorothy Ginnett	715 341-6318
Membership Chair	Jenny Howard	715 341-5805
Program Chair	Jane Shoup	715 754-4833

STEVENS POINT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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Stevens Point, WI 54481

www.spuuf.org
info@spuuf.org



Services are held at The Springs, 2820 Plover Springs Dr., Plover, WI 54467
Services and religious Education start at 11:00 a.m. Sept through May
Summer services are individually scheduled.



The Uncommon Denomination