

**Stevens Point  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
February 2007 Newsletter**



**Presidents Report – Carol Weston**

**A very belated Happy New Year!** I'm sorry there wasn't a January newsletter. It is challenging to get other work done when all the children are home from college, for a total of five kids! But our family is finally into our "normal" mode (what's that?) and I feel like I'm getting control of my schedule. So onward with the business of the Fellowship! ✍

Members did vote unanimously to approve our vision statement and our 5 year strategic plan. Once again I'd like to thank the Strategic Planning Members and all Fellowship members and friends who have put energy into creating a way forward for this Fellowship. At the January board meeting, the board decided to focus on the following strategic plan action steps for next year:

- ? Develop a public relations campaign
- ? Gear up for hiring a ¼ to ½ time administrator
- ? Continue with guest ministers and pursue an Intern Ministers (MOD Squad ministers)
- ? Ask for volunteers to form a Green Sanctuary committee

The board will start gathering information on cost and procedures for initiating the above action steps. This information will be brought back to the board for discussion and possible action later this spring.

**The next board meeting has been schedule for 9:00 am on February 11<sup>th</sup>, in the basement of The Springs.**

**Call to Action**

Okay, so now you see what action steps the board thinks the Fellowship should focus on in the coming year. The board will do its part in getting the information needed. **ARE YOU willing to help?** We need involvement from our members to make things happen. We are looking for people to work with Kathryn Bentley to design a PR campaign. There is an entire marketing campaign posted at the UUA website on the "Uncommon Denomination." We can utilize what we want for our own marketing:

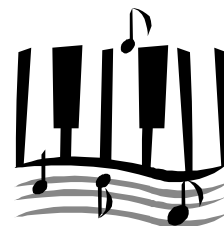
<http://www.uua.org/programs/congservices/uncommon/>

We also need volunteers to review the UUA's "Green Sanctuary" manual, which we have. There is a lot of information on the Internet on the UUA's Ministry for Earth Program, which is where we purchased the "Green Sanctuary" manual. <http://uuministryforearth.org/cgi/news.cgi> Perhaps we could tie into some of our "green" information to help with our marketing?

We just need some people to step forward to start the planning. It would be great if initial meetings on these two issues started in February. Please contact Carol Weston, 345-1735 or Julia Weiser 344-7769 if you would like to participate in one of these action steps.

## Music Festival Service

Our traditional Music Sunday is **Feb.11** this year and we are looking for musicians and/or music lovers. If you have the itch to perform some music, or if you have a favorite recording of a piece you would like heard in the service, please contact Steve Bjella ( 715 345-9779 ) and let him know by Feb. 3 if you are interested.



## New Member Induction & Welcome

Have you been visiting our Fellowship for awhile? Are you enjoying the diverse services and the community involvement opportunities offered through the Fellowship? Have you found like minded individuals to share in the journey of developing spiritual or community purpose in your life? If so, then why not make the step to become a member of this Unitarian Universalist Fellowship? February or March is the time we like to welcome new members into the Fellowship. If you have questions or need more information on what membership in the Fellowship entails, please give Julia Weiser 344-7769 or Carol Weston 345-1735 a call.

## Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee set the Community Collection schedule for the remainder of the fiscal year as follows:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ? February 11 <sup>th</sup> Family Crises Center | February 25 <sup>th</sup> Second Harvest |
| ? March 11 <sup>th</sup> Interfaith Care Givers  | March 25 <sup>th</sup> Second Harvest    |
| ? April 8 <sup>th</sup> House of Peace           | April 22 <sup>nd</sup> Second Harvest    |
| ? May 13 <sup>th</sup> Springs Site Development  | May 20 <sup>th</sup> Second Harvest      |

The Second Harvest Food Pantry schedule for February is: February 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign up sheet on the UU bulletin board in the church vestibule. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Joanie Hanson if you have questions. The Food Pantry is located at 2820 Post Rd, Plover. The Tuesday schedule is:

- ? Set up 4:30 – 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.

## RE Update

### Children's

the children's book drive received approximately \$180.00 in donations. Books purchased through these donations will be used to supplement the children's RE curriculum and be used as "Story for All Ages" during our services. Dorothy will be purchasing the books locally. Several used book were also donated from SPUUF members.

A volunteer is needed to lead the children's RE on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. Additional RE volunteers are needed in March. Please contact Dorothy Ginnett to volunteer. Lesson plans are very easy to follow and fun!

### Adult

The next Adult RE class is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. This Sunday's class focuses on "Coffee Hour Chat" statements. Class participants will continue to develop effective ways to describe our

UU beliefs. Adult RE sessions are individually designed so you do NOT have to have attended previous sessions to participate this week. All are welcome! Childcare is available during the RE class. Questions, contact Steve Bjella at 345-9779 / [sbjella@charter.net](mailto:sbjella@charter.net)

## Thank You

Every week, members and friends of this fellowship work to make the weekly services happen. Think about it – the order of service, the arrangement of speakers, the set up of the sanctuary, the coffee hour,

children's RE, etc., etc., etc. There is a collective effort that is amazing to watch week after week. This shared effort keeps this Fellowship vibrant.

Special Appreciation to:

- ? Mary Arnold for coordinating the Holiday Basket program; \$394 was given for the basket.
- ? Joanie Hanson for coordinating the Second Harvest volunteers
- ? Michele, Steve and Mike Bjella; Adam, John & Billy Hettler; and Julia Weiser for providing music at the Christmas Eve Service.
- ? Joanie Hansen, Clara Cleve, Michele Bjella and Mary Arnold for coordinating the Sunday aesthetics
- ? Billy Hettler as the RE Helper
- ? Michele Bjella for coordinating the January services
- ? Everyone who helped with set up and close up for our services!!!!!!

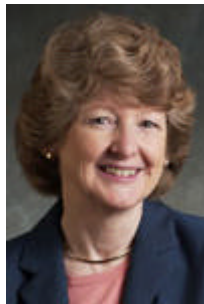
Take the time to pat yourselves on the back and say thank you to your friends! What have you done recently for the Fellowship?

## Community Events

### WINR Donated Wheels

*Wisconsin Interfaith Needs Response (WINR) Donated Wheels is a new organization in the Portage County area designed to address issues related to poverty, specifically transportation needs. This program has been very successful in helping people in need obtain reliable transportation which enables them to maintain employment and seek better employment. The program is looking for reliable used vehicles to donate to the program. For more information contact committee chairs Bill Zimdars or Michele Dickinson.*

### District Assembly



Last year, 7 members of this Fellowship attended the District Assembly in Madison. Many wonderful ideas were brought back to the Fellowship by those who attended. This year's District Assembly is in Oakbrook, Illinois, April 13-15. The theme of the Assembly is "Congregations Alive! Embodying a Story that Matters." The keynote will be given by Alice Mann, author and senior consultant with the Alban Institute. <http://www.cmwd-uua.org/pdfs/1206-DA-flyer.pdf>

Additional information on the assembly will be shared when it is available. Mark your calendars!

### Point of View

*Point of View is the member section of the newsletter. Information shared in the Point of View is diverse and does not reflect the official position of the Fellowship on any topic. The intent of this section is to provide a forum for sharing all points of view on spiritual, religious and other issues which relate to our 7 Principles, in order to facilitate continued personal search for truth and discussion among members and friends.*

Here is an article by Paul Evans, from the *Guardian Weekly*, Jan, 5-11, Nature Watch.

*A beautiful sunny day and extremely mild night. This would once have been one of those quirky events that called for celebration, but now we just chalk it up as yet another warmest month ever, yet another nail in the environmental coffin...*

*The environmentalist Aldo Leopold said that having an ecological education meant living alone in a damaged world; now we all live together in a damaged world and I think that's worse. Calling us to account for our part in causing ecological damage feels like bell-ringing; people hear the familiar chimes but they don't know what to do about them. The nature of Nature is no longer what we thought it was.*

*I turned from a view of the floods down a path along a hedge between two fields. Hovering low over trees was a buzzard. Suddenly the hedge was bounding with long-tailed tits, calling in the thorn. A fallow*

*deer moved effortlessly through the hedge. A buck in prime condition but without antlers saw me and trotted across the open field towards the wood, pausing at intervals to keep an eye on me. There was no fear, no accusation. It was just as it was, and with a sense of freedom in the moment for all of us. But it was strangely warm.*

Submitted by Jean Rumsey; contact her at 715-592-4973 if you have questions or comment on this submission.

## CMwD News

- ? Feb 23-25, "Roots Hold me Close, Wings Set Me Free" Woman Spirit 2007, Women and Religion Committee of the CMwD. Tecny, IL. More information at: <http://www.womenandreligion.org/>
- ? April 13-15 District Assembly, Oakbrook II. "Congregations Alive! Embodying a Story that Matters" <http://www.cmwd-uua.org/pdfs/1206-DA-flyer.pdf>

## Schedule of Services

Date	Service
2-4-06	"Creating Sacred Spaces," Katja Marquart
2-11-06	Music Festival Sunday
2-18-07	"My Experiences as a Muslim Living in Central WI" Fizza Razvi
2-25-07	"JesUUUs: A Malleable Myth" Richard Olson
3-4-07	"Issues Surrounding the Criminal Justice System" Mike Houlihan
3-11-07	Rev Sarah Wolburn, West Allis, Milwaukee Topic TBA
3-18-07	"Ways to Think about Dying" Jean Rumsey
3-25-07	"Reflections on My Trip to China" Julia Weiser

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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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  
Childcare is available  
Summer services are individually scheduled.



# **The Uncommon Denomination**