



The Flame & Chalice

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY

July 5th

“Need for a Moral Bailout”

Coleen Rowley

Coleen Rowley retired from the FBI in 2004 after nearly 24 years as an FBI agent and then Minneapolis Chief Division (Legal) Counsel for 13 years (a position she stepped down from after warning that the Iraq War was not justified and would prove counterproductive). In May 2002, Rowley wrote a memo about the FBI's various lapses in the Moussaoui case which spurred more extensive investigations and reports finding that 9-11 could have been prevented. She writes and speaks on ethical decision-making and the issues of civil liberties/dissent. Coleen has been a previous speaker at the UUFM.

July 12th

“Sufism: the Way of Opening the Heart” John Hakim Bushnell

Having been initiated for over nineteen years in the western Sufi order, the *Sufi Ruhaniat International*, John Hakim Bushnell will discuss this spiritual practice, particularly as it is practiced in the US today. He will include some of the teachings of the popular 13th century poet, Rumi, and present the meditative practice of the Zikr.

July 19th

“Living at a Cultural Intersection”

Kuma Takamura

Currently a Prejudice Reduction Facilitator with the Greater Mankato Diversity Council, and independent consultant for Japanese electronics companies, Kuma Takamura came to this country in 1980 as a biology researcher in behavior genetics at Stanford University, moving to North Mankato in 1985 to work at Thin Film Technology for many years, He will speak about traditional Japanese culture, and the experience of living between that culture and this one.

July 26th

“The 5 R's of Religion”

Rev. Lisa Friedman

New Member Recognition and Welcome Luncheon

I was reading an article recently on the 5 C's of journalism, the criteria that makes a story worth covering. It made me wonder about the 5 R's of religion, or what makes a religion worthy of our time and exploration. This morning we will welcome those who have joined our congregation this past year.

Lisa's Letters: *"Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers. Those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing."* James 1

The poet William Blake reminds us that "joy and woe are woven fine; clothing for the soul divine. Under every grief and pine, runs a joy with silken twine." I thought of those words recently, as our Mankato community received news of both sorrow and joy. The first was the news of the death of Dr. Andrew Swanson, who fell to his death climbing Mt. McKinley in Alaska at the age of 36. Many of you have spoken to me of having known Dr. Swanson, as a student, as a colleague, as a physician, as an adventurous and generous person who volunteered his time each year through the organization "FOCOS" to perform spinal surgery on children in Ghana. As a whole community, we mourn him and the loss of the years which might have been.

Then came the wonderful announcement that our own Diane Dobitz was chosen from among the Jefferson Award recipients to receive the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award in Washington, D.C. (Hooray, Diane!) for her many years of outstanding volunteerism and commitment to children and families. Those of us who know Diane know that she does this work out of her passion for justice and love for teaching, without any need for recognition. And yet, we rejoice and celebrate with her in this honor. For it is in honoring our achievements that we give each other a glimpse of the possible. And it is in telling our stories that we inspire one another in our own efforts to help create a better and kinder world.

As unrelated as these two events might seem, I do see a silken thread that runs between them. It is the reminder that the deepest meaning of our days is not found in the length of time that we have on this earth, or in the titles that we earn, or the job descriptions we fulfill. It is what we do with the time that we are given that determines our legacy. It is the generosity and kindness of spirit by which we live that touches the lives of others and ennobles our humanity. It is the acting upon our values and beliefs that transform those values and beliefs into reality.

So, though our hearts may be filled with both the joy and sorrow of the world, may we ourselves be grateful for the reminder that our lives do matter. And may we take up our choices and our commitments with greater appreciation for their power to make a difference.

Blessings Lisa

Daytimer's Group

The Daytimer's Group will continue to meet through the summer. Plan to join us and Rev. Lisa on July 8th and August 5th at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch, if you wish, and a discussion topic to share.

Living By Heart Invites New Members

Our Living By Heart group has completed one year of its exploration of spiritual practice. We have decided that we will continue to meet and to revisit the themes of the curriculum. If you are interested in developing your own personal meditative practice, or if you are interested in learning more, please join us for a summer potluck and kick off on July 22nd at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Marianne and Peter Johnson.

New Member Luncheon on July 26

Mark your calendars to help welcome the members and families who have joined our congregation this past year. If you have been visiting our congregation and feel that you have found a spiritual home and would like to become a member and be included in this celebration, please contact Jane Schostag and Rev. Lisa.

Calendar Meeting

We would like to invite all committee chairs or representatives to a calendar meeting after service on August 30th to create our calendar of events for the upcoming program year. Our goal is to help publicity for these events, to make sure that our schedules do not overlap, and to see places where we might wish to collaborate. Mark your calendars and see you then!

Board Notes June 2009

The UUFM Board met on Wednesday, June 17th. Rev. Lisa reported wonderful participation in the flower communion service the first Sunday of this month. At the UU Presidential Forum that she held, the participants voted for Laurel Hallman as their choice between the two candidates, and this choice was reflected in our three absentee ballots that were certified and mailed in. She met with the ministers of the UCC church, with whom we co-host the Ovation Choir on Pride Fest weekend in September. She is preparing to go to the UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City and then plans a family vacation after June 28th, during which she will accept emergency contacts only. Rev. Lisa also announced that Diane Dobitz, a beloved UUFM member, has been awarded the National Jacqueline Kennedy Service award. We are proud of you, Diane!

Our DRE, Kristi Schuck, reported that Lee Ganske will be the new chair of the RE committee. Another Family Fun event is being planned for late July or early August. Cathleen Kipp, Sierra Hoppie and Callie Rice are doing a great job with our children on Sunday mornings this summer. A youth program will be kicked off in the fall, possibly with a night or weekend overnight.

Beginning in September, our office support staff will have a different look. Our long-time employee, Gerry Tostenson, will be working only 8-10 hours a week doing only the financial or bookkeeper aspect of her current job, along with producing financial reports using our new Church Windows software. We will be looking for a paid employee, a volunteer or group of volunteers, or a combination of paid and volunteer help to do the rest of the Office Administrator's job for the other 8-10 hours. Please contact Nancy Cramblit, Personnel Committee Chair, cramblit@chartermi.net for further information on this position.

Our treasurer, Steve Mayer, gave an update on the pledge drive for the 09-10 fiscal year. We have received 50 pledges with a total of almost \$70,000, for an average pledge of just under \$1,400. Many thanks go to those of you who have stretched your budgets, giving an average of 8% more than last year. Your support of our congregation is very much appreciated. If you are planning on pledging this year but have not yet done so, please send your pledge in as soon as possible. This helps tremendously with our budget process.

The bulk of our meeting included a lengthy discussion on our 09-10 budget. In order to come closer to a balanced budget without further depleting our reserves, we decided to reduce our employees' salaries by 10%, while retaining most of their benefit packages. Rev. Lisa suggested that she work only 28.5% during the months of July and August, as she has done before, in order to decrease the cost of her compensation package. Since this is for only two months, we will be able to keep up her benefit package. The board trimmed many other expenses, but we continue to fall short about \$23,000. While this is better than a shortage of \$36,000 as we were initially discussing, we still have a ways to go. If you have ideas for the board, please let Steve Mayer, our treasurer, or any other board member know.

The UUFM board meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm. All members and friends are welcome to attend.

From President Laura Bealey

After extended discussion and much input the board has made the following tentative budget cuts to take the deficit down to 23,000 in the 2009-2010 budget which is based on pledges coming in at 82,000.00. Currently we are at \$72, 982. Pledges are currently coming in with an average 8% increase which is extremely good in this current economic environment. In any case, the result of the evening's effort still leaves tough decisions to be made. The primary reductions so far include a 10% reduction in staff wages as well as 10% less for committees. Rev Lisa will be at 28.5% time in July and August with a return to half time in September. We

will cancel our current cleaning service and offer an in-kind rent reduction of 100.00 per month to our current renters to do the cleaning of the fellowship. The fundraising events will be increased. We will be meeting with the finance committee prior to the July board meeting to further discuss budget cuts with the intention to have a budget in place by the July meeting. Please get your 2009-2010 pledge in as soon as you can so we have a firm handle on the amount we're working with. Any and all input of ideas is appreciated!! Contact any board member, Laura Bealey or chair of the finance committee Sue Chambers for more information. You can be a major influence in this process so please let us hear from you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Congratulations to Riley Fritz, Elise Leonard, Kobi Schuck, Brinly Simmons, Edward Ganske, Luke and Gus Lennartson, Truly Evans, and Ruby Baker as they graduate to the 1st - 3rd grade room in the fall. Curran Stedman, Eleanor Grinnell and Aspen Hoppie graduate to the 4th - 6th grade room and we are very excited to have our youth program kick off this fall with 6 youth starting it up.

The RE committee reflected on this past fantastic year and felt the curriculum we tested went over well with our children engaging them both spiritually, and ethically in their faith development. It was an awesome year once again, with the children filling up the rooms downstairs with energy and activity, focusing on topics of PEACE through our children's chapel, and having the adults kick off the "Parents As Resident Theologians" series.

Many, many thanks to the teachers, the RE program is so fortunate to have you: Lee Ganske, Barb Franchino, Greg Abbott, Tony Filipovitch, Carrie Rice, Cathleen Kipp and Dave Rice. Thanks also to Sierra Hoppie for her help with the Pre K-K room.

Our summer program has kicked off with Cathleen Kipp running the rooms downstairs with the children. We look forward to enjoying continued friendships and having lots of fun together.

A Fellowship and Family Fun event is planned for July 26th. The popular biking event from last year will return with our families meeting at 1 pm in the parking lot and biking on the Red Jacket Trail. Anyone with wheels is welcome to join us.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE IN SEPTEMBER

As you do your summer organizing, please remember to SAVE YOUR UNUSED VALUABLES for our semi-annual fall rummage sale in September. Let's make this fall's sale our biggest and best ever!! Any questions contact Nancy Cramblit at 388-8243.

Social Action Committee

We've wrapped up our formal meetings for the year, but if you have any ideas for events or projects you would like the Social Action Committee to consider for the 2009-2010 year, feel free to email Becky (admin@juniperberries.net) or Diane (dianedob53@hickorytech.net).

We presented our annual report at the Annual Meeting on June 7th. If you were unable to attend and would like to read about what we accomplished in 2008-2009, the report is available online at: <http://tiny.cc/OLxND>

2nd Collection

The 2nd Collection on July 12th will be for Mankato's [Theresa House](#).

June's Collection for Life-Work Planning Center's Emergency Fund raised \$316.00.
We thank you all for your generous support!

WANTED: Eco-Event Ideas for 2009-2010

The Eco-Events that started in January 2009 have been a great success. The topics have included reducing home energy usage, worm composting, household waste reduction, rain barrels and solar cooking. These events have been a wonderful time for learning, fellowship and gaining the tools and knowledge we need to take action in our own homes and lives.

Do you have an idea for a workshop that hasn't been offered yet? Did you miss one that you would like to see repeated? We are starting to plan for the 2009-2010 year and welcome any ideas you have for additional workshops with a 'GREEN' theme.

Please contact Becky Rossow (admin@juniperberries.net) or Linda Ganske (Ganske@aol.com) with your ideas or suggestions.



Interested in Fair Trade?

The Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative (MAFTTI) is looking for individuals interested in the issues surrounding Fair Trade and participating in the efforts to make Mankato and North Mankato Fair Trade Towns.

You can read more about the national Fair Trade Town initiative here: <http://www.fairtradetownsusa.org/>

If you are interested in the local initiative, please email Paul Renshaw at: renshaw@hickorytech.net.

Statistics

Money Raised: \$5880

Money Lent: \$13,550

Active Loans: 342

Defaulted: 3

Loans Repaid: 197



The money donated to the UUFM-Micro Project supporting [Kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org) loans is lent in \$25 increments to those in need all over the world.

Because of the large number of loans actively repaying each month, we are able to re-lend approximately \$850 per month to other borrowers. That's 34 additional people each month we are able to help just with re-circulating funds!

We've added a **'featured loan'** to the Kiva bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall as another way to connect with our borrowers. Stop by and read their stories, or you can check out our full loan portfolio at: <http://www.kiva.org/lender/uufmmicro4415>.

Contributions to the UUFM-Micro project are tax-deductible! Checks can be made out to UUFM and be put in the collection basket any Sunday, but be sure to put 'Kiva' on the memo line. Questions can be directed to Becky Rossow at uufm.micro@gmail.com.