



The Flame & Chalice

Our services are at 10:30 am each Sunday. Nursery service and children's activities are available before and during the services. Coffee and fellowship follow the service in the lower area.

August 2nd

**“Religion and Science”
Zaid Khalid**

Following a brief introduction to Islam, Khalid will speak on: 1. contradiction between Islamic teachings and science, and 2. the importance of Reason and critical thinking. Born in Lahore, Pakistan, Khalid immigrated to the U.S in 1986. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in computer science from MSU-M and is an Information Technology Architect/Specialist for IBM in Rochester. He has been a spokes person for the Rochester Islamic Center for many years.

August 9th

**“Connection With One's Own Spiritual Path”
Rev. Ursula Clara Christ**

To this day, most of us follow the principles of religious ideologies laid down many years before us; most of which represents another person's experience of faith and belief. Rev. Christ will consider what we find when we clear the slate and seek our own individual connection. and how this inner path benefits our experience with what we each perceive God to be in our lives. Rev. Christ is an Interfaith Minister.

August 16th

**“The Way Out of the Climate Change Dilemma”
Louis Schwartzkopf Ph.D.**

The science of global warming is clear. The average global temperature is increasing, and humans are largely responsible through the burning of fossil fuels for energy and deforestation. Yet these practices are responsible for the comfortable life style we enjoy today. Dr. Schwartzkopf will present thoughts on a possible way out of our dilemma. Dr. Schwartzkopf is a Professor of physics at MSU-M. He is currently co-chair of the E2020 Energy Conservation Task Force.

August 23rd

**“Universalism: Past, Present and Powerful”
Rev. Kalen Fristad**

Rev. Fristad will present the history and significance of Universalism. Whereas the teaching of eternal damnation has serious negative consequences, the teaching of Universalism leads to equality, respect, love and dignity for all. Rev. Fristad is a retired United Methodist Minister. He has written a book entitled: [Destined for Salvation](#).

August 30th

**“Finding Our Way Home”
Rev. Lisa Friedman**

Home means many things to each of us. It can be an earthly location, or the presence of another person, or a space deep within us. In a world filled with uncertainty and change, of personal choices and fixed realities, how do we discover our center? How do we return to it, in our times of need?

Lisa's Letters: *"We are here dedicated to the proposition that beneath all our differences, behind all our diversity, there is a unity that makes us one and binds us forever together, in spite of time and death and the space between the stars. We pause in silent witness to that unity."* The Reverend David Bumbaugh

This summer I had the privilege of representing our congregation at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, our annual gathering of 3500+ Unitarian Universalists from all over the world. Each year, we come together to worship together, learn from one another, take stands for justice with one voice, and to practice our 5th principle of democracy. Many of you have asked me how GA was, so I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the highlights:

- For the first time, there was a workshop track for small congregations, offering resources for congregations between 0-150 members. I attended as many as I could, and came to realize that we are now truly a "big" small congregation! We have many resources, challenges, and joys that others are still working to achieve. We also talked about how, since many of our smaller congregations are located in smaller communities, our influence and voice in our local areas can actually be quite large. I came home with the book *Big Ideas for Small Congregations* – let me know if you'd like to borrow it.
- I attended the theology track for UU University, which was entitled "Theology for a Secular Age" and led by the Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich of Alls Souls Church in New York City. He believes that "theology stands at a crossroad. For centuries, theology has described how divine revelation accounts for our experience and dictates our actions. What happens to religion when reason, rather than revelation, becomes our most reliable source of knowledge?" The discussion was fascinating. Look for a few sermons on this one!
- I took seriously my role as a voting delegate of our Fellowship and cast my vote on several key issues, as well as in the presidential election for the new President of our Association. While I voted for the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, who lost the election, I believe that the Rev. Peter Morales brings much talent, passion and vision to our movement. I look forward to his leadership.
- It was a pleasure to hear many fine speakers of both national and UU renown, including the Ware Lecture by Melissa Harris-Lacewell, the Sunday morning worship with Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, UU leaders from Africa, Romania, the Philippines and much more. I was proud to attend a workshop on democracy in America led by two UU secretaries of state – our own MN Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie, and the California Secretary, Debra Bowen. Many of the speakers are archived at www.uua.org. Go to "I am interested in... Events...GA" to browse around.
- Perhaps one of the things I was most excited about was the invitation to come to GA next year in Minneapolis! This will be the first time that General Assembly will be in our District in about 34 years. Save the dates of June 23-27, 2010, and plan to join with thousands of fellow UU's to support our congregations and shape our movement. I'll keep you updated!

Blessings, Lisa

BOARD UPDATES

The first board meeting of the new board was held on July 15th and the challenges came at us fast. The times we're experiencing regarding the worldwide and local financial situation are confronting us on a myriad of levels. We're blessed to have paid staff that were graciously willing to accommodate a 10% reduction in their salaries at a time when we would all like very much to reward their hard work and commitment with raises. Committees have taken at least a 10% cut in their funds and we continue to seek valid ways to work through our budget projection of about a 14,000.00 shortfall. The old saying is "I have good news about the budget and bad news. The good news is that we have more than enough to make out budget balance: the bad news is that the money is still in your pockets!" I certainly don't mean to make light of the tremendous generosity of the UUFM members or the commitment to our church community as we all feel joy in giving. We do need to ask those who can give any of their pledge amounts early to please do so and we can allow our Roy Cook fund to earn some hopefully good interest at last. Other items of board business included acknowledgement of Gerry Tostenson's retirement as of September 1st after 8 years of service to the congregation. Through the excellent work of our personnel committee, we're plunging ahead with the process of hiring a book keeping firm and an office assistant to take over Gerry's duties in Sept. Kristi Schuck expressed interest in taking on the newsletter and the board thought that was a fine idea. Interviews for the book keeping and office assistance positions will begin in August because the job openings have been posted as of July 21st. We're still seeking the best ways to get our budget to a balanced state but that comes only through increased revenue and decreased expenses. All input would be appreciated and considered. We have a new financial committee under the guidance of former Board President Sue Chambers; it is strong and ready to provide recommendations. We still need a treasurer as Steve Mayer, our current treasurer, will be finished the end of August so he can carry on with his new life! Please consider the treasurer's role as we desperately need a volunteer for the position. There is a board and committee retreat scheduled for August 1st at 1:30 in the fellowship hall; it will be followed by a potluck dinner at Jim and Connie Rovney's house. Please mark your calendars for this time of getting to know one another better and to share our vision of the future. I'm looking forward to serving on the board for this exciting year of challenge and change. Lisa said this will be our "learning year". It's time to answer the call and get involved as the energy of all will be the key to our forward movement through the challenges before us.

Laura Bealey

BOARD NOTES July 2009

The new UUFM Board for the 09-10 fiscal year met on Wednesday, July 15th. Our DRE, Kristi Schuck, reported that we are averaging about 16 children per summer Sunday. She also reported that we have had a couple new visiting families. The RE committee has chosen the curriculum for this next year from the UUA website, one of the benefits we receive by being part of the national Unitarian Universalist Association. Kristi, Diane Dobitz and Jeremy Freeman are working on the peace pole service for September. The Rovney's have donated the use of their lake cabin for the youth kickoff at the end of August. Thanks so much, Jim and Connie! The RE committee will be updating the RE webpage.

Rev. Lisa will be reporting on her experiences at the UUA General Assembly in the August newsletter. She came back with lots of resources for our congregation. She attended a track on ministry for small congregations. The delegates to GA voted down some changes to the purposes and principles, with continuing discussion on this at the GA in Minneapolis next year. The Rev. Peter Morales was voted our new UUA President. Rev. Lisa has been invited to attend the planning session for the next GA, which is from June 23-27, 2010 in Minneapolis. There will be a chance to volunteer at the assembly; if you sign up for enough hours, you can get your fee for attending waived. In the year before GA, the UUA GA chalice visits congregations of the host district. Rev. Lisa will try to see if this chalice can travel to our UUFM for a Sunday this year.

Steve Mayer, our treasurer, reported that 53 pledges are in, totaling \$74,500. When looking at our final results on the 08-09 budget, our expenses were at 95% of what was budgeted, while our income came in at 93%. Our mutual funds have begun to recover in the last quarter, which is good news. Two thirds of our budget is payroll, and most of the meeting was spent in discussing personnel. Rev. Lisa's contract for the 09-10 fiscal year was approved. The board accepted the retirement of Gerry Tostenson, our bookkeeper and office administrator, with gratitude and

appreciation for 8 years of dedicated service to our congregation. Gerry will be retiring beginning September first. In order to cover the multitude of tasks that Gerry faithfully completed for our church, the board is looking at hiring a bookkeeping firm to do the bookkeeping tasks, and we have begun to receive applications for an 8-10 hour per week office administrator position. The personnel committee plans to have a recommendation for Gerry's replacement in the office at the August board meeting. Kristi Schuck will be the new person doing our newsletter. More information on how to reach Kristi with newsletter articles will be coming out via email in August. This newsletter is the final one completed by Gerry Tostenson.

The board is having a board retreat on Saturday, August 1st at 1:30. All committee chairs and interested members are invited to attend. We will be having a potluck dinner after the retreat at Jim and Connie Rovney's home. Thanks again, Jim and Connie!

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

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to newlyweds (June 13, 2009) Candace and Adrian Sjogren. Candace is a teacher and Adrian is self-employed. They are both avid readers. Their interests include disability advocacy and open adoption awareness. They were attracted to UUFM because of our openness and acceptance of non-traditional families. Welcome, we're happy to have you as new members, Candace and Adrian.

We are also pleased to welcome Jerry Burkhart who signed the membership book in July! Jerry has been active in the choir and on the piano, much to our delight. Welcome aboard, Jerry!

As you travel to work or on your way to some wonderful summer vacation, wouldn't you like to take along some UU friends?

Unitarian Universalist Podcasts -- sermons, meditations, RE materials and more, are available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship anytime and any place for your ipod, MP3 player, or computer. Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte. The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication, "Quest" (also available in print and on-line), gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

You can subscribe to our free podcasts at www.clfuu.org/podcasts, or listen to segments à la carte at www.clfuu.org/quest. The CLF Quest podcast has nearly 1,000 subscribers worldwide: join our community of listeners today! Visit the Church of the Larger Fellowship at www.clfuu.org. Questions? Contact Beth Murray: bmurray@clfu.org 617-948-6150

YOUTH PROGRAM KICK-OFF SATURDAY AUGUST 29th

Mark your calendars now as the time has come and we are very excited to announce that our youth program will kick off this year with a day full of activities at Lake Washington. All youth in grades 7th and up are invited to attend. Please contact Kristi Schuck at 382-4951 or by email at Kristi@twofishstudios.com for more information.

Our summer program continues on with downstairs fun thanks to Cathleen Kipp, Sierra Hoppie and Callie Rice. If you haven't stopped into the "Black and White" room, please take a minute the next Sunday that you are there and see the artistic talents of our 4th - 7th graders. They are doing a terrific job making that room reflect their UU ideas!

The RE committee is looking for some help. Anyone interested in helping as a teachers' assistant in the rooms on Sunday is encouraged to contact Kristi Schuck. As we continue to grow in numbers, we need more adult volunteers. If you have any interests, please email Kristi@twofishstudios.com or call 507-382-4851. It's never too late to get involved, and we appreciate any involvement you can offer!

2nd Collection

The 2nd Collection on August 9th will be for Community Health Action and Promotion (CHAP).

July's Collection for Theresa House raised \$393.00. We thank you all for your generous support!

Statistics

Money Raised: \$5880
Money Lent: \$14,575
Active Loans: 351
Defaulted: 3
Loans Repaid: 221



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.

Remember to check out the **'featured loan'** on 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.



Fair Trade Film Night

The Mankato Fair Trade Town Initiative is hosting a Fair Trade Film Night on Tuesday August 18th, 2009. The films being shown include 'Buyer Be Fair', 'Just Coffee' and 'Chocolate Country'.

What: Fair Trade Film Night

When: Tuesday August 18th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Christ the King on Pfau Street in Mankato