

Fellowship Focus

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Elkhart

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574-264-6525 ~ www.uufe.org

AUGUST 2008

President

Patty French
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Minister Elect

Rev. Amy Kulesza DeBeck
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Minister Emeriti

Rev. Dr. Laurie E. Proctor
Rev. Dr. Gordon D. Gibson
Rev. Robert T. Dick

Office Administrator

Kim Chaple
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Hours: 8:30-12:30
Tuesday & Thursday

Childcare

Lizzie French

Summer Sunday Mornings at UUFE

9:30 – 10:15 In the Meeting House
Adult Forum

10:30 – 11:30 In the Meeting House
Sunday Service

Enrichment Activities for Children
Tender, Loving Childcare for Infants and Toddlers

During the summer, Sunday mornings change a bit. There are no pre-service educational offerings for adults or children. A program of enrichment activities is offered for children and youth during the 10:30 service time.

August 3, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

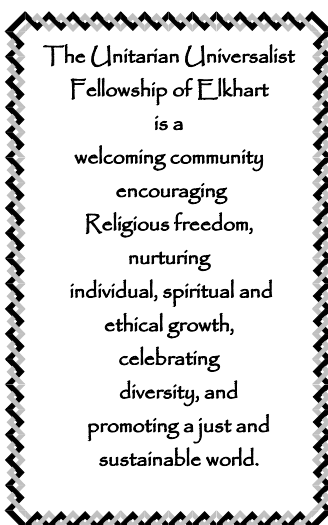
10:30 - Kathy Liggett anti war activist from South Bend will present *Preachers & Pant-suits: Avoiding the Unanswered Questions about Iraq*

The extended presidential election cycle has triggered the virtual disappearance of any *real* news concerning Iraq. Critical questions about how we got there, what is really happening there, and how to get out demand answers. We all must take an active role in moving Iraq to the "front burner" and front pages.

August 10, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

10:30 - *Rev. Amy*: "Blessing of the Backpacks" Students, parents, and school employees/volunteers are encouraged to bring backpacks, planners, bus driver/carpool keys, etc. to receive the blessings of our community for a successful and peaceful school year.



The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Elkhart
is a
welcoming community
encouraging
Religious freedom,
nurturing
individual, spiritual and
ethical growth,
celebrating
diversity, and
promoting a just and
sustainable world.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT UUFE, cont'd

August 17, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

10:30 -Rev. Amy: “Come, Come, Whoever you are” Have you been thinking about visiting us and finding out more about the fellowship, or about the new minister? Come for a sermon about our faith, followed by a “Talkback” and potluck! All are welcome!

August 24, 2008

9:30 - Adult Forum

10:30 -Rev. Amy: E2Church Chat: Liberal Use of Religious Language”

August 31, 2008

9:30 Adult Forum

10:30 Rev. Amy: “Joe Hill’s Legacy Today” Labor Day is commemorated today, exploring the faithful perspective of supporting American workers.

Shaping our Expansion -

Saturday "Design Charette" with Architects for All UUFERS

The Building Committee is happy to announce that we have selected the Troyer Group of Mishawaka to design our building expansion. Out of several excellent companies considered, we feel that Troyer offers the comprehensive approach that best suits our needs. Their website is www.troyergroup.com. With our architects chosen, we're now moving ahead with the groundwork for this exciting project.

All members & friends are urged to attend a design workshop at UUFE on Saturday, August 2. The process will take place between 8:00 am & 4:00 pm, with a break for lunch -(lunch will be provided). You don't need to stay for the whole day, you are welcome to drop in during the day, share your thoughts & suggestions with the design team. This will be a very open brainstorming session. Architects from Troyer Group will be here to listen, ask questions, answer questions, & dialog with us, learning about our congregation's mission & vision. This will enable them to develop the most functional & beautiful space for us to grow into. Even if you have no specific suggestions, please come & be part of this exciting process as we begin to implement one of the important goals of last year's Strategic Long Range Plan.

If you are unable to attend, but do have input for this process, please give your suggestions to a member of the Building Committee & they will include it into the workshop. Committee members are Shari Mellin, Jenny Bartlett, David Ball, William Becker, Mary Ann Carroll, Rich Hackel, Rod Liechty, Matt Tschetter, Doris Stickel, Cameo & Jim Victor.

A Perfect Ending to a Good Two Years

Thank you for the wonderful party. The company and conversation were delightful and the food was delicious. I shall enjoy using the beautiful bowl and servers and remembering all the good times. Most of all I will treasure our time together these two years.

In appreciation and with best wishes,

Laurie

A Note To Everyone from Ken Clayborn

As we move into August there are lots of exciting things happening at UUF which will keep us all busy & excited I am sure. Of course we just completed the celebration of Rev. Proctor's two-year interim assignment with us, by having an open house at the church. Thanks to everyone for making that Saturday evening memorable & for helping send Laurie on her way with warm good wishes.

One of the last things I promised Laurie before she left was that I would try to make sure the Focus got put together this month, since she had some vacation time coming. She normally edits the Focus and, between she & Kim, they make sure Ron Gill gets the final version in time to send it out at the end of the month. I want to thank Ron Gill for his help as co-editor this month.

First of all we are happy to have Rev. DeBeck, her husband Kevin, their two sons, Henry and Charlie, here with us. There were adventures aplenty on their journey here and I'm sure they will be glad to share those stories with you when they have a chance to settle in a bit.

David Ball has agreed to chair the Capital Campaign Committee but he needs committee members who are willing to assist him with this important task. Please see David if you are interested.

The Worship & Arts Committee would like to encourage all of the musicians in the congregation to consider helping with the music during the services. Linda Arbogast has been doing a great job coordinating our pianists & Doris Stickel is going to see if we can get the choir back on track. If anyone is interested in participating in the musical programs please let Linda or Doris know.

Our board president, Patty French, had an adventure of her own at the end of July when she participated in Leadership School. We are hoping she will share her experiences with us as part of a service sometime soon.

OFF TO A GREAT START!

First, I want to thank everyone, literally, for moving my family and I to Elkhart.

Through your pledging and budget process our move was made smoother by the use of professionals who packed us up in Virginia and did the driving

Secondly, thanks to the folks who helped us with the second phase of our move, transferring our belongings from garage to bedrooms after the carpets got replaced. Now the DeBeck boys, cats, and parents are settled in and very happy to be here. A very warm, sincere, and grateful thanks to UUF.

Thank You Again, *Amy*

AROUND THE MEETING HOUSE

Recommended by Your Friends at UUFE for Your Summer Reading Pleasure

- "The Grass Crown" by Colleen McCullough
 - "Legends, Lies & Cherished Myths of American History" by Richard Shenkman
 - "Whistling Season" by Ivan Doig
 - "Message from Forever: A Novel of Aboriginal Wisdom" by Marlo Morgan
 - "East of Eden" and "The Wayward Bus" by John Steinbeck
 - "Knock, Knock: Shedding Light on Jehovah's Witness at the Door" by Ruth Baker
 - "Fieldwork" by Mischa Berlinski
 -
 - *Books available at the Elkhart Public Library.
- ** Books available at the Goshen and Middlebury Libraries

Volunteers: we need volunteers to help with cleaning, greeting, making coffee ... the list goes on & on.

The Bldg and Grds Committee is just about worn out & I'm aware that some people just don't know what to do, so I'll be working with Mary Ann Carroll on graphics to help people. Recently we have had members who have, over the years, put in enormous amounts of work become unable to continue. Add that to all that Gordon did that we never even noticed, & you get a whole lot of things not being done. We are now faced with a choice - more of us have to step up or we will have to hire someone outside the UUFE to do the cleaning. We do now have the name of the daughter of a former member who would, for \$50 for two or three hours every week or two, be willing to do cleaning at UUFE for those of us who would rather pay than work. Unfortunately, as we all know, our pledge income will be down this year. So, go find the sign up board & sign it. Ask for work (yes, ask!) from someone you've noticed who does a lot of volunteering! Together we can make the UUFE what we all want it to be!

Doris Stickel, Bldg & Grds Comm member (1 of 3 left)

Thanks to Charlie Bussard for his efforts in making and installing the beautiful natural wood screen by the Memorial Garden!

The screen is meant to define a sheltered area for a bench by the rock and wildflowers at the center of the memorial. Charlie used wood harvested from his own farm to make the pieces. After it was delivered, the Building and Grounds Committee was consulted about where to place it and how to secure it in place. The consensus is that Charlie's screen is a work of art and does not need any more embellishment. The RE kids will plant ferns and wildflowers near the screen.

Doris Stickel and David Stokely will host the next meeting of the recorded music listening group at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 10

Fair Trade Coffee

In our Strategic Plan, we stated that we would begin **selling Fair Trade Coffee here at UUFE**, both as Social Action & as a convenience to UUFE members. I am happy to announce that we started that in July. The coffee was purchased by us through 10,000 Villages and is available at our cost: **\$8.50 for a 12 ounce bag**. We have 4 varieties. **See Gene Wiswell.**

Volunteer of the Month for August is Beth Lefever.

Beth has come to the rescue by giving 3 Sunday services in the last 7 weeks. We appreciate all the hard work Beth has expended and we really enjoy her messages. Thanks, Beth we all look forward to hearing you again in the future!

Careline

CONGRATULATIONS DOLORIS COGAN!!! Doloris was in Honolulu from July 10 - 14, and in Guam from July 15 - 23, to give talks and do book signings in connection with **WE FOUGHT THE NAVY AND WON: Guam's Quest for Democracy.** Doloris expects to do some book signings locally in September.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD AND COMMITTEES

At the July 18 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board:

- Learned that David Ball has agreed to chair the capital campaign committee that will lead the fundraising for the new building.
- Discussed the status of developing a new policy manual. Pam Kramer, Ron Gill and Ken Clayborn will work from the existing draft prepared by Rev. Dr. Laurie Proctor.
- Learned that UUFE would likely finish the fiscal year with a net loss of somewhere less than \$2,800.
- Discussed the need to articulate an editorial policy for the Fellowship Focus newsletter as well as selecting an editor to review and edit content before publication.

Help is needed for Three Projects in August (from Doris Stickel, B & G Committee)

8/9 - We have invasive myrtle and euonymus that are covering part of our north woods. We'll need forks & shovels to dig down & loosen the roots & people to pull and carry off the plants.

8/16 - A goodly number of our trees, mostly in the west woods on Canton Street, have branches that are too low. We'll need various saws & ladders & brush carriers to clear this area.

8/23 - When we start our expansion (we're on the way) the plants between the main building & the RE-office building will be in the way of construction. On this day I'd like to move the peonies north under the mountain ash, the ferns & hostas to the meditation garden & the lilac & cork bush somewhere. Moving peonies needs a two foot hole, hopefully one third full of fresh manure. Moving plants like this requires muscle and willingness for hard work.

I hope that we can save the memorial maple tree, but all the other plants will be lost if we don't move stuff. Come one - come all.

A Message from the Board:

The Board has approved hiring UUA consultant Aggie Sweeney to help guide our Capital Campaign for the upcoming building project. Aggie knows our congregation well, having worked with us on the Strategic Long-Range Plan we approved last year. She will be in Elkhart July 31 through August 2. Part of her work for us will involve conducting a financial feasibility study, in which she will interview about 20% of our membership. Not everyone will be contacted, but she will interview a representative sampling of our congregation to help us set a reasonable and achievable financial goal. Aggie will also attend at least part of the Design Workshop on Saturday, August 2. Aggie's interviews will be conducted at UUFE, in the Forum meeting room.

NEWS FROM THE LARGER UU WORLD

Important Election Year Resources

1. Updated Version of "The Real Rules" Now Available In order to provide congregations with the best guidance possible, the UUA has released an updated edition of "The Real Rules: Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections." The new version provides clear, up-to-date information on what congregations can and cannot do, drawing heavily on a binding decision issued by the IRS in June 2007. Most of the text comes straight from IRS publications, with sources clearly footnoted. Please discard previous editions and use the new one! You can access "The Real Rules" and other [key social justice resources](#) online.

2. Election Year Resources and Opportunities from Faithful Democracy [Faithful Democracy](#) is a nonpartisan online clearinghouse made up of national faith-based organizations. The goal of Faithful Democracy is to educate and engage people of faith about the role they can and should play in the democratic process, thereby increasing the number of informed faith-based voters in elections.

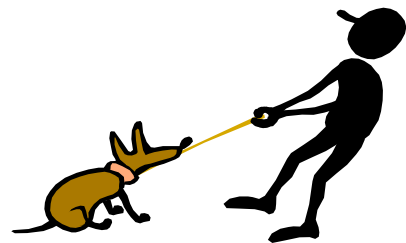
The Faithful Democracy website features resources from member organizations on what religious groups can do and how they can do it, including voter registration, education, mobilization, and poll monitoring. The site also features theological reflections from a variety of religious leaders on the connections between civic participation and religious values. The Unitarian Universalist Association helped to found Faithful Democracy in 2004 and remains an active participant.

NEWS FROM THE LARGER COMMUNITY

Humane Society Strut Your Mutt Dog Walk

August 23 is the date for the third annual Strut Your Mutt Dog Walk at Bonneyville Mill County Park to benefit the Humane Society of Elkhart County. In addition to the walk there will be a light lunch, vendors, demonstrations, and even a game of "Rover Says". There is no registration fee, but a minimum pledge of \$25 is required. Participants will be eligible for a dog bandanna with a \$25 pledge and a really cute T-shirt with a \$50 pledge. To register as a walker go to:

www.firstgiving.com/hsec. Or, if you would rather sit this one out, you are invited to donate a pledge to Lynne and Bailey by going to: www.firstgiving.com/lynneschmidt. For more info contact LynneSchmidt at 266-6281 or Irschmidt@verizon.net



August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Anna Dolezal Bldg Committee – Forum Room	2 Bldg Committee (sanctuary& kitchen) 9-4 & Forum Room
3	4 Mary Ann Carroll	5 Eric Weigold	6	7 Heather Weigold	8 Jim McConnell	9 <i>9-12 Tree Trimming</i>
10 Pam Kramer	11	12 Pat Bryan	13 David Ball	14 Abby French	15	16 <i>9-12 Move Peonies</i>
17	18 Worship & Arts 7:00 PM	19	20 Bd. Of Trustees Mtg. 6:30	21	22	23 <i>9-12 Dig Ivy</i>
24 Noon - LRE	25	26 Bill Schmidt Archives Workday-& 1:00 Mtg.	27	28	29 Mark Feller, Connie Stamper, Carolyn Andersohn	30 Sheila Shaw
31						

UUFE ROOTS

UUFE Studies the World and the Community

In the 1980s, educator and UUFE member Joe Rueff, aided by our ministers and others, organized two unique series of public programs. They addressed extremely difficult issues which are still relevant today.

“Speaking Freely” was the title of a series broadcast in 1984 on the PBS channel, WNIT-TV. Beginning with “What Is Freedom?”, the 13 programs included such topics as “Freedom from Fear - the Nuclear Threat,” “Freedom from Fear - the Civil Threat,” “Crisis in Education,” “Sex Equity and the Feminization of Poverty,” “Criminal Justice,” and “Elkhart's Future.” (This series followed UUFE's first effort at “Speaking Freely” in 1983 on the cable public access channel.)

Then in the fall of 1986, “Ethics and Economics: Issues of Our Time,” a grant-funded series co-sponsored by UUFE, local universities, the Indiana Council for Economic Education, and the Elkhart Public Library, presented 10 evening sessions at the library. Provocative titles drew participants starting with “Why Do Liberals and Conservatives Disagree? Are There Important Ethical Differences?” and exploring “How Free Is the Free Enterprise System?”, “Food: for People or for Profit?”, “What Are This Country's Global Responsibilities?” and other questions with talks by guest experts, followed by discussion.

(Recordings & the documents of both series are preserved in the UUFE archives).

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1732 Garden Street
Elkhart, IN 46515

FIRST CLASS

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart is a welcoming community, encouraging religious freedom, nurturing individual, spiritual and ethical growth, celebrating diversity, and promoting a just and sustainable world.