

# BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH

818 E. Divide Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-6788

WEBSITE: [bismanuu.org](http://bismanuu.org) • EMAIL: [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org)



Sunday Services & Children's Programs: 10:30 AM  
Fellowship & Refreshments: Following Service

## The Beacon

*The BisMan UU Monthly Newsletter—Sharing Unitarian  
Universalist Values in the Capital City Area*

**Sunday, April 26**

GOODNESS AND BEAUTY

Dr. Larry Skogen

Dr. Larry Skogen will speak on beauty and goodness, asking: In a world of beauty and goodness, why are we so fascinated with the ugly?

Dr. Skogen is the Interim Chancellor of the North Dakota University System.

**Sunday, April 5**

EASTER BRUNCH: LEAP INTO SPRING!

Facilitators: Ronya Hoblit and Jean King

Brunch Coordinator: Carol Jean Larsen

Spring is the season of rebirth. The renewal of life brings joy to our hearts and we are reminded of the ever-turning seasons, and of our own desire to spring anew. Bring family and friends to celebrate the rebirth of light and life on Easter morning with pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice followed by a short program of seasonal readings and songs. Free-will donation for the brunch.

**Sunday, April 12**

INSPIRATION AND AWE IN A SECULAR WORLD

Waylon Hedegaard

Spirituality is the center of so many lives that society often struggles to understand that there can be inspiration and even awe without it. Waylon will talk about how being inspired in a secular world is not only possible but is essential.

Waylon Hedegaard is a Union Boilermaker and long-time atheist. He lives in Bismarck with his lovely "Partner for Life" Renee Ewine and his son Reilly.

**Sunday, April 19**

A WEED BY ANY OTHER NAME:

THE CREATOR'S UNEXPECTED BOUNTY

Linda Black Elk

The great children's author, A.A. Milne once said, "Weeds are flowers, too...once you get to know them." Many of us, however, believe weeds in our gardens are anything but invaders – taking up space, nutrients, and sunlight from our favorite fruits, vegetables and flowers. Linda will discuss how "weeds" enhance our lives and create a world that, when treated with respect, produces enough food, medicine, and materials for us all. Just in time for spring!

Linda Black Elk (Catawba Nation) is an ethnobotanist specializing in teaching culturally important plants used as food and medicine. Linda works to build curriculum and ways of thinking to promote food sovereignty and the use of traditional medicines in our everyday lives. A prolific writer, Linda's most recently published article is "Watoto Unyutapi," a field guide to edible wild plants of the Dakota people. Along with being a mother to two Hunkpapa Lakota boys, Linda spends her time as an instructor at Sitting Bull College. Since 2001, Linda has taught English, Mathematics, Native American Studies, Science Education, and Ethnobotany.

### Church Calendar

An asterisk (\*) indicates related article

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

\*Easter Brunch Preparation, 1:00 pm

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

\*Easter Brunch & Brief Sunday Service, 10:30 am

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am  
Board of Trustees Meeting, 11:45 am

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**

Adult RE Discussion, 7-8:30 pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16**

Men's Get-Together, 5:30 pm, Luft downtown Bismarck

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

Women's Lunch at Minerva's at 12 noon

\*Live-Streaming Regional Conference

- Banner Parade & Opening Keynote, 6:45-9:00 pm

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

\*Live-Streaming Regional Conference

- Keynote Presentation, 9:00-10:30 am
- Business Meeting, 10:45 am-12:15 pm

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am  
PPP Gathering at 11:45 am

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26**

Sunday Service & children's service, 10:30 am

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We had a wonderful conversation as a congregation early in March at our first congregational meeting. As a board member, I am grateful for the time and engagement found there. The consensus of that meeting was to move forward in searching for a minister for our fellowship. We don't know who or when, but we are working on the how. I am so inspired by this, because I have come to really understand that a minister is the key to growing, deepening and strengthening our fellowship. But, before we can truly pursue this, we need to become a healthy giving congregation. This means that we need to get our giving into a more balanced state. We must move toward more people giving, rather than rely on a few who hold us up with their annual generosity. Our gratitude to those sustainers in our midst is immeasurable, but our reliance on them is a problem.

We spoke at the meeting about some ideas for achieving the healthy giving levels outlines by the UUA and other organizations. With the help of our financial task force we are looking at reaching out to some, asking for an increase of 20% in their giving. We are asking others to consider giving some of their tax refunds. We are asking. That ask and this discussion are hard for some to take part in. It's not our way as UUs to talk about money. And then we're all Midwesterners to boot! Even tougher. This discussion makes many of us uncomfortable. And of course not all can or will give more. That's okay. But we will ask and we will talk about what is needed financially for this congregation to move forward.

We must talk about it because we need to be out there in this community—to a degree we are not without a minister. The Bismarck Mandan UU has so much to offer and the need for a liberal religious voice is great. We as members and friends are doing good work, living the principles, but imagine how a representative employed and committed to be our voice in this community could make a difference in ways we just can't individually. It's inspiring to consider!

I will be giving more, because as a spiritual explorer, a volunteer in this church and a person in the wide world, I need a minister. I long for a spiritual point person grounded in this fellowship and this liberal religion I love. Consider the goal and what you can do. I look forward to discussing this effort more as a congregation and to all that we can do together.

-Marnie Piehl

UU Board of Trustees Co-President

### Candles for the Journey

\*Our congratulations go out to Molly Brooks and Dan Goebel who announced their engagement in late March. We wish them every happiness.

\*We extend our sympathy to Dan Christ and Jean King on the death of Loren Vikse, Dan's grandson and Jean's nephew. Loren was impacted by the same MELAS condition that killed Dan's wife and daughter.

\*Our thoughts are also with our former member Susan Lardinois who is now under Hospice at St. Vincent's Care Center. Susan has MS and has been in the nursing home for 11 years. Her 3 very musical children provided the music for our Sunday services for many years.

\*We celebrate LaVonne Scott's improving strength as she recovers from the stroke she suffered in December.

\*The congregation congratulates Karen Van Fossan on her graduation from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Karen's graduation will be on Sunday, April 19th.



### Special Donations

\*Donation made in memory of Tom Disselhorst for sharing his musical talents on the piano with the UU congregation by Dean & Pat Conrad.

\*Donation made to Vision Fund towards part-time minister by Char McLaughlin & Jim Conley

Consider giving extra to the Vision Fund! Thank you for your generosity.

### Congregational Meeting 3/8/15

#### Summary Nubs

**Purpose of Meeting:** Quarterly meetings to discuss vision goals and financial matters with congregation

- ◆ Manageable giving from all to achieve goals; reliant on few people at present
- ◆ Pledges are largest source of revenue; 36 units have pledged and 10% are giving a quarter of the budget
- ◆ Would need \$1600 per household/unit just to cover operating expenses
- ◆ Need \$2358 per household/unit to finance part-time minister
- ◆ Pros of having a minister: representation in community, more engagement; trained professional for pastoral care; trained in fundraising

\*Minutes from this meeting and a copy of the slides used in the presentation are available on the bulletin board outside the church office.

## YOU ARE INVITED



LEAP INTO SPRING!

~EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH &amp; SERVICE~

April 5, 2015 at 10:30 am

The tasty brunch will include pancakes, sausage, boiled eggs, juice, coffee/tea & fresh fruit salad plus a short service.

Our UU Special Events Team will purchase the food and coordinate the volunteer assignments. There will be a free will donation basket. Give as you are able.

**Your Response Today to these Questions will be Helpful:**

I will attend. Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer opportunities!****1:00 pm, Saturday, April 4**

- set up tables & place settings \_\_\_\_\_
- Boil 4 dozen eggs: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prepare fresh fruit salad: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, April 5**

- **9:30 am**, Set out food/beverages \_\_\_\_\_
- **9:30 am**, Cook pancakes & sausage \_\_\_\_\_
- **12 noon**, Wash dishes, tear down, vacuum: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You. If you have a change in plans, please call the church office at 223-6788 or email [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org).

## UU SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

\*Please call the church at 701.223.6788 or e-mail [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org) if you are interested in participating in the Easter Sunday Brunch (Sunday service or volunteer) or for a Potluck Circle Supper. All are welcome to join us at any of these events!

You do not have to RSVP for the Easter Brunch!



### A Social Opportunity for UU Members, Friends, and Seekers

**Saturday, April 25, 2015**  
6:00 pm

An opportunity to get to know folks better by sharing a Potluck Meal together in a host's home with 6-8 people. The host provides the main dish and suggests a food item for each guest to bring.

These 2 hour events are for adults. The hosts will be Don & Karen Morrison and Dean & Pat Conrad. You will be contacted by a host one week prior to the event.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle all that apply. Add notes if needed.

Vegetarian Vegan Gluten Free Allergies to Pets

Questions? Contact UU Office: [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org) or call 223-6788.

## LAST WISHES

In follow-up to the workshop and service given by David Kraemer the last weekend in March, our Congregational Care Committee will hold several brief sessions to explore additional concerns about preparing for the aging process. These workshops are appropriate for those of us who are now senior citizens, and for those who feel they would benefit from this information as they begin conversations with their aging parents.

**Session #1** – Assuming that all of us would like to remain in our own homes as long as possible (aging in place as they call it) what services are available in our community to help us fulfill this wish? We will be distributing and discussing a list of services, their admission criteria, and their costs.

**Session #2** – We will receive information on the paperwork that should be in place as we age, including the will, living will, and power of attorney documents. Which of these do you need the help of an attorney to draft, and which can you do on your own? Once created, who needs to have copies of these documents? We are asking a local attorney to help with this presentation.

**Session #3** – We will discuss funerals, memorial services, and the option of donating your body to UND. What are the average current costs of each of these options? What are UND's requirements and costs? What are the state laws on the scattering of ashes? At the time of death, funeral homes give the family a questionnaire to help with developing the obituary and providing guidance on the type of service desired. Many of those funeral homes are encouraging pre-planning, so we will get a sample of those questionnaires to look at and maybe begin completing them on our own behalf.

**Session #4** (if desired) – There may come a time when nursing home care becomes necessary. What are the current laws regarding the receipt of Medicare and Medicaid to pay for supported living or nursing home care? What about nursing home insurance? What do we need to know now to navigate this tricky path?

**The dates and times of these workshops will be announced as we get into April. They will all be held at the church, and will not begin until after Easter.**

-Pat Conrad

---

After Sunday service, "Scatter My Ashes" on March 29, 2015



Above (left to right): Janis Cheney, David Kraemer, Betty Mills, and Jean King

Photo: Paul Markel



Writing our obituaries—it was surprising fun!

David Kraemer's workshop "Rumors of My Demise", March 28, 2015

Photo: Andrea Grigsby



Steve Crane & Janis Cheney hosted our UU guest, David Kraemer, at their home.

## Food Services

This is the third in a series of brief articles on homelessness in our community. This article provides information on the programs that provide prepared meals for those in need.

The Ruth Meier's Hospitality House was the first in the community to begin providing the noon meal on a daily basis out of its facility at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. But when the facility moved into the former Baptist Home on Boulevard Ave, zoning regulations prevented it from serving meals to individuals who come in off the streets. Until Ruth Meier's gets a zoning variance, it can only feed those who reside in its shelter. So it has increased its meal service to three meals a day. As some of the individuals who reside at Ruth Meier's have jobs, when volunteers from our congregation help serve the noon meal, we are often only serving 30 people. A full meal is served at both lunch and dinner time, with a main dish, vegetable, salad, and beverage. Ruth Meier's has a large kitchen and salaried individuals to prepare its meals. The facility is looking for volunteers to help with the evening and weekend meals.

Ruth Meier's also packs up sandwiches each afternoon, and delivers them to be served as the evening meal at the Men's Drop-In Shelter on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. That facility, housing up to 80 individuals a night, has no kitchen facilities.

The Soup Cafe, located in the former Hawk's Pit Stop on Memorial Highway, has become the primary place for individuals looking for a free meal. The Soup Café is open from 11 AM to 7 PM from Monday through Saturday. The kitchen facilities are tiny, and they can only seat about 25 individuals at a time, but on some days they serve over 150 individuals. They always have one or two soups available, and sometimes a more substantial dish. The Soup Café has just announced that it is looking at opening a second location in east Bismarck, as so many of its customers are walking long distances to receive their meals. These folks are likely coming from the Ruth Meier's Drop-In Shelter.

The Banquet is the meal served each Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church. Different businesses and organizations volunteer for a specific Thursday, and are responsible for purchasing, preparing, and serving the meal, and cleaning up afterwards. The volunteers need to be prepared for serving up to 300 meals. Trinity has just expanded its feeding program by adding a noon meal every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.

Ministry on the Margins provides coffee and a hot breakfast sandwich each Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. The program also provides a time for socialization.

Additional churches have begun to provide meals for the community. Charity Lutheran provides an evening meal on Tuesday from 5:15 to 7:00 PM at Riverside School in south Bismarck. Spirit of Life Church in Mandan provides a noon meal on Thursdays from September through May.

-Pat Conrad

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

### Ruth Meier's Hospitality House



On Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> we will again be serving the noon meal at the Ruth Meier's hospitality House. Pat Conrad already has one volunteer to help her, so is in need of two others. Anyone who can assist should contact Pat: [patriciaryanconrad@msn.com](mailto:patriciaryanconrad@msn.com) or 258-6388.

## UU Prayer during Legislative Session

UU member, Aruna Seth, will give the opening prayer in the Senate on Monday, April 13 and in the House on Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day). Thank you, Aruna, for representing our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Church of Bismarck and Mandan during Session 2015!



### Muslim Community Center Open House

The Bismarck-Mandan Muslim community has opened a community center for its members, and has now invited our congregation to join them during their official open house. The event will be held on Sunday, May 3rd from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at their new facility located at 207 East Bowen. It is an honor for our entire congregation to have been invited to this event.

We have been asked, however, to provide them with a head count by April 20th of the number of us who will be able to join them on May 3rd. This head count is so they have enough food and beverages on hand to accommodate the crowd. As this is an open house, no one needs to stay for the full 2 hours.

Please let Tamera in the office know the number from your family who will be attending this festive event at 701. 223.6788 or e-mail [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org). Thanks.

### Event Reminder

#### ORDINATION INVITATION

On Saturday, April 18, I will be ordained a deacon in the Holy Cross Old Catholic Diocese of the Midwest. If you are interested in traveling to the Twin Cities, I'd be honored to share the celebration (and details) with you. Upon ordination, I will continue my public ministry for children; I'll also continue to grow in my North Dakota UU communities of faith.

-Karen Van Fossan

UU Seminarian and Congregational Member

Contact: [karenvanfossan@gmail.com](mailto:karenvanfossan@gmail.com)

### DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Livestreaming to BisMan UU April 17 & 18, 2015

Three events from the **Regional Conference** in Naperville, IL can be watched from the comfort of our BisMan UU. We'll roll down the big screen.

Conference theme: *"The 'New' in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism"*

\*April 17 - 6:45-9:00 pm Banner Parade and the opening keynote presentation.

\*April 18 - 9:00-10:30 am keynote presentation

\*April 18 - 10:45 am-12:15 pm Business Meeting

### Read more about the 2 dynamic keynoters at

<http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly/1718-faq-2015>



### PEACE GARDEN SANGHA INVITATION

Welcome to spring! Peace Garden Sangha resume regular Monday meetings starting on April 6 at the UU. Our regular times are from 7-8:30 pm, and we practice mindful meditation according to the traditions of Zen Buddhist teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh. -Sarah Vogel



### UUA Annual Gathering in Portland, OR

The 2015 UUA General Assembly will be held June 24-28 in Portland, OR. The BisMan UU has two delegate slots for members.

If you are interested in representing our congregation, please review the program schedule and registration information at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga). Then contact BisMan UU Co-Presidents Marnie Piehl or Molly Brooks at [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org).

\*Deadline for Early Bird registration is May 1, 2015.

-Carol Jean Larsen

## 2015 Board of Trustees and Staff

### Board

Co-President, Marnie Piehl      piehl.patch@gmail.com  
Co-President, Molly Brooks      brooks.molly@gmail.com  
Secretary, Ronya Hoblit      hoblit2001@yahoo.com  
Treasurer, Lisa Omlid      omlid.lisa@gmail.com  
Trustee, Stephen Crane      scrane@bepc.com

### Communications Coordinator/Office Manager

Tamera Markel  
Church phone: 701-223-6788 • Cell phone: 701-934-3169  
E-mail: office@bismanuu.org

## Bis-Man UU Fellowship & Church

P.O. Box 297  
Bismarck, ND 58502

[We are on Facebook!](#)

**Check out our Website!**

[www.bismanuu.org](http://www.bismanuu.org)

### **Vision Statement**

*We will be a vibrant, caring, spiritual community  
for all who seek an inspirational and  
religious home.*

### **Mission Statement**

*We are a fellowship of free minds, welcoming  
all, a beacon of enlightenment and sanctuary,  
and offering a call to build a better self,  
community and world.*

### **Religious Education Mission Statement**

*The Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship seeks to provide a path for spiritual  
inquiry for people of all ages.*

### **Welcoming Congregation**

*We are a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming  
Congregation that seeks to be a spiritual home  
for people of free faith regardless of race, color,  
gender, affectional or sexual orientation, age,  
national origin, socioeconomic status,  
physical or mental ability.*



## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Office hours will vary.

It is ALWAYS a good idea to call first before stopping by: 701.223.6788

## Very Useful Links

### [Unitarian Universalist Association](#)

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

### [Mid America Region](#)

<http://midamericauua.org/>

### [Quest for Meaning](#)

(Church of the Larger Fellowship Young Adult Forum—VERY cool!)

[www.questformeaning.org](http://www.questformeaning.org)