

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, February 2**

TURNING 60. SO WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

Joe DeMasi

Join award winning singer, songwriter, humorist and fellow UU, Joseph DeMasi, as he looks back at his 60 years of life and comes up with a few very interesting observations. Hopefully he has gotten a little smarter even if he has gotten a lot older!

A native New Yorker, Joe is back to Bismarck by popular demand. He is a member of the Fargo-Moorhead UU Board of Directors.

**Sunday, February 9**

COLD COMFORT

Rev. Bob Bledsoe

It's been a particularly brutal winter. Join Rev. Bob Bledsoe in some UU humor designed to help you withstand the next barrage of ice and snow.

Bob Bledsoe is a Unitarian Universalist Minister, writer, and instructor. He is married and lives near Woodville, WI.

**Sunday, February 16**

THIS I BELIEVE - COUPLES EDITION

Facilitated by Marnie Piehl

In honor of Valentine's Day, Cathy & Paul Breiner, Kris Kitko & Jessy Hegland and Tim & Tammy Hathaway will open a window into the world of their relationships, spiritual journey and lives together all within the context of our UU principles. Couples will discuss big ideas such as how individual perceptions of spirituality might be similar or different within the relationship and what conflict, growth potential or beauty that provides. Join us for this unique opportunity.

**Sunday, February 22**

TRUST: LOSING AND REBUILDING

Dr. Larry Skogen

Larry Skogen will discuss historic and current incidences of trust being lost and how communities, organizations and individuals work to rebuild it.

Originally from Hettinger, ND, Dr. Skogen is currently the ND Higher Education Chancellor.

**Sunday, March 2**

Sneak Peak! (Rescheduled from January 26)

THIS I BELIEVE: THIS I DO

Stephen Crane & Liz Anderson

As UUs, we hold a belief in 7 Principles and the sentiment that what we do while here on Earth matters. In this popular service format, two members will share their spiritual journey and how they live our UU principles.

Stephen, a member since 1985, is a photographer for Basin Electric Power Co-op. He is a past Board member, and enjoys singing in the church folk choir.

Liz works at Juniper and is founding member of the Bis-Man Women's Roller Derby League. A member since 2012, she also sings in the choir and is currently Membership Team Leader.

Church Calendar		
An asterisk (*) indicates related article		
Sat Feb 1	5:30 pm	* Dinner & Music with Joe DeMasi!
Thurs Feb 6	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Sat Feb 8		* Interactive GLBT Discussions with Rev. Bob Bledsoe
Sun Feb 9	12:00 N	* Social Action Meeting Event
Sun Feb 9	2-4 pm	* Art Reception for Mary Mitchell
Wed Feb 12	7-8:30 pm	* Our Place in History Video Series
Thurs Feb 13	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Sun Feb 16	12:00 N	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed Feb 19	5:30 pm	* People, Place & Program Gathering
Thurs Feb 20	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Fri Feb 21	12:00 N	UU Women's Lunch @ Minerva's
Fri Feb 21	6:00 pm	* Circle Supper in Host Homes
Sat Feb 22	6:00 pm	* Circle Supper in Host Homes
Wed Feb 26	7-8:30 pm	* Our Place in History Video Series
Thurs Feb 27	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Sat March 8	SAVE THE DATE!	* Interactive Reproductive Justice Workshop with Rev. Kelli Clement

## Our Place in History Video Series

One of the ways we may characterize ourselves as Unitarian Universalists is as 'a people who choose'\* and 'we seek the balanced growth of our minds and our spirits.\* As we develop that balance and our capacity to choose in our journey on this earth, it is helpful to have an understanding of our roots in the wider world and in the history of religious thought. The video series "A Long Strange Trip" offers a fascinating and very accessible six part overview of religious history and thought. We will show the series beginning Wednesday February 12 and continuing every other Wednesday. Sessions will begin at 7 p.m. at the church and conclude by 8:30. If you have questions, please contact Janis Cheney at [jcheney@bis.midco.net](mailto:jcheney@bis.midco.net) or contact the church office. Pre-registration is not required.

\*phrases taken from essays in [A Chosen Faith](#) by John A. Buehrens and F. Forrester Church

## Circle Supper Opportunity!

Thanks to those who have volunteered to host circle suppers in February. We are still looking for 2-3 host homes. Circle suppers are a great way to connect in smaller groups for rich conversations and fabulous food. The host usually provides the main dish for a group of 6-8 (including the host(s)), with guests bringing other dishes to share. The February 2 church bulletin will have a sign up sheet for hosts and attendees. Please fill one out whether or not you are able to participate. You may also contact Janis Cheney ([jcheney@bis.midco.net](mailto:jcheney@bis.midco.net)) or the church office to indicate your interest and availability.

## Music Concert at the UU!!

**Singer/Song writer, JOSEPH DEMASI will be providing a CONCERT at the Church!!**

**LET'S MAKE IT A PARTY!!  
DINNER AND A SHOW!!**

Join us and Joseph DeMasi for a free-will offering, POTLUCK DINNER AND CONCERT on

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST!!**

Set Up: 5:00 pm

Fellowship and Appetizers: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Concert: 7:00 pm

(Clean up following concert)

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH WITH WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE POTLUCK:

Main Dish

Appetizer

Side Dish

Salad

Beverage and Bread

Dessert (We have enough desserts at this point)

THIS IS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY!! DON'T MISS IT!!!

Originally from New York, Unitarian Universalist, **Joseph DeMasi** is an award-winning singer, songwriter, recording artist and entertainer who has been delighting audiences throughout the world with his music, humor and talent for over 25 years. He now calls North Dakota home and is on the Fargo UU Board of Directors.

## People, Place, Program

Wednesday, February 19

Enjoy a light meal (for a free will donation) and child care!

PPP brings more volunteers into the work of the church -- creating a true community of action within our congregation. Members and friends are encouraged to select at least one "P Area" in which to contribute time and talent to our church community.

"New" Revised Schedule:

5:30-6:15 People & Place Areas meet

6:15-6:45 Dinner and Fellowship

6:45-7:45 Program/RE Area meets

7:45-8:15 Leadership & Staff meet

If you have any questions about "PPP", please contact Colleen Reinke: [cjreinke@gmail.com](mailto:cjreinke@gmail.com) or 701.400.4748

## Adult Religious Education

### Possibilities! Responses Needed!

Starting in February, we will be looking to start expanding the Adult RE programming. The first programs to be tentatively added are a movie night with discussion, a World Religion course, and a Skeptics group.

Before an official launch though, we would like to get some feedback from the congregation as to what YOU would like to see in these programs.

Specifically, we will be looking for what is wanted in a World Religion program. What religions are of interest; what do you want to know about those religions; how in depth do you want the studies; etc.

In order to make this program as effective as possible, feedback is needed. Comments and questions can be emailed to RE Coordinator, Dustin, White:

[Dustin@Belzian.com](mailto:Dustin@Belzian.com).

## Deepening Our Welcome—Building Partnerships

As part of our Standing on the Side of Love grant and our congregation-approved commitment to deepening and renewing our status as a UUA approved Welcoming Congregation, our congregation as a whole, and in conjunction with our Social Action Working Group, will be taking steps to build partnerships in our community with LGBTQ groups in an effort to provide support, safe space and continue to break the cycle of misinformation and discrimination.

During the day on Saturday, February 8 here at the church, to begin this dialogue, UU minister, Rev. Bob Bledsoe has agreed to facilitate meetings with various groups in order to help develop relationships in the community and further LGBTQ discussion . As details immerge regarding specific times, that will be announced. Please watch the email announcements!

As determined by our recent Social Action survey, this is a very important issue to members and friends of our congregation. Please plan to attend one or more of these meetings and be a part of this vital step toward remaking Bismarck and Mandan into a more welcoming community for all.

## Social Action Moves Forward!

Over the last couple of months a few folks have been brain storming about how to re-organize and re-vitalize the Bismarck/Mandan UU congregation's commitment to bring about meaningful change to the inequalities and injustices which continue to exist in our community.

We all recognize the problems but often don't know what we, as a caring congregation, can do to make a difference. In the coming year the Social Action Working Group will provide the direction and leadership to help this congregation bring the UU's 7 principles into action, but only YOUR time, talents, and commitment will make it happen.

The survey that many of you filled out in December tells us what issues we, as a congregation, are willing to invest our time and resources in. Not just which issues are important, because there are an over abundance of worthy issues, but which issues we are willing to vote for "with our feet."

**On Sunday February 9 at noon following service, EVERYONE interested in participating in Social Action in our congregation is invited to attend the first ACTION meeting where we will put all this planning together and move FORWARD.**

This is where we will begin the process of change in our community. This is where we will make it happen! Please plan to attend! PS: There will be food!!

## Save the Date!! Extra Special, DO-NOT-MISS Opportunity!!

On March 8-9, Rev. Kelli Clement, Executive Director of the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice will be our guest in Bismarck. She will present our March 9 Sunday Service. On Saturday March 8, she will lead an interactive workshop / discussion regarding Reproductive Justice. This is particularly timely, given the constitutional amendment regarding 'Personhood' on which North Dakotans will vote in November 2014.

This workshop will help us recognize and speak cogently about Reproductive Justice - a concept and frame that is about much more than just abortion. We will identify what matters to us as people who organize around faith and develop ways and words to make it clear we come to the position we take because of our faith, not in spite of it.

Final details are still in the works, but the date is Saturday March 8. Please plan to attend and bring a friend (or four).

Our work on this critical social justice issue grows from the UUA Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) campaign and the workshop is partially funded by a grant from SSL.



## Candles for the Journey

Please keep Tom Disselhorst close to your hearts as he begins the process of grieving for his wife, Arlene, who died of cancer.

We hold Anne Knudson close as she grieves for elderly relatives who have passed on.

We light a candle of concern for Colleen Reinke as she assists elderly relatives with illnesses and injuries.

We express our love and care for Janis Cheney as she continues in her breast cancer treatment.

And we light a candle of support for the Hathaway Family as they deal with the aftermath of a basement flood.

## February Refreshments

Thank you to those who provided treats for our fellowship time following January services:

February Refreshments:

- 2 Steve Crane & Janis Cheney
- 9 Angela Harmon & the Hathaway Family
- 19 Elicia Faul & \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_

*WE STILL HAVE OPENINGS!*

Treats are a wonderful way of sharing in community. If you are interested in volunteering to provide simple refreshments, please contact the church office.

## Thank you!

A big thank you to Lisa Omlid, Ronya Hoblit, Sarah Stockert and Pat Conrad for fulfilling the UU Church's obligation to serve the noon meal at Ruth Meier's Hospitality House on January 30th.

The next opportunity for volunteering will be May 29th. Mark your calendars now!

Thank you also to Pat Conrad for organizing this important opportunity to serve in our community, and to Dean Conrad for filling in whenever Pat needs him!



## "Life Is But A Dream" Art Reception

Artwall photographer, Mary Mitchell, with the help of our Artwall Coordinator, Char McLaughlin, will host an open house and artist reception on Sunday, February 9 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Join Mary for refreshments and conversation!

## 2014 Board of Trustees and Staff

President, Colleen Reinke  
Vice President, Tim Hathaway  
Secretary, Marnie Piehl  
Treasurer, Lisa Omlid  
Director, Rick Makelky

cjreinke@gmail.com  
hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com  
piehl.patch@gmail.com  
omlid.lisa@gmail.com  
rmakelky@hotmail.com

### Office Administrator

Tammy Hathaway  
Church phone: 701-223-6788 • Cell phone: 701-426-9307  
E-mail: office@bismanuu.org

### Coordinator of Congregational Life

Molly Brooks  
Cell phone: 919-564-6907  
E-mail: brooks.molly@gmail.com

#### **MOLLY'S HOURS:**

Wednesdays: 5:30-8:30 and Sundays: 10:00-2:00  
(by advance appointment only for meetings)

### Coordinator of Life-Span Religious Education

Dustin White  
Cell phone: 701-516-4781  
E-mail: Dustin@Belzion.com

## 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)



## REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday–Friday: 9:00–2:00 PM

## Very Useful Links

[Unitarian Universalist Association](http://www.uua.org)

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

[Mid America Region](http://midamericauua.org/)

<http://midamericauua.org/>

[Quest for Meaning](http://www.questformeaning.org)

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

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