

**BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH**

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

WEBSITE: bismanuu.org • EMAIL: 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, January 5
RESOLUTIONS II: UU & ME
Colleen Reinke

Last Sunday, we looked at personal resolutions for 2014. Today, let's look at resolutions on a UU community level.

Colleen is a UU member who serves on our UU Board as 2014 Board President.

Sunday, January 12
AN EVOLUTION OF IDEAS
Presented by Janis Cheney

Today's sermon was written by Leaf Seligman, a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, creative writing teacher, and minister of First Parish Church in Fitchburg, MA. Her linked in profile states, "My ministry is to evoke yours: to inspire deeper engagement and connection with all being, to inhabit joy and life's questions more intentionally and to court wonder and whimsy.

Janis Cheney will offer this thoughtful reflection.

Guest At Your Table boxes will be collected today!

Sunday, January 19
IN CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
Pat Conrad

Even though Dr. King died many years ago, his message of non-violence still speaks to us today. Several members of our congregation participated in civil rights activities during the 1960s, and Pat Conrad will describe her time as a civil rights worker in a program organized through Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership conference.

Pat has been a member of this congregation since 1970.

Sunday, 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 we are 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, enjoys singing in the church folk choir and keeps our church technologically current.

Liz works at Juniper, an archeological and environmental services company, and is founding member of the BisMan 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

Wed Jan 1		UU Office Closed—Happy New Year!
Thurs Jan 2	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Sun Jan 5	12:30-3:30	UU Board Retreat
Thurs Jan 9	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Fri Jan 10	7:00 pm	* Screening of Jessy Hegland's "Freedom Barrell"
Sun Jan 12	10:30 am	Guest At Your Table Boxes Due!
Sun Jan 12	12-12:30	* UU 411
Sun Jan 12	12:30-3:30	UU Leadership Retreat
Wed Jan 15	5:30-8:30	* People Place Program Gathering
Thurs Jan 16	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Thurs Jan 23	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body
Fri Jan 24	12:00 N	UU Women's Lunch @ Minerva's
Jan 28-31		UU Office Closed—Tammy in DC
Thurs Jan 30	11:15-1:00	* Volunteer at Ruth Meier's
Thurs Jan 30	7:00 pm	Meditating with the Body



Reflections & Thank You

Dear Members & Friends,

As the year 2013 winds down, so does my year as president of our beloved congregation.

Thanks again for sharing the precious gifts of yourself, your time and your finances.

As we welcome the New Year, let us be reminded of our Mission Statement that calls us to be *".....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."*

A special thank you to the many folks who helped prepare for and participate in the December 8 Annual Business Meeting. In my absence, I am grateful to Vice President Tim Hathaway for chairing the meeting.

I have received many comments that the discussion time on complex issues was so rich, rewarding, and respectful. In the words of James Luther Adams, *"Church is a place where we get to practice what it means to be human."*

Namaste,
Carol Jean Larsen
Board President
Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2013

People, Place, Program

Wednesday, January 15

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.

5:30-6:15 People & Place Areas meet
6:15-6:30 Dinner will be served
6:30-8:00 Program Area meets

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

Resolutions for a New Year



First, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Board President for this coming year. I believe Karen Morrison used the word "gracious" to describe my willingness to serve...the word is more like "humbled." That may not be a word you would normally associate with me, but remember, I am an introvert and, bravado to the contrary, humble is the way I feel. It is a true labor of love to be in this position. I consider it part of my ministry, part of my spiritual practice at the church. I hope to provide the congregation with leadership, love, and a few laughs this coming year.

I look the beginning of each year as an opportunity for new beginnings. I try to examine my life as it is and imagine the life I might have, then take steps to move myself in that direction. I seldom make much headway. I LOVE the IDEA of losing 20 pounds; I just don't want to do the actual WORK it would take to lose 20 pounds. The only resolutions I have kept over the years are ones to "drink more wine" and "eat more chocolate." But seriously, I do take a look back and a look forward and try to move myself in a direction that seems right.

I am thinking of the resolutions I will make for the coming year with regard to the church. I would like you all to consider resolutions related to your congregational life as well. Here is a first draft of my resolutions.

I resolve to:

- be mindful about directions the church may be heading
- be more open to changes and meet them with open arms
- touch base regularly with individuals in the congregation regarding church life
- encourage the congregation to follow their own hearts within the church
- honor the past and imagine the future
- making volunteerism more a part of my spiritual practice

Ok, they are on paper now for everyone to see. You may all hold me accountable.

Now, what are YOUR resolutions with regard to your church?

Colleen Reinke
2014 UU Board President

Sharing the Past, Shaping the Future—UU 411

Maybe you are new to our congregation. Maybe you have been coming for some time, but have questions about how we came to be this liberal religious voice on the prairie. Maybe you would like to know more about Unitarian Universalism. On the other side of the equation, we would like to know how you came to be here. Where are you on your journey? How can we be helpful in your search for truth and meaning?

Have we got a deal for you!!

On Sunday January 12 from 12-12:30 p.m. join Janis Cheney and Liz Anderson for an informal discussion of our Bismarck Mandan UU heritage, practices, UU principles, processes, questions, connections, and other items of interest.

Please note: We are planning to schedule similar conversations each month. For those who would like a 'deeper dive,' i.e. a more in-depth discussion, we'll be offering additional sessions in March and April. And if the identified dates don't work for you, please contact Janis, Liz, or Tammy at the church office and we'll arrange a mutually convenient time to talk.

Your questions, your insights, and your suggestions are important and become part of the fabric of our vibrant, growing community. We are an interdependent web and want every strand to shine brightly!

UU Circle Suppers

Is Fabulous Food and Festivity in your Future?

A circle supper is a pot luck dinner held in homes for 6-8 guests. The host provides a main dish and coordinates side dishes and desserts with those attending. It is a great way to get better acquainted with each other in a relaxed atmosphere. Six circle suppers were held earlier this fall to rave reviews (for the food and the conversation).

We will be scheduling circle suppers in February and April and are currently seeking volunteer hosts. Please contact Tammy at the church office or Janis Cheney if you are willing to host a circle supper and indicate what dates (usually Friday or Saturday evenings, but other options are o.k.) would work for you.

Ruth Meier's Hospitality House

In January we begin our third year of providing assistance to Ruth Meier's by serving the noon meal on the 5th Thursday of those months containing 5 Thursdays. This means we only need to help out 4 times during 2014 – January 30, May 29, July 31, and October 30. Anyone who would like to put their faith into action by offering to help with this activity is encouraged to contact Pat Conrad at 258-6388, patriciaryanconrad@msn.com. Only one hour and 45 minutes is needed each time, from 11:15—1:00 pm. Twelve different individuals helped out in 2013.

"Freedom Barrel: ND Voices on Sexism and Feminism"

7:00 pm, January 10 at the UU

This film, produced by Jessy Hegland, is a documentary of personal oral histories of men and women in ND and their experiences with sexism. Both men and women were asked if they have experienced sexism and what they think feminism means. Interviewees include UUs, Tim Hathaway, Betty Mills, Kris Kitko, Paul Breiner and Jessy, herself.

Jessy is currently a student at BSC and will be transferring to Moorhead next fall for Film Studies. She was given the opportunity through the Cinema 100 Film Society to make this film through their video loan program in which selected people can borrow production equipment. Jessy also works for the State Historical Society of ND which paid her to learn how to use their editing software. She has now edited other videos that will be played in the new expanded Heritage Center.

The film is 1 hour, 14 minutes and will be followed by discussion.

Time is Running Out!

Please consider donations of warm hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for our Mitten Tree. After the holidays, the Sunday school Classes will donate all gifts to an organization of their choice.

Congregation Moves To Build a New Future

At the annual meeting in January, the congregation passed a resolution that stated:

We declare that this congregation will provide itself the sacred space needed to fulfill our vision to be a vibrant, caring, spiritual community for all who seek an inspirational and religious home.

This resolution was proposed by the Sacred Space Task Force after extensive work to examine the future needs of our church. The Task Force strongly felt that we will need to make new and more space for ourselves in order to fulfill our mission in the community.

Now we need to move the direction our resolution points us. The question has become, how do we do that?

NOW WHAT?

Both the Sacred Space Task Force and the Board have recognized that this church and this congregation are at a crossroads. We cannot grow in our current location because we are just too crowded. Yet we recognize that we are the most liberal religious/spiritual organization in the area. To serve those who would find a home with us, we need to have room in that home. But *we need a lot more than just additional space*. We need to keep creating an ever-“healthier” (no, we will not all have to start Pilates!) congregation capable of obtaining the lofty goal set forth in our mission.

We need to better meet the changing needs of this growing congregation, and we will need everyone’s help to do that.

As your incoming Board President, I believe that in this next year we need to look at a number of different pathways for our congregation. These are a **few** of the things I would like to see us consider as a church in the coming year and beyond. I am not sure exactly what the new board will pick to focus on this year, but I think we need to at least consider the following:

- We need to think seriously about having professional ministry on at least a part time basis
Ministers provide congregations with much more than Sunday programs. Ministers provide a “face and voice” for the congregation in the community. They can provide counseling. They can provide leadership. And so on...
- We need to shore up our financial house
We have reserve funds in the bank and have been good financial stewards in the past. But we are lacking in areas like planned giving, building stewardship, thoughtful investing, and more “professional” budgeting and fundraising. And don’t forget the eventual need for a capital campaign!
- We need to expand our definitions of membership and services/programs
Some of the ways we might do this are to institute second services on weeknights with a discussion theme; starting small groups that revolve around a particular philosophy or other affinity; bringing in more ministers for Sunday services; holding different kinds of services; holding public services...

It is exciting to think about where we might go and where we might be a year or two from now! But the Board of Trustees cannot get there by just wishing or decreeing that these things shall be so. (oh, how I wish we could!) If the board acted alone to put programs into place, we would end up alone with those programs.

The astute congregant will see where I am going...do not run! We cannot build programs to benefit the congregation without INPUT, HELP, and WORK from the congregation. If you would like to see a small group started, START ONE (with the direction you can get from the Board, the UUA, and others within the church). You will not have to strike out on your own, but unless someone does something, nothing new will be created.

Perhaps most importantly, consider that a part of your spiritual practice for this coming year will be to think deeply about your church and what you want out of it...and then ACTING on your thoughts. Volunteering with this congregation is a part of my spiritual practice and I hope you will find it as rewarding as I do!

~Colleen Reinke, 2014 Board President



Candles for the Journey

We keep our fingers crossed that Jeff Evenson's hip replacement surgery goes well in early January, and that when we see him next, he will not need to use his cane.

We express our concern for Arlene Andre (Tom Disselhorst's wife) as she continues her battle with cancer.

Helen Whiting, a long-time member of our congregation, died in late November. There will be a small memorial gathering on a future date.

We continue to express our love and care for Janis Cheney as she begins the next steps in her breast cancer treatment in early January.

We know that Tammy Hathaway and Stephen Crane are in the process of saying a final good bye to elderly relatives. For Stephen it is his father, and for Tammy, her grandmother, who is finally at peace. We hold both in our thoughts.

January Refreshments

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

January Refreshments:

- 5 Ken & Andrea Grigsby & Julia Veach
- 12 Colleen Reinke & Jean King
- 19 Monte & Elicia Faul
- 26 Jim Lennington & Lisa Omlid

Treats are a wonderful way of sharing in community. If you are interested in volunteering to provide simple refreshments, please contact coordinator, Janet Lucas: janetlucas317@gmail.com.



“Life Is But A Dream”

A new Artwall exhibit coming up in January featuring photographs by UU member, Mary Mitchell.

Mary has lived and worked in North Dakota for over 33 years. She has always enjoyed photography and is just now getting serious about digital photography with the purchase of a gently-used Nikon D80. She is especially captivated by nature and landscapes and several of her images were captured with a Droid mobile phone while working and traveling. Mary is excited to share her work with others on the UU Artwall!

2014 Board of Trustees and Staff

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Vice President, Tim Hathaway
Secretary, Marnie Piehl
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cjreinke@gmail.com
hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com
marnie.piehl@bismarckstate.edu
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



REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Friday: 9:00—2:00 PM

Very Useful Links

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

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