

# BISMARCK-MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH



Sunday Services & Children's Programs: 10:30 AM

Fellowship & Refreshments: Following Service

818 E. Divide Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-6788

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## The Beacon

*Our Monthly Newsletter Sharing Unitarian Universalist Values  
in the Capital City Area*

**Sunday, January 1, 2012**

"IT'S THE NEW YEAR! OR IS IT?"

Facilitated by Mary Mitchell

Probably every culture in the world celebrates the new year. Traditionally, though, different cultures celebrate different new year cycles. For some, the new year arrives with the coming of spring; for others, with the anticipation of winter. This service will be a celebration of the modern New Year's Day, as well as a reflection on New Year's traditions around the world and what they mean.

**Sunday, January 8, 2012**

"GENES AND JUSTICE: SHIFTING PERSPECTIVE OF  
SPECIAL NEEDS PARENTING"

Beth Nodland

Facilitator: Don Morrison

Beth will share thoughts on spiritual and social justice challenges that face parents of children with special needs, as well as the citizens of the village that it takes to raise them.

Beth Nodland is a member of the fellowship and a two-term Trustee. She and husband John Morrison have a 3 ½ year old bundle of energy who happens to have one extra chromosome.

**Sunday, January 15, 2012**

"CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS OF GENDER: MELDING THE CHALICE  
AND THE BLADE TO FOSTER PEACE"

Dr. Kim Crowley

Facilitator: Tammy Hathaway

Dr. Kim Crowley will be discussing concepts posited in Riane Eisler's, *The Chalice and The Blade: Our History, Our Future*. Eisler outlines the historical and cultural underpinnings of some of the most widely held beliefs about the sexes, including the association of the male with violence and the female with nurturing. Based on examples of historical civilizations and cultures that helped shape these understandings of the female and the male, Eisler argues against the idea that a society must be either a patriarchy or a matriarchy, meaning one sex is dominant and one is secondary. Her argument that this sort of "battle of the sexes" is "neither divinely nor biologically ordained" will be the main topic of conversation.

Dr. Crowley is an assistant professor of English at Bismarck State College, whose academic work includes analyses of women's portrayal in popular media.

**Sunday, January 22, 2012**

"THE ROOTS OF COMMON GOOD"

Bill Patrie

Facilitator: Karen Van Fossan

Bill Patrie points the way out of the materialism and fear gripping America. He draws on the wisdom of religious and political thinkers who have helped define the concept of a common good. By changing our conversation from what we are afraid of to what we hope for, we change our individual lives. As we find each other, liberated from our own fears and selfishness, we change our community. Community by community, we change the country. Patrie notes that fear and materialism are powerful forces in society and have been useful tools for individuals and organizations seeking to dominate it. It will not be easy, but the American journey is filled with spectacular victories in the struggle to establish one nation with liberty and justice for all.

Bill Patrie is a founding manager of Dakotas America LLC, a community development entity which has provided financing to build a new school in the poorest county in the United States.

**Sunday, January 29, 2012**

"THE TALE OF A MEMORABLE TRAIL"

Betty Mills

Facilitator: Janis Cheney

Kicking off the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, charter member Betty Mills will highlight some of the church's memorable events and their significance for the fellowship in the future.

Betty has served on both the Prairie Star District Board and National UUA Board. She is currently a columnist for the *Prairie Independent*.

**Sunday, February 5, 2012**

Sneak Peak!

"THE NIOBE STORIES"

Janelle Masters

Janelle Masters will read two of her stories about growing up in her hometown, Niobe, North Dakota, population 35. The stories are humorous, yet tackle religious and spirituality issues and conflicts.

Janelle Masters is a recovering English teacher and currently the academic dean at Bismarck State College. She is a lifetime birder and star-gazer.

### Church Calendar

An asterisk (\*) indicates related article

Mon. Jan. 2		UU Office Closed
Sun. Jan. 8 & 15	10:30 AM	Guest at Your Table boxes/ gifts collected
Sun. Jan. 8	11:35 AM	* Membership Conversation in the church library
Sun. Jan. 8	11:45 AM	Social Justice Meeting
Thurs. Jan. 12	6:45-8 PM	PSD Webinar: <i>Board Responsibilities</i> in church office (Repeat 1/17)
Sat. Jan. 14	9:00 AM	Board Retreat with Nancy Heege
Mon. Jan. 16		UU Office Closed
Fri. Jan. 20	12:00 N	Women's Lunch—Location TBA
Fri. Jan. 27	12:00 N	Men's Lunch—Location TBA

## Important Reminder:

Please return your completed

2012 pledge cards

by January 31.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the church office:

223-6788 or

office@bismanuu.org

## Interested in UU Membership?

Is it time for you to move from Friend status to Membership?

You are invited to add your name to our Membership Book.

Your signature is your affirming symbol of commitment to an open-minded, inclusive, reasoned, and compassionate approach to life.

Your signature affirms that you are offering to share your energy, time, money, and best thought to furthering the ideas you value.

Your signature affirms that you are ready to participate in congregational decision making.

On Sunday, January 8 at 11:35 AM, gather for a membership conversation in our church library.

## New Year Thoughts—2012 Board President, Colleen Reinke

### Thank You To Past Board Members

At the end of the year, several board members finished their terms on the board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their service and dedication to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Church of Bismarck-Mandan.

**Beth Nodland** brought her unique vision and energy to your board. She was willing to look at things from a fresh perspective and challenge the rest of us to do the same. Looking at things in different ways is essential to the success of any board.

**Stephen Crane** brought his trademark dry wit to your board. Despite the fact that financial spreadsheets are not his favorite thing, Stephen took on the job of treasurer and guided us through them. We were all so grateful that we did not have to be the treasurer!

**Janis Cheney** steered the ship with integrity and passion. She brought so much experience and insight to our board, and was more than willing to get new board members involved and up to speed. She generously continues to offer her support to the new board as we go forward into 2012.

Serving on the Board of Trustees of our church is an honor, but more than that it is a responsibility. Please take time to thank each of our former board members for their time, dedication and service.

### Thank You, Nominating Committee!

The Annual Meeting saw the unanimous (and when do Unitarian Universalists EVER do anything unanimously???) election of a new Board. Ok, well, we usually do our elections unanimously... Anyway, thanks go out to the Nomination Committee – Jean King, Pat Conrad and Diane Chielens for their hard work in recruiting the slate of candidates. They made a lot of phone calls and did an excellent job. Kudos and Thanks!!

### New Board Members Elected

**Lisa Omlid, Mary Mitchell, and Marnie Piehl** were elected to new terms on your Board. These new board members have not served our congregation in this capacity prior to this year. Please welcome them to their new positions. Your new Board President intends to make them all work very, very hard. Mwahahaha!

### Board Officers

**Carol Jean Larson** is the new Treasurer of the Board. We thank her in advance for her service and guidance. She has taken the job no one wants...but is essential!

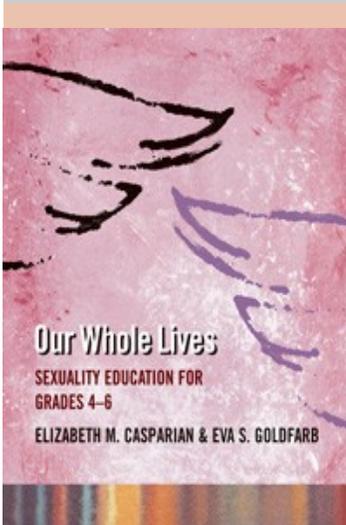
**Karen Van Fossan** is the secretary, so she is brushing up on her shorthand skills. If anyone has any of those old steno notebooks, she would probably appreciate them.

**Tim Hathaway** is the vice president and the last man standing on the board. No seriously, he is the only person of the male persuasion on the board at this time. He could probably use some sympathy.

**Colleen Reinke** is the Board President. She considers this her first step in becoming Queen of North Dakota. Please be cooperative.

Your new Board has a sense of humor (see above), but take their responsibilities to work hard for the church seriously. Our first project is a board retreat facilitated with staff from the Prairie Star District (Nancy Heege) on January 14. The retreat will allow the new board to get to know each other and determine our direction for the new year. In order to save the congregation money, we decided NOT to do the retreat in Hawaii, but will be staying in Bismarck instead. We hope you appreciate our stewardship in this regard. Of course, if a generous member would like to send us to Hawaii for the retreat, all expenses paid, please contact Colleen. Mind you, we will need round trip tickets, so if you think you can get rid of us easily, you are mistaken!

Please feel free to chat about your concerns and ideas for the church with any of your board members. We welcome your input. Contact information is on the last page of the newsletter.



## Our Whole Lives (OWL) 2012

The RE program has made a commitment to deliver the Our Whole Lives curriculum to our children and young people in the coming year. This project requires extensive training for group leaders and we are excited about the depth this will add to our teaching cadre. Our first steps in the new year will be to secure OWL trainers and solicit individuals from our congregation who would like to be trained in the curriculum. Our plan is to be prepared to begin the curriculum in the Fall of 2012. To learn more, please visit the UUA page: <http://www.uua.org/re/owl/index.shtml>. If you are interested in participating, speak to Tim Hathaway or contact the UU office: [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org) by January 10.

## Candles for the Journey

Please remember the Seth's in your thoughts and prayers as they celebrate the season with beloved family and friends and cope with their daughter, Sonali's brain cancer.



LESSONS FROM WAR & PEACE:  
STORIES OF HOPE, FAITH  
AND COURAGE

## Save the Date!

### PSD Annual Conference 2012

*Lessons from War and Peace: Stories of Hope, Faith, and Courage*

**April 13-15**

**Bloomington, MN**

The PSD Annual Conference is a weekend of lectures, workshops, worship, networking, and fellowship. The conference begins at 7:00 Friday evening, but there are pre-conference activities earlier on Friday. The Conference concludes at 10:30 Sunday morning. For more information,

click [HERE](#). If you are interested in attending or would simply like to talk with someone about the possibility, please contact the church office: 223-6788 or [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org).

## THE CHALICE & THE BLADE

OUR HISTORY. OUR FUTURE



MORE  
THAN  
300,000  
COPIES  
SOLD

"The most important book since  
Darwin's Origin of Species"  
—Arielle Kohnberg

RIANE EISLER

Author of Sacred Pleasure

## Books for the Journey

*The Chalice & The Blade: Our History, Our Future*

by Riane Eisler

Book reviewed by: Tammy Hathaway

Coincidentally, or perhaps not so, our program on January 15 will be a scholarly look at the ideas brought forth in this wonderful book. Since I am not at all scholarly, I will simply tell you what the book meant to me.

In my view, this is a well researched work based on archeological and anthropological documentation, presenting the idea that there once existed in our history as a species, a cooperative culture in which males and females worked in partnership to create thousands of years of peace in areas of the world now noted to war. The female Goddess or Chalice figure was worshiped, however that did not make it a matriarchal society in which the female dominated the male. The society was considered to be matrilineal. In other words the lineage was traced through the female with no “power-over” associated with it. Thousands of years of peace! Think of it!

Eisler goes on to explain the time in history where our culture began to shift from a chalice worshipping peaceful one to one that worshiped the blade, power and domination, thus changing to the patriarchal society of which we are part today.

Eisler goes even further to present a detailed template for a future which is co-operational and peaceful. This is the part I hope for. Admittedly, it’s the stuff of dreams, however most of us imagine a world that does not dominate over but lives in dominion with....I can dream.

This book is available for check-out in the UU Reading Room, just as soon as I bring it back!

(This is the second of hopefully many reviews for the new column, “Books for the Journey.” Please consider reviewing a book from the Reading Room. The reviews will be informal and include a quick summary of the book and what you like (or dis-



Tammy Hathaway

### Board of Trustees and Officers

President, Colleen Reinke	cjreinke@bis.midco.net
Vice President, Tim Hathaway	hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com
Secretary, Karen Van Fossan	karenvanfossan@gmail.com
Treasurer, Carol Jean Larsen	cjlarsen43@bis.midco.net
Director, Mary Mitchell	hopefulinnd@yahoo.com
Director, Lisa Omlid	omlid.lisa@gmail.com
Director, Mamie Piehl	mamie.piehl@bismarckstate.edu

### Office Administrator

Tammy Hathaway  
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### Bis-Man UU Fellowship & Church

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[We are on Facebook!](#)

**Check out our Website!**

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



### WINTER UU OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday: 9:00–2:00 PM

### ***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.*