

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

WEBSITE: bismanuu.org • EMAIL: office@bismanuu.org

The Beacon

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

Sunday, November 6, 2011

"NOT ALWAYS SO: 'THE FREEDOM OF LETTING GO'"

Susan Thompson

Facilitator: Janell Cole

Susan will speak about the life and times we live in as a constant challenge to our driving need for MORE. It is as if we are starving to death from unfulfilled emptiness. Letting go of greediness and finding satisfaction always requires one to look inward—is it not so?

Susan has an MSSW and is a Yoga teacher. She has been a psycho-therapist and a member of the UU Church for 20 years.

Sunday, November 13, 2011

"BIG PICTURE PUBLIC ART EXPERIENCE"

Wayne Pruse

Facilitator: Tom Disselhorst

Wayne will describe what UTTC's part was in the "big picture" of public art in Bismarck in addition to the whole experience while creating the five eagle sculptures.

Pruse is UTTC's Art/Art Marketing Chair where he teaches drawing, painting, graphic design and sculpture. Also a freelance artist, his work can be seen in many areas around North Dakota and at Impact Gallery in downtown Bismarck. Recently, Pruse painted a sky mural in Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Cambridge, MA.

Sunday, November 20, 2011

Rev. Lyn Burton

Our consulting minister, Rev. Lyn Burton will be in Bismarck from Wed. Nov. 16 to Sun. Nov. 20. Check out our [Website](#) or [Face book](#) page for updates and more information.

Sunday, November 27, 2011*

"CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING"

Brian McGinness

Facilitator: Heidi Demars

Brian McGinness of Riverbound Farm is an organic vegetable farmer exploring means by which food systems can build the health of our bodies, our communities and our environment. He will be presenting on our relationship to food and farming through the eyes of science, music, justice and spirit.

*Guest at Your Table opens today! See inside for details.

Sunday, December 4, 2011

SNEAK PEAK!

"TEAPOTS, UNICORNS & 'PASTAFARIANS': RELIGIOUS
THEORY FROM THE SKEPTICS' PERSPECTIVE"

Janell Cole

Over the past 60 years, skeptics have used quaint or amusing objects and parody to illustrate conventional religious belief and provoke discussion. This program will look at three examples.

SAVE THE DATE!

BIS-MAN UU ANNUAL MEETING

SUN., DEC. 11 FOLLOWING SERVICE

Members-please mark your calendars.

Church Calendar

An asterisk (*) indicates related article

Wed. Nov. 2	6:30 PM	* Common Read Discussion
Nov. 4-5		Small Congregation Conference, Des Moines, IA
Sun. Nov. 6	12:00 N	Social Justice Meeting
Tues. Nov. 8	6:45-8 PM	* PSD Webinar: "Human Resources" (Repeat Mon. Nov. 14)
Wed. Nov. 9	6:30 PM	* Common Read Discussion
THURS. Nov. 10	12:00 N	Men's Lunch
Thurs. Nov. 10	6:45-8 PM	* PSD Webinar: "Budgeting for the Small Congregation" (Repeat Tues. Nov. 15)
Sun. Nov. 13	9:00 AM	Program Committee Meeting
Wed. Nov. 16	6:30-8 PM	* "Our American Roots & Articulating our Faith"
Nov. 16-20		Rev. Lyn Burton in Bismarck
Fri. Nov. 18	12:00 N	Women's Lunch
Sat. Nov. 19	10:00 AM	* Seekers Conversation
Nov. 22-28		Tammy out of the office
Wed. Nov. 30	6:30-8 PM	* "Our American Roots & Articulating our Faith"

Seekers Conversation and Pathway to Membership

If this is the religious home you have been seeking, join this informational conversation either as a “seeker” or as a “potential member.”

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Date: Saturday, November 19

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Church Library—use back door

Reserve a space with Carol Jean Larsen:

Cell: 701-214-9453

Church: 701-223-6788

office@bismanuu.org

Adult Learning Opportunities

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our American Roots & Articulating Our Faith

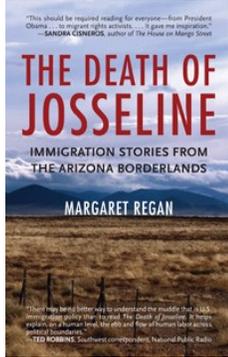
“What Do You Say After You Say, “I AM A UU”?”

Two short videos on UU’s American roots set up each session followed by exercises and conversation on how we articulate our UU beliefs.

Dates: Nov. 16 & 30

Time: Wednesdays 6:30-8 PM at the UU

Facilitators: Janis Cheney & Carol Jean Larsen



Common Read

ALL ARE WELCOME!

“*The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*” by veteran reporter Margaret Regan, is the book designated for a “Common Read” in the denomination.

The introduction to the study points out “The book evokes a human and religious response, rather than a political debate.”

Wed. dates: Nov. 2 & 9
Time: 6:30-8 PM at the UU
Facilitator: Betty Mills

Copies of the book are available for \$14.00



Sponsored by
Midwest UU
Leadership

Leadership Opportunities Using Webinars

Our congregation continues to participate in the monthly webinars sponsored by Midwest UU Leadership. The online workshops are 75 minutes long, with a presentation and discussion time. Please feel free to join in on a subject of interest to you. Contact the church office: 701-223-6788 or office@bismanuu.org.

Tues., Nov. 8 & Mon., Nov. 14 “Human Resources in the Congregation” ([Link](#))

Thurs., Nov. 10 & Tues., Nov. 15 “Budgeting for the Small Congregation” ([Link](#))

**Prairie Star District Webinar Workshops—
6:45-8:00 PM in the Church Office**

What does the Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Church mean to you? By Janis Cheney

Here's one answer.

This congregation is a significant part of the fabric of my life. The people I meet here and the experiences we share here are extraordinary for their nourishing, enriching, challenging and inspiring qualities. We are all on our own journey to live the best life we can; it is a blessing to share this journey with others who choose to seek justice, truth and love, who see possibilities in the questions and never stop at 'good enough.' I cannot imagine my life without this faith community.

During the next month, your Board of Trustees will be developing a budget for 2012 for presentation, discussion and approval at our annual meeting in December. If you have hopes and dreams for our congregation or plain and simple requests, please contact Treasurer Steve Crane or any member of the board (names and contact information are listed on the last page of this newsletter.)

In conjunction with the process of developing a budget, this is also the time of year when we ask members and friends to support our vision, mission and ongoing operation with their financial gifts. Have you read our vision and mission recently?

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

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

Lofty sentiments, to be sure. But words chosen carefully in a process of discussion, collaboration and discernment to reflect what, who and how we are together and in the larger community. Words that help to reflect and illuminate how we live our UU principles individually and collectively.

I hope everyone will take a few moments in these next weeks to think about their own answer to the question above, to reflect on our vision and mission, and to thoughtfully consider the financial gift you can joyfully share to support our ongoing presence in your life and in the Bismarck-Mandan community.

More information and opportunity for conversation will be forthcoming!

Appreciation!

Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate?

Mike and Ann Knudson!!

Mike has been building shelves and CD boxes, fixing windows and been an all around big help!

Besides her UU garden and plant upkeep, Ann donated a load of wood for our fireplace! Thank you VERY MUCH to you both!

UUSC Rep Needed

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights. Interested in keeping the congregation informed of UUSC activities? All you need is an email address. Click [HERE](#) for more info on UUSC.

Email the UU office:

office@bismanuu.org, if interested.



Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table—a UU tradition.

By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

Through the *Stories of Hope* booklet, we connect with people in the United States and around the world who have shared their personal struggles and are working hard for human rights in partnership with UUSC.

In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family meal table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their “guests” to the movement for universal human rights—and share generously. Each week, we can choose a different story to read, bringing our guests to life and helping celebrate our own rights.

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC’s human-rights work continues. Please consider making a contribution that meets membership levels. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from the UUA or the U.S. government, UUSC members are vitally important.

If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at www.uusc.org.

We will open our Guest at Your Table program on November 27!



Cleaning Crew Volunteers Needed!

Up until recently, the church contracted to have the building cleaned twice a month, and this mainly consisted of vacuuming, dusting, and cleaning the kitchen and the bathrooms. During recent budget discussions, the Board felt that this was something we could pull together as a community to take responsibility for, thereby saving the church a total of \$1,800.00 through the end of 2011 and next year.

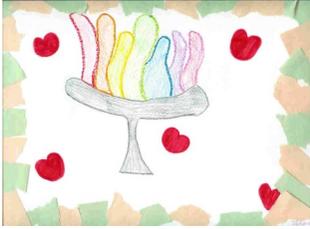
WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS who would be willing to clean the church, and have even had some interest. Tim Hathaway and Colleen Reinke will be taking over the first month or so. We will be posting a sign up sheet for the rest of the year, so please look for that in the church entry way. We will have a list of things that need to be done, and we estimate that one person could do the tasks in about 1 ½ to 2 hours. With two people you can cut the time in half. We will need a cleaning day every two weeks, but we can be flexible on which days cleaning is done.

This is a wonderful way to help support your church community, particularly if your schedule does not allow your participation on committees. This will also save the church money, so your contribution in this area will go a long way to get us on better financial footing as well!

Thank you—Building and Grounds Chair, Colleen Reinke



Children's Religious Education Corner



The K-2 Class: 9 children

Lead teacher Liz Anderson is using "Tapestry of Faith Moral Tales" curriculum which can be viewed online by clicking [HERE](#) or by visiting www.uua.org. Children and their parents are encouraged to keep track of the child's own acts of justice and goodness each week. This becomes the opportunity for children to share their Gems of Goodness each Sunday.

The 3 – 6th Grade crew has been working on a series called "Questions and Mysteries." Each week we are taking on an enigma and sorting out how it might be answered from a UU perspective. Where do we come from? Where are we going? What is a UU? With many riddles yet to be solved, we have an exciting year ahead of us!

Quotidian to Cosmic: A Humanist UU Elevator Speech—Tim Hathaway

Quotidian. Great word. It has to do with everyday events and activities.

Cosmic. Another great word having to do with the universe.

The ordinary to the vast; quite a leap! Or is it? One of the engaging things about a Humanist UU perspective is that it ties these two ideas together. Framing my everyday decisions as meaningful and world changing is a unique perspective. Should I recycle this bottle? Should I drive angry? Should I spend time with my child? Humanist UU's would say that these simple decisions influence the world around us in tangible ways. In fact those decisions will change the world!

A simple "elevator speech"(ES) we worked up the other Sunday morning with the kids is a classical UU Humanist perspective:

-UU is an old religion with ties to Christianity.

-UU's believe that individuals have to make their own decisions about religious ideas like god and the reason we exist.

-UU's believe that we owe respect and care to all people and our planet.

We talked about this ES as a way to responded to the question, "What is a UU?" I think this simple frame ties us together nicely here in the Bis/Man UU church as well. We have many different ideas with many different emphases. But these three ideas (which reflect the 7 Principles well!) provide a great circle in which we gather and include others.

Preparing for the Bis-Man UU's 60th year together!

There are so many ways for you to help with this Anniversary Celebration! We are going to have a small special celebration in January in honor of our "official" birthday. In September 2012, we are planning the BIG party! Here are just a few thoughts about how you can be a part:

- Be a part of the planning—We want this to be special so all willing hands will make light work! Please contact Don Morrison (527-0060) or Tammy Hathaway (223-6788) if you would like to have a voice in the process!
- Dig for pictures. You know you have them...now go and find 'em! We are looking for UU pictures of events or activities taking place on any date in the last 60 years which you may have hanging around you home. If you can identify the year and who's in them—all the better!
- Submit a recipe! We are planning to put together a UU Cookbook of all our favorite recipes of the past 60 years. We might even be able to convince Betty Mills to pose as our own UU "Julia Childs" on the front cover! Email recipes to the office (office@bismanuu.org) or bring them in. Perhaps there is a story behind the recipe? We want that, too!

Greeting Cards—Pat Conrad

You get them, and I get them too. By “them” I mean the greeting cards that various charities send out at this time of the year looking for financial donations. I can’t make a recommendation whether you contribute financially to those charities, but I can suggest that you donate any cards that you don’t think you will need to the church. We are beginning a collection of cards—holiday cards, sympathy cards, get well cards, and congratulatory cards—for use by the congregation. I’ll fill you in on the purpose of the card collection next month. Stay tuned!



Candles for the Journey

Continue to keep all those who have been effected by the flood in your thoughts. Even though all of the folks in our congregation are back in their homes, as we heard from our own, Kathlyn Kaye, they are still facing challenges that are long lasting.

Continue to keep the Seth Family close to your hearts as they cope with daughter, Sonali’s brain cancer. They enjoy visitors.

Celebrate the life of long-time UU friend Bonnie Braaten. Bonnie died on Oct. 21 from cancer. Please keep those close to her in your prayers.

Even though you would never know it, Jean King had surgery earlier this month. She is recovering nicely but give her an extra hug when you see her next.

Needing extra hugs, too, is Tom Disselhorst. He has lost family members this past year and Arlene’s mother is now terminally ill.

Congratulations to Pat and Dean Conrad—they are brand new grandparents to Kieran Conrad Juckeland, born Oct. 6, weighed in at 9lbs. 4oz.

Congratulations to Janell Cole, a winner of the National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest for a freelance story about geothermal heating, published last November in the Bismarck Tribune’s business magazine.



UU Refreshments

Thank you to those folks who signed up to provide refreshments in October. Now it’s YOUR turn!

November is BLANK! Please sign up on the clip board hanging in the foyer at the church. Thank you!

Board of Trustees and Officers

President, Janis Cheney	jcheney@bis.midco.net
Vice President, Colleen Reinke	cjreinke@bis.midco.net
Secretary, Karen Van Fossan	karenavanfossan@gmail.com
Treasurer, Stephen Crane	scrane@bepc.com
Director, Tim Hathaway	hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com
Director, Carol Jean Larsen	cjlarsen43@bis.midco.net
Director, Beth Nodland	bnodland@aol.com

Office Administrator

Tammy Hathaway
Church phone: 701-223-6788 • Cell phone: 701-426-9307
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



Rev. Lyn Burton, in Bismarck, Nov. 16-20

Our Consulting Minister can be reached via

cell phone: 651-336-4439 or

email: uulyn2008@aol.com.

She is also available for personal appointments during her Bismarck visits.

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.

FALL UU OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00—2:00 PM

Know Anyone or Can YOU Upholster?

We are looking into re-upholstering our old reddish-colored chairs. Structurally they are in decent shape. Appearance wise...well let's just say they need some TLC. Do any of you know someone who can do this? Or perhaps you have this wonderful hidden talent? If so, please contact the church office: 223-6788 or office@bismanuu.org.