

BISMARCK - MANDAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP & CHURCH

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701-223-6788

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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, September 23, 2012**

WHAT'S ALL THAT UU JAZZ ABOUT?

Don Morrison

UUs strive to blend individualism with community to live good lives together. It's like jazz, where each person needs to be who they are and yet listen to and care for others and the community with some surprises along the way. Don will discuss human interactions in a jazz metaphor. While Don is far from a music expert, he is a community organizer and directs the Dakota Resource Council. Don and his wife Karen have been members of our congregation since 1986 and have two grown children, Alex and Nicole.

**Sunday, September 30, 2012**

WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE...

Coline Jenkins

Our special guest this week will be Coline Jenkins, great-great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Coline is the featured speaker at the North Dakota Women's Network Woman of the Year event and we are delighted she will also spend time with us. Issues addressed by early feminists are much among us in 2012. Women and men of good will need to be attentive!

**Sunday, October 7, 2012**

SNEAK PEAK!

CREATING A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY

UU Right Relations

How do we stay connected with each other in the context of our church life? How do we be sure our voices are heard in a way that honors our own perspective as well as that of others? How do we resolve differences or disagreements in alignment with our principles? Many UU congregations accomplish this and more through a 'Covenant of Right Relations.' At the direction of our Board, we have been working on a living statement for this congregation. Janis Cheney, Lisa Omlid, and Karen Van Fossan (in spirit) invite you to consider our progress to date and contribute to our next steps in this important process.

Welcome to the BisMan  
UU's 60th Year!!

**Sunday, September 9, 2012**

ON PURSUING THE QUESTIONS

Betty Mills

The publisher chose the title of the book Betty co-authored, "Mind If I Differ?" but it is an apt motto for a Unitarian Universalist, a theme for the morning's pulpit essay, and maybe an explanation of why we are celebrating our 60th anniversary.

Betty Mills is a charter member of the fellowship, and has served on both the Prairie Star District Board and National UUA Board. She is currently a columnist for the Prairie Independent.

**Sunday, September 16, 2012**

THIS I BELIEVE (AND THIS I DO)

Jim Lennington & Molly Brooks

Jim has been a member of the UU Fellowship since 1999 after his son started asking about going to hell because he wasn't baptized. He is a past Board president and remains active on various committees. Jim is a preacher's kid and has had several 'epiphany' experiences on his spiritual journey and will touch on those in the discussion.

Molly grew up mostly in UU congregations, which was a wonderfully enriching experience in many ways. She spent most of her teens and 20's, however, feeling overwhelmed by a plethora of questions and her perceived lack of answers. In the past couple of years, Molly has begun a fulfilling journey to articulate that which she believes and to discern meaningful ways to reflect that in (almost) all she does.

## Church Calendar

An asterisk (\*) indicates related article

Sun. Sept. 2		NO SUNDAY SERVICE
Mon. Sept. 3		UU Office Closed
Tues. Sept. 4	6:30 pm	Social Media Task Force Meeting
Wed. Sept. 5	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sun. Sept. 9	10:30 am	Regular Program Services Begin - Betty Mills Starts Off Our 60th Year!
Wed. Sept. 12	5:30 PM	* Men's BBQ Society Supper
Thurs. Sept. 13	4:00 PM	* Satay Skewering at the Church
Fri. Sept. 14	8:00-8:00	* Street Fair Shifts—Selling/Grilling
Fri. Sept. 14	8:00 pm	* Satay Clean Up at the Church
Sat. Sept. 15	8:00-6:00	* Street Fair Shifts—Selling/Grilling
Sat. Sept. 15	6:00 pm	* Satay Clean Up at the Church
Sun. Sept. 16	1:00-10:00	Rosh Hashanah—Please Respect the Jewish Community using our Building
Mon. Sept. 17	9:00-1:00	Rosh Hashanah—Please Respect the Jewish Community using our Building
Fri. Sept. 21	12:00 N	Women's Lunch - Place TBA
Sun. Sept. 23	2:00-4:00	Sonali Seth's Garden Dedication—Details TBA
Tues. Sept. 25	3:00-10:00	Yom Kippur—Please Respect the Jewish Community using our Building
Wed. Sept. 26	9:00-3:00	Yom Kippur—Please Respect the Jewish Community using our Building

## Men's BBQ Society

The Men's BBQ Society will meet at Vinod Seth's home, 1250 W. Highland Acres Rd. on **Wednesday, September 12 at 5:30 pm**. This group is open to anyone (well, of the male persuasion) interested in good eating and good conversation. Please bring food or drink to share and RSVP to Vinod: [vinsona@gmail.com](mailto:vinsona@gmail.com) or 223-4234



## How did we do in August? One more Satay sale to go!

FIRST, put your hands together for Dean Conrad and Mike Knudson for organizing the Capital A'Fair Satay Sale on August 4-5. Hats off, also, to the many volunteers who helped skewer, set up, grill, sell, hawk, and clean up during that event. We cannot do what we do without our wonderful volunteers! THANK YOU!

**Total Profit for August Satay : \$1,808.02**

NEXT, let's dazzle the "Street Fair" crowd with our tasty Indonesian Satay!

Please volunteer for this important FUNdraiser:

- Sept. 13, Thursday: 4:00 PM Skewering
  - Sept. 13, Thursday: 6:30-7:30 PM—Set up Booth
- 2-3 hour Shifts during the Fair:
- Sept. 14, Friday: 9 AM—8 PM Grilling & Selling  
8 PM Clean Up at the Church
  - Sept. 17, Saturday: 8 AM—6 PM Grilling & Selling  
6:00 PM Clean Up at the Church

Please call or email your response to the church: 223-6788 or [office@bismanuu.org](mailto:office@bismanuu.org).

(DIG THAT SIGN!)

To view more photos of our August Satay Sale click [HERE](#), photos courtesy of Yoshiko Sato and Walker Wynkoop!

## What Did You Think of Our Summer?

The discussion format for programs was new this summer. Summer discussion programs have created excitement, engagement, energy, and relationships!

At the same time, we have had a traditional program format from September through May. This format has also created excitement, engagement, energy, and relationships!

So...we would like your help in having our cake and eating it too. In other words, how can we integrate these vibrant discussion programs into our already-vibrant congregational life?

In late August and early September, you can expect to receive a survey, a phone call, or an email asking you a few brief questions...

- What did you like about the summer programs? How could they be improved?
- What about the discussion format has worked well for you and how could that be improved?
- What brought you here?
- Would you like to have a more in depth discussion about incorporating the discussion format into our regular programming?

A small task force (Don Morrison, Betty Mills, Lisa Omlid, Tim Hathaway, and Molly Brooks) is ready to hear you -- and incorporate your ideas.

Stay tuned!

## Attention All UU Parents!

On August 24, we had a very good parent meeting. Looking to the upcoming Religious Education (RE) season beginning on Sept. 9, we will continue to use the UUA developed Tapestry of Faith curriculum. We will be incorporating the OWL curriculum later on in the fall. For more information about OWL, click [HERE](#). If you haven't registered your child(ren) for our RE programs, please do so as soon as you can. Call Tim Hathaway with questions or if you'd like to be involved in the RE program:

426-9306 or [hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com](mailto:hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com).

## Scraping and Painting

A HUGE thank you goes out to Joanne Ashley for scraping the paint from the front windows!! Anyone interested in scraping or painting the areas of the church building that are in need, you are welcome to do so at your leisure. Just check in with Tim Hathaway and he'll get you started. 426-9306 or [hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com](mailto:hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com)

## Smorgas-Board

Tidbits from your Board Prez and Head Nosh

Your Board of Directors has had a productive summer, primarily due to the threats and sobbing of the Board President. I am both feared and pitied...just the way I like it! No seriously, we have had a lot of items on our plates, and have recently considered and acted upon the following "tidbits:"

- A Covenant of Right Relations has been drafted by Lisa Omlid, Karen Van Fossan, and Janis Cheney. They have presented an initial draft to the Board and are preparing to help educate the congregation about it. This covenant will help us all stay as much as possible in "right relationship" with each other. It is a highly important document for our congregation, and we thank them for their hard work!
- The Board had voted to go forward with a study on our Sacred Space issues. Beth Nodland and Jim Lenington are finalizing contract negotiations with the Larrivee architectural firm. Please read the more detailed article on the following page...
- The Board has created a Task Force to look at how best to preserve the summer discussion format throughout the coming fall and spring. This summer's offering of a "round table" discussion was a great success and was enjoyed by a whole lot of folks who grew quite fond of it! We expect the Task Force will make recommendations to the Board in early September.
- Just to see if anyone reads these, the Board has agreed to name Colleen the Cookie Queen. Everyone, please send her cookies. No nuts, please! Also, you are asked to call her "Colleen Colleen the Cookie Queen." Thank you for your cooperation!

# Board Approves Architectural Study

Colleen Reinke , Board President

The Board created a Sacred Space Task Force earlier in 2012 to examine issues of space at the church. No doubt you have seen prior articles about this task force in prior Beacons! The Task Force recommended hiring an architectural firm to conduct a study of the current church building and congregational needs, and to make recommendations for matching our physical building to our needs as a congregation.

The Task Force interviewed the Larrivee architectural firm and reviewed their proposal for a study, and recommended that the Board go forward with this proposal. The Board and the liaison to the architects, Jim Lenington, are working to refine the contract. Our hope and plan at this point is to approve and sign the contract and have the Larrivee firm start work as soon as possible with the congregation so we can get a professional perspective on what can and cannot be done in terms of physical space at the church.

The architectural study contract is capped at a cost of \$10,000, which means the firm might spend less and cannot spend more without additional board approval. The firm will provide the Board with frequent updates of the expenditures we incur. We can decide at any time to stop the study. The Board has approved using funds from our savings, which has been put aside by prior Boards to enhance the future of the congregation, to pay for this study. We carefully considered this expenditure, including different ways to fund the study. This is a considerable sum, but we strongly feel that without the study, we will never be prepared to move forward with any changes to space at the church, whether it be upgrading to ADA compliant bathrooms, or expanding, or building something new, or any possibility you can think of.

Let me emphasize that NO DECISIONS about the future of the building have been made. All options are on the table. What we need at this time is professional help to determine what our options are, and we will move on from there. This study does not obligate us to build a new building designed by the Larrivee firm. Larrivee was chosen to do the study primarily because they have extensive experience designing churches in our area (which always includes this study phase) and some of our members are quite familiar with and respect their work.

The goal is to present the results of the study and the recommendations to the congregation at the annual meeting in December if at all possible. I do not anticipate that we will be ready as a congregation to any "final choice" regarding space at the annual meeting, but we will at least have the information necessary for moving forward as 2013 progresses. It is the congregation that must decide, with information we gather from the study, how to move forward.

The architects will be asking the congregation to attend meetings and/or fill out surveys. WE NEED YOU to provide as much information as possible so that the study results are helpful to us as a congregation. This is a "dreaming phase"—what do you see our mission as being and what do we need from a physical standpoint to accomplish that mission? Do you see us having a garden space? A fountain? A bigger library with coffee machines and comfy chairs? A teen space? A food pantry? A commercial kitchen? What about RE rooms? What materials should be used? What about green energy concerns? Start thinking about what you would want in YOUR church space!

We may not be ready to tackle a remodel or a brand new building. We may be ready. The problem to date is that we just do not know what would be best for us and what is possible from an architectural standpoint. The purpose of this study is to find that out.

## How Do We Respond to Change? Perhaps We Should Dance...

Colleen Reinke, Board Pres.

Change happens. What an insight. I did not come up with this by myself. Like most of you, I have learned it over the years. We cannot stop change; we can only control how we act in the face of it. Some people meet change with excitement and anticipation. Some folks resist it with all their might. And there are lots of folks who react somewhere in between those two extremes. Where do we fit as a congregation?

Our congregation has changed a great deal since its inception 60 years ago. We started with a small group of like-minded folks who wanted an alternative to local religious institutions for themselves and for their children. They met in each other's homes and gradually increased in numbers. Eventually, they had enough people and resources to buy the lot and build the church we all now call ours. This took a great deal of insight, sacrifice, and financial commitment, but they had a vision of meeting their needs and those of others in the community who shared their principles – our UU principles. Change happened and those original members stepped up and met it.

Change happened again when we became a welcoming congregation. Not everyone was on board with putting a rainbow on our wayside pulpit and warmly welcoming folks from the LGBT community. But folks who led the church at that time saw a need to serve a community that did not have a lot of friendly places where they could feel safe and accepted. Change happened and this church met it.

We have not always met change well. When our building was built, our restrooms met the codes that were current at the time. Change has happened and now they would not meet code. They are inadequate and not particularly welcoming for those with disabilities. Changing them would cost a great deal of money. We have not planned for or met this change in circumstances.

Our membership has fluctuated over the last 20 years – somewhere between 40 and 90+ members, plus friends, have made this church their home. Church membership always fluctuates and does so for many reasons, but I feel that our fluctuations have largely occurred when our numbers are up, the church is too full on Sundays. When a church is 70-80 percent full (one pastor told me this number is 50%!), it is perceived as full and unable to welcome new members, simply because of a lack of space. New folks who walk in do not come back, even if they like the services and philosophy of the UU church. Old members get tired of the crowds too, and may tend to stay at home or quit coming altogether. We need to figure out how to deal with change in a way that allows us to serve the congregation – whoever wants to be a part of it.

In the past, this church has examined growth issues as they have occurred and the former Boards have tried to react by looking at building or expanding. As you know, no major changes have been made to the original building to address growth. Historically, there has been no successful plan to deal with *anticipated* growth. When growth occurs, we are already behind the curve.

This summer we welcomed many new faces to our summer round table discussion services and found that current members also appreciated the opportunity to share beliefs and connect with others. The Board recognized that perhaps inadvertently, a need had been identified – a need for a different kind of service. We have had program services ONLY for many, many years. Perhaps we need to offer new alternatives. Change happens. How will we meet it? I have roughly counted over 20 new faces, and we anticipate 10-12 new children in RE. How will we serve ALL of our members and the children in RE? We need to figure out how to meet these changes.

Interestingly, these two new changes that face us, growth and new alternatives for worship, may converge and we may be able to face both changes with grace and foresight. The Sacred Space Task Force has recommended we pursue an architectural study of our space needs (see page 4). Another Task Force is examining the need for an alternative service, which would add other forms of worship to our “menu of options” for the congregation, and possibly ease crowding at the program services.

We can address the changes happening at our congregation by burying our heads in the sand and hoping they go away; by lamenting how things “used to be”; or by thoughtfully embracing the tremendous opportunities that await us as a congregation. I will not be your Board President next year. Please lend your support and encouragement to whoever is chosen to lead the congregation. Perhaps, in the face of all this change, we should DANCE!

## New Attendee Meeting

This summer has been so exciting at the church! It is the first time we have held summer services, and we were really not sure how they would be received by the membership. The summer services involved discussions around our round tables. Well, not only did current members and friends enjoy the services, we had a lot of new folks join us for these discussions. In order to prevent "culture shock" for new folks who got used to the round table discussion format and have not been to a "chairs in a row" program service, Janis Cheney and Colleen Reinke held a brief "orientation" meeting on Sunday, August 26, 2012 for these new faces.

The meeting also gave these "new folks" a feel for our church, its history, the RE opportunities, and who we are as UUs. We, being UUs, of COURSE opened up the meeting for discussion. One thing that was mentioned was that people really liked the round table format, with the opportunity it gives for sharing our faith and ideas, and for connecting with one another.

We hope to schedule another of these meetings in September for those new faces who were unable to attend this first meeting.

## Membership Requirements for Voting At the Annual Meeting

For the information of those who are not official members of the Bis-Man UU Fellowship and Church, in order to vote at the annual meeting on December 9, 2012, members must have signed the church registry and made a 'contribution of record' by December 8. Even if you are not an "official" member, you are welcome to the annual meeting, but you will not be able to vote or count towards a quorum.

Be assured, you do not need to be an official member to participate in our congregation! But you do need to be a member to make your vote count in the democratic process that is so important to us as UUs!

If you are interested in membership, please talk to Carol Jean Larson: 214-9453 or [cjlarsen43@bis.midco.net](mailto:cjlarsen43@bis.midco.net)

## Many, Many Thanks to Tyler Sanford....

...of Precision Lawn Works, who has volunteered his lawn mowing service to the fellowship for the summer! This is a wonderful offering and will help us tremendously in meeting our budget for this year! If you need lawn or snow removal services from Tyler, you can contact him at 701-426-1156 or [tyler@precisionlawnworks.com](mailto:tyler@precisionlawnworks.com).

## Remember Our UU Reading Room!

The mission of our church library is to provide materials supporting the spiritual and intellectual pursuit of congregation members and friends.

Our esteemed librarians, Christine Kujawa and Eric Stroshane, have received a large number of donations over the past few months and will be working on cataloging them this fall.

Please check it out our library, by visiting it in person at the church or online at [www.librarything.com/catalog/BisMan\\_UU](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/BisMan_UU), (or by clicking [HERE](#)) or by scanning the QR code on the right with your mobile device! (QR Code scanners can be found, free of charge, through your mobile device's app store.)



## Candles for the Journey

Please keep Helen Hammond and her family close to your hearts as she continues her recovery from multiple breaks in her arms and hip which she suffered from two separate falls in her beloved garden. Helen remains at Missouri Slope and is doing LOTS of physical therapy. She is doing as well as can be expected but feels discouraged and would REALLY appreciate visitors!!!

Light a candle for Dean Conrad (and his family), whose older brother Roan Conrad in New York City has been diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer.

Keep Lois Nodland (Beth Nodland's mother and one of the original "Superior Women") in your thoughts as she recovers and continues rehab after planned shoulder surgery.



## Attention Fellow UUs and Friends....

....the post-flood Minot home rebuilding effort needs YOU and needs you right now.

Many homes still need to be sanitized before rebuilding can begin and there are mere weeks left before the weather gets too cold for the sanitizing process.

You can help get houses ready to sanitize by assisting now with the final steps of gutting that are necessary before washing and sanitizing. This is a labor-intensive, tedious but absolutely necessary process and can be done without any knowledge of carpentry and building.

This is, by far, not the only volunteer labor needed in rebuilding Minot in the coming weeks and months but it is a critical need right now..

You can go to Minot for a day or two, or a week, or longer, to help -- and housing and meals are provided by Hope Village, for a small fee.

It would be great to see a sizeable contingent of UUs make an appearance -- or two or three -- in the great Minot rebuild.

For further information and to offer your help, please see Janell Cole or call her anytime at (701) 471-5345. Or call the Hope Village office in Minot at 701-500-5206.

## SERVING LUNCH AT THE RUTH MEIER'S HOSPITALITY HOUSE

We served the noon meal at the Ruth Meier's Hospitality House for the third time this year. Thanks to Christine Kujawa, Connie Hildebrand, Paula Nordwall, and Dean and Pat Conrad for handling this responsibility for August. Our next scheduled meal is on Thursday, November 29th. That is the Thursday after Thanksgiving, which falls on November 22nd this year.

## Board President's Jokes a HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Your Board President is naturally a hilarious person, but she also writes (and steals) jokes. She has been "springing" them on the congregation this summer, always to deafening laughter from those present. If you have missed them, you should be sad. If you liked the jokes, you may thank Colleen by giving her cookies with no nuts.

By Colleen Reinke, Jokester in Chief



## Board of Trustees and Officers

President, Colleen Reinke	cjreinke@gmail.com
Vice President, Tim Hathaway	hathaway.timothy.l@gmail.com
Secretary, Karen Van Fossan	karenavanfossan@gmail.com
Treasurer, Carol Jean Larsen	cjlarsen43@bis.midco.net
Director, Beth Nodland	bnodland@aol.com
Director, Lisa Omlid	omlid.lisa@gmail.com
Director, Mamie Piehl	mamie.piehl@bismarckstate.edu or piehl.patch@gmail.com

### Office Administrator

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



## REGULAR 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.*

## Very Useful Links

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

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

[Prairie Star District](http://www.psdoua.org)

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

[Church of the Larger Fellowship](http://www.clf.uua.org)

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