



Blue Hills Bulletin

The Blue Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a multigenerational congregation, guided by the principles and liberal traditions of Unitarian Universalism, that promotes an environment of acceptance, inspiration, and action in order to create a sense of greater community.

September 2018

Next issue December, 2018

September Ingathering Sept 9, 2018, 9:15 A.M.

April Nielsen

On Sunday, September 9, during our 9:15 Forum hour, we will celebrate the turn of the seasons with our annual Ingathering. This is our time for gathering stones (and stories and friends) together.

After being tossed about on the winds of summer, our BHUU Fellowship returns to our “church year” schedule, presenting two hours of programming each Sunday morning. Many UU congregations celebrate an Ingathering ritual at the beginning of the fall church season after returning from what is usually a somewhat different / more casual summer schedule. Some congregations use water or flowers that each individual brings to a central gathering place to symbolize how each of us brings our individual gifts, talents, and stories to contribute to creating our church community.

At Blue Hills UU, we have traditionally brought stones to our Ingathering to place on our rock altar which has a permanent presence in our sanctuary.

Come join our circle of friends. Bring a story to share about your spiritual journey. Tell us where you have been and what you have learned about yourself, the world, the web of life. If you have a rock or similar object, symbolic of your travels, please bring it to add to the Rock Altar.

Service of Sept 9, 10:30 A.M. Rev Phil Graham

Now more than ever, our country needs to know that the values of justice, equity, and compassion are alive and well in our UU congregations and fellowships. The best way to do this is by living out those values in ways that reach out in love to help those in our communities who are harmed by injustice and inequality. UU religious communities can do just that by finding the place where, as Fredrick Buechner says, our "deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

UUA Common Read

Judy Barisonzi
Program Committee Chair

The Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) every year selects a book as a “common read” and makes resources available on its website to help congregations in studying this book. For 2019, the book is *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. This book is a collection of essays by different people, and the editors are Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstorm.

We usually devote two forums in the spring to discussing the common read of the year and will do so again in 2019. I’m excited about this choice because I think it fits in so well with the interests of our Fellowship in both the environment and social justice. So we can add extra time to work with the book if we want. The book also looks very readable!

We have purchased two copies of *Justice on Earth*, and I have placed them on the coffee table in our library area. Please feel free to borrow (and return!!!) a copy, and please join our spring forums dealing with these important issues.

Hop on the Rocket Ship

Nadine Wetzel-Curtis

I’ve read several articles lately about the current teacher shortage and all writers raise valid points, most centering on either low salaries and high student-loan debt or teacher burnout. My reason for leaving teaching was tied more to the latter. I needed a change and sought a new perspective. And new perspective is what I got! I compared this

last twelve months to a year of experiential therapy. I learned “there is nothing wrong with me”, that I’m qualified for a wide variety of jobs outside the classroom, and there is certainly life after teaching. I, also, got practice advocating for myself just as I advocate for others. Most recently, I also realized that I’m still passionate about enriching the lives of young people as I tried to start an initiative called “Barron Outdoor Leadership Development” or BOLD with a friend of mine.

When I was contacted about the opportunity at Great River School on August 6, my initial reaction was to not pursue it simply because I really enjoy where we live. Then I reminded myself that I applied to this very school five years prior and all the reasons why I initially pursued this very position. Long story cut short, on August 9 I was offered the elementary teaching position; on August 17 we put our house on the market and Bryan started looking for a new job as well. As of August 24, I have a place to stay during new teacher orientation (beginning August 27) and will find a short-term rental for our family while I’m staying in St. Paul. Isaiah has been heading up the househunt. It seems everything is happening just as it should.

We will all miss many aspects of small town life and many, many, many people. As always, there are trade-offs for and numerous approaches to fulfillment. I’ve noticed that in the short time since this whirlwind began, our family has pulled together, problem-solved, and I deeply value the conversations sparked by my job change. We will not be strangers and hope to visit our Blue Hills UU family with some regularity.

For one teacher’s perspective why many women are leaving education, I suggest the blog post titled “Why Teachers Are Walking Out” found at <https://sethnichols.wordpress.com> Many of the sentiments resonated with me and accurately described my experience as a classroom teacher.

Report from the Safety Committee

Linda Tollefsrud

Judy Barisonzi requested volunteers for a "Safety Committee" after reading an article in the UU magazine about how congregations are preparing for/hoping to prevent mass shooter events. Those who volunteered included Bryan Curtis, Valerie Rude and myself. We met with Judy on May 9th to discuss this and other concerns like fire safety, how to use the AED, etc. A concern that I expressed at the meeting is this: much time is spent preparing for an extremely unlikely event (your chance of dying in an active shooter event is .001%), and little if any time preparing much more frequent events (heart attack, stroke, seizures, etc.) The committee ended up discussing how to facilitate preparedness for various kinds of "emergency" events but also how to increase activities that promote wellness on the part of the congregation (so that we'll never have to use that AED). Thus, in the announcements section of future services, we'd like to include a "wellness minute" which might ask you to briefly consider how to help a diabetic with low blood sugar or what to say when calling 911 or how to do a 60-second stress reduction exercise. We may also occasionally contribute a novel fruit (star fruit, maybe) or vegetable (jicama, anyone?) to the coffee hour. If you have any suggestions for topics that might be included, please share your idea with any member of the Safety/Wellness committee.

Pastoral Care

Jude Genereaux

One of the activities we wish to provide within our small fellowship is pastoral care. Simply defined, Pastoral care "is an ancient model of emotional and

spiritual support that can be found in all cultures and traditions. It has been described in modern context as individual and corporate patience in which trained pastoral carers support people in their pain, loss and anxiety, as well as in their triumphs, joys and victories."

Many of us have experience in former churches (with larger congregations) our ministers making regular visits to hospitalized or homebound members. Also conducting funerals and wedding services. What we've been able to provide in the ceremonial zone, is to have arrangements with nearby UU fellowships with full time ministers willing to provide formal services for us - but what about the visits and helping hands we'd like to offer within our fellowship?

The first question becomes: How do we even become aware that a member is facing challenges? Or if they seek help? Word of mouth? Or should we set up a formal system for calling on each other? How much privacy is warranted in this arena? Would an email to all members sharing that there is a need be over the top? I'm fairly certain there are many different views on the privacy issue. As a Board member, I wonder where do we start?

There is a distance aspect to our dilemma as well. Our approximately 40+ members live as far north as Trego, east to Ladysmith, and south to Chetek, down to near to Prairie Farm . . . the distance in itself can swamp even the best intentions.

Our Board has tumbled many ideas about as to how we become more involved when members need assistance. First - we have to learn of that need. And then - beyond the serendipity of jumping in and "being there" - is there a common sense system we could set in place?

What are your thoughts? Please share them with one of the board members when you have a chance, for we seek to become better at providing aid and comfort to our fellow UU's -- and your thoughts could help.

Poetry

Rosa Sat

Rosa sat
So that Martin could walk

Martin walked
So that Barack could run.

Barack ran
So that all our children can fly.

Written by a 19 year old single mother from
McKeesfort, PA to the Democratic Party Chairman
for Pittsburg's 22nd ward and published in the
Pittsburg Gazette.

The Need To Be Still

Some of us with muscles and nerves singing in the
full flush of youth,
Some with quiet confidence, and some perhaps
weary,
Worn with the failures, the years, and the passing of
strength,
And still others, the men and women determined,
Filled with the zeal of battle for justice yet to be
And for truth and still denied or undiscovered--
Each and all of us, whatever we be,
Must come to the time when we need to be still.
There comes a time when we must know the need
To go apart and meditate, to seek the meanings of
our lives,
To reconsider the purposes we have accepted
And to establish peace within ourselves.
The world presses on us too insistently;
The appetites too imperiously demand of us
And we forget to be real persons in ourselves.
May this moment be one of redemption,
Of renewal of faith in life and the living of it;
May the disciplines of humility and courage

Be strengthened from this time.
May it bring a rediscovery of self
And a lifting of the heart
With a sense of newness from that discovery--
New courage, fresh vigor, and a deeper
thoughtfulness
For the living of life from this day.

Robert T. Weston

A Blessing James Wright

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,
Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.
And the eyes of those two Indian ponies
Darken with kindness.
They have come gladly out of the willows
To welcome my friend and me.
We step over the barbed wire into the pasture
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.
They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their
happiness
That we have come.
They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.
There is no loneliness like theirs.
At home once more,
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in
the darkness.
I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms
For she has walked over to me
And nuzzled my left hand.
She is black and white,
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,
And the light breeze moves me to caress her long
ear
That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.
Suddenly I realize
That if I stopped out of my body I would break
into blossom.

Submitted by Judy Barisonzi

Haiku

Tomatoes not ripe
Sitting on the window sill
Slowly turning red.

Valerie Rude

Another Haiku

Haikus confuse me
They often make no sense
Hand me the pliers

from a bumper sticker Valerie brought back from
GA and the only haiku Brian ever responded to.

A One-Act Memory Care Play

Steering In The Skid helps family members, caregivers, local businesses, and the broad community openly discuss dementia and the most well known form of memory loss, Alzheimer's disease.

Audience members meet Tim and Amanda, played by Twin Cities' professional actors Jim Pounds and Danette McCarthy. In 12 short scenes, one per month -starting on New Year's Eve - and taking place in Tim & Amanda's SUV, the audience comes to know this loving couple and bear witness to the early progression of dementia.

As the months pass, the audience sees the subtle changes and adjustments the couple is forced to deal with due to memory loss.

The play has prompted conversations addressing the isolation and fear associated with dementia. Experience this unique approach using theater and conversation to learn and make decisions about the future. All community members are welcome to attend.

Thursday , October 11th, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Mosaic Telecom
401 S. 1st St., Cameron, WI

This free event includes lunch, performance and facilitated discussion, Free will donations gladly

accepted. Donations will support the DAYBREAK and Happy Day respite programs.

Registration Required, Limited Seating
Registration Deadline: October 5.

To register call the ADRC at (715)537-6225 or email Trisha Witham at trisha.witham@co.barron.wi.us or visit www.adreconnections.org.

Civilization

Brian Rude

Apparently I often come across as cynical and negative. To some extent I can understand why, but I do not think of myself that way. The other day in a conversation I was challenged to come up with a positive note. That was easy. It came to mind almost immediately. It is a significant positive note. It is a grand positive note. And it's just one word - civilization.

Civilization is real and it's here to stay. There have been a few bumps in the progress of civilization, and there may be more. Civilization may not be perfect, and it won't be for a long time to come, but the amount of progress is great.

It was not so long ago (well, longer than our lifetimes) when it would sound foolish to confidently say that France and England are not going to go to war again. I first came across that idea when I was younger, maybe even before I was grown up. It didn't make much impression on me at the time, but somehow it stuck in my mind, because always in my life time England and France were just two countries in Europe. England and France go to war? That seemed about as likely as Missouri and Iowa going to war. That's crazy! Over time as I learned a little more history, and it was obvious that England and France had indeed gone to war in the past, it made more sense. Why do we now think of it as fanciful that England and France would go to war? The answer is that civilization has progressed. Will civilization keep progressing? I think so.

That is just one small example of evidence that the world is progressing. The world is civilized, compared to past times.. To my mind that is a positive note, a huge positive note.

P.O. Box 614
Rice Lake, WI 54868
715-234-6337
Meeting at 230 W. Messenger Street
Rice Lake, WI



Calendar Sept 2018

September 9 In-Gathering Sunday 9:15 Forum: Renewal of the Rock Altar, April Nielsen
10:30 Service: Love Keeps Reaching Out Rev. Phil Lund

September 16 9:15 Forum: Men's Fellowship Waldo Asp
10:30 Service: My Spiritual Journey: How we found UUA and why I stayed Linda Thompson
NOTE: no potluck this week 12:00 Board meeting: all invited

September 23 9:15 Forum: Teas from the Back Yard Sheila Manor
10:30 Service: Agriculture as though Nature Matters Dana Jackson

September 30 9:15 Forum: Who Invited you? Immigrants on the Mexican Border Ginny Gelineau
10:30 Service: Compassion Dennis Peters
11:30 Potluck with our neighboring Fellowships from Menomonie, St. Croix Falls, and River Falls.