

# 2012-2013 Annual Report

Annual Meeting  
Sunday, May 5, 2013  
11:15 AM Sanctuary



## Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City

### MISSION STATEMENT:

*We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.*

### VISION STATEMENT:

*Our vision is to be a loving, inclusive, and growing spiritual community. We celebrate life and a liberal tradition that leads social justice work, heals the earth, and nurtures the lifelong journey of mind and spirit.*

## Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City

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Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, May 5, 2013  
11:15 am Sanctuary  
Agenda

*Please pick up your yellow voting card at the table in the back of the sanctuary prior to the meeting. Thank you!*

Welcome	Sally Hartman, Board President
Opening Words & Chalice Lighting	Rev. Steven Protzman
Announcements	
Strategic Plan Update & Facilities Planning Update	
Recognition and Thank You to Committee Members Completing Their Terms	
Update on Recent Board Decisions	
UUSIC Elections	
Closing Words & Chalice Extinguishing	Rev. Steven Protzman
Adjournment	

“We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.”

**OFFICERS**

President: Sally Hartman  
Vice President: Diane Martin  
Treasurer: Doug Wallace  
Secretary: Susan Salterberg  
Past President: Sue Otto

**TRUSTEES:**

Jim Laughlin  
Mary McMurray  
Paul Pomrehn  
Pete Brokaw

**STAFF**

Minister: Rev. Steven Protzman  
Director of Religious Education: Lois Cole  
Office Administrator: Emma Barnum  
Music Director: Barbara Buddin  
Congregational Life Coordinator: Carol Throckmorton  
Accompanist: Younjung Cha

# UUSIC Thanks Its Many 2012/13 Volunteers

## UUSIC Volunteers

Carol Adamson	Barbara Curtin	Bridgette Ingersoll	Diane Martin
Tim Adamson	Christie Dancel	John Jennewein	Karen Mason
Bruce Alexander	Penny Davidsen	Marilyn Jennewein	Marianne Mason
Kate Anstreicher	Marji Davis	Charles Jennissen	Kathy McDonald
Kurt Anstreicher	Jane DeWitt	David Jepsen	Brad McDowell
Olivia Atcherson	Monique DiCarlo	Mary Jepsen	Alden McEwen
Alice Atkinson	Peggy Dietrich	Sarah Jewell	Sandy McFarland
Ken Atkinson	Rob Dietrich	Carolyn Johnson	Janet McKee
Julia Audlehelm	Sherry Dolash	Chris Johnson	Gail McLure
Larry Audlehelm	Andy Douglas	Debbie Johnson	Laura McMahan
Amara Bellantyne	Carolyn Dyer	Donna Johnson	Mary McMurray
Aubrey Ballantyne	Lee Eberly	Jessica Johnson	Tom McMurray
Dayna Ballantyne	Susan Eberly	Susan Kaliszewski	John McNamara
Brenda Barbour	David Eifler	Sue Kann	Virginia Melroy
April Barnhart	Ann Ellsworth	Miriam Kashia	Pamela Michaud
Jeremiah Barnhart	Jonnifer Ellsworth	Kimberly Kim	Gay Mikelson
Kris Barrash	John Elson	Betsy Klein	Paula Miller
Barbara Beaumont	Lori Enloe	Garry Klein	Cliff Missen
Philip Beck	Jim Ephgrave	Adrian Korpel	Madison Montgomery
Connie Becker	Pat Ephgrave	Nita Kosier	Kathy Mossman
Sharon Beckman	Ed Farkas	Susan Krohmer	Larry Mossman
Celia Bingham	Linda Farkas	John Lanaghan	Elyse Myers
Graham Bly	Sean Flaherty	David Lane	Shelby Myers-Verhage
Sharon Booker	Karen Fox	Kasia Laskowska	Mark NeuCollins
Peg Bouska	Dan Gall	Barbara Laughlin	Carol Nordquist
Susan Boyd	Meredith Gall	Jim Laughlin	Jerry Nordquist
Joey Braverman	Gail Garwood	Gary Lawrenson	Carrie Norton
Joe Brisben	Brian Glidewell	Christina Lee	Nancy Noyer
Pete Brokaw	Elias Gonzalez	April Lefever	Liz Noyes
Wendy Brown	Brett Gordon	Chris Lefever	Kelly O'Berry
Barby Buddin	Prahlad Gupta	Russ Lenth	Terri O'Berry
Margaret Burchianti	Kurt Hamann	Lisa Lepic	Shay O'Reilly
Amy Butler	Julie Hammer	Heidi Levine	Alison Oliver
Lynne Cannon	Barbara Haring	Arnold Lindaman	James Olson
Jeanette Carter	Sally Hartman	Michael Lindeen	Sue Otto
Dixie Cassady	Alexander Hartson	Ruth Lindeen	Cecile Owings
Sam Cavanaugh	Lisa Haverkamp	Marta Little	Ron Owings
Maryellen Cazanaz	Mike Haverkamp	Jan Locher	Kim Palmer
Michael Cervantes	Kathleen Henderson	Stephen Locher	Lula Palmer
Younjung Cha	Diana Henry	Mary Losch	Maureen Patterson
Marsha Cheyney	Al Hood	Erica Lundsten	Wayne Patton
Lucy Chossier	Jean Hood	Nancy Lynch	Dorothy Paul
Sam Cochran	Franklin Hornbuckle	Caryl Lyons	Pete Paul-Petersen
Lois Cole	Keri Hornbuckle	Elaine Mahler	Dorothy Paul-Petersen
Ron Crawford	Michelle Hosp	Christopher Malloy	Amy Pearson
Megan Creasy	Peggy Houston	Eleanor Marshall	Gerry Pearson
Laurie Croft	Jan Hubel	Heather Marshall	Emily Peck
Sue Ellen Crosslea	Kenn Hubel	Keith Marshall	Bonnie Penno
Jo Cunningham	Lois Hughes	Lori Marshall	Mark Penno
	Merle Ihne	Lynette Marshall	Kate Perkins-Armond
	Adam Ingersoll	David Martin	Connie Peterson

# UUSIC Thanks Its Many 2012/13 Volunteers

## UUSIC Volunteers, cont'd

Ron Pile  
 Paul Pomrehn  
 Kay Prediger  
 Steven Protzman  
 Nancy Purrington  
 Judith Quinn  
 John Raley  
 Bruce Randall  
 Christina Randall  
 Tabitha Rasmussen  
 Jean Reese  
 Jacqueline Reger  
 Linda Rice  
 Laura Rigal  
 Shona Roeder  
 Jaia Rosenfels  
 Mary Roth  
 Rhonda Rowden  
 Charity Rowley  
 Wilmara Salgado-Pabon  
 Susan Salterberg  
 Nicole Sanders  
 Christina Sanderson  
 Ricardo Sauro  
 Kay Schneider  
 Deb Schoelerman  
 Amy Schoon  
 Jamie Sharp  
 Jesse Sheedy  
 Dick Siefers  
 Vicki Siefers  
 Jane Slaymaker  
 Virginia Stamler  
 Laurie Stange  
 Jill Stephenson  
 Lisa Stover  
 Faye Strayer  
 Gordon Strayer  
 Sheila Streeby  
 Adam Tatro  
 Christopher Taylor  
 Louise Tenenbaum  
 Al Thomas  
 Betty Thomas  
 Sharon Thomas  
 Carol Throckmorton  
 David Tokuhisa  
 Judy Tokuhisa  
 Rai Tokuhisa

Jim Trepka  
 Theresa Ullerich  
 Stephanie Van Housen  
 Christopher Vandervelde  
 Steve Vincent  
 Tova Vitiello  
 Peg Voelker  
 Terry Wahls  
 Zach Wahls  
 Zebby Wahls  
 Sheri Waldron  
 Doug Wallace  
 Mary Kathryn Wallace  
 Jay Warren  
 Julia Wasson  
 Elizabeth Weinberg  
 Mary Lou Welter  
 Jerry Wetlaufer  
 Lauralee Wilkins  
 Norman Williams  
 Mike Wilson  
 Kaye Winder  
 Kirk Witzberger  
 Carol Wolfe  
 Ron Wright  
 Kari Yorek  
 Matt Yorek  
 Susan Kasal Young  
 Mark Yuskis  
 Lenda Zelinskas

## Children and Youth Volunteers

### Pre/Kindergarten

Kylee Akers  
 Amara Ballantyne  
 Aubrey Ballentyne  
 Lucy Bodling  
 Myra Bodling  
 Jocelyn Cheyney  
 Brody Clarke  
 Lucy Ennes-Potter  
 Winston Fender  
 Lukas Flood  
 Sebastian Flood  
 Apple Graham  
 Shiloh Graham  
 Shivani Harper  
 Lila Howe  
 Charlie Ingersoll  
 Henry Ingersoll

## Pre/K cont'd

Teddy Ingersoll  
 Anika Jae Nguyen  
 Peter Palmer  
 Rial Shriver  
 Nadia Spragg  
 Noelia Tellez  
 Lena Tepoel  
 Mabel Wittenkeller

## Grades 1-3

Callum Ashley-Shahahan  
 Kieran Ashley-Shanahan  
 Cecilia Clark  
 Liam Clarke  
 Keenai Fender  
 Isabella Flood  
 Finn Greteman  
 Daniel Hosp  
 Alex Howe  
 Grace Ingersoll  
 Yuewan Jennissen  
 Sage Lefever  
 Jeremiah Madlock  
 Ziara Malloy-Salgado  
 Lauren Manning  
 Emma McPearce  
 Alex Miller  
 Cameron Miller  
 Heiko Strack  
 Mira Wilmot-DiCarlo

## Grades 4-6

Lily Bohlen  
 Jocie Bozarth  
 Julian Fender  
 Nathan Gall  
 Laurel Haverkamp  
 Lydia Jennissen  
 Leah Kaminsky  
 Max Lehan Mackin  
 Kiara Malloy-Salgado  
**Grades 4-6 Cont'd**  
 Trent Manning  
 Madilyn Mossman  
 Samuel Myers-Verhage  
 Cora Patterson  
 Elizabeth Raley  
 Carlos Tellez

## Junior High

Dylan-Thomas Adams  
 Audrey Adamson  
 Isabel Greene  
 Jeremy Jennissen  
 Cassie Kaminsky  
 Emma Myers-Verhage  
 Abigail Patterson  
 Thomas Rigal  
 Teagan Roeder  
 Ethan Trepka  
 Adam Wolfe  
 Isaac Wolfe

## Senior High

Jordan Adams  
 Ike Barrash  
 Aaron Clinkenbeard  
 Trevor Clinkenbeard  
 Rowan Haverkamp  
 Alex Jewell  
 Will Jewell  
 Lydia Johnson  
 Emma Kaboli  
 Megan Kann  
 Clare Lanaghan  
 Noah Lehan Macklin  
 Keegan O'Berry  
 Nicholas Pearce  
 Jonathan Raley  
 Tristan Roeder  
 Anneke Thorne  
 Kate Thorne  
 Rebeka Tokuhisa  
 Kai Trepka  
 Kai Walberg  
 Colin Waldron  
 Kalee Waldron  
 Laura Willmann

*We apologize to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted from this list. If this has occurred, please notify the office at [admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org) or call 337-3443.*

## LEADERSHIP: President's Report

This past year has been one of looking within, reaching out, and celebrating! Our efforts to look within started with a consultation with Kay Crider from the UUA. She led a workshop, conducted meetings with groups, and made recommendations for us in the Spring of 2012. One of her recommendations was to initiate a strategic planning process before we move forward on facilities planning. In the fall of 2012, mission and vision statements were created, which then launched the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force. The congregation approved the Strategic Plan in January and already projects are underway to realize these dreams for the future, including a task force formed to consider options for our facilities. To bolster these efforts, new learning is evident, such as the great number who attended the Prairie Star District Conference and General Assembly, sermon themes on this topic, and participation in the Midwest Leadership School.

This year also saw individuals and groups reaching out to others within our congregation, in our community and beyond. Within our congregation we touched the lives of each other through covenant groups and providing assistance in time of need. Some of our efforts to reach out to others in our community included: the Circle of Friends group supporting two immigrant families, a collection of canned food for the Crisis Center, donations from Sunday service going to twelve local social service agencies, and sponsoring a play, the Vagina Monologues, with proceeds going to Planned Parenthood. This year we initiated and held two Day of Service events for a hands-on approach to service.

Opportunities to reach outside our community to those in need ranged from our annual fundraiser for our Partner Church in Janosfalva, Romania, sending money for Hurricane Sandy relief, and buying water filters for needy Guatemalans. More volunteers participated in the Crop Walk than in recent years, and for a General Assembly book drive, our society collected more "banned" books for underground libraries than any other Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Each year we celebrate through such rituals as new-member recognition, coming of age and celebration of life, and financial giving. At the end of the year, your generous financial contributions resulted in a surplus! This year, we have celebrated the good work of almost 400 members and friends who have volunteered to truly make a difference in our society and community. In addition we celebrated the accomplishments of two individuals whose impact on social justice impacted others on a global scale. Zach Wahls and Cliff Missen were awarded the Courageous Love Award from our congregation, Zach for marriage equality, and Cliff for education and technology in Africa.

While we looked within, reached out, and celebrated, we also cultivated a culture of gratitude. As president, I have been the recipient of thoughtful gratitude many times. I am grateful to all of you in our congregation who have kindly touched hearts (including mine), transformed lives, and worked to change the world. I thank Steven Protzman for leading these efforts in his second year of ministry, the dedicated staff who make magic, and the UUSIC Board of trustees for patience and resolve in a busy year. Members of the board are Sue Otto, Jim Laughlin, Susan Salterberg, Paul Pomrehn, Mary McMurray, Pete Brokaw, Doug Wallace, and our future president, Diane Martin. If we all work together, there is no end to what we can do to grow within and to extend our goodwill to others.

—Sally Hartman

# Leadership Development Committee

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is elected by the congregation. Current members are Carolyn Johnson (chair), Lisa Stover (vice chair), Tom McMurray (secretary), David Jepsen, and Russ Lenth.

The primary task of the LDC is to identify nominees to fill our elected leadership positions. This year's positions to be filled include Vice President/President/Past President, Board Trustee, LDC member, Endowment Committee member, and Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry members (3). The process involves evaluating needs for a position and then identifying individuals from our congregation with the skill set, ability, and interest to fill those niches. Our slate of nominees was presented in the May newsletter with biographies of each individual to give the congregation time to consider their vote at the May congregational meeting. It has been a remarkable experience to peruse our fellow members for their many gifts and to realize the extraordinary talents among us and their willingness to serve.

Another task for the LDC is to cultivate leadership skills. We sponsor two adult members to attend the Midwest Leadership School, which has been an inspiration for many of

us in leadership positions. It is hard to summarize the depth at which the experience of worship, leadership development, UU history, and personal growth occurs during this week long experience.

In recent years it has become a tradition for the LDC to sponsor a workshop with the goal of raising enthusiasm for participation in the workings of the society. In April we capitalized on the Prairie Star District Conference in Cedar Rapids. The board sent five delegates and three of the five LDC members also attended. To share the gleanings of the experience, the LDC hosted a "Make It Count," all-congregation workshop the weekend after the conference, during which conference attendees presented and discussed new ideas and results of networking with UUs from across the Midwest.

Logistics of the LDC: Five members are elected to staggered three-year terms, and we select a different chair, vice-chair, and secretary every year. In the summer and early fall of 2012 there was little activity, followed by intense activity in the late fall through spring with meetings every one to two weeks. We often meet in homes during off hours because of work and play schedules.

—Carolyn Johnson

# STAFF: Minister's Report, Rev. Steven Protzman

*"Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope inside us will lead the way...Love will guide us, through the hard night."*

Love did guide us through another year of much growth and many changes as we continue to discern who we are called to be as individuals and as a spiritual community in the world. It was an exciting and busy year where many good things happened, and we did a lot of excellent ministry together. As we've worked and played together, it continues to be evident that this congregation is emotionally and spiritually healthy. We are able to joyfully acknowledge our abundance and many blessings through the practice of generosity. You understand and embrace the concept of shared ministry, that each of us has gifts, wisdom, talents, skills and resources, and that this community is a place where we can grow spiritually through both giving and receiving these gifts. My priorities this year were to continue helping each of you discover and share your gifts, walking with you through life's joys and struggles, continuing to deepen my relationship with you, growing in my skills as a staff supervisor and administrator, strengthening my organizational skills and time management, practicing better self-care, engaging in regular spiritual practices, and getting more settled in Iowa City.

## **Worship**

Once again we structured the church year with an overall theme for the year and a theme each month. Our theme for this church year was "Love Will Guide Us," which comes from #131 in our gray hymnal. We also had a fall theme, "Family," and a spring theme "Food For All," which inspired the three-part sermon series on ethical eating in March. Since worship is the central act of our community, it continued to be one of my main areas of focus. We gathered each week to celebrate and to ask life's biggest questions, to connect with the depths and explore what it means to be human, to reflect on our individual journeys, as well as the larger issues of complex 21st century life. In close collaboration with Lois Cole (who always does a wonderful job gathering together props, scenery, costumes, fleshing out scripts and recruiting enthusiastic cast members for The UUSIC Players), we had five intergenerational services, including Water Communion, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Flower Communion. The Worship Associates helped shape and create worship in many ways this year, including the planning and coordination of summer services, leading worship on my Sundays off, assisting with Welcome Home Wednesday vespers, researching and discovering new worship materials and ideas, and offering each other support, care and encouragement. I am deeply grateful to the Worship Associates for their hard work, commitment to this community and their passion for crafting good worship.

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I am also deeply grateful to everyone who assisted through the year with decorating the church for various holidays and events, especially Lori Marshall whose artistry and magic way with flowers, fabric and found objects has surprised, delighted, and inspired us many times!

## **Governance**

We have achieved a lot of very important governance work together and I am grateful to each of you for your participation in this work and for your enthusiasm for our ministries and our future. Following UUA consultant Kay Crider's guidance after her visit in April, we had a mission and vision weekend in September to ask these questions: Why does UUSIC exist? Who do we aspire to be in the world? In answering these questions using the appreciative inquiry process so capably led by Kirk Witzberger, we crafted a new mission statement and revised our previous mission statement to be our vision statement, a reflection of who we are striving to be as a spiritual community. It was a disappointment when we had to put the Facilities Planning Task Force on hiatus after all the work that was done toward making a decision about our building needs, but it became clear that without a long range plan, the task force did not have the clarity or information they needed to do their work of creating a recommendation for our facilities. Kay Crider had also urged us to create a Strategic Plan, so the Board formed a task force to seek congregational input about our priorities. Based on the feedback you gave us about the ways you feel called to live out our vision and mission, a Strategic Plan was created, and it now guides us as we decide how best to use our resources and energy. At the same time, a task force continued work on revising our by-laws to reflect our continuing shift toward policy governance. We have also begun to revise our policies and procedures. Thank you to the Board and our governance task forces for all their hard work this year and their willingness to do this difficult and often complex work, which sometimes meant extra meetings and lots of communication between meetings in order to ask the questions and make the decisions that arise as we seek to live out our vision and mission.

## **Our Ministry**

I want to offer my deep thanks to the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry. (CCLAM) In the past year, they continued to create protocols for how to monitor and evaluate the ministries of this congregation. They visited with our many committees and ministries to offer support and encourage the work of creating committee mission statements and policies, and managed concerns and conflicts as needed. The CCLAM also created a thoughtful and thorough process for evaluating my ministry, which resulted in some very helpful feedback and guidance for my growing

2013 Annual Report



## Minister's Report, Cont'd

edges. In my first three years as a minister in Preliminary Fellowship with the UU movement, I am required to provide evaluations to the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), which are an opportunity to reflect thoroughly and thoughtfully on my ministry and growth both personally and professionally. I was very pleased to announce in February that the MFC not only granted the first renewal of my ministerial fellowship, but they praised the work we have done together: "Congratulations on a good year in Iowa City. We read with interest about all the good things you and the church have done in your first year." The CCLAM takes time during our monthly meetings to talk with me about how things are going, to listen and respond with care and wisdom to the concerns and struggles I've brought to them, and provided me guidance and support. I also meet monthly with a mentor to discuss our shared ministry and with a spiritual director to continue my spiritual formation.

### Staff

It has been a pleasure this past year to work with our talented, dedicated and hard working staff, Lois, Emma, Carol, Barby, and Younjung. I was sad to say farewell to Tyler in August as he announced his resignation after four years as our Administrator and moved to Austin, Texas to begin the next chapter of his life. It was a great pleasure to welcome Emma Barnum as our new administrator. Her enthusiasm and responsive, easy-going style make it very enjoyable to work with her. It was also a great pleasure to welcome Younjung Cha as our accompanist, who was hired in September. Younjung is also a joy to work with and her superb musicianship adds much beauty and depth to our worship services. The staff and I began our liturgical year together with a half-day retreat in which we deepened our working relationships, planned the year, and shared professional goals. We hold weekly staff meetings to coordinate the week's events, to discuss any concerns or issues of importance, to keep one another informed, and to hold each other accountable for achieving our year's goals and serving the congregation and its mission. I also meet with each staff member individually on a weekly basis or as needed to check in, discuss any concerns or problems, and share information. Once the Strategic Plan was completed, each staff member was asked to review it and to respond with a reflection about how the plan affects their ministry and work. Special thanks go to the Rev. Charity Rowley, who was on call during my absences for emergency pastoral care. Charity also graciously provides pastoral care and presence to member of our congregation in close consultation with me, and I am grateful for her support and commitment to this congregation.

### Love Bus

Since we began celebrating same gender weddings after marriage equality became legal in Iowa in the spring of 2013 *Annual Report*

2009, we have welcomed almost 150 couples to our church to be married. It is a pleasure to work with Mary Kathryn Wallace, who serves as the Love Bus coordinator. She works hard to ensure that our guests receive a gracious welcome and radical hospitality as they come from St. Louis to get married. There were no Love Bus weddings during this last year, but a number of same gender couples came from around the country, including Iowa, Illinois, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Missouri, and Washington to be married. It continues to be a great joy to me to be part of this very important ministry and I am very grateful for the way this congregation opens its hearts and its home to same gender couples as we affirm and practice marriage equality.

### Life Passages

Member deaths:

- Bill Lyons
- Iain Smith
- Mary Weideman
- Ann Bovbjerg

I also officiated at a graveside interment service for Penny Cazan, plus provided memorial services for three family members of church members.

We dedicated three children:

- Owen Poynor
- Julian Oliver-Shaw
- Rory Marshall

As I finish my second year as your settled minister, I continue to feel so very blessed and fortunate to serve this faith community! Week after week, I am amazed and humbled by the generosity, kindness, enthusiasm, love and commitment of each of you, as you serve as Board members, greeters, ushers, social-hour hosts, religious education teachers, pastoral care providers, volunteers, covenant group facilitators, choir members, newsletter assemblers, worship associates, committee members, and all the dozens of other ways you serve, as you bless this community and the wider world with your time, passion, and energy. May Love continue to guide us as we touch hearts, change lives, and transform the world!

With deep joy and gratitude,

Steven

# UUSIC Webmaster, Susan Eberly

Our Web Site, UUSIC.org, in 2012

During 2012, we had 53,455 visitors to UUSIC.org, and they opened a total of 109,809 pages. Our busiest month was May, when 6,109 visitors opened just under 11,000 pages.

On average, our site had 4,455 visits per month; 147 per day. Each visitor opened, on average, three 3 pages per visit.

Usage at UUSIC.org	2012	2011
Total visitors	53,455	35,592
Total pages opened	109,809	84,900
Average visits/month	4,455	2,700
Average visits/day	147	89

## Most Popular Pages

After our home page, the ten most frequently visited pages at UUSIC.org were, in order of usage:

1. **Sunday Services** /Sundays/SundayServices.htm
2. **UU News** /AboutUs/UUNews/UUSICNews letter.htm (*Linking to current issues, this page was 2nd most popular, with several specific issues being high on the list.*)
3. **UUSIC monthly calendar** /Calendar/calendar.htm
4. **Annual Report, 2011-12** /AboutUs/Governance/AnnualReport2012.pdf
5. **About Us** /AboutUs/AboutUs.htm
6. **Activities at UUSIC** /ProgramsGroupsCommittees.htm

## Specific issues of the UU News:

7. **UU News, May 2012** UUNews2012/May2012UUNews.pdf
8. **UU News, July 2012** UUNews2012/July2012UUNews.pdf
9. **UU News, September 2012** UUNews2012/September2012UUNews.pdf
10. **UU News, October 2012** UUNews2012/October2012UUNews.pdf
11. **UU News, December 2012** UUNews2011/UUNewsDec2011.pdf

**How Do Visitors Find Us?** More than half (56%) our visitors come to us through key word searches for UUSIC, Unitarian, UU, or Unitarian Universalist Society, and Iowa City. For the other half of our visitors, the most common referrer is Google, followed by Yahoo, Altavista, and Bing. The Why Marriage Matters website (<http://whymarriagemattersiowa.wordpress.com/>) is a frequent referrer; as is Mediacom's UU Congregations in Iowa (<http://home.mchsi.com/~chwwq/uiowa-temp/index.html>); and the UUA Congregational Search page ([www.uua.org/directory/congregations/results.php](http://www.uua.org/directory/congregations/results.php)). Five Rumanian sites were also among the top referrers.

—Sue Eberly

## Office Administrator, Emma Barnum

In August of 2012, long-time and dedicated administrator Tyler Hanft left the staff of UUSIC to start a new life in Austin, and I was hired initially as a temporary replacement. I was fortunate to be chosen as the permanent new administrator in October. Tyler left big shoes to fill, and I've tried my hardest to wear them well. (I have been in contact with Tyler, by the way, and he is thriving in the Texas weather, although he always mentions how much he misses the congregation here.)

It became quickly obvious when I started this position how dedicated and passionate the staff, leaders, and members of UUSIC are about enriching and growing this congregation and community. It has been a genuine pleasure to work with and meet so many enthusiastic and welcoming people. I look forward to meeting and working with more of you throughout the upcoming year.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has

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helped me settle into the job. The administrator deals with so many different people and projects, and I really appreciate everyone who has come forward to explain how things work or help me troubleshoot, organize or proofread. I especially would like to thank the rest of the UUSIC staff, the ever-helpful office volunteers, the newsletter folding volunteers and Sue Eberly, our webmaster, for their never-ending patience and assistance.

With all the growth and improvements happening around UUSIC, it's no surprise that there are also growing pains. Thanks for being patient and understanding when scheduling gets tight and the announcements in the weekly email go on forever. It's an exciting but busy time to be at UUSIC!

If you have any suggestions or advice for me, please feel free to let me know at [admin@uusic.org](mailto:admin@uusic.org) or 337-3443.

—Emma Barnum

2013 Annual Report

## Lifespan Director of Religious Education, Lois Cole

This year we offered religious education classes for grades Pre/K – Senior High at the 11:15 am service, and multi-age programming at the first. Our gifted teaching staff of 23 people created welcoming classroom communities, rich with discussion, creative and multigenerational activities, and service and justice projects. For many of our classes, this was the second year of using Tapestry of Faith curricula, a series of online programs and resources by the Unitarian Universalist Association. They are developed out of conversations with churches all over the country to assess the needs of congregations. Tapestry of Faith programs foster Unitarian Universalist identity, ethical and spiritual development and draw from our UU Sources and Principles. The programs consistently use anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multi-cultural lenses in their presentation of the UU faith. One added plus for us is that Tapestry of Faith provides enrichment materials for teachers and families, helping us in one of our long-held aims to bring faith conversations to the home, having recognizing that parents are important religious educators.

Teachers continue to speak positively of the programs and how they enrich their teaching and learning. Says Grades 1 – 3 teacher, Monique Di Carlo: “Teaching RE is the primary way I continue to learn about our UU principles, history, and the way in which our faith draws from many sources. The UUA’s curriculum makes it easy to plan lessons by providing an outline and resources. I learn something new each time I plan a lesson. You certainly don’t have to be a long time UU or religious expert to teach RE. As a teacher, I learn with and from the children in our class.” Given the positive response, we will use Tapestry of Faith next year for grades pre/k – 6 and senior high. Our junior high class will use Neighboring Faiths.

Wishing to include many other highlights, I share our past year’s achievements:

Religious Education Pre-K — 12 2012-13: Registration of 125 children and youth:

- Participation in 30 Days of Love. For 30 days, classes focused on activities of service to the Society and the community and discussions on self-love and care.
- A successful Coming of Age mentoring program. Mentors and junior high youth met monthly to share perspectives on faith and the “big life questions.” Throughout the term they exchanged notes, reflections on homework assignments, and words of encouragement, as the youth prepared for their credos. The increased engagement of mentors with junior high youth expanded their understanding of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City, and the dynamic community here.

- Youth Teachers. Four youth participated in teaching RE in the summer and during the program year. Says Kate Thorne about her experience: “Even though I have to wake up early, it’s worth it because of the kids. Their energy definitely rubs off on you and makes everything seem so much brighter. Their enthusiasm for learning is an inspiration that keeps me coming back every Sunday.”
- Children’s Chapels, multi-age Children and Youth Committee (CYC) and Day of Service programming focusing on service to the community: UNICEF, making Christmas ornaments for nursing home residents and dog treats and toys for the animal shelter, World Hunger and the Crop Walk, and starting a community garden.
- Bi-monthly CYC Second Saturday afternoon recreational events for families and Society members in an effort to create community.
- A variety of multi-generational events, partnering again with Campus Ministry for a Halloween FUUN Night.
- Created opportunities for children and youth to participate in Sunday morning worship. This year, we had four intergenerational services, one youth-led service, one young adult service, and a Coming of Age worship and celebration.

Young Adult and Adult Programs:

- Supported Campus Ministry through the Campus Ministry Committee, a group of young adult officers and members of the congregation who meet periodically throughout the year.
- Supported adult programs through Welcome Home Wednesdays, six evenings of meals, worship, classes and children’s activities twice a year. This year’s Welcome Home Wednesdays series provided four classes instead of five and all-vegetarian meals. The classes were well attended, and the environmentally friendly menu from Liz Weinberg was well-commended. Welcome Home Wednesdays is self-generating; the class ideas and facilitators often are suggested on feedback forms to the committee. This year we’ve seen a strong interest in spiritual practice classes and have had the highest attendance in these offerings, as well as a class on grief by grief counselor Chris Klug.

Lifespan RE and the Strategic Plan:

- Create a Community Garden – The Children and Youth Committee is launching UUSIC’s first community garden effort this summer, with the support of Green Sanctuary and the Social Justice Committee, having acquired a plot with the New Pioneer’s Earth Source Gardens. CYC will engage families and everyone in the

## Lifespan Director of Religious Education, Cont'd

Society in this exciting adventure in sustainability, multi-generational community and deepening our connection to the earth.

- Expand Opportunities for adult Spiritual Education—This is a big area of interest for congregation members, and parents, who have shown in a recent survey a strong interest in spiritual practice classes like yoga, Tai-qi, and meditation, which can be offered at times that are convenient for families.

### Lifespan RE Goals:

- Continue to provide opportunities for adults in faith development, personal and relationship development, spiritual practice, justice and service through Welcome Home Wednesdays classes.
- Expand our understanding of family ministry and increase opportunities for families to become well-integrated in UUSIC community life.
- Continue opportunities to help parents stay connected to RE programs and to support each other in raising children.
- Continue to assess the quality of our programming, and explore ways to better meet the needs of children, youth, parents and teachers.
- Grow 9:30 am RE, providing classes for two age groups, Pre/K and grades 1 - 3.
- Provide Our Whole Lives (OWL) to elementary grades and junior high in 2013 - 14.
- Continue to develop resources for our educators in addressing the needs of children with Attention Deficit Disorder and Autism.
- Continue to integrate youth in the life of the church and encourage more youth participation in worship.
- Explore new possibilities and a vision for campus ministry.

### Long Term Goals:

- Address space and programming needs, providing adequate classroom space for grades preschool – senior high and an area for physical activity and large programming.
- Address adult needs for Sunday morning adult programming.

I would like to say a big thank you to the many volunteers — our 23 teachers, and 7 childcare workers and volunteers, our Children and Youth, Campus Ministry and Welcome Home Wednesdays committees — who have shared their time and talents in building a vital faith community.

—Lois Cole

## Congregational Life Coordinator, Carol Throckmorton

In August 2012, the Membership Coordinator's position was changed to Congregational Life Coordinator for the purpose of reflecting the wide-range of responsibilities of this position. These responsibilities include not only membership coordination, but many services provided the members, friends, visitors and guests of our Society.

### Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee's goal is to provide a welcoming environment for UUSIC visitors, members and friends. Each Sunday Membership Associates (MAs) serve as greeters (and ushers, as needed) for both services. Between services MAs staff the Welcome Table in Channing Hall where they provide information and education regarding Unitarian Universalism. They also connect individuals with organizations within the Society. The MAs manage voting procedures for the congregational meetings.

Membership Associates are: Larry Audlehelm, Pete Brokaw, Kimberly Kim, Gary Lawrenson, Ruth Lindeen, Mike Lindeen, Carol Nordquist, Kim Palmer, Adam Tatro, and Peg Voelker. The Committee meets bi-monthly (odd-numbered months) on the third Thursday in the Library.

Membership Goals and achievements this year:

Membership classes: Four "Exploring Unitarian Universalism" course options were offered this year. In June, UUSIC long-term, non-member friends attended a one-evening educational session. In September, there was a four-evening course offering for people who were new to Unitarian Universalism, and in January, the same course was offered in three sessions. In March, a one-day, six-hour Saturday workshop was held. The education sessions were conducted by our Minister, the Congregational Life Coordinator, RE Director and Music Director, as well as guest presenters. Membership Associates function as hosts for these orientation sessions. All UUSIC congregants were invited to participate.

New-member Celebration Ceremonies were conducted where those desiring to join signed the membership book in the congregation's presence. The ceremonies include a special reception during social hour. New-member biographical information appeared in the Orders of Service, and their information and photos appeared in the UU News and displayed in Channing Hall.

Thirty-six people became members of the UUSIC this year:

June 10: April Barnhart, Jeremiah Barnhart, David Leavitt, Judy Leavitt, Ron Pile, Linda Rice, Nicole Sanders, Sharon Thomas, Stephanie Van Housen, Stephen Vincent, and Kirk Witzberger.

# Congregational Life Coordinator, Cont'd

October 10: Carol Adamson, Tim Adamson, Dixie Casady, Sean Flaherty, Brian Glidewell, Brett Gordon, Erica Lundsten, Janet McKee, Terri O'Berry, Emily Peck, Kate Perkins-Armond, Dale Prediger, Jaia Rosenfels, Kari Yorek, and Matt Yorek.

February 10: Margaret Burchianti, Prahlad Gupta, Alex Hartson, Chris Johnson, Debbie Johnson, Heather Marshall, Paula Miller, Jim Trepka, Jerry Wetlaufer, and Lenda Zelinskas.

New Membership Associates: Two new Membership Associates were added to our team this year: Mike Lindeen and Kim Palmer. Their participation brings our team number to ten.

## **Welcome Table:**

The services provided at the Welcome Table have expanded. New brochure holders display a wide variety of UU brochures as well as UUSIC information. There are also signup opportunities for participation in the "Exploring Unitarian Universalism" courses and Covenant Groups and for providing chancel flowers on Sundays. Individuals desiring name badges can request them at the Welcome Table. There is also a 'Caring Corner,' where people can write 'cycle of life' cards to members and friends, which are mailed from the Administrative Office.

The Membership Associates' procedure manual has been updated to clarify their roles as greeters, Welcome Table hosts, "Exploring Unitarian Universalism" course mentors and congregational meeting assistants.

## **Improved communication with visitors, members and friends:**

A 'Connections' card system was designed and implemented for the purpose of facilitating communication with UUSIC staff. These cards are made available to everyone attending services in the sanctuary and are located in pew folders. These folders also include the updated Opportunities document, which is a listing of all UUSIC interest groups, committees, and options for volunteer service.

Visitors who complete the Connections cards receive a personal letter with additional information about Unitarian Universalism and UUSIC. Their contact information is provided to the chairpersons of the interest group and committees for which they've expressed an interest.

The general UUSIC brochure and "Exploring Membership" brochures have been updated. They will be included in informational folders that will be available for visitors and prospective members.

Information pertinent to UUSIC members and friends appear in the Weekly Updates, Orders of Service and UU News. The UUSIC Members and Friends Directory was updated and distributed in February.

## **Hospitality Teams:**

This year the Hospitality Team concept was implemented for Sunday morning services. Previously, the coffee coordinator arranged for Sunday social-hour refreshment hosts, and the MAs solicited volunteers for ushering. In the Hospitality Team concept, team leaders invite ten to twelve UUSIC members and friends to join their Hospitality Teams for the purpose of providing these services. To date we have nine teams with leadership by Mary and David Jepsen, Ruth and Mike Lindeen, Lori Marshall, Carol and Jerry Nordquist, Nancy Noyer, Kim Palmer (3 teams), and Mark Yuskis.

The procedures for ushering and social-hour hosting were updated and provided to the Hospitality Team Leaders for distribution to their team members. These instructions are also posted on the website.

## **Skills, Talents and Interests Survey:**

Members and friends were invited to complete surveys where they could inform the administration not only of their skills, talents and interests, but also indicate church activities in which they are interested in participating or volunteering. The surveys were distributed during in the Stewardship Campaign in October. One hundred fifty-six people have completed the survey.

## **Facilitate the establishment of new interest groups:**

In the past year six new interest groups were established: After-Church Lunch Bunch, Covenant of UU Pagans, Exploring Christianity, Girls' Night Out, Sages and Sherry Senior Group, Theology on Tap, and the Vegetarian Community.

## **Increase members and friends' wearing of name badges:**

Signage encourages members and friends to wear their name badges when participating in Society activities. Additionally, reminders are included periodically in the Weekly Updates and Orders of Service. Visitors are encouraged to sign up for name badges, which are posted on a bulletin board outside of the sanctuary.

## **UNI-Care:**

The UNI-Care Coordinator's two-year commitment ended in June, and this committee's activities have shifted to the Congregational Life Coordinator on an interim basis. (For more information on UNI-Care's activities for the year, see separate report.)

## Congregational Life Coordinator, Cont'd

### Goals for next year:

- Continue improving our “Exploring Unitarian Universalism” course for the purpose of meeting the needs of prospective members.
- Re-establish post-service UUSIC informational meetings for visitors.
- Develop mentoring program for prospective members.
- Invite inactive members to become involved in Society activities.
- Continue to encourage ‘radical hospitality’ for our visitors, members and friends.
- Assess needs of shut-ins and provide services as needed
- Create “Caring Communities,” neighborhood groups of UUSIC members and friends for the purpose of encouraging social interactions and support within the proximity of their homes.
- Encourage and recognize volunteerism in our congregation.

I want to thank our very dedicated Membership Associates for their tireless efforts to provide a welcoming environment to our visitors, members and friends. It is a joy working with them, and I am continually amazed and appreciative of their enthusiasm, creativity and commitment to this vital ministry.

—Carol Throckmorton

## Music Director, Barbara Buddin

The choir began rehearsing on Thursday evenings in August and continued until the second week in May. Beginning the first Sunday after Labor Day and continuing until Mothers’ Day in May, they performed two Sundays per month. The group numbered from ten to fifteen volunteer singers. We provided an eclectic repertoire from Renaissance to contemporary literature, in English, Latin, German and Italian. We provided a historical to hysterical mix of sacred, secular, pop, and show tunes.

We were accompanied by YounJung Cha, a doctoral piano student from the University. Several pieces included assisting instrumentalists. The choir presented several congregational songs that will be repeated for future use. There were solo opportunities during at least one service per month. The door is always open to new recruits of any performance level.

In September a long-time dream was realized with the addition of a group dedicated to Chamber Jazz and light rock. The group is very diverse, which allows opportunity for soloists. They meet as ad hoc on Wednesday evenings and perform for services at least once per month.

The Performing Arts programming included a preview recital by YounJung Cha, the Messiah Sing-a-long in December, a recital of Eastern European music performed for the Festival of First Bread, and a voice recital by a returning college student.

To add to individual interests, and in accordance with the UUMN protocols, private voice and piano lessons were offered by Barbara and YounJung. These lessons added to the multigenerational musical offerings.

—Barbara Buddin

## PEOPLE: Committee on Congregational Life & Ministry

The Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM) furthers the mission and vision of UUSIC by reporting to the board and the congregation on the ministries of UUSIC and educating the congregation about shared ministry. The CCLAM meets monthly, has six adult members, one youth representative and two ex officio members, uses the UUSIC Library in alternate months for meetings. CCLAM has no budget.

The 2012-2013 members of the CCLAM are Jeanette Carter, Diana Henry, Kelly O'Berry, Jim Olson, and Bonnie Penno, with Rev. Steven Protzman and Lois Cole ex officio. One CCLAM member resigned his position in February 2012 and that position was unfilled for the rest of the year. Will Jewell was the youth member of the committee, serving from December, 2011 – November, 2012. The CCLAM submits a written report to the board each year and will be meeting with the board in person twice each year to discuss its work.

The CCLAM, which was formed in December of 2011, spent much time formulating its policies regarding communications, confidentiality, and the management of conflicts that may impede ministry. The members of the CCLAM each met with approximately five committees or groups during 2012 to introduce the work of the CCLAM and to learn about each group or committee's activities and ministries. In early 2013 the Board approved criteria to be used by the CCLAM to evaluate the groups and committees as they advance the mission of UUSIC.

A CCLAM subcommittee evaluated the Rev. Steven Protzman in the fall of 2012 as one of the evaluations required by the UUA Committee on Ministerial Fellowship as Steven advances to Full Fellowship in the UUA.

The new UUSIC vision and mission statements and the new Strategic Plan provide a valuable framework for defining and advancing our ministries. The CCLAM members met with each group and committee in April of 2013 to review the Strategic Plan to identify how that group or committee can organize its work as set forth in the plan.

Our short-term goals are:

- Meet with each group or committee, as described above, to continue the conversation on shared ministry, the evaluation of shared ministry, and that group or committee's role in implementing the Strategic Plan.
- Lead a worship service on April 28th on the topic of shared ministry.
- Evaluate Steven Protzman in the fall of 2013 as part of the ministerial fellowship process.

Our long-term goals are:

- Encourage all UUSIC committees and groups to discuss their ministries in light of the new vision and mission statements and the new Strategic Plans, and to plan their work accordingly.
- Continue educating the congregation on shared ministry and report to the board and congregation on the strengths and challenges of shared ministry at UUSIC.

—Kelly O'Berry & Bonnie Penno

## UNI-CARE Committee

UNI-Care activities center around the needs of members and friends of the UUSIC community. This may be in the form of providing meals during times of illness or bereavement, transportation for medical visits, or memorial service reception planning and implementation. This year UNI-Care provided meal service to seven families, transportation for four people, and memorial service assistance for two members' families.

When notified of an individual's or family's need, the committee coordinator notifies the UNI-Care team and solicits volunteer assistance. This is usually accomplished via email. Thirty-three people serve on the Committee.

Many UUSIC members and friends have medical and rehabilitation equipment in their homes, which they are willing to loan to people. UNI-Care maintains a list of available equipment, which is available upon request.

In December 2012, members of the UNI-Care Committee met for the purpose of addressing the Committee's structure. Because the UNI-Care coordinator's responsibilities are quite extensive, it was decided to create three areas of responsibility: 1) meal requests, 2) transportation, and 3) memorial service assistance. Marianne Mason volunteered to serve as the transportation coordinator. Currently, the Congregational Life Coordinator is the acting UNI-Care coordinator for meal requests and memorial service assistance. Serving as the UNI-Care coordinator is a highly rewarding position, and I encourage UUSIC members and friends to consider volunteering to do this important and valued work.

The compassion of the UNI-Care team is very much appreciated by those who receive its services. It has been very gratifying to work with these dedicated volunteers in this special UUSIC ministry.

—Carol Throckmorton, Interim UNI-Care Coordinator

# Pastoral Care Associates

The Pastoral Care Team is completing its eighth year of existence. Its mission within the UU principles is to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to practice compassion in human relations. Its goal is to provide a ministry of support, hope and caring, so that no one connected to this congregation needs to feel alone. This goal furthers the mission of UUSIC, which is to be a caring, inclusive community. The team meets monthly at UUSIC (except for a recognition lunch at a restaurant) with the minister, reviews contacts that team members have had with congregational members needing emotional or physical assistance, and discusses other issues related to pastoral care at UUSIC. Current members include: Diana Henry, Marilyn Jennewein, Christina Randall, Jean Hood, David Eifler, Tom McMurray and Rev. Steven Protzman.

## Past Year Achievements:

- The Team received training in how to use the Dropbox to communicate information about visits, monthly minutes and agendas.
- We have edited our mission plan and adopted a plan for transition.
- Another source of training included how to conduct Lay Pastoral Care.
- We continued to make phone calls, send e-mails and conduct visits that provided attention and support to Society members and friends.
- We referred people to community resources/services and provided emergency financial aid to members and friends as needs arose.

- We referred people to UNI-Care, the Friendly Visitors Program, and the Job Seekers referral programs as needs arose for medical equipment, interpersonal connections, and work opportunities. Please refer to the UNI-Care report for further information about these resources so ably coordinated by Carol Throckmorton.
- We kept the congregation aware of UUSIC members and friends experiencing life's achievements, challenges, losses and transitions through the Cycle of Life announcements during services, the Weekly Email Update, and the UU News.
- We begin a program of sending cards of caring, celebration and concern via a Caring Corner ministry to be set up in cooperation with the Membership Associates and Membership Coordinator.

## Goals for 2013-2014:

- To continue providing pastoral care and support to Society members and friends as they experience the many joyful and sorrowful events that are part of living.
- To enhance and deepen this ministry of the congregation through education, encouragement and communication that invites all of the Society's members and friends to participate in pastoral care, knowing that it can occur any time, any place and in every interaction between two or more people.
- To fulfill the following actions cited in the Strategic Plan: by continuing to reach out to inactive members and promote a sense of community among our members using diverse media for those unable to attend services (e.g. confined to their homes or care facilities) or require other means of support.

—Diana Henry

## FINANCE GROUPS: Finance Report

2012 was a good year for UUSIC finances. As the attached 2012 Income and Expense summary indicates we had net ordinary income for the year of over \$18,000. This was largely because our 2012 pledges were \$324,688 - which was \$13,688 over the budgeted amount of \$311,000.

Operating Expense for the year was \$1,331 below the budget and this, added to the income increase, resulted in the Net Ordinary Income for 2012 of \$18,102. The operating expense shortfall was due to good fiscal management from the Society's committees, staff and board as well as some fortuitous events that seem to occur every year. For example, cost savings in staff wages and benefits, largely due to the changeover of our Administrator, were largely offset by some unexpected increases in administrative expenses.

I'm very pleased that in 2012 we paid our full share of Denominational Expenses (Unitarian Universalist Association and Prairie Star District dues) of \$20,967 for the first time in some years and have budgeted the full amount again for 2013.

The Society's cash reserves are over \$90,000, a healthy amount. Our endowment funds totaled about \$790,000 at the end of 2012. Overall our Society is in good financial shape. We have adequate reserves and a large and growing endowment. This is the result of good fiscal management and the growing generosity of our members over the past several years. I'm optimistic we will continue this pattern as our congregation continues to be supportive of the Society and its goals. Thank you for your commitment to and support of our Society.

—Doug Wallace, UUSIC Treasurer  
2013 Annual Report



## 2012 Actual vs. Budget Income and Expense Summary

	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Total Pledges and Donations	\$ 324,688	\$ 311,000
Total Other Revenues	\$ 33,683	\$ 30,600
Total Income	\$ 358,371	\$ 341,600
<b>Expenses</b>		
Total Religious Services	\$ 3,921	\$ 3,900
Total LifeSpan Religious Education	\$ 5,892	\$ 4,950
Total Adult Programs	\$ 4,356	\$ 4,425
Total Membership Committee	\$ 2,235	\$ 2,230
Total Endowment	\$ 435	\$ 500
Total UU Board	\$ 1,857	\$ 2,500
Total Denominational Expense	\$ 20,967	\$ 14,600
Total Salaries & Wages	\$ 177,317	\$ 182,060
Total Employee Benefits	\$ 42,029	\$ 48,340
Total Professional Expense Allowance	\$ 8,052	\$ 10,300
Total Administrative	\$ 39,805	\$ 33,854
Total Volunteer & Unicare Expenses	\$ -	\$ 400
Total Library and Historical Records	\$ 273	\$ 400
Total Canvass Expenses	\$ 923	\$ 1,000
Total Special Projects	\$ 250	\$ 250
Total Building & Grounds	\$ 15,882	\$ 14,400
Total Utilities & Insurance	\$ 16,075	\$ 17,791
Total Expense	\$ 340,269	\$ 341,600
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 18,102	

## Endowment Committee

Endowment Committee members are elected for five year terms with one member rotating from the committee each year. Current members are John Raley, Jean Hood, Alice Atkinson, Nancy Lynch and Jerry Nordquist. We often met monthly and more frequently when needed. The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to oversee the Endowment Fund investments, provide an annual report to the Board and advise the Board on the use of Endowment funds.

The committee writes thank you letters for contributors to the Memorial Fund that has been established to honor individual lives and updates the names engraved on the memorial plaque. The Committee also reviews and evaluates proposals for the program (Detiger) fund that underwrites the cost of community-wide programs that raise the visibility of the Society.

Other restricted funds overseen by the Committee include the Music Enhancement Fund for repairs, etc., for the organ and piano, and individually donated restricted funds, such as the Whittaker and Carr Funds (held at the UUA) and the Bristol fund held at the UUSIC.

The Endowment Committee is charged with identifying ways to increase the Endowment Fund through education and preservation of capital for future needs. Our financial advisor, Richard Stevenson, provides guidance for investments. Most of our budget of \$500 was used to host a successful endowment party that raised \$2440 for the general Endowment Fund this year. We also printed new brochures for the Detiger Fund and the Chalice Society. We held two Chalice Society recognitions during morning services and continue to encourage deferred giving via the Chalice Society.

Our primary goal is to create a sufficiently large Endowment Fund that will support the Society in reaching the mission and vision goals of the organization. This is based on a long range planning objective developed in the Society in 1994 by congregational input and a Study Group “Realize a total endowment, in its separate funds, of \$1,500,000 by the end of the 1999 fiscal year.” This goal was not met in 1999 but as a continuing goal, we are working very hard to reach the more modest level of one million dollars in the Endowment Fund.

—Alice Atkinson

## Rummage Sale

The popular UUSIC Rummage Sale, which had been suspended since 2007, returned in August. Society members responded generously to requests for items, and we were able to store donations at the Society for several months before the sale. During the three days preceding the sale, volunteers sorted and priced materials, which filled Channing Hall. Each evening we gathered for a meal provided by volunteers.

An amazing 43 individuals (not including donors) helped with various aspects of the sale, which netted over \$1,500 on the day of the sale. Unsold items were taken to local consignment and book stores, which by the end of 2012 had generated an additional \$287.75. Two unusual items were sold on Ebay for a total of \$138.00.

We have also created UUSIC accounts at Houseworks and Stuff, Etc., and we encourage society members who wish to

dispose of items to sell them at these consignment stores, designating that sale proceeds be credited to the UUSIC account.

The Rummage Sale furthers the mission and vision of the society by expanding outreach to the community, modeling “green” practices by recycling materials, providing welcome income, sharing an intergenerational event, and, most importantly, offering an opportunity for fellowship and support among the many volunteers.

Our goals for the future include the possibility of recruiting the assistance of more UUs with trucks and strong backs, so that the sale can again offer furniture as well as smaller items! We will also call this the UUSIC “Yard Sale” in 2013, to prevent confusion with the “Rummage in the Ramp” sale which occurs earlier in the summer.

— Susan Eberly and Jeanette Carter

## Auction Committee

After many successful Treats and Talents Auctions, Lori Marshall recruited Sharon Booker to be the coordinator of the 2013 Auction. Sharon in turn recruited the following creative and dedicated committee members: Joe Brisben, Sherry Dolash, Sharon Thomas, Bonnie Penno, Mary Jepsen, Gay Mikelson, Jan Locher, Diane Martin, Jim Laughlin, Marianne Mason, Liz Weinberg, Deb Schoelerman and Al Thomas, aka the “Bard of Tower Court.” Although not a member of the committee, special recognition must go to Emma Barnum for her assistance with publicity, and to Amos Kiche for setting up the weekly publicity table.

The committee has been assisted with a significant effort from the UUSIC community who provided not only a multitude of auction items, but also assisted with decorations and other activities associated with the Annual Treats and Talents Auction.

The theme for the auction was FIESTA. This year’s celebration included an opening reception, silent auction, the traditional cake walk and the fiesta dinner and live auction.

At the request of the Treats and Talents Auction Committee, the UUSIC Board agreed that any amount raised above the target of \$8,000 will be used to further the social justice mission of the UUSIC.

—Sharon Booker

## Stewardship Committee

The pledge campaign for the 2013 calendar year was again a rousing success. We raised a little over \$328,000.00 which once again set a record for amount pledged. That is an increase of a little over 5% from the previous year. We conducted an all-member canvass this year, at the suggestion from our UUA consultant, Kay Crider. This involved attempting a personal contact with as many members (and friends) as possible. Over 50 volunteers helped with our campaign, each one contacting 3-4 (and more) pledge units.

We helped with the strategic planning process by asking for answers to several questions that provided input to the

Strategic Planning Team. Our canvassers also collected Skills, Talents, and Interest Surveys that had been sent out by the Congregational Life Coordinator.

Our theme this year was “Love Will Guide Us” and included a kickoff event, the “Festive Fun Night,” on October 6th, 2012 at the North Liberty Community Center with appetizers, desserts and entertainment. Thanks to all who pledged for 2013 and to all who helped with the canvass.

—Dave Martin, for the Stewardship Team  
(Tom McMurray, Carol Throckmorton, Lisa Lepic, Jim Olsen, Gary Lawrensen, and Dan Gall)

## BUILDING: Aesthetics Committee

It has been a busy year for the Aesthetics Committee with the completion of many big and small projects. We have three members and work closely with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Space Committee and our minister.

A new budget line item has been created for the Aesthetics Committee to carry out our mission of maintaining and beautifying our buildings to make a warm and welcoming environment. Special priority is given to those things that can be taken with us if we move to a new site.

Our accomplishments:

- A memorial bench was purchased for the Iowa Avenue entrance.
- The Fireside Room and Sanctuary were recarpeted.
- A beautiful poster of the UU Principles was framed and hung in the Sanctuary.

- The Iowa entrance walls have been painted.
- The downstairs bathroom has a new light fixture, curtains and artwork.
- The 4-5-6th grade RE room received new carpet, paint, blackboard and shades.
- Shades have been installed in the two foyers of the Worthley building.
- New lighting for the Sanctuary is being researched and will be installed this summer.
- A library remodel is underway including carpeting, new furniture and storage.

Our thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee, Space Committee and many volunteers.

—Dorothy Paul Peterson & Theresa Ullerich

## Building & Grounds Committee

The general purpose of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is to maintain and facilitate repairs of our buildings and grounds as well as facilitate needed inspections or repair of the boiler, elevator, appliances, etc. This year the B&G Committee worked closely with the Aesthetics and Space Committee. Together we coordinated several painting and new carpet projects as well as general clean up. (Please see the Aesthetics Committee report).

Adam Tatro and Kurt Hamann co-chaired the committee until September. Deb Schoelerman has co-chaired with Kurt since October. Our budget for 2012 was \$14,400 and for 2013 it is \$15,275, which includes a separate line for Aesthetics projects of \$5,600.

The core workers of the committee are John Jennewein, Lee Eberly, Gary Lawrenson, Pete Paul-Petersen, Adam Tatro and David Eifler. Many others have helped with clean-up days and other small projects. Those include Pete Brokaw, Kate Perkins-Armond, Louise Tenenbaum, Stan Paden, Jerry Nordquist, Lois Hughes, Merle Ihne, Sue Eberly, Jeannette Carter, Linda Rice, Dorothy Paul-Petersen, Arnold Lindeman, Vickie Siefers, Jim Laughlin, Amanda Owings, Theresa Ullerich, Bruce Randall, and Mary McMurray. My apologies to anyone I may have omitted who has helped with the building this year. The committee also wishes to thank Emma Barnum for coordinating many of the calls and emails with the B&G members and for contacting professional workers when needed and Carol Throckmorton for communicating building concerns and suggestions to us.

The B&G Committee does not have regular meetings. We communicate via email or phone to coordinate our work.

When there is a building or mechanical concern, i.e. if a faucet is dripping, either Emma Barnum, Kurt Hamann or Deb Schoelerman is notified. An email is then sent to the core group to ask whom to call. If the repair can be done by a volunteer, that person is notified to see if he/she can make the repair. If not, an outside person is called. Emma maintains a notebook in the office to log all building concerns and actions taken are recorded.

Spring and fall cleanups were held to trim bushes, rake, weed, wash windows, dust and thoroughly clean the building.

There have been no major repairs needed on the building this year. Repairs have been made on the Worthley Building roof, but it is only a matter of time before a new roof will be needed. The north boiler was rebuilt and its useful life was extended. The south hot water circulating pump was also repaired. There was minor work done on a toilet in the women's downstairs restroom to repair a leak. The fascia on the roof will need repair and painting this summer.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee furthers the mission of UUSIC by maintaining and repairing the building to the best of our ability using the funds available from the operating budget in order to provide a safe and comfortable space for our members and friends to gather. However, the building is old and not energy efficient. It is not air-conditioned. It is not very accessible. The restrooms could be upgraded. The sanctuary needs improved lighting, and more space for meetings is needed. There is not enough space for storage. The roof of the Worthley building is old and will be in need of major repair soon. It continues to be a challenge to maintain our building.

—Building & Grounds Committee

## Green Sanctuary Committee

### Membership:

Jeanette Carter,  
Arnold Lindaman,  
Kate Perkins,  
Deb Schoelerman,  
Carol Throckmorton  
Mark NeuCollins, chair

### Emeritus:

Miriam Kashia  
Nancy Lynch  
Gordon Strayer  
Susan Salterberg

The Green Sanctuary Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

The mission of the Green Sanctuary Committee is to promote stewardship of the earth in our congregation and in our local and global community.

The driving force behind this mission is a commitment to the UU Seventh Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

We strive to have all actions of our committee exemplify our accordance with the Mission and Vision Statements of the UUSIC, with emphasis on social justice work, healing the earth, and transforming the world.

Our Action Plan for the year:

1) We would like our church to be a LEED-certified green building or equivalent.

## Green Sanctuary Committee, Cont'd

2) We would like to see a 10- 20 percent reduction of our carbon footprint congregation-wide. We can achieve this by implementing a program such as Iowa Interfaith Light and Power's "Cool Congregations" program.

3) We would like the UUSIC to be a recognized leader in the community for promoting and supporting local green initiatives such as community gardens.

### Activities:

This March marks the second year that we have formally joined forces with Iowa City grassroots organization Summer of Solutions. Our positive experience hosting this group last year encouraged us to open our doors to the group again this year. Mostly high school and college age students, this group will use UUSIC as their summer base. Projects last summer included weatherization of homes, establishing community gardens, and creating sustainable public art.

Mid-American energy audited our building and returned to replace exit signs with LED's and public area lights with CFLs at no charge to us. This was a somewhat abbreviated version of our energy audit of several years ago, and not quite as comprehensive as we had anticipated.

We have begun a writing campaign wherein two Sundays a month we staff a table in Channing Hall during coffee hour and ask members of the church to write a postcard to the applicable government official (President, Senators, Members of Congress, etc.) regarding an environmental or related issue.

On April 21st our committee presented the Earth Day Sunday Service featuring an address by Clayton Daughenbaugh, the Midwest Regional Organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

Planned for May is a Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day.

We maintain our membership in Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, the statewide organization of faith organizations in Iowa whose mission is to mobilize the religious community to become leaders in the fight against global warming through education, assistance with carbon footprints reductions, and advocacy for sustainable policies.

We are also members of the UUME, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth.

We are in the planning stages for a proposed environment-themed Welcome Home Wednesdays series in the fall. There is an UUME curriculum guide that we will be using for this.

We continue to seek ways to influence church decisions regarding the building and the purchase of products that are safe, and promote environmentally friendly, and sustainable practices.

We continue to work toward official Green Sanctuary certification with the UUA.

Green Sanctuary has a budget of \$350.00 for 2013.

—Mark NeuCollins

## ADMINISTRATIVE: Office Volunteers

We thank Jean Reese for her (several) years of serving as an office volunteer and welcome Sue Eberly back to join Jeanette Carter, Diane Martin, and Gay Mikleson. Our goal continues to be that of assisting the Society's administrative functions.

I speak for the four of us when I say that Emma Barnum is a treasure, and we hope she will stay for a long time. Her pleasant and cooperative manner, her skills, and her dedication to UUSIC help to make our work more organized and enjoyable.

The regular tasks we perform on Tuesdays and Thursdays change from time to time for various reasons. One example: in years past the custodian replaced the wording on the outdoor sign that informs the congregation and the larger community what's happening on Sundays. Now, come rain or blizzard or even a beautiful day, we gather together the letters needed and post the information.

—Gay Mikelson

# Historical Records Committee

Members: Jeanette Carter, Susan Eberly, Marilyn Jennewein (chair), Charity Rowley, and Faye Strayer.

The Historical Records Committee furthers the mission and vision of the congregation by celebrating our liberal tradition, nurturing the lifelong journey of mind and spirit, and honoring those who have led this congregation through decades of sometimes difficult times by maintaining, preserving, and publicizing our rich history.

The committee meets as needed to plan or work on projects to preserve and disseminate historically significant information about UUSIC. During the past year, we have worked on the following projects:

- We expanded the recently created UUSIC Digital Archive. Our current focus is the scanning of available board documents. We purchased two portable hard drives for storing the digital archive and continue to investigate ways of making this archive available to the congregation.
- We published short historical articles for the UU News under the heading “From Within These Walls” on the following topics: the 1909 Katherine M. Horack memorial bookcase, local buildings named for members of our congregation, the Ladies’ Working Society; the UUSIC Special Collection, the 1873 Universalist church building (later Unity Hall), and the antique long-handled red velvet collection bags.
- We published the following longer articles in the UU News:
  - “Justice, Equality, and Compassion: Rev. Evans Worthley” (with accompanying Fireside Room display)

- “Infidels and Unbelievers: Our First 50 Years: Universalism in Iowa City”
- We created a slide show presentation about UUSIC history, which was shared with the fall new members’ class.
- We donated two boxes of UUSIC materials to the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City for inclusion in their Special Collections.
- We donated two boxes of UUA-related papers belonging to the late Charles Davidson to the Andover-Harvard Theological Library.
- We worked to inventory and catalog materials in our paper archive.
- After meeting with our CCLAM representative, we updated and revised our committee description.
- We sent a letter to Gov. Terry Branstad in support of funding for the State Historical Society facility in Iowa City, with copies sent to our local state legislators.

We continue to work with the Space Utilization Committee to try to identify a location for a larger display case. Plans for future newsletter articles and for involvement of congregation members who have indicated an interest in working with Historical Records are underway. As always, our main focus is to work to preserve and share our Society’s rich past with both current members and future generations.

—Marilyn Jennewein

## PROGRAM GROUPS: Book Discussion Group

The book discussion group provides the opportunity for anyone who loves to read to join together in a group discussion. The group, like our Society, is open to all and encourages all view points in our discussion of books, which frequently include topics and issues that connect with our Society's mission and vision. We also try to select a book by a local or Iowa author each year so our discussion involves the people we live and work with on a daily basis. We meet on the second Monday of each month from September through May in the UU Society Library. Two books are selected to start the next year at the May meeting. The September group decides what books we will discuss for the rest of the year. Books are selected from ideas compiled over the summer into a book wish list and from new suggestions by anyone attending the first discussion group of the year in September. The wish list and a list of books selected for the year are available to anyone who attends the group or requests the information.

Books we chose in 2012-2013 by the order we discussed them were: *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, *A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mother*, *The Life of the Skies: Birding at the End of Nature*, *Caleb's Crossing*, *House of Stone*, *The Art of Fielding*, *Ten Small Beds*, *Stolen Innocence*, and *State of Wonder*.

Since the group is a free and open discussion available to anyone who likes to read and discuss books, we have people who join us only once and those who come regularly. While it may not be a complete list, individuals who attended this year are: Lucy Choisser, Judi Gust, Jeanette Carter, Ann Valenta, Dorothy Paul, Nikki Herbst, Kate Kasten, Caryl Lyons, Erica Lundsten, Kathy Henderson, Nancy Lynch, Lynne Cannon, Sandra Bolton, John Jennewein, and Mary Lou Welter.

—Mary Lou Welter

## Buddhist Sangha

The UU Buddhist Sangha is a community of people who gather weekly to explore contemporary Buddhist practice and teachings in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles. We rely on our collective wisdom and mutual support to promote clarity, compassion, and ethical behavior through the practices of meditation, mindfulness, and discussion. We respect and nurture our unique journeys of mind and spirit. We welcome gathering people who wish to deepen their connection to Buddhist practice by participating in a sangha. The UU Buddhist Sangha meets weekly in the evening for meditation, reading, and discussion. The members sit in a circle, and use egalitarian democratic principles for discussion and making decisions. Meetings typically open with a 30-minute silent meditation, continue with a 45-minute discussion, and conclude with a 10 to 15-minute silent meditation. One member may act as a facilitator for the meeting, handling meeting notices and announcements, and in some cases preparing some remarks or excerpts for the discussion portion. The focus of practice and discussion is experiential, empirical, and pragmatic. Emphasis is given to the work of Western Buddhist teachers, mindfulness-based practice, a spirit of free and responsible inquiry, and practical application of the teachings in daily life. Guests are occasionally invited to share teachings, practices, and stories. Diversity of view and practice is welcomed as a foundation for collective wisdom. Members find that participation in the Sangha gatherings provides a strong motivation for ongoing person-

al practice and study.

The Sangha uses a listserv through UUSIC to communicate the schedule for meetings, share the focus topic for the coming meeting, and share reflections, insights, and ideas during the week. A summary of the meeting is often posted following the gathering. Typical attendance is between 5 and 10 members. During Welcome Home Wednesdays, meetings have been shifted to alternate evenings. A number of new members have joined, bringing varying viewpoints and experiences. We are planning to have a half-day retreat at the church in 2013.

We continue to use a wide range of resources for discussion including articles from *Tricycle*, *Shambala Sun*, downloads from various internet sites and the writings of contemporary western Buddhist teachers such as Bhante Gunaratana, Pema Chodron, Thich Nhat Hahn, and Jack Kornfield. We take turns finding materials for discussions and in facilitating the meditation and discussion.

The Sangha continues to welcome new members with an interest in meditation and the application of Western Buddhist dharma teachings to everyday life. We have had several new members join us over the year, and our listserv currently has fifty subscribers. The Sangha is part of the diversity of our UUSIC spiritual community in its hope to touch our hearts, change our lives and transform the world.

—Charity Rowley and Vicki Siefers

## Campus Ministry

The Campus Ministry group provides an environment for young adults to participate in and learn about Unitarian Universalism while having a good time and engaging with the congregation and the student community.

**Meetings:** Weekly on most Sundays the University of Iowa is in session, from 5:30 to 8 pm. Meetings include reading the 7 Principles, checking-in, discussion and a meal provided by a church members or committee, or by group members.

**Committee members:** Madison Montgomery, Michael Wilson, Elias Gonzalez, Lois Cole, and Pete Brokaw (Faculty Advisor).

Over the past year, the Campus Ministry group has been very active. This year, the group focused on leading a Sunday service for the second year. The planning, organizing, and leading help to bond the group and is very much enjoyed. This has been a time for the group to focus on tackling some large issues such as identity, where young adults belong, and our place within the congregation.

As a group, we have continued to use our university status as a student organization to actively recruit new members with tools like a campus-wide email and a presence at student organization fairs. Committee member Elias Gonzalez, has done a wonderful job of using Facebook as a tool for advertising our weekly meetings. In the future, we hope find ways to continue the group as much of our leadership

graduates, and to work on a sustainable plan for the group once members move on.

In addition to focusing on our own group, we have had some wonderful opportunities to engage with the rest of the congregation over this past year. In October, we again joined CYC's Halloween Carnival, and for the third year in a row, our members built and ran a haunted house for the children (and some of the adults) in attendance. Our haunted house at the Halloween Carnival is a wonderful way to connect with the rest of the church congregation, and it continues to be a wonderful experience for everyone who can participate.

Thanks to the cooperation of the congregation and Rev. Steven Protzman we were given the wonderful opportunity to lead both services on Sunday, April 7th. We really appreciate having such a wonderful opportunity to share ourselves with the congregation and give everyone a chance to get to know our members. Again, we look forward to similar opportunities to engage with the larger congregation in the future. The group is also continuing to look for church members who would be interested in helping to provide a meal for the meetings on Sunday evenings. We are very appreciative of this contribution to help us sustain our group. There is more information along with a signup sheet at the Campus Ministry table during coffee hour.

—Mike Wilson (Programming Coordinator)  
& Pete Brokaw (Faculty Advisor)

## Children & Youth Committee

The members of the Children and Youth Committee (CYC) this year were: April Lefever (Chair), Sue Kann, Chris Lefever, Elyse Meyers, and Lisa Stover. Committee members attended monthly meetings, submitted reports and events descriptions for the newsletter, were liaisons with four classes in RE, planned CYC sponsored events, and provided assistance to the DRE with RE registration, recruitment of teachers, teacher meetings, and discussing of RE concerns. Special effort was made to connect the congregation to what was going on in the classes by featuring a class with a display in Channing Hall each month.

CYC increased activities for families and members of the UUSIC community this year, making a special effort to plan events which would also appeal to youth. Aware that there can never be enough publicity, CYC made postcards and fliers, and advertised the events on various email list-serves.

**Activities included:**

- September: Chili cookout at Kent Park
- October: Halloween FUUN Night

- November: Roller skating at the Rec. Center
- December: Caroling at Iowa City Rehabilitation Center, Hanging of the Greens
- January: Day of Service and Ski Trip
- February: 30 Days of Love
- March: Bowling at Colonial Lanes
- April: Teacher Recruitment
- May: Community Garden launching event

Ahead of most committees in its alignment with the Strategic Plan, CYC began envisioning a Community Garden last year and will be realizing this vision this summer, launching UUSIC's first community garden effort, with the support of Green Sanctuary and the Social Justice Committee. Having acquired a plot with the New Pioneer's Earth Source Gardens, CYC will engage families and all in the Society in this exciting adventure in sustainability, multi-generational community and deepening our connection to the earth. Most produce will be donated to the Crisis Center.



## Covenant Groups

The Covenant Group Program at UUSIC offers members and friends the experience of nurturing our connections and exploring our spirituality within small, committed groups. Each group explores the same monthly topic, meeting once a month. Groups are facilitated by two trained facilitators. The facilitators meet several times a year to select topics for upcoming months, to plan the annual All-Covenant Group Potluck, and to discuss any issues that may have arisen with respect to the groups.

There are currently eight Covenant Groups and approximately 80 active members. This past year, the program added its first daytime group, facilitated by Vicki Siefers and Nita Kosier. (The full list of groups and their facilitators is below.) In January, Kelly O’Berry resigned as co-facilitator of the second Sunday group, due to other commitments. The remaining facilitator, Marta Little, will be leaving the program at the end of May. We are currently searching for two new facilitators.

In the past we have recruited new members by announcing the program during the service once or twice a year and by inviting interested people to the All-Covenant Group Potluck held at the end of January. Unfortunately, this year’s potluck was cancelled due to a snowstorm. For the second year in a row, a Covenant Group display was included in the

Committee Fair in October. Monthly updates (“News about Covenant Groups”) continue to appear in the UU News, and covenant groups are discussed during new member orientation.

Covenant groups continue to do service projects as opportunities to act on our UU and individual principles. The goal is for each group to complete two meaningful service projects each year.

We would like to continue adding members and groups so the Covenant Group Program remains a vital part of the UUSIC community. Jan Locher serves as the Covenant Group membership resource.

### COVENANT GROUP FACILITATORS

- 1st Thursday—Jan Locher and Theresa Ullrich
- 1st Thursday—Stephanie Van Housen and Carol Throckmorton
- 2nd Sunday—Marta Little (through May)
- 2nd Friday—Brigette and Adam Ingersoll
- 3rd Monday—Karen Mason and Doug Wallace
- 3rd Thursday—Amy Schoon and Dave Jepsen
- 4th Tuesday—Debbie Johnson and Phil Beck
- Daytime—Vicki Siefers and Nita Kosier

—Phil Beck & Debbie Johnson

## Immigration Issues Study and Action Group

Our UUSIC Immigration Issues Study and Action Group evolved in support of the UUA 2010-2014 Study and Action Issue, “Immigration as a Moral Issue.” The group began with a series of classes on immigration issues during the Winter 2012 Welcome Home Wednesdays that were facilitated by Mary McMurray and Steve Locher. An immigrant film series was part of a subsequent WHW offering coordinated by Deb Schoelerman and Sally Hartman.

Many of our study and action group members have significant prior experience with immigrants. They have:

- Participated in UUSIC sponsored field trips to Mexico and Guatemala
- Conducted educational activities
- Worked on the Sanctuary City Committee to clarify city policy on immigration issues
- Initiated monthly, community-wide networking for individuals and groups providing services to immigrant communities.

These experiences, combined with the group’s growing awareness of the tremendous challenges faced by immigrants in our own communities, led to our support for the Iowa City Human Rights Commission’s recommendations, “Issues of Immigration and Building Safe Communities for All.”

Following the Welcome Home Wednesday series in winter, 2012, a ‘Circle of Friends’ project was begun to establish direct support by UUSIC members for two Guatemalan immigrant families in our community. Provisions for a Thanksgiving dinner, gifts at Christmas, assistance with legal fees for a mother’s visa, help with marketing weaving products, and other forms of support were provided. The Circle seeks to establish sustainable modes of support for these families during the coming year, including informal ESL classes to facilitate employment and the path to citizenship.

—Steve Locher

## Free Lunch Program

Every month, the UUSIC Free Lunch Program (FL) offers members and friends the opportunity to act on their commitment as UUs to foster ethical and social responsibility and to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each person.

In 2012 UUSIC Free Lunch email list included the names of 53 volunteers who provided nutritious, well-balanced meals on the second Friday of each month. The number of meals served ranged from 116 to 160; at an average lunch, we served 120 meals.

The 2012 year began with Bonnie Penno serving as coordinator, a role she had admirably carried out for the past six years. In the spring, Sherry Dolash and Lee and Sue Eberly took on this role. In addition, Gay Mikelson and Jeanette Carter continue to serve on the UUSIC Free Lunch advisory panel, and Jeanette is also secretary of the Iowa City Free Lunch Program (IC-FLP) board of directors.

Our activities for the past year incorporate our goals for the coming year. We have, and will continue to:

- Provide members of our UUSIC community with the opportunity to actively serve, and through this service make our Iowa City a better community for all who live here.
- Provide hot, tasty, nutritious, well-balanced meals on the second Friday of the month throughout the year.
- Provide UUSIC Free Lunch (FL) volunteers with opportunities to serve in many ways: Through donating food, preparing the entrée (with meat and without, for vegetarian diners), and preparing and serving the meal.
- Enrich our lives through interacting with our diners.
- Use green practices, such as saving fresh food scraps for compost, and recycling materials like cans, paper, and plastic.
- Use all donated food by providing “going home” containers for diners to take leftovers home; take larger quantities of remaining food—such as whole casseroles—to other meal centers such as the Salvation Army kitchen.

- Observe food safety practices, wearing gloves on the serving line, hand washing, not working in the FL kitchen if ill.
- Use our FL email list to facilitate communication among our volunteers as well as with IC-FLP Coordinator Mary Palmberg.
- Encourage our volunteers to assist Mary Palmberg with other community service projects connected with Free Lunch.
- Encourage volunteer participation through the UU News articles, prompt responses to new members who express an interest in FL, and expressing our gratitude to all who make FL a success through an annual get-together.
- Welcome participation by others in our congregation, such as covenant groups, Day of Service volunteers, and LRE students.
- Keep expenses low by encouraging volunteers to donate food items, and by using food from the IC-FLP pantry.
- Provide financial support to the IC-FLP by encouraging our volunteers to participate in Rummage in the Ramp (in 2012, this earned \$1,000 for IC-FLP), and by encouraging the inclusion of IC-FLP as one of our 12 Social Justice monthly focus programs (UUSIC donated \$1,200 to IC-FLP in 2012).
- Preserve UUSIC Free Lunch background and historical materials.
- Encourage UUSIC volunteers to become active in IC-FLP leadership roles.

One new goal for the coming year is to develop an “apprenticeship” approach for prospective FL coordinators. Through this approach, each year a prospective coordinator would work with the two current coordinators for a year prior to becoming a coordinator. When the new coordinator comes on board, one of the current coordinators would step down, and a new “apprentice coordinator” would begin training.

—Sue Eberly

## Interweave

Established in 1997, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City Interweave Chapter is a membership organization actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. We meet monthly to plan and socialize. Interweave is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, and our work is guided by Unitarian Universalist principles. By providing and supporting leadership and working in collaboration with other organizations of similar vision, we strive to connect and nurture all lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, questioning people, communities, groups, and heterosexual allies. We are dedicated to facilitating the celebration of the culture and lives of its members, and we support our congregation's continuing commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation. The chapter's responsibilities include organizing and supporting programs that affirm lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, queer and questioning people within our congregation and Society.

### Past Year Achievements:

- We participated in Marriage Equality forums.
- We helped with the marriages of LGBTQ people who came to UUSIC.
- We continued our outreach efforts to both UUSIC and to the local community.
- We maintained an Interweave Bulletin Board in Channing Hall.
- We have representation at OWLS (a lesbian/bisexual organization).
- We were active participants in Pride Month.
- We marched in the Pride Parade carrying our UU Pride Banners.

- We attended political meetings and stayed informed of political events.
- We hosted events that entertained as well as educated the UUSIC community on LGBTQ issues (films, discussions, dinners and game nights).
- We have a member (Tova Vitiello) who is now on the national Interweave Board (Interweave Continental).
- We have a member (Tova Vitiello) who is the editor of the national Interweave newsletter (Interweave Connect).
- We participated in Welcome Home Wednesday by offering a class: "Welcoming vs Hospitality."

### Goals For This Year:

We want to continue to achieve the above listed activities. We plan to organize social events for the LGBTQ community and encourage participation of allies. We will continue to remain connected to the national Interweave organization, and to maintain our relationship with the UUA. In order to help members establish closer connections to one another and the UU community, we will continue to hold numerous social events. We want to bring about Marriage Equality though out the U.S., and we will continue to work toward that goal.

### Members and Friends:

Joe Brisben, Amy Butler, Barb Curtin, Christie Dancel, Shon Derifield, Rebecca Durkee, John Elson (co-chair), Linda Fisher, Elias Gonzalez, Beth Halloran, Jessica Johnson, Betsy and Garry Klein, April Lefever, Kathryn Messer, Gay Mikelson, Liz Noyes, Stan Paden, Jean Reese, Gordon and Faye Strayer, Theresa Ullerich, Tova Vitiello (co-chair), Peg Voelker, Connie Webb, and Mark Yuskis.

—John Elson and Tova Vitiello, co-chairs

## Partner Church

In 2013 we celebrated our 20th anniversary of being Partners. Our Partner Church group strives to enhance awareness of our shared religious heritage with those in our partner church, Parochia Unitariana, in the village of Janosfalva, Transylvania, Romania, which is located in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. Village size is 165 and is decreasing; needs, however, are increasing. Our goal is to deepen, widen and strengthen our partnership. Each winter we celebrate our relationship by holding the Festival of the First Bread, a traditional Hungarian dinner. It's a time of good food and conversation with an educational component and wonderful music. This event is our fundraiser for the needs of our village partners. The next day's sermon is devoted to our Partner Church relationship, and a special offering is collected. Members are: Joe Brisben, Mary Kathryn Wallace, Sally Hartman, Liz Weinberg, Jonni Elsworth, Sherry Dolash and many volunteers at Festival time. We meet a few times prior to the Festival and seek others to join us. Through our

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partnership we truly practice our 1st, 2nd and 6th Principles: #1: The inherent worth and dignity of every person, #2: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations and #6: The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

### Past Year's Achievements:

- Thanks to the 2013 Festival of the First Bread and the following Sunday program, we raised \$3,200 for Janosfalva including our \$150 annual membership fee to UUPCC (Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council). We're very grateful for the generosity of our congregation! In the recent past we helped our partners purchase a used minibus which is very important to the village. (Horses and carts are commonly used.) The minibus is used to provide transportation for medical treatment and outings for the many village elderly. Money is needed for its repair, tires, gasoline, etc. They would like to modify the minibus so it's handicapped accessible. Additionally there are always village upkeep needs.

## Partner Church, Cont'd

- In September 2013 we went on pilgrimage to Transylvania which included a 5-night/4-day home stay in Janosfalva.
- We assisted in reconnecting the Davenport UU congregation to Janosfalva.

Next 12 - 15 Month Goals:

- Raise awareness and commitment for an inter-generational service pilgrimage to Transylvania and

Janosfalva to be held in the summer of 2014 or 2015.

- Establish a Skype connection with our partners in Janosfalva.
- Begin communication about having members of our Partner Church village come to Iowa City for a visit.
- Hold the 21st annual Festival of the First Bread in early 2014.

—Mary Kathryn Wallace

## Secular Humanists

The Secular Humanists group has been meeting at UUSIC for eleven years. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, except for January and the summer months.

This year we adopted a mission statement:

“UUSIC Secular Humanists are a community of like-minded humanists who:

- Look for meaning and motivation to the rational and natural, rather than the supernatural.
- Strive to live ethical lives that promote well-being for all.
- Support secular democracy and the separation of church and state.
- Affirm the critical roles of science, free inquiry, critical thinking, and reliance on evidence as the best means for making our lives and our world a better place.”

We were led in discussions by Brad McDowell on “The Amazing Meeting” in Las Vegas; April LeFever, who introduced us to the recently formed CUUPS group in the Society; Brendan Holly on *The Moral Landscape* by Sam Harris; Bryant McAllister on “Darwin in the Classroom,” as well as general discussion by members. In May we also invite local Iowa legislators for a wrap-up of legislative activity in the recent session.

Potluck parties were held in September and December, with Sue and Lee Eberly and Jeanette Carter as hosts. A potluck planning session for the following year was held in Channing Hall in April.

We are happy to announce that Brad McDowell has agreed to serve as the leader for the group beginning in the fall of 2013.

Our mailing list consists of 92 names, and we average about 20 at our meetings. We have 6 meetings at the Society building each year, and operate with no budget.

We serve the mission and vision of the Society by emphasizing our liberal tradition and nurturing the lifelong journey of mind and spirit. Several members come from the larger community, expanding our reach beyond these walls. We also serve coffee and lemonade for Sunday services when asked.

During this past program year we lost two long-time members, Bill Lyons and Ann Bovbjerg, both of whom represented all that is good in a principled secular life. They will be greatly missed.

— Jill Stephenson, Jeanette Carter, Ricardo Sauro

## Social Justice Coordinating Committee

The Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC) seeks to apply UU principles and work toward fulfillment of our mission as we coordinate projects and events related to social justice, offer information and education about issues of social inequality and distribute funding to the agencies selected by the congregation.

SJCC functions as a committee of the whole:

- Set agenda and convene meetings: Peg Bouska
- Write and distribute minutes: Barbara Curtin
- Treasurer: Gay Mikelson

- Agency feature for UU News and Sunday bulletins: Peg Bouska
- Newsletter Articles: Diane Martin
- Crop Walk Organizer: Kathy Henderson
- CRC liaison: Diane Martin
- Interweave liaison: Tova Vitiello
- Partner Church liaison: Joe Brisben.

Additional Committee members include John Elson and Dorothy Paul. Many others participated in events and projects throughout the year.

## Social Justice Coordinating Committee, Cont'd

SJCC meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:15 pm in the UUSIC library. We encourage anyone interested to attend a meeting and consider joining SJCC.

Past year Achievements:

- Organized the Congregational Vote on agencies to receive Sunday offerings. SJCC prepared and distributed and collected ballots.
- Collected pledges and recruited walkers for the Crop Walk at the SJ table during social hour. Crop Walk donors and walkers raised over \$800 to fight hunger.
- Organized the annual Shelter House benefit luncheon. This event is made possible by the many generous volunteers who donate salads, desserts, bread and drinks and serve our guests. The luncheon raised \$1,375 for Shelter House.
- Book Bags: 25 sewers put together 250 cloth bags for school children at Grantwood School. Fifteen additional volunteers helped with other parts of the process.
- SJCC members worked with others in the congregation to organize a group (Circle of Friends) to assist immigrant families in our community. The group chose two families to assist with Thanksgiving meals and holiday gifts. Circle of Friends is working to establish an ongoing relationship with both of these families.
- Organized two Days of Service. In June 2012 thirty-five people participated, and in January 2013 seventy-five people participated in projects throughout the community.
- Organized collection of winter clothing for CRC's (Consultation of Religious Communities) annual drive.
- Continued to have a member represent UUSIC at the CRC monthly meetings.
- Organized Project Holiday and distributed gifts to the Circle of Friends families and the Salvation Army.
- Received the Sunday offerings and distributed the funds to the agencies selected by the membership.

Next 12 -15 Month Goals:

- Encourage the UUSIC community to share their thoughts and ideas regarding social justice agendas and encourage more involvement in SJCC.
- Work with the Green Sanctuary Committee to provide opportunities for members to contact elected officials about current issues.
- Continue to provide opportunities for the Society's members and friends to engage in community projects through the Day of Service.
- Provide opportunities for the Society's members to learn more about the immigration issue in our community.

—Gay Mikelson

### UUSIC - SJCC Contributions in 2012

<b>SJCC balance on 12/31/11</b>	<b>\$647</b>
<b>Balance on 12/31/12</b>	<b>\$995</b>
<b>Agency Schedule</b>	
Free Dental	\$1,000
DVIP	\$1,225
Crisis Center	\$1,650
Elder Services	\$1,450
T2T	\$1,000
Uptown Bill's	\$1,000
Free Medical	\$1,200
UAY	\$1,000
Emma Goldman	\$1,675
NAMI	\$1,400
Shelter House	\$1,700
Free Lunch	\$1,850
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,150</b>
<b>Misc. Contributions</b>	
Common Fund of the CRC	\$1,200
Co-sponsored Peace Exhibit at C. Library	\$50
Summer of Solutions (youth/green projects)	\$200
Together Together (school supplies)	\$100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,550</b>
<b>Other UUSIC Fundraising</b>	
Guest at Your Table	\$197
Partner Church	\$3,172
Crop Walk - sponsored walkers	\$835
SH Benefit Luncheon	\$1,375
Banned Books at GA	\$185
Book Bags for GW School	\$845
Relief for Hurricane Sandy	\$1,130
M.O.E. Holiday Sale	\$643
Gift cards for two Circle of Friends Families	\$758
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,140</b>
 <b>SJCC 2012 TOTAL GIVING</b>	 <b>\$26,840</b>

# Welcome Home Wednesdays

Welcome Home Wednesdays (WHW) consists of two six-week series, one in the fall and one in the winter, which include a weekly dinner, worship service, and classes/programs. Daycare and children's programming is provided after the meal for the midweek service and classes. Welcome Home Wednesdays gives the congregation an opportunity to reflect, share and grow intellectually or spiritually each fall and winter. The evening vegetarian meal is a nutritious and joyful way to converse with other members and to foster new connections. The service gives us all a chance for mid-week reflection and inner peace. The classes or programs offer opportunities for discussion, self-growth, new experiences, or service experiences.

## **Classes/Programs:**

Fall, 2012

- Enjoy the Benefits of Yoga
- Music as a Doorway
- Exploring your Spiritual Practice
- Immigration Film Series
- Drum Circle (2 sessions)

Winter, 2013

- Be Moved
- Courageous Abiding: Staying with the Grieving Process
- Legends, Prophets, and Heroes in Real Time
- Welcoming vs. Hospitality
- Drum Circle (2 sessions)

## **Committee Members:**

Lois Cole, Mary Jepsen, Gary Lawrenson, Lucy Choisser, Carol Throckmorton, Christina Randall, Jean Reese, Marianne Mason, Gail Garwood, Wendy Brown, Linda Rice.

## **Meetings:**

Our committee meets about four times per year. We meet once in late summer to finalize classes and plan for the fall

session, once after the fall session to evaluate and plan for the winter session, once in January to finalize winter class offerings, and once after the winter session to evaluate and look ahead to plan for the next fall's WHW classes.

Our WHW Committee's meetings are on Wednesday nights for about two hours.

We continue to work well as a committee and to be very efficient in our planning sessions, planning most things through email, rather than hosting a lot of meetings. Committee members also help with dinner set up and clean up and provide desserts for the twelve WHW evenings.

## **Goals:**

We strive to offer intergenerational opportunities, encouraging personal growth and fostering relationships and connections with others and with the environment. Also, we hope each session will provide a forum for discussion, focusing on various personal, political, service-oriented, environmental, and spiritual topics. Those planning the mid-week services aim to provide a balance between group participation and quiet meditation/ reflection.

We want to maintain a healthy and delicious menu each session at a low-cost to our participants.

Our wonderful, creative cook, Liz Weinberg, buys most of the ingredients for our meals at the New Pioneer Food Co-op. To continue the green theme, the committee uses no disposables in serving the meals, and we now offer only a vegetarian option for our meals.

We invite members of the community to attend our classes. Our goal is to continue to explore new and better ways to advertise our WHW classes to the community. Carol Throckmorton was able to advertise our classes in the Press Citizen this year.

—Linda Rice

## Worship Associates

The Worship Associates are the UUSIC members who work with the minister to plan and conduct worship services and develop their skills in creating and leading worship. On the Sundays that Rev. Steven Protzman is in the pulpit, Worship Associates welcome members and visitors, lead the congregation in the words to accompany the lighting of the chalice, encourage the giving and receiving of the offering, and deliver the readings. On other Sundays the Worship Associates lead the service or help identify and recruit guest speakers or programs.

We had a “Pulpit Exchange “ with the UU of Davenport in January where Allen Bertsche presented his service: “A Cubist Faith.” In February, Jim Olson, Liz Noyes, and Peg Volker presented the service that was used over Memorial Day, “Service Is Our Prayer,” to the UU Davenport congregation.

The 2012-2013 Worship Associates were: Susan Boyd, Liz Noyes, Alison Oliver, Jim Olson, Bonnie Penno, Rai Tokuhisa, Peg Volker, Liz Weinberg, and Mark Yuskis. They met monthly with Rev. Steven Protzman to plan upcoming services. In addition, during 2012-2013 the Associates held two retreats, one with our CCLAM liaison, Kelly O’Berry, and the other focused on the use of music in worship. These retreats provide experience in creating and planning worship experiences.

During the 2012-2013 program year, the Worship Associates

and Rev. Steven developed a liturgical calendar with a theme for each month:

- September: Love Will Guide Us
- October: The Larger Circle
- November: The Way of the Pilgrim
- December: The Gift
- January: Poets, Artists and Prophets
- February: A Chosen Family
- March: Ethical Eating
- April: Keepers of the Dream
- May: Tending the Garden

Several Worship Associates led worship during the Welcome Home Wednesday series in fall and in spring. Many of the Worship Associates participated in the first year evaluation of Rev. Steven and in the Mission/Vision/Strategic Plan workshops.

Preparations are underway for the summer worship services and to offer an Adult Forum series during the summer of 2013. Special outdoor services will be planned for Memorial Day and Labor Day services, both followed by an all-congregation pot-luck.

—Bonnie Penno

## After Church Lunch Bunch

During spring, summer and fall, congregants are invited to enjoy lunch together following the Sunday services. Those interested meet in Channing Hall and walk to a downtown Iowa City restaurant to enjoy fellowship and food together.

—Carol Throckmorton

## OWL Moon CUUPS

Owl Moon CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans) is a community of people that gathers to celebrate earth-centered traditions. It is a part of the larger UU tradition and brings awareness to the greater Pagan community. They hold full moon circles and potlucks most months, either in Channing Hall or outdoors when the weather is nice. They have also held other Pagan-related events.

## Dances of Universal Peace



On the second Sunday of each month, September through April, members and friends gather at 6 pm in Channing Hall for Dances of Universal Peace. These are simple folk dance movements, practiced in combination with the chanting or singing of sacred words and phrases from the world's spiritual traditions. Dances

of Universal Peace is a world-wide movement, celebrating the unity and diversity of all beings and fostering connections between people. UUSIC has sponsored a Dance circle for many years, starting in the 1970's. Virginia Melroy, a certified teacher of the Dances, is the leader of our local group. No experience is necessary. All are welcome!

—Virginia Melroy

## Exploring Christianity

The UUs Exploring Christianity is a community of people who gather monthly to discover what it means to be a liberal Christian in the context of Unitarian Universalism. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of most months at 7 pm in Channing Hall. Everyone is welcome as we explore the Older and Newer Testaments, UU History, and what Christianity can teach us as seen through the lens of Unitarian Universalism.

—Rev. Steven Protzman

## Girls' Night Out

Girls Night Out meets at 5:15 pm on the fourth Monday of every month at a local restaurant. It is an informal gathering, with women coming and going as their schedules permit. The purpose of the group is to get to know one another better, building the UUSIC community. As few as three, and as many as twenty, have attended these informal gatherings. Come join us!

We have no budget, and do not use the church.

—Susan Salterberg

## Sages and Sherry

UUSIC senior members and friends gather for a light meal and sherry in Channing Hall. These events, which include a program, are held on a quarterly basis. Most of the Sages and Sherry members previously participated in the Worthley Club.

—Carol Throckmorton

## Theology on Tap

Our minister leads lively theological conversations in the Unitarian Universalist tradition, while also enjoying refreshments. Theology on Tap meets at 8 pm at varying dates and locations, usually on the third Friday of most months at the Sanctuary bar in downtown Iowa City.

—Rev. Steven Protzman

## Vegetarian Community

UUSIC members who observe a plant-centered lifestyle meet for a dining out event on the first Friday evening and a potluck and program on the third Sunday evening of each month. Members of the greater Iowa City vegetarian community are invited to participate as well.

—Carol Throckmorton

## Yahoo Drummers

The Yahoo Drummers meet every Tuesday night from 8 to 9:30 pm. When the weather is cold, we meet at UUSIC, in Channing Hall when it's available, or in the library or Sr. High room when it's not. In the late spring and summer when the weather is warm, we meet weekly on the Ped. Mall. We have been using the church an average of about 30 times a year. We have a core of about 6 members and about 10-15 other less frequent participants. We have no budget. Our group furthers the mission of UU because several times a year we are invited to play at UU services and events.

—Carol Severino  
2013 Annual Report



## NOTES:

