



News for Lake Country UUs

Lake Country Unitarian Universalists
rejoice in life, find the sacred, seek justice,
with open minds and hearts.

FEBRUARY 2008

Rev. Linda Berez, Minister
Kerry Duma, Director of Religious Education
Karen Haskell, Choir Director

Sunday Services and Religious Education for Children/Youth—10:00 a.m.

W299 N5595 Grace Drive, Hartland, 53029
At the intersection of Hwy E and Hwy K

Feb. 3: "Amazing Grace," by Rev. Dr. Bobbie Groth, UU Community Minister

On the issue of grace in UU religion, Rev. Groth goes through some of her own experiences that seemed to have no good outcome—until the intervention of grace.

Feb. 10: "Worship Is Not a Product: Worship Is a Need," by Rev. Webster Kitchell, presented by LCUUC member Colleen Kennedy

What is implied by worship that makes it seem incompatible with Unitarian Universalism? Can action-minded, problem-solving liberals who weigh issues with a scientific mind and shun dependency on a supernatural God actually worship on Sunday mornings? Rev. Kitchell takes a fresh view of worship, defining it as a time to be philosophical and meditate on what things are of worth, of "worth-ship." When we worship we feel joy in the mystery and open up to the transforming power of creative good. Our ability to perform good works in the world is enhanced by having taken this "Sabbath time" to worship.

Feb. 17: "Red, White, and Blue," by Rev. Linda Berez

In honor of the President's Day holiday, Rev. Linda Berez will continue her series on our Unitarian Universalist principles, specifically focusing on our fifth principle, which affirms the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Feb. 24: "Simply Living Simply," by Rev. Linda Berez

Naturalist, Transcendentalist, and author Henry David Thoreau advocated for a simple and sustainable life in his book *Walden*. Yet, today our American way of life, and our economy, seems to be predicated on the idea that "more is better." Is it? How do we find a balance? Join Rev. Linda Berez as she reflects upon these and other questions related to the ideas of simple living and why these issues are important to Unitarian Universalists.

A Note From Our Minister



Greetings,

I've been thinking a lot recently, as I'm sure many of you are, about the upcoming presidential election. What does it mean for us as a religious community? By law our church cannot take a stand to support any candidate. We can support issues, as we did when we supported marriage for all couples, gay or straight. Yet, as individuals, I'm sure we each have different reasons for supporting the different candidates. I believe that our community is made stronger by the differences between us. We each have different stories to tell and to share, and we each have different reasons why we vote different ways. Therefore my hope, for our community, as we move closer to the primary and then to the general election, is that we find ways to open our hearts and minds and truly listen to each other's stories.

Continuing along with thoughts about what the upcoming elections mean to each of us, on February 17th, my sermon will be about our fifth Unitarian Universalist principle, which affirms the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our church and in our society. I hope you can come and be a part of this service, as I will leave extra time for the polylog. I'm sure the conversation around what being part of democracy means will be lively.

On another note, I'd like to invite you to a book discussion that I will host, in April on Karen Armstrong's book *The Battle for God*. I'm not sure of the date as of this newsletter printing, but I wanted to let you know now, so you can get and begin reading the book. I'll have a date and time for you in the March newsletter.

Finally, please join me for the third of the Harry Potter movies on February 23rd at 6 p.m. And just so you know and can plan in advance, the fourth movie will be on March 22nd and the fifth on April 12th. To end the series, and because the sixth movie won't be out in theatres until November, I'll explore why the magic of Harry Potter is so interesting to so many people on May 18th, when my sermon will be about the theology of Harry Potter. Until then, here's to a safe and warm February.

Linda

Announcements

Rev. Linda Berez's hours: Rev. Linda Berez is available by appointment Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and some Wednesdays. Mondays are a day off. You may call the church office at 262-369-1703 x500 and leave a message for Linda or email her directly at minister@lcuuc.org.

Harry Potter: All are welcome to join our minister Linda for popcorn and the third Harry Potter movie, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, on Saturday, February 23rd at 6 p.m.

Canceling Service Policy: LCUUC's Canceling Service Policy is as follows: The president will make the decision to cancel service when necessary. This decision will be made at least one hour prior to the start of service (that is, by 9:00 a.m.). If a decision is made to cancel a church service, a message will be left on the answering machine at the church office at 262-369-1703, and an email will be sent to the memberlist. In addition, the president will contact WTMJ (AM620) regarding the cancellation.

☞ February Calendar of Events ☜

(all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted)

Every Tuesday	SOS	7– 8:30 p.m.
Friday, 1	Lord of the Rings Marathon*	7 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. on Saturday the 2nd
Sunday, 3	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Treble Choir rehearsal	9:25 a.m.
	Food pantry collection	During the service
	Green Sanctuary Com. meeting	After the service
Monday, 4	Publicity Committee meeting	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 5	Mindfulness in Everyday Life	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Thursday, 7	Church Board meeting	7 p.m.
Sunday, 10	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Treble Choir rehearsal	9:25 a.m.
Tuesday, 12	Mindfulness in Everyday Life	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 13	Social Action Com. meeting	4:00 p.m.
Saturday, 16	Socrates Café**	7 p.m.
Sunday, 17	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Treble Choir rehearsal	9:25 a.m.
	Chili Lunch (High School fundraiser)	
	High School Seniors meeting with Rev. Linda Berez during lunch	
	Picture Party (see pg. 6)	Noon–3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 19	Mindfulness in Everyday Life	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Friday, 22	Outreach meal—Cooperating Congregations, done by the High Schoolers	5:00 p.m.
	Dances of Universal Peace (see pg. 6)	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 23	Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban	6 p.m.
Sunday, 24	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	UUCW choir singing with us for service	
	RE Committee meeting	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 26	Mindfulness in Everyday Life	6:30–8:30 p.m.

*This is a silent auction item, but everyone is welcome with a \$15 donation per person or a \$25 donation per family.

** Location to be determined.

Early March

Saturday, 1	Music jam, for musicians & music lovers	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8	UU Orientation	2:30–4:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9	UU Orientation	11:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Saturday, 15	"Fun and Friends Day at LCUUC"	10 a.m.–10 p.m.

On Board!

Our old leaky roof is a frequent topic in board meetings. Besides letting water in, with its thin insulation the roof lets significant heat out. Our Facilities Committee, led by Greg S., has worked for months with contractors investigating options. The January board meeting saw the culmination of this phase of their work when Greg and Jerry F. presented an array of quotes to replace and insulate the roof. After considering economic and ecological tradeoffs, the board selected the option to increase insulation to R35 and provide a modern surface with a 20-year warranty. The scope and cost of this project will be reviewed and put to a special congregational vote in February.

The board has also recommended adding a half-time office administrator to the 2008-2009 budget, now in review. An administrator is a critical asset during our growth and a key step on the path to our goal of calling a full-time minister.

Submitted by Tim P.

Children's Religious Education Update

We continue to have a lively, exciting year in our Religious Education program.

Our **high schoolers** are busy planning a summer service trip, looking to do some trail maintenance in one of our nation's parks. They will be doing fundraising for that trip, including serving a chili lunch on February 17, after the service and before the "Picture Party."

Our **middle schoolers** have switched from focusing on social action and learning about famous UU social activists in history to discussing the messages in music. We are using a curriculum we haven't used before called "Messages in Music" that stimulates our youth to compare and contrast the messages they hear with our UU Principles and Purposes.

Our **5th graders** have started their 6-week "Transitions 1—Coming of Age" program, which will culminate with them treating us to a **worship service on March 9**. This is always a very special service where the congregation gets to know these youngsters as they are moving from

childhood into adolescence and getting ready for middle school.

Our **youngest children** (K-4 and K-5) are involved in making note cards that they will be selling to raise money for the Heifer Project.

Our **eleven graduating seniors** have all chosen mentors and are completing the steps of our Transitions II program, which will culminate in a **worship service on April 27**. This group will be meeting with our minister, Linda Berez, on February 17 after the service.

These are just some of the highlights of things happening in our RE program. Our children are being taught by caring, committed volunteer teachers. We hope they are all learning, having fun, making friends, and expanding their awareness. We are fortunate to have so many wonderful children and teachers in our midst.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our RE program, please contact Kerry Duma, Director of Religious Education, at the church at 369-1703 or email dre@lcuuc.org.

UU Orientation, March 8 and 9

New members, friends, those thinking about joining, and those who have been attending LCUUC for a while are encouraged to attend a two-part UU Orientation Class. It is a great way to meet other folks and learn about our church. The first session will be held on **Saturday, March 8th from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.** and will focus on our spiritual journeys. The second session will be on **Sunday, March 9th from 11:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** During this time our minister, Linda Berez, and others will talk about the history of Unitarian Universalism, LCUUC's history, governance, current programming, what it means to be a member and ways to get involved. A light lunch will be provided on Sunday for participants. Child care will be available for those who request it in advance. Please let us know by March 2 if you are interested in attending. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the social hall under "Church Life." You can contact Yvonne F. or Lynne S. you have questions.



Committee News and Notes

Library... The Library Committee would like to thank Erich and Tracy M. for renewing a subscription to *Parabola* magazine for the coming year. Also, please remember that you need to **sign the checkout notebook** when you are borrowing something, and please **return books and other items in a timely manner!**

Landscape... The Landscape Committee hopes to get up and running soon. We need members to help come up with an overall plan. (Note we do not need members at this time to do any actual landscaping work.) We'll probably want a few meetings to solicit input from other committees (such as the Green Sanctuary Committee, Facilities Committee, Fundraising, RE, etc.), get an overall concept together, and then a more detailed plan or options for the Board to consider. We also need a committee chair. Please contact Phil S.



to add your name to the committee, and we'll set a date to meet in the next couple of weeks.

Religious Education ... As always, if you have ideas and energy that you would like to contribute to our Religious Education program, your involvement on the committee would be welcome. Our next meeting is Sunday evening, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. at LCUUC. Join us as we continue to set an exciting course for Religious Education at LCUUC!

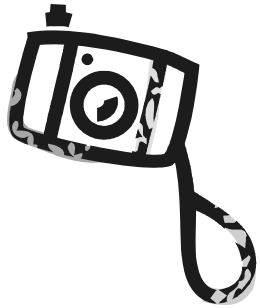
Social Activities ... The Social Activities Committee is planning actives for the remainder of the church year, including summer events, so please let us know what you would like to do for fun. You can talk to anyone on the committee (Phil S., Al H., Joanne N., Kristin S., Kay S., or Sonia W.).

Adult Religious Education ... The Adult Religious Education Committee would like to hear from anyone who has an area of religious or spiritual study they would like to explore, as well as from anyone who would like to lead a group on any area of religious or spiritual study. Please send your ideas to Greg V. Ideas of a more social nature will be sent to the social activities chairperson.

Get Involved / Things to Do

FREEZE FRAME *FREEZE FRAME* Picture Party

You're invited to an LCUUC Picture Party to celebrate our ~ 10 years of service, community, and activities, and to remember our people through the sharing of photographs.



**When/Where: February 17th
at church in the social hall
from noon 'till about 3 p.m.**

We have a few photo albums from the early days that Robin R., Jeanne S., and others had put together. But I am sure that all you "old" members (and I say that referring to your long experience with LCUUC not your age) have pictures of events that others have never seen.

So we are asking Founding members through newer members and friends, please bring your photos (and I know you must have some fun ones—but please don't discriminate—from retreats/cons/hikes/social actions/camping etc., etc.).

And even if you've just started to get acquainted with LCUUC, you still might have a shot or two from one of our social events (Overs-Unders soccer, art fair, etc.), so bring what you have.

What you need to do or bring: find and bring along to share any of your pictures/files (jpg, on a CD or flash drive, printed, etc.) of church activities and church people you've gathered with over your history with LCUUC. Ideally you'll have made copies so that LCUUC can just keep them, but we will also be able to burn CDs, copy to a hard drive, and/or scan photos in that day.

FOOD-FOOD-FOOD: There will be a chili lunch available, prepared and offered by our High Schoolers, to help fund this year's high school social action project/trip (your generous donations will be appreciated).

You don't need to bring photos to join this celebration ... so please join us and stay after service to relive and to enjoy these past events through pictures.

Submitted by Al H., on behalf of the Publicity Committee

Dances of Universal Peace Come to LCUUC!

Come and join an evening of sacred dance and peaceful fellowship on **Friday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.** at LCUUC. The leaders of the Mukwonago UU dance circle are coming to LCUUC to share the dances with us. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the joy and peace of the Dances of Universal Peace circle.

What are the Dances of Universal Peace? They are a joyous, multi-cultural way to touch the spiritual essence within yourself and others. Using sacred phrases, chants, music, and movements from many of the spiritual and religious traditions of the earth, the dances promote peace and integration within individuals and groups.

There are no performers or audiences. Everyone comes together in a community of all ages and all abilities. Harmony and wholeness, not having every word and step perfectly right, are the core of the experience. Join in this timeless tradition of celebration, unity, and Sacred Dance!

Each dance is taught each time. No experience is necessary. All are welcome!

Contact Kerry D. with any questions.

"Fun and Friends Day at LCUUC"

Please mark your calendars and plan to come to a day of fun and friends at LCUUC on **Saturday, March 15**. There will be time to get to know each other, try some new things, play games, be outside, and/or be inside for some quiet activities. There will be activities for all ages.

The day will **start at 10 a.m.** We will share lunch and dinner, and the evening will finish off with our famous, fabulous LCUUC Talent Show!

So start thinking of the many ways you can showcase your unique talents—can you touch your nose with your tongue? Wiggle your ears? Play the tuba? Tap dance? You name it—we want to see it!

More information and a registration form will be coming out later this month. If you have questions, please contact Chris W. via email.

The Intra-vaganza: Mindfulness in Everyday Life

The "Mindfulness in Everyday Life" class continues, **every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** until mid-March. The course is led by Paul Norton, M.D., Order of Interbeing. You are welcome to join in at any time, Remaining topics being covered:

- Feb. 5** *Mindfulness of Thought*
- Feb. 12** *Mindfulness of Objects of Mind*
- Feb. 19** *Guided Meditation/ Gatha Practice*
- Feb. 26** *Four Noble Truths*
- Mar. 4** *Lovingkindness*
- Mar. 11** *Compassion and Sympathetic Joy*
- Mar. 18** *Equanimity and No-Self*

The fee is \$125 for the entire course (note that 4 classes have taken place already), or \$15 for any individual week. The \$125 fee includes the book *Beginning Mindfulness*, by Andrew Weiss, and two CDs of guided meditation.

Register via email at milwmindful@hotmail.com or phone 414-962-8678.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat is moving from their present location (30th and North) to Capital and Booth (close to WTMJ). This move will start sometime in February and they will need help, help, help. If you have ever been in the present warehouse you can easily imagine the packing and hauling required and the setup in the new location.

Dave R. (UU Church West) will be in contact with Habitat during the first week in February to see where they are in the move preparations. He thinks they have to be out of the present site by mid-March. So there will be some Saturday work for those of you who want to volunteer with Dave when the time comes. You can reach Dave via UUCW for more information.

Play at UU Church North

Unitarian Universalist Church North (UCN) and Cornerstone Theatre Company will present the play *Love Letters*, on **Saturday, February 16th at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 17th at 3 p.m.** The performances feature UCN members Cotter Smith and Heidi Mueller Smith. Heidi and Cotter co-founded the highly acclaimed Cornerstone Theatre Company in Milwaukee in 2001.

Cotter is a nationally known actor who has appeared in numerous film, television, and high-profile theatrical productions. Heidi is an actor/director. Among her directing credits are *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Anne Frank*, and a one-man play about Marquette University's legendary basketball coach, Al McGuire, starring her husband.

Ticket prices are \$25. For the Sunday matinee, there is a special price of \$20 for Seniors. Reservations can be made by calling 262-377-5276. For more information, visit www.ucnorth.org. UCN is located at 13800 Port Washington Road in Mequon (between Mequon Rd and Hwy C). Doors will open 1 hour in advance.

A major portion of the proceeds will go toward sending a team of UCN youth and adults to New Orleans this spring for post-Katrina service.

Social Action

Food/Needs Collections

Many thanks to the LCUUC congregation for its generous contribution of \$190 in monies and 4 bags of groceries for the Sussex Food Pantry collection that was taken during the Jan. 6, 2008 service. The food pantry can utilize the monies to obtain perishable meats, dairy and frozen food items for the clients, as well as needed health and body needs.

The food/needs collection for February 3, 2008, will be designated for the Hartford Community Food Pantry. This food pantry is located just west of downtown Hartford at 24 N. Johnson Street. The director is Jean Telderer (262-673-5747).

Many clients at pantries are the working poor, people with disabilities, single mothers, and seniors who are unable to make ends meet on pensions, said Telderer, of the Hartford Pantry. In additions to food and health needs, the pantry is very grateful for monetary donations. February is the month we try to remember those in our hearts. If you are out buying valentines for your children, please pick up some boxed valentine cards for the food pantry. The children still exchange valentines in most of the public school classrooms, and the food pantry does offer them to their clients. So, have a heart for Hartford!!

Submitted by Helen B., on behalf of the Social Action Committee

Day for Darfur

As socially compassionate church members, many of us are anxious to do something significant to help end the GENOCIDE in Darfur, Sudan.

The Social Action Committee is planning a fundraising/awareness day for **Saturday or Sunday May 17 or 18**. We are in the brainstorming stage and need everyone's brain to storm! Our thoughts are to use our beautiful church grounds for a community fundraiser with bands (free offering), food, games, maybe a silent auction, etc. Please use your creative energies to help create a fun gathering.

Perhaps school groups/teams/clubs, scouts, Kiwanis, Lions, Jaycees, other churches in the area, could host a booth. There would be no competition for funds because all of it goes to

Darfur. It could have a fair or carnival atmosphere, with fun for all ages, and information and ways to act and make a difference. Are you affiliated with another club/team/service group that may want to host a game, sell bakery, popcorn, face paint, basketball, volleyball, soccer, bean bag toss, etc.?

Two great cites for information are: enoughproject.org and Amnesty International. See, for example, www.amnestyusa.org/Our_Issues/Darfur/page.do?id=1041028&n1=3&n2=52.

Contact Terry C. or Kerry D. with questions/comments/ideas.

Please don't wait for May to start or continue acting. Spread the word, learn more, and know that writing and calling really makes a huge difference. There are some great videos and YouTube videos out there. We need helicopter protection and the UN peacekeepers in Darfur NOW.

Submitted by Terry C., on behalf of the Social Action Committee



Reminder: Donation Collection Box

We have a box in the foyer for donations of coats, hats, mittens, toiletries, and non-perishable food items that can be brought in at any time. These items will be donated to area organizations along with our food pantry donations.

Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary, also known as Ministry for Earth, is guided by the wisdom of the 7th Principle of the UUA—to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We seek to stimulate dialog on the theological, spiritual, and ethical aspects of human activities that affect the health and sustainability of the living earth, and to promote and support practices and activities consistent with these ideals—at LCUUC in our congregation, worship, and facilities; with the lifestyle choices of our members, friends and families; and as a member of the Lake Country community.

Some of the actions and activities being considered for the balance of the 2007–08 church year include:

- A follow-up to last November's "Step It Up 2007" rally, with an Earth Day "walk, run, bike, or crawl" to Madison, either on April 19 or 25
- Participation in Conservation Lobby Day January 30
- A Great Lakes Earth Institute "Sustainable Living" course in April and May
- May 5 "Earth Day" intergenerational service
- Participation in a CSA (see article at right)
- Congregational survey of environmental attitudes and practices
- Solar site survey
- Work with the Landscaping Committee to make a sustainable landscape plan
- Other possibilities???

All who are interested in learning about and participating in the Green Sanctuary's actions and activities are welcome to attend our next Green Sanctuary Committee meeting after church on Sunday, February 3.



Submitted by Gerry F., on behalf of the Green Sanctuary Committee

Sign Up Now for Community Sponsored Agriculture!

Are you dreaming of summer tomatoes? Would you like to eat more local, organically grown foods? Do you wish more of your grocery dollar went directly to the growers? Joining a Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA)* group is one way to support local farmers in return for delicious healthy produce.

Recently, the Green Sanctuary committee was asked to explore the option of a CSA pick-up site at LCUUC. Many of us have heard that the average American meal travels a shocking 1500 miles to reach our plates. Decreasing the distance that our food travels is one simple way to reduce our personal energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Luckily, we have several CSA options in our area including sites in Hartland, Delafield, and Waukesha for **Full Harvest Farm** and one in Oconomowoc for **Stella Gardens**. Since we do not gather weekly during much of the summer and other convenient pick-up sites already exist, we decided not to pursue adding a site at LCUUC, but rather to encourage anyone who is interested to consider joining one of the CSAs close to your home that fits your family's needs. To find information on CSAs as well as other locally grown food, go to www.localharvest.org.

Subscriptions can fill up by early spring, so don't wait until the snow melts to think summer.

*Typically, individuals or families purchase a "share" in the farmer's expected yield at the beginning of the growing season. The member then receives a box of fruits and vegetables each week during the 20-week growing season. Produce boxes usually contain common items as well as a few lesser-known veggies, and are often accompanied by a recipe or two. Terry Vlosak of Full Harvest Farm in Hartford shared that CSA members who cook frequently and eat most of their meals at home are most likely to enjoy participating in a CSA. New CSA members may find that it takes some adjusting to eat what is "in season" and what is abundant at the moment; however, with a little planning and adventuresome spirit, it is well worth it. Some CSAs also encourage member involvement on the farm through visits, work-days, and harvest festivals.

Submitted by Kristin S., on behalf of the Green Sanctuary Committee

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit all articles by the 20th of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

Mail items to: LCUUC—Newsletter,
PO Box 437,
Hartland, WI 53029-0437
Or email to: newsletter@lcuuc.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church is a religious community that encourages spiritual growth in compassion, wisdom and understanding. We draw inspiration from the principles of Unitarian Universalism, diverse religious sources, and the breadth of human experience. We seek to live in accordance with this inspiration, working for positive change in our community, country and the world.



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