



News for Lake Country UUs

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

MAY 2009

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 WI, 53029

At the intersection of Hwy E and Hwy K

May 3: "Pilgrimage, a Service of Meditations and Music," by Rev. Dr. Bobbie Groth

Rev. Groth will present a sermon on pilgrimage with special music on violin and hammered dulcimer provided by Rev. Groth and her husband, Don Lawson.

May 10: "Celebrating Women in Our Lives," by Rev. Linda Berez

On this Mother's Day, let's take time to celebrate our mothers and all the women in our lives including our sisters, aunts, nieces, and friends. We will also celebrate Unitarian and Universalist women who have changed our lives by inspiring our nation.

May 17: "A Celebration of Transition," presented by LCUUC's High School Seniors

Led by our high school seniors, this service is a culmination of their Religious Education and Transition program. We will celebrate their years at LCUUC, as they share special words, faith statements, and music. If time permits, Rev. Linda Berez will answer questions you may have about Unitarian Universalism or our faith in general. Note: Immediately after the service, Rev. Berez invites the congregation outside for the memorial garden dedication.

May 24: "Citizen Soldiers," by Rev. Linda Lawrence and Mr. Gary Lawrence

We UUs have either adopted or somehow adapted to most religious and national holidays. However, Memorial Day presents special issues for some of us. How can we use our first principle, "To promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people," to include our soldiers? Please join us as we explore these issues and give special recognition and remembrance to veterans close to our hearts.

May 31: "Religious Education Sunday," led by LCUUC Youth

This is the service we set aside each year to celebrate our children and youth – their spirit, their energy, their creativity, their music, their thoughts and ideas, and the way they care for each other. It is also the day we recognize and appreciate all the volunteers who work with them in our children's Religious Education programs. Each RE class will tell us about what they have learned together this year. The presentations are always inventive and enjoyable. We hope you can join us!

Don't forget to stop by the Activity Fair, after the services on the 3rd and 10th of May!
See page 8 for details.

A Note From Our Minister



Greetings,

Finley Peter Dunne's widely used and often reframed quote, "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable," comes to mind this week as I begin to consider the next steps for Lake Country UU Church and for myself. I find Dunne's words inspirational, never allowing myself to become too comfortable, and always remembering that it's 'OK' to experience discomfort. Sometimes in our lives when we give ourselves permission to stretch, changes may occur.

Consider the last time you began taking steps toward a goal in your life, toward a positive change. You may have faced difficult and uncomfortable challenges along the way. For example, some of you are finishing up school this year, graduating from high school or college or maybe obtaining a secondary degree or a certificate at a technical college. Soon you may find yourself off in your new job, as it was for me just shy of two years ago. When I first began as your consulting minister at LCUUC, I had many hours behind me in the classroom, in my student positions as an intern minister in Boston, and as a student chaplain in Oshkosh. I also had many years as a lay leader in my home congregation in San Diego, CA. Yet, with all these experiences behind me, as we have walked together on this journey, many of you have helped me to realize that there is always so much more we both can learn.

Stepping into any new place of employment isn't always comfortable, but I believe strongly that out of the discomfort comes growth, new awareness, and opportunity.

Over these past two years we may have become comfortable with each other. I have grown to know and love you. I hope over this time you have grown to accept my foibles, like losing a page at the end of my first Christmas sermon. But now the time has come for change and for you as a community to truly decide: What will be the next step? Where will the money for a full-time minister and a part-time administrator come from, and how will you get there? Will it happen? When?

In the meantime, there will be a search for another part-time minister. I will help in whatever way is most appropriate and as I am able, including sharing my enthusiasm for all the wonderful things happening around here. LCUUC is an exciting community, in the midst of tremendous growth, and with that growth comes many changes and challenges.

As we begin the month of May, I am down to my final three Sunday services with you. May 10th is Mother's Day and the day we will celebrate women in our lives and UU women who have helped shaped this country. May 17th will be our Senior High Transitions service. Four of our youth will complete high school this year, and so our service that day will be an intermingling of their faith statements with your questions about our faith. Instead of our regular sermon and polylog, bring your questions about Unitarian Universalism and theology and our faith in general. We will have 3x5 cards available for you to write your questions on at the service. Time permitting, I will answer as many questions as I can that morning, and there will be time for your reflections also. My last and final Sunday service with you will be Flower Communion Sunday, June 7th.

Change can be good – actually it can be great, and it can be scary also. May this time in the life of Lake Country Unitarian Universalist, uncomfortable as it may seem, be a time of growth and also a time of renewal – renewal to the commitment to provide an ongoing presence of liberal religion in Waukesha, Wisconsin and a liberal religious home to so many already here and those yet to come.

Blessings to you all.

Linda

☞ May Calendar of Events ☜

(all events at LCUUC unless otherwise noted; see pages 8 and 9 for more details)

Every Tuesday	SOS *	7–8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 2	High schoolers to Repairers of the Breach	11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Sunday, 3	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Activity Fair	After the service
	OWL Teacher meeting	11:45 a.m., 3rd–5th grade classroom
Tuesday, 5	Adopt-a-Highway	12:00, meet in social hall
	Intra-vaganza Meditation class	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Friday, 8	Cardboard City	Setup begins at 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 10	No choir rehearsal	
	Activity Fair	After the service
Tuesday, 12	Intra-vaganza Meditation class	6:30–8:30 p.m.
	Social Action Committee	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, 14	Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
Friday, 15	Rummage Sale	8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Saturday, 16	Rummage Sale	8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
	Fowler Lake Cleanup by High schoolers	Afternoon
Sunday, 17	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.
	Commemorative Garden Dedication and work day	After the service
	Spaghetti lunch fundraiser	After the dedication
Tuesday, 19	Intra-vaganza Meditation class	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 24	No choir rehearsal	
Tuesday, 26	Intra-vaganza Meditation class	6:30–8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 31	Choir rehearsal	8:30 a.m.

* **Secular Organizations for Sobriety**, also known as Save Our Selves, is dedicated to providing a path to sobriety, an alternative to those paths depending upon supernatural or religious beliefs. SOS respects diversity, welcomes healthy skepticism, and encourages rational thinking as well as the expression of feelings.



Annual Meeting

LCUUC's annual meeting for our congregation will be held on **Sunday, June 7th** after the service. There will be a review of the year's highlights, our finances, and a look at the year ahead. You will have the opportunity to vote on three new board members, the church president, and a few changes in our bylaws. Please join us if you can!

On Board!

The Pathways Committee informed the board that our congregation has identified ministry as a priority. As you all know, our minister, Rev. Berez, will be leaving our area and will not be renewing her contract with LCUUC. The board has decided to move forward with plans to hire another half-time consulting minister to serve us next year. A Ministerial Search Task Force is being established to carry out this work.

The board approved Barb H's request to develop a community garden on the grounds of LCUUC. To begin with, it will be about 20 by 20 feet. The produce from this vegetable garden will go to local food pantries. Various community groups will be involved in this project.

On June 7th, we will have our annual meeting (see pg. 3 for more information).

Submitted by Lynne S

Chalice Lighters



Some people have an extra small chalice on their name tag. Ever wonder why? It means that person is a member of the District's Chalice Lighters' program, one that helps with the wish-lists of UU congregations in Wisconsin and nearby states. We "wished" for support in buying our beautiful church and received \$10,000! We have also received a grant to help fund our Director of Children's Education. Churches can get help with funding for hiring permanent ministers, teachers, remodeling, etc. Congregations submit requests to the program directors, and a recipient is chosen. Three times a year Chalice Lighters members then receive a "call letter" describing the needs of a selected recipient. They are asked to send a donation of from \$10.00 to \$50.00 (or beyond if you are able). When pooled together, great things happen for other UUs and ourselves. Just look by the bulletin board in the social hall for applications, which will explain details. You can fill out and mail it in to become a member. You can also speak to Robin R or Yvonne F for more information. If you are already a member and do not have a name tag sticker, let us know.

Wrapping up the RE Year

It has been another exciting year of Religious Education at LCUUC, and it will be winding down at the end of the month. "RE Sunday" is May 31st. At this service, we get a glimpse of what has been happening in the RE classrooms over the past year. It is also our chance to say thank you to all the people who make our RE program possible – those who volunteer their time to be with our children on Sunday morning, those who teach OWL, and those who help steer the program on the RE Committee. Our children have learned about our church community, our UU faith, and other religions, they've considered what's important to them, and explored some very deep moral and ethical questions. Along the way, they have made friends, had fun, and participated in service to our church and the wider community. I commend all the parents who have made it a priority to bring their children on Sunday mornings. With all the demands our society places on us, it can be hard to make the commitment to coming on Sundays, but I'm sure you can see the value in knowing that your children are in a community with people who care for them and who are open to their ideas and questions.

If you would like to be a part of our Religious Education program next year, please sign up at the Activity Fair (see pg. 8), and/or talk to me about it. We will need teachers for regular RE, as well as people who can help with special activities and projects. Together we will continue to offer a loving, caring place to raise our children in our Unitarian Universalist faith.

See page 6 for more about RE activities.

With warmth and peace,
Kerry Duma, Director of Religious Education

April 18, 2009

Dear LCUUC members,

According to Article IX of the By-laws of Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church, the nominating committee shall nominate at least one LCUUC member for each elected church position to be filled. Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least ten voting church members in writing to the nominating committee at least three weeks before the Annual Meeting of the congregation. Nominations may not be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

The 2008-2009 Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following LCUUC members for election at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation scheduled for June 7, 2009:

President: Chris P

Board of Trustees for a three-year term:

Kathie G

Greg S

Mike S

Nominating Committee for 2009-2010:

Eric L

Erich M

Kazuko S

Rob S

Christina W

Respectfully submitted:

The 2008-2009 Nominating Committee

Tim F, Kirsten J, Susan L, Joanne N, Karl T

May
**Happy Birthday
Wishes to:**

1 Jeff B	15 Jake K
4 Betsy F-C	15 Caroline S
7 Tom H	17 Ann L
8 Emma G	17 Dave J
8 Kristen S	18 Grace T
11 Zoey K	29 Janis T
11 Caitlin W	30 Gina M
14 Beth L	

(Please contact Kirsten J if your name is not included in the birthday congratulations.)



Looking Back / Looking Forward in RE and Social Action

RE Happenings

Fowler Lake Cleanup

Our high schoolers will be doing a Fowler Lake Cleanup (trash pickup with kayaks and canoes) on **Saturday, May 16th** in the afternoon, followed by a bonfire at the H's place. Contact Kerry D or Al H with questions.

Creation Art Con – Middle School Youth Con

Those of us at LCUUC can be proud of our middle schoolers. They hosted a Junior Youth Con on April 4th and 5th that focused on Art – Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Martial Arts. Twenty-six youth attended, along with four chaperones from other UU churches. Saturday was a beautiful day, and the kids led and enjoyed workshops on tie-dying, dance and movement, karate/tai chi/yoga, painting and clay. They made creative, colorful pizzas for dinner and had fun “frolicking in the field.” The evening finished up with an incredible talent show highlighting some very talented young people. At the Sunday morning worship, the feedback from the group was very positive – most describing the whole con as “awesome.” The kids made some great connections and want to get together again, which we will try to facilitate. The teachers did a great job of empowering our youth to take on leadership of the con. I want to recognize and thank the Middle School RE Teachers – Dave C, Anna F, and Angel T – for doing an outstanding job of organizing and leading this youth con, and also thank Tom V and Dawn J for their help with the Martial Arts workshop and for chaperoning; Theresa and Matt K for helping with the tie-dying; and Colleen K for helping in the kitchen. Great job everyone!

Success Easter Canned Good Hunt

Thank you to all who donated cans for our Easter Canned Good Hunt. In addition to having a lot of fun being outside on a beautiful day, the children found over 100 cans and all of the cans, along with four big bags of food, were donated to the Hartland Food Pantry (as well as a \$20 bill found by the children hunting for cans)!

Spaghetti lunch fundraiser: See pg. 8 for details.

Social Action Update

Cardboard City takes place on **Friday, May 8** (see also pg. 9). All church members are encouraged to join us as we raise awareness about homelessness in our communities and raise money for Hebron House. There will be a soup kitchen, group activities, and speakers. “Pursuit of Happiness” will be shown as the “Movie that Matters.” Stop in for the evening or come for the whole event. Volunteers still needed.

There will be no designated collection during church services in May. Instead, please make a contribution to the Cardboard City event for Hebron House.

Our last designated collection was on Justice Sunday in March, when our speaker provided an update on the Lost Boys of Sudan. Thanks to all who generously gave. We collected \$485 in support of providing education and clean water in Sudan.

The Board has voted to provide space for the Volunteers of Lake Country to have a community garden on the LCUUC property. The garden will be used to grow fresh produce for area food banks. This garden is the result of many community groups working together. The garden installation work day is **Sunday May 17th** at LCUUC.

Members can vote to become a Welcoming Congregation at the Annual Members Meeting. In addition, an amendment to the LCUUC by-laws will be voted on as well that will say we are a non-discrimination congregation. The participants from the Welcoming Congregation workshops will be having a “question and answer” table every Sunday in May after the service for anyone who would like to learn more before the members' vote.

Thank you to all for their generous contributions of money and food during the monthly food pantry collections. In April, donations totaling \$242 were given to the Hartland Food Pantry.

The next Social Action committee meeting is **Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome to join.

Page introducing new members has been removed from the web version of the newsletter for privacy reasons.

Announcements / Get Involved / Things to Do

2009 Activity Fair, May 3 and 10

Are you ready to try something new or love what you're already doing? Take a look at the many ways to get involved at LCUUC. It's a great way to meet new people, share your interest and talents, and help our church community thrive. People will be available to answer your questions. From money to music, kids to coffee, worship to welcoming, and everything in between...there's something for everyone. Join us after the service on **May 3 and 10** to find out more.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Join our spring LCUUC Adopt A Highway cleanup on **Sunday, May 3rd** after church/coffee. Meet in the social hall around noon. Our stretch of road is Highway E, from the intersection with K (northwest corner of LCUUC property) north to where E turns sharply to the west, takes about 1-1/2 hours total, and is a nice sociable walk in addition to doing something to help our environment. Per Waukesha County rules, children participating must be at least 11 years old or in 6th grade. Wear good walking shoes and gloves; we supply the bags, orange vests, and refreshments! Please contact Gerry F if you have any questions.

Commemorative Garden Dedication and Work Day

Join us immediately after the service on **May 17th**, outside by the flagpole, for a dedication of the memorial garden that will be established there. The garden will serve as a quiet area for reflection on life's joys and sorrows. (We are still deciding on the name to give this garden, and would like to hear suggestions!) After the dedication, stay for the spaghetti lunch and some afternoon work on the garden.

Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser for the High School Summer Camping Trip

On Sunday, **May 17th**, after the Commemorative Garden Dedication, members of the high school class will be serving a spaghetti lunch to help raise money for their summer trip to Sylvania Wilderness Area. We hope you can sit down and enjoy some food and fellowship.

This is also the day we'll be planting the Memorial Garden, so you won't have to worry about packing a lunch before heading out to help dig in the dirt!

Co-ed Softball with UUCW

Itching to pick up a bat again? 8th Principle, Unitarian Universalist Church West's co-ed softball team, is looking for players (women and men 2009 high school graduates or older) to fill out our roster. Our players range widely in age and skill but all enjoy the game. We play on Wednesday nights from May through mid-August at Wirth Park in Brookfield. For more information, contact the UUCW office..

Music Coordinators Sought

The Music Committee invites you to consider sharing your musical talents with LCUUC. We are looking for people who would be interested in volunteering as music coordinators next year. Music coordinators lead the hymns during the service and provide music for the prelude, offertory, and recessional. We work with the Worship Committee, the speakers, the choir director and the sound person to provide music that adds to the service. Please consider adding your musical "voice" to our Sunday services. Contact any member of the music committee if you are interested.

Meditation Musings

The **Spring Intra-vaganza**, led by Dr. Paul Norton, is in full swing. This eleven-week class began on April 7. Each session lasts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Refer to past newsletters for the full agenda.

The fee is \$15 for any individual week. If you want more information, call Joanne N.

To register, email milwmindful@hotmail.com or phone 414-962-8678. All proceeds go to the Mindfulness Community of Milwaukee and LCUUC.

Rummage and Plant Sale

Friday, May 15th (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and Saturday, May 16th (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Our 3rd LCUUC Rummage & Plant Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, at our church. It's time to start putting things aside to sell. Merchandise that sells well at rummage sales includes clothing for kids and young adults, furniture, lamps, decorative items, small electronics, kitchen items, toys, tools, sporting goods, antiques, infant items, books, bikes, games, and lawn and garden equipments. Items should be priced, and in clean condition – they will sell better that way.

Delivery of rummage items to the church can begin before/after church services on May 3rd and 10th. Place items along the back wall of the Fellowship Hall. You can also bring item to the church Monday May 11th and Wednesday May 13th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. or call Kaz S or Esther F to make other arrangements.

Plants of all types are welcome for the plant sale. Some examples are: perennials flowers, shrubs, prairie plants, vegetable plants, herbs, and young annuals. Plants may be individually potted or in flats. Larger perennials may be in double plastic grocery bags. Please identify with the common name and flower color (if applicable), and indicate if for sun, shade, or both. Also, as part of the plant sale, we can include items for the out-of-doors such as birdhouses, rain barrels, feeders, and whirligigs, for those of you who are handy at making such things. Get your creative juices flowing!

Deliver your plants to the church (Sunday May 10 through Friday May 15). Place them behind the garden shed.

We will need long tables for displaying items. Please put your name on the underside and place it in the first classroom.

We will need your help organizing, selling, and advertising this sale. There will be a signup sheet for helpers in the social hall. If you have any questions, please contact Rummage Chairpersons Kaz S, Esther F, or the plant chairperson, Gerry F.



One night in a box.

UU churches across the Central Midwest District are working together this year to relieve homelessness through a multi-state initiative called NO MORE TURNING AWAY (www.nomoreturningaway.org). LCUUC is taking part by sponsoring:

LCUUC Cardboard City—May 8

We're spending the night of May 8 sleeping on the LCUUC grounds in cardboard boxes. Why? To raise awareness about homelessness in our communities and raise money for Hebron House — a homeless shelter in Waukesha. There will be a soup kitchen, group activities, speakers, and a film on homelessness. The evening will end up with music around a bonfire.

We need your help. Pull up a box for the night, and camp with us — or provide some food, pledge money, a little companionship, or moral support. However you can help, *we need you*. So check out the cardboard box display in the social hall, or volunteer/pledge by contacting Kerry D or Terri F.

*No more turning away from the weak and the weary
No more turning away from the coldness inside
Just a world that we all must share
It's not enough just to stand and stare...
Is it only a dream that there'll be no more turning away?
— Pink Floyd*

Green Sanctuary

Ways to Reduce Water Consumption in Gardens and Landscaping

As part of last spring's Earth Day Environmental Audit and Surveys, the Green Sanctuary Committee received total of 108 "I want to learn more about this" responses to 41 questions on the surveys. Several members were interested in low-water gardening/plants. Here are some tips to keep your garden green and your water use down. It is definitely not an all-inclusive list.

Start with native plants. This one goes for both flowers and food; if the plants are used to growing in the local climate, they'll have adapted to the seasonal weather patterns and will be better suited for living on less water in the summer. As a bonus, native plants also contribute to biodiversity, since, unlike invasive species, they won't spread and choke out plants that have evolved to live there. Anyone who has ever seen Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.) knows what can happen when invasive species are left unchecked.

Use mulch when you can. Using mulch in a garden is roughly akin to using insulation in your home; it helps keep moisture in and excess heat out, creating more conditions more conducive to growth and allowing you to water less.

Resist the temptation to water when it's hot out. The hotter and windier it is, the more water you lose to evaporation. Watering early in the morning or late at night will help ensure that more of the water gets to the plants that need it.

Don't water when it's raining. By the same token, watering during a rainstorm is a pretty wasteful venture. And, while it seems like it'd go without saying, we've all seen the sprinklers going when it's raining, and shaken our heads. When possible, use a watering can, rather than a sprinkler. Water the root zone, not the leaves. Water for longer and less frequently to encourage hardy plants and deeper roots.

Wait for spring (or next fall) to put new plants in the ground. No matter how native or drought-resistant they are, all new plants require a little more water to get going, so waiting for a less water-intensive season to plant will help you save more water.

Try Xeriscaping. Xeriscaping and xerogardening refer to landscaping and gardening in ways that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental irrigation. For most of North America, over 50% of residential water used is applied to landscape and lawns. Xeriscaping can reduce landscape water use by 50-75%. Aside from occasional

pruning and weeding, maintenance is minimal. Watering requirements are low, and can be met with simple irrigation systems. Using plants native to your area will eliminate the need for chemical supplements. Sufficient nutrients are provided by healthy organic soil. A good Xeriscape can raise property values, which more than offsets the cost of installation. You can protect your landscaping investment by drought-



proofing it. Fossil fuel consumption from gas mowers is minimized or eliminated with minimal turf areas. Small turf areas can be maintained with a reel mower. Use of native plants, shrubs, and trees offer a familiar and varied habitat for local wildlife.

Buy or make a rainwater butt (barrel). Butts or barrels are usually placed underneath a downpipe so that they collect the rainwater as it runs off. This water can be used for watering your plants. Plants much prefer rainwater to tap water and will flourish given a regular supply. All the water a typical garden needs to stay green in summer can be collected from your house or garage roof in a single water butt.

Build a rain garden. Rain gardens are a way for homeowners as well as businesses to participate

Continued from the previous page.

in the reduction of polluted runoff, simply by planting a specialized garden. Rain gardens are an infiltration technique — water is captured in a garden that features native plantings, and the water has a chance to slowly filter into the ground rather than run off into the storm sewer. It is a popular way to reduce nonpoint source pollution, protect our lakes and streams, and use rain to water plants.

For more information:

1. Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin, by Linda M. Steiner
2. http://www.eartheasy.com/grow_xeriscape.htm
3. <http://www.doityourself.com/stry/guidetobutts>
4. <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/home.lonative.pdf>
5. <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/rg/>
6. <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/home.htm>

Submitted by Stacy M, Green Sanctuary Committee

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

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

Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church
P.O. Box 437
Hartland, WI 53029-0437
262-369-1703
www.lcuuc.org

News for Lake Country UUs

