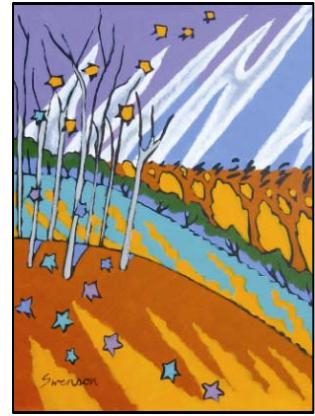


# Current Ripples

## December 2009



Flight of the Starbirds, Paula Swenson

### December HUUF Services

#### December 6: " Breaking Free: Spiritual Poetry in a Time of Tumult: 1850-1900"

English language poetry underwent a dramatic change as the US and the world faced the abolition of slavery, civil war, and rapidly advancing science and technology. Poets including Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Gerard Manley Hopkins spoke with new energy and rhythms about the spiritual constants and uncertainties of their tumultuous times. Diane Pittman will share with you some of the insights that her summer's travel and study have given her on some of her favorite poets and what they offer us in our own time of tumult. Diane Pittman is a family physician, bicycle mechanic, and poet who has lived in the Bemidji area for the past 24 years. She is a member of Peoples Church and proud to be a "Lunatarian".

Coordinator: Amy Rutten

#### December 13: "UU Perspectives"

Reverend Eric Northard will lead the service and share some of his UU insights. The Rev. Eric Northard, a UU minister, is also a Social Studies and Spanish teacher with the Grand Rapids, MN School District. Eric received a ministerial fellowship from the UUA and was ordained at the UU church in Utica, NY in 1993. He holds degrees in German, Spanish, and Social Studies education and a masters degree in Divinity from McComick Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a UU minister in 1993.

**December 20: "Drumming into Awareness"** While reading books on awareness, and also on drumming and music, percussionist Eric Sundeen became mindful of a similarity that exists between drumming and communication. Through drumming we can connect with each other on a heightened plane. Clarity and awareness are essential to get your point across while in a conversation or in a drum circle. In both cases we need to learn to quiet our mind and listen! Drumming can focus our minds, sharpen our senses, and definitely keeps us young at heart. Eric Sundeen is an adjunct professor of percussion at Bemidji State University, and also works with percussion students at Grand Rapids and Bemidji high schools. Eric is member of several bands, active as a freelance musician and a drum circle facilitator. Coordinator: Barb Houg

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### Services

Headwaters UU Fellowship  
 Sunday Services  
 10:00 am  
 522 America Avenue NW  
 Bemidji, MN

### Contact Us:

PO Box 1906  
 Bemidji, MN 56619  
[www.headwatersfellowship.org](http://www.headwatersfellowship.org)

### Snack Sign-Up

#### December

6th Nina Rudnick  
 13th ???  
 20th Carol Swenson  
 27th Marion Janikowski

#### January

3rd Candy Roberts  
 10th Bernadette M Paradis  
 17th Marlon Davidson  
 24th Ray Newman

**HUUF DATES**  
**December**

**Meetings  
At a Glance**

***Green Sanctuary Team  
Business Meeting***

Sunday, Dec. 6, 9:00 am

***Facility Committee  
Meeting***

Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:30 am

***Building Update  
Presentation***

Sunday, Dec. 13th, 11:30 am

Join us for an overview of the four remodel options for the HUUF building.

***New Member Supper***  
Thursday, Dec. 10, 5:00 pm

**RE Announcement**

*Due to the holidays, there will be no Religious Education classes for children on December 27th.*

*“Serenity” a green afghan crocheted by Neen Lillquist, displayed by the piano, is for sale for \$150. \$100 of this will be donated to the Building Fund.*

**December HUUF Services (Cont’d.)**

**December 27: "Sing, Sing, Sing"**

Come join us for an informal hour of listening to and singing your favorite Christmas carols, Solstice and Hanukkah songs and other favorites. Feel free to bring some songs to perform or share. This will be a multi-generational opportunity so there will be no childcare or Religious Education classes this day. Coordinator: Barb Houg

**HUUF Night at the Movies!**

***Friday, Dec. 18, 7:00 pm at HUUF***

A couple of suggestions for movies are “Freedom Writers” or "My People Are My Home" about Meriel LeSueur, Minnesota poet, feminist, environmentalist, and activist. Bring friends! Social hour begins at 6:30 pm. If you wish, please bring snacks and refreshments to share. Suggestions for films are always welcome. Contact Series Coordinator, Sue Nokleby, 751-3353 or snokleby@paulbunyan.net.

**Families: Weave a Tapestry of Faith**

In the Fall 2009 issue, *UU World* magazine launched a unique lifespan faith development resource to use at home. The new four-page insert in *UU World's* centerfold space draws from the stories, activities and faith development guidance in Tapestry of Faith curricula published by the Lifespan Faith Development staff group. Geared for the whole family, these pages offer inspiration and ideas to use at home—activities, reflections and stories for parents to share with children, elders to share with grandchildren, and UUs and seekers of all ages to explore.

In the Winter, 2009 Families pages, a story about Mahatma Gandhi’s quest for his own truth and a West African/Caribbean story about the spider, Anansi, remind us that as we follow our own faith paths, to seek out our six Unitarian Universalist Sources and harvest their wisdom.

Voting members of UUA member congregations receive complimentary subscriptions to *UU World* as a benefit of membership, paid by their congregations as part of congregational contributions to the UUA. Paid subscriptions to *UU World* are also available. To learn more about membership at HUUF feel free to contact membership chair Tricia Andrews.

*Membership Matters*  
*Membership/Welcoming Committee*

The role of this Committee is to ensure that visitors and new members are made welcome, to help build community and support within our Fellowship, and to reach out to the larger community. This means greeting folks on Sunday morning, initiating activities like Circle Suppers, book groups, game nights, camping weekends, and hosting community concerts – like the upcoming Sara Thomsen concert.

*New Member Supper*

**Thursday, December 10 at 5 pm.** New members – as well as those new to HUUF who are interested in membership are invited to a meal of homemade soup and breads and informal discussion about what it means to be a member of this fellowship. Please RSVP by contacting Tricia Andrews at 444-8936 or [tandrews@gslakesandpines.org](mailto:tandrews@gslakesandpines.org). Current members are welcome too!

HUUF extends a welcome to new member Jess Ostman and her daughter Aria!

The first **“Northern UU Summit”** took place Sunday, November 15 in Grand Rapids. This was a gathering of board presidents and a few others from Mesabi UU Church in Virginia, Grand Rapids UU Fellowship, Northwoods UU Fellowship of Pine River, as well as Luke Rutten, Sue Nokleby and myself from HUUF. This informal meeting was to give small congregations in northern Minnesota an opportunity to build connections and share resources. We are looking forward to holding another “summit” in the spring.

Among the intriguing ideas discussed at the Summit was holding a fall retreat, possibly at Prairie Star District’s north woods camp on Star Island in Cass Lake. While Camp Unistar offers weeklong programs throughout the summer, it may be possible for us to use the space at the end of their season. One of the resources offered was the video series “Awakening the Dreamer” recommended by the Grand Rapids UU Fellowship, at: [http://store.bioneers.org/product\\_p/2009-ws-a28.htm](http://store.bioneers.org/product_p/2009-ws-a28.htm).

*The purpose of the Awakening the Dreamer Symposium is to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on Earth.* The Grand Rapids group is willing to share this resource with us.



## Finance Update

**Neen Lillquist  
Treasurer**

### **Lights, Camera....Action!**

Anyone willing to represent HUUF at Lakeland Public TV-- we need volunteers to answer phones. I will be contacting Lakeland for possible dates and times. Participating is fun and good publicity for HUUF for only a couple hours of commitment. E-mail Sue for dates and times- [snokleby@paulbunyan.net](mailto:snokleby@paulbunyan.net)

### **HUUF Circle Dinner Hosts?**

We're looking for people to organize Circle Dinners, family game night, family movies, or other activities for the congregation. Contact Tricia Andrews at 444-8936.

## **HUUF End of Fiscal Year Financial Report**

Income other than pledges & basket \$5,344 (largest, \$3,810)  
Schoolcraft summer rental, concerts and art sales of Paula and Marlon/Don

Building purchase \$72,310

Building upgrades \$15,641 (many small items plus 8 windows, north wall moisture repair, basement partitions, carpet, paint, furniture, etc. If anyone would like the complete list request from [neen@paulbunyan.net](mailto:neen@paulbunyan.net)  
*Total \$87,951*

Checking and Savings (several upgrade payments were made): August 31, 2009 (\$9,600) & November 11, 2009 (\$2,600)

Building Fund: August 31, 2009 (\$27,725) & November 11, 2009 (\$2,8715), with ONLY 3% of Capital Campaign contributions received

History of Building Fund Receipts (and Pledge Units):

2004 \$3,750 (11)	2007 \$4,000 (15)
2005 \$4,275 (13)	2008 \$6,680 (17)
2006 \$2,875 (12)	2009 \$19,700 Capital Campaign (32)

Compiled and submitted by Neen Lillquist, Treasurer

## **Answer to Spiritual Question from last HUUF Announcement:**

*2,500 years ago a great spiritual leader described human enlightenment with the simile of a bird with two wings; the wing of wisdom that accurately sees what is there, and the wing of compassion that holds with love which is seen. He implied that a life with only the one wing of wisdom or the one wing of compassion will not fly well. This simple lesson in the form of an easily understood simile was a hallmark of his teaching method. This great teacher was: Buddha*

Tara Brach in her book "Radical Acceptance: Embracing your Life with the Heart of a Buddha" explains how clear-seeing (mindfulness) and compassion combine to provide a path out of difficult circumstances. Rumi, a 12<sup>th</sup> century spiritualist and prolific writer, contributes several thoughts to the "Wings" theme:

- ✚ You were born with wings. Why prefer to crawl through life? From "Wisdom for the Soul: Five Millennia of Prescriptions for Spiritual Healing", L. Chang.
- ✚ God turns you from one feeling to another and teaches by means of opposites, so that you will have two wings to fly, not one. From "Rumi Daylight: A Daybook of Spiritual Guidance", C.A. Helminski and K. Helminski.

## **Facilities Update**

### ***Building Addition Update***

On November 15th, the building addition update was presented at the congregational meeting. Amy developed a Power Point presentation that presented four options for the addition, current financial situation, and loan information. Sue and Neen helped with the presentation.

All options, which would be to the East of the building, included required upgrades to meet the building code (e.g., electrical wiring, heating improvements, and plumbing). Option #1 was for the basic entry, two handicapped accessible bathrooms, and a lift. Option #2 was option #1 plus two RE/office spaces to the east of the entry. Option # 3 (the whole enchilada, as Amy would say) would be option #1 plus a kitchen and social hall to the east of the building. In this option, the basement would be reworked to be mainly RE space and perhaps an office. In Option #4, the possibility of co-locating with KBXE was planned along with option #1. Amy structured the addition options so that if we were to start out with option #1, any of the other options could be added on at a later date.

In the current financial situation, about \$60,000 was pledged in the capital campaign. Some of the pledges were a set amount to be paid at one time. Many members and friends chose to pay their pledges over 1-5 years. Thirty-two individuals and families pledged to the capital campaign. As of November 15th, only 3% of the amount pledged for this fiscal year had actually paid. It was strongly suggested at the congregational meeting that people try to pay up this year's building pledges before the end of 2009 if possible. Currently, we have \$33,000 in the building fund, which includes the Prairie Star District Grant.

For the option #1 addition, we would need \$125,000. Obviously the cost for the addition would increase with the other options. As HUUF does not have that amount even with the capital campaign pledges, other funding options are being explored. Samples of possible commercial loans were presented. Since the presentation, some members have suggested other loan sources, which will be explored.

This presentation will be repeated on ***December 13th*** after services to those who were unable to attend the congregational meeting, and those with additional questions. We also plan to post the Power Point presentation on the website in the future.

Any feedback about the building addition, please contact Amy, Sue, or Neen.

The next facility committee meeting will be after services on ***December 6th***. Current issues besides the addition are improving the space by organizing and rearranging (mailbox, bookshelf, files, and printer), finalizing cleaning procedures, and producing an inventory list.

## Community Events

### Grassroots Energy Network Workgroups Dec. 1, 7:00 pm, First Lutheran Church

The mission of GREN is to mobilize our community to create energy solutions that are sustainable and affordable. A heated discussion was held at the first public meeting of GREN in November. This second meeting will form workgroups aligned with advocacy in addressing local environmental sustainability, social justice, and other issues related to our local energy usage. Workgroups will meet the first Tuesday of every month. Join this new force in advancing energy policy in our community!

### Public Forum Sustainability Commission for Bemidji Dec. 2, 7:00 pm, City Council Chamber

This second public forum will describe the structure of the Commission and focus on developing goals and projects in high priority areas related to making Bemidji a more sustainable community. Possible focus areas include: food, transportation, waste/recycling, light pollution, energy, and development.

### Concordia Language Villages BioHaus Tour Sunday, Dec. 6, 2:00-3:30 pm

Edwin Dehler-Setter, Concordia Language Villages, is offering a group tour of this unique example of environmental sustainability. To sign up for the tour, contact Diana at cdrdmk50@hotmail.com or 760-1557 by noon on Dec. 3.



*One thin September soon  
A floating continent disappears  
In midnight sun  
Vapors rise as  
Fever settles on an acid sea  
Neptune's bones dissolve  
Snow glides from the mountain  
Ice fathers floods for a season  
A hard rain comes quickly  
Then dirt is parched  
Kindling is placed in the forest  
For the lightning's celebration  
Unknown creatures  
Take their leave, unmourned  
Horsemen ready their stirrups  
Passion seeks heroes and friends  
The bell of the city  
On the hill is rung  
The shepherd cries  
The hour of choosing has arrived  
Here are your tools*

- Al Gore, "Our Choice", 2009



### HUUF Leadership Team

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<b>Caring</b>	Jules Rubey
<b>Communication</b>	
-Website	Carol Swenson
-Newsletter	Diana Kuklinski
<b>Facility</b>	Sue Nokleby
<b>Finance</b>	Dick Lueben
<b>Leadership</b>	Jane McKelvy
<b>Membership</b>	Tricia Andrews
<b>Religious Ed</b>	Susan Kedzie
<b>Social Justice</b>	Karen Kimbrough
<b>Worship</b>	Terry Anderson & Barb Houg
<b>Music Coordination</b>	Luke Rutten

### HUUF Board of Directors

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<b>President</b>	Luke Rutten
<b>Secretary</b>	Candy Roberts-Salter
<b>Treasurer</b>	Neen Lilquist
<b>Trustees:</b>	Roger Swenson, Darin Miller, Paul Kivi, Luke Rutten

# Happy Holidays