



In Touch

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita
founded in 1887

March 2010

Stewardship Campaign 2010: Let's Keep Making History!

Did you know that 1887 was the year that women in the U.S. finally received the legal right to own their own property? Prior to that date, anything owned by a woman automatically became her husband's when they married.

The year 1887 is also the year when a group of women—and men—decided to start the church that today is our First UU Church of Wichita. This year, with our annual stewardship campaign, we celebrate our church's long and proud history as a liberal religious community in Kansas.

Our calendar of events this year includes

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Is Your Pledge Current?

We are seven months into our fiscal year (58%) and have only received 49% of our projected income. Total Income is \$78,902.25, total expenses are \$82,952.54, resulting in a net loss of \$4,050.29. What does this mean to you? If you have not made a pledge payment lately, now is the time. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

From the President

We will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, March 28, to vote on recommended revisions to the church by-laws, and I encourage all voting members to attend. The meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. following the service, and a light lunch will be provided. I appreciate the help from the board and the bylaws task force in developing and refining the documentation that members will receive prior to this meeting.

Beyond that project, I've been in touch with various

(Continued on page 4)



Chamber Concert, Sunday, March 7, 3:00 pm

DOUBLE ACTION, the harp duo of Jane Hawkins and Faith O'Neal, will headline our Second Chamber Music Concert of our 13th season. These extraordinary women will both charm and blow you away with their harp playing. One piece on their portion of the program is *Parvis* by Belgium composer, Bernard Andres who, Jane Hawkins says, "Composes the coolest harp music in the world. He is the Bartok for all harpists."

The final group to perform will be THE MARKET STREET RECORDER CONSORT with members Emily Baldrige, Greg Golding, Dolores Granger, Cherlene Graves, Lisa Mueller and Carol Neighbor. Their piece entitled *A Bouquet of Inventions* by Andrew Charlton consists of recorder parts written to compliment four of J.S. Bach's *Two Part Inventions*. It is especially appropriate now due to the piece's Canada connection of being written for The Plumber's Union of Edmonton, Alberta.

Carol Neighbor

Reeb Sunday, February 28

Here's a question for members and friends who became acquainted with First UU during the last 5 years.

How many times have you walked past that interesting sculpture near the front entrance, the one with the two hands lifted up and wondered about it? Maybe you stopped long enough to read the plaque which noted that it was given in memory of the Rev. James Joseph Reeb on March 14, 1993. Maybe you noticed that it was donated by the Skillman family.

Or maybe you're a long time member, and the sculpture is just part of the scenery, something you take for granted and haven't thought about in years.

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In Touch

with The First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Wichita

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*The deadlines for In Touch and for the
monthly Calendar are the third Wednes-
day of each month. The next deadline is
Mar. 17 to be mailed Mar. 24. Please
submit items for this issue to:*

newsletter@firstuu.net

*or bring items to the church office.
Late submissions may be omitted.*

**Thanks to Karen Kimmel
for all her hard work in
putting on the lovely Val-
entine's Day dinner. In ad-
dition to providing a nice
time for all who attended,
the dinner netted \$305 for
the church.**

Minister's Musings

A Time to Weep

"Are you sitting down, David? I've got bad news" came the voice on the other end of the telephone line.

"Adrian, can we skip the clichés?" Sensing the worst, I pressed the phone to my ear. "What's up?"

Once more my friend directed me to gird myself for the news. But I am stubborn, so I was still standing when he blurted out that hours earlier on a country road south of Calcutta, India, our spiritual teacher had been killed instantly in a car wreck. My wife who was in the room watching some bloody version of *Macbeth* when the call came watched as I sank to my knees and listened as I confirmed that the call was no prank. Sobbing, I let drop the phone and pounded the floor with my fists. Because by nature I am poker-faced about painful emotions, and because calls from Adrian in Dallas generally concerned our mentor, my wife immediately intimated what had happened. That was eight years ago.

Tamal Krishna Goswami Maharaj was more than a friend, a preceptor, and an exemplar—he was in the fullest and most original sense of the word a mentor. As with the prototypical Mentor who appeared to the young Telemakhos in Homer's *Odyssey*, one could never be certain of his true identity—was he really the old man, wisest among humans, or was he the goddess Pallas Athena, cloaked in mortal form? Goswami Maharaj was that mysterious, that unfathomable in his complexity and skill. He could be, alternately, as sweet and soft as a rose, or as incinerating and heavy as a thunderbolt. He could walk through fire and not be burned. Whomsoever he loved became a fortunate soul. When he disappeared suddenly, thousands across the globe, from the Americas in the West, to India and China in the East, responded as intensely as my wife and I did, each in her or his own way. But in the years since, to my knowledge, Tamal Krishna has taken birth again in Columbus, Ohio; in Washington, DC; in Dallas, TX; in Houston, TX; and in Wichita, KS; in the form of a daughter to this couple here, in the form of a son to that couple there, each newborn named after the absent beloved who has been restored to the bereaved parents through the sacred act of naming.

The untried, young Telemakhos was dogged by foes—a houseful of hostile suitors in their prime bent on bedding down his mother, stealing his patrimony, and killing him. Without divine favor, he could never have prevailed against so many opponents. But Telemakhos had the love of Athena herself and was thus victorious. Similarly, we who endeavored to assist our mentor, Tamal Krishna, with his work in this world were likewise blessed to have had him as a friend and guide. By his friendship, we could and did surmount formidable opposition.

So how does one recover from such a loss? Through spiritual vision. Tamal Krishna is no more departed from this world than is the moon absent from the sky, even at noontide, or the sun absent from the heaven, even at the noon of night. Those whose two eyes shine with wisdom and love can

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Minister's Musings

(Continued from page 2)

see always. Love awakened, their vision is untrammelled by shadow.

The fine print eludes me now.
I realize
that soon
I must learn to see without eyes.

Teach me that.
What better study?
Even where one cannot,
your pupils see.

The goddess and god in you
outdistance night
and, by caritas divine, you
draw us from shadow to light.

Rev. David Carter

The "Bountiful Basket" Library Sale

Bound in to the Library during March to purchase a bundle of bargain books from the Bountiful Basket of Books just waiting for your reading enjoyment. In other words, this is our occasional clearance sale that we hold several times throughout the year.

See you in the library!

Del Smith and LaRilla Combs

Wanted: Someone to help Trina Wheeler put together a Parents' Night Out program for our church.

Leadership Council would like to add a Parents' Night Out to our program offerings. Trina has a background in child care and has offered to put together a program if she has help.

Contact her at 461-3173 or trinadub@yahoo.com

R. E. Corner

Attention Surprise Friends!!! If you picked a child as a surprise friend, please remember to surprise them throughout the month with notes, goodies, hints about you, etc...They are excited to hear from you. There is a basket in the 1st classroom in which you can leave things with their name on if they are not at church that day.

Please plan to attend church on the first Sunday in March with a small gift for your friend. We will reveal the names at that time and we encourage you to join your friend for 1st Sunday lunch.

Thank you for participating!

Keep the pennies coming for our Pennies for Peace (P4P) campaign.

Denise Jackson-Simon
Director of Religious Exploration

WayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSu

Inquirer's Class

The Membership Committee will hold an Inquirer's Class on Sunday March 7, after First Sunday Lunch. During this class for new and prospective members, we will talk about UU and First UU History and how to join the Church. If you want to find out more about our Church and to take part in this class, please call Anne Bailey at 650-4905 or Kat Allee in the Church office at 684-3481.

Congratulations!

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita will be recognized at the 2010 Prairie Star District Annual Conference for being a *Green Star congregation for 2010*. A Green Star congregation is recognized for numerical growth in membership in the last year. You are one of several congregations that had either a high percentage of growth in new members or a high absolute number of new members.

Stewardship Campaign *(Continued from page 1)*

- Saturday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.: Leadership Dinner
- Sunday, March 14, 12:30 p.m. (light lunch provided) and Wednesday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m.: Visiting steward training sessions (stewards must attend one of these sessions)
- Saturday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.: Stewardship Kick-off Dinner
- March 28–mid-April: Stewardship Visits and Campaign Pledges

In the weeks ahead we will offer more information about our church's long past and—with your input of time, talent, and treasure—our vibrant future.

Join us! Let's Keep Making History!

Annie Welsbacher

Members in Profile

ASHLEY ROBERTS, joined in 2009

Ashley Roberts and her grandmother, long-time Unitarian Universalist Anne Bailey, are the only members of their family who attend UU. Before joining last year, Ashley had visited various Christian churches with friends but really likes UU because it's a lot more "free form" than other churches.

What appeals to Ashley in particular is the first UU principle that promotes the inherent dignity and value of every human being. Ashley believes strongly that everyone is worth something, "even people who are rude and mean" – although she admits it's not always easy.

A senior at North West High School, Ashley particularly enjoys mathematics and would like to be a math teacher. She is president of the school anime club; members get together to watch films, learn Japanese, and fold origami. "I can fold an origami crane with my eyes closed," she says. Her favorite anime films are Hayao Miyazaki's *Pon-ya*, *Princess Mononoke*, and *Howl's Moving Castle*. She really wants to travel, and Japan is "definitely" one of the places she would like to visit.

A member of the UU Communications Committee, Ashley has just set up the church Facebook site. For special church events, the site is open for discussions, and the site welcomes Facebook members of all ages.

Vivien Minshull-Ford

by Karen Kimmel with much help from Maxine Wells and many other volunteers. It netted more than \$300 for our church. Thanks to all who contributed and attended.

As of this printing we are on the cusp of the February 28 James Reeb event honoring Sunflower Community Action. With virtually no effort on my part other than my enthusiastic support, Del Smith has shepherded this project from an idea into a much bigger event than, I suspect, any of us imagined when she proposed it last summer. I'm honored to be a part of it. Many thanks to Del and her task force, to Ermalee Skillman, whose donations and long history of service inspired much of this year's project, and to the many organizations and individuals beyond our church for the months of energy you have put into this outstanding multi-media event. I look forward to our reinstating the James Reeb Award, established by Minister Emerita Greta Crosby in 1987, as an annual activity—although this year's will be a very tough act to follow.

Most of my work this month has been under my other hat, as co-chair of the Financial Campaign Committee—largely in my favorite mode, as facilitator and delegator. We're putting together some great ideas around this year's theme—Let's Keep Making History!—and I know you'll have a blast at our Kickoff Dinner Saturday, March 27, so mark your calendars and watch your mailboxes for more information about this year's stewardship campaign.

I am pleased and repeatedly awed at how much gets done around here by so many volunteers. When one of us is called away unexpectedly, there is always another person available to step in. Thank you—and shine on!

Annie Welsbacher

From the President *(Continued from page 1)*

committee chairs and church volunteers. Debra Clements, personnel, managed the hiring of our new child care provider, Jena Delaney. Please welcome Jena, who will be here Wednesday nights during Rev. Carter's meditation classes and Sunday mornings for services. Other child-care needs can be met, but Jena must be given due notice—at least one to two weeks. Debra and Elaine Bulatkin, music, just hired our new pianist, Matt Ablan, who will play Sundays except the first, for which Kay Roskam will continue to play. Many thanks to Judy Naillon, who filled in on the piano (and violin) until a pianist could be hired. Trina Wheeler, Anne Bailey, and I communicate regularly on financial, operational, and building-related concerns. I am very pleased to note that we have a new chair for our worship committee: Suzanna Mathews, who is a relatively new member of First UU.

I work with Kathleen Allee on the weekly newsletter and other communication matters. My newest mantra: Tell Kat Everything! If you are working on any sort of event or church-related activity, even if you don't think it will affect anyone or anything else, tell Kat anyway. I've been surprised at the number of times that having her in the loop has smoothed out a potential wrinkle—or even helped me with what I'm doing—because Kat knew something I didn't, or needed to know something I did. So when in doubt, tell Kat.

I'm pleased at the success of our recent Valentine's Day event, managed

Reeb Sunday, February 28 *(Continued from page 1)*

Sunday, February 28, will be an opportunity to gain an appreciation of the Sculpture and the Rev. James Joseph Reeb. Reverend David Carter's service that morning will let us know more about Rev. Reeb and how his life can have impact on us today. At the reception at 12:30 pm that day, Sunflower Community Action will be recognized as the 2010 recipient of the James Joseph Reeb Memorial Award. Staff members of that organization have been invited to be our special guests at the reception and Executive Director Jason Selmon will be presented with a \$500.00 check.

The Reeb Award was last given in 2005. Sunflower is the fifth organization to receive the award, which is funded by interest from the Fund established by The Rev. Greta Crosby in 1987. James Reeb Memorial Fund donation envelopes are available at the church. The interest on this fund is intended to be awarded to an organization or organizations active in Wichita in addressing basic human needs including but not limited to: food, clothing housing, utilities, transportation, employment, education, health care, child care, reproductive freedom, and shelter from domestic violence. Donations from those in sympathy with its purpose will help us grow the fund so awards can be made annually. If you choose to donate by personal check, please make your check out to First Unitarian Universalist Church with Reeb Memorial Fund noted in the memo space.

Unbeknownst to us in Wichita the well-known Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, Long Island, NY, awarded Sunflower Community Action \$35,000 in 2009 to organize African-American, Latino and white Kansans in support of immigrant access to education, neighborhood redevelopment and fair lending practices. The Veatch Program supports efforts within the religious and spiritual mission of the Congregation served by outside organizations which act in accord with UU principles and values. The Veatch Program of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock is committed to building and sustaining a movement for social change. The program is a leader in progressive philanthropy and has been existence for 50 years.

Another highlight at the reception will be the dedication of the James Reeb Memorial Book Collection, a welcome addition to First UU's Library. The Memorial Collection was inspired by Ermalee Skillman's generous donation of books about the Civil Rights Movement.

Many hands have made this Sunday possible. The Reeb Award Group, which began its work last fall soliciting suggestions for recipients of the award, consists of Del Smith, chairperson, Elaine Bulatkin, Jenny Findling, Bianca Kamnitzer, and Charles Merrifield. Fern Van Gieson focused on the Memorial Library activities. Others who have provided valued support include Susan Hund-Milne, Public Relations; Jim Hammer, Aesthetics Committee; Maxine Wells, Reception; Anne Bailey, Bookplate and Certificate Designs; Marsha Diggs, Exhibit Support; Kat Allee, Office Support; and the Board of Trustees, support and encouragement.

Del Smith

Prairie Star District Annual Conference 2010 *Roots and Wings: Weaving Multigenerational Dreams*



**April 23-25, 2010
Davenport, Iowa**

This is a wonderful opportunity to be among hundreds of UUs in our Prairie Star District and get to know many of them. Hear tremendous speakers including Dr. Mark A. Hicks, PSD religious educators and other experts on multigenerational worship.

John McCutcheon, nationally known singer and hammered dulcimer player will give a concert for all ages on Saturday night, "An Evening with John McCutcheon", and will also lead a workshop for all ages (B-8: "Singing for Our Lives").

We have other great multigenerational workshops! We have the Mississippi River, the Figge Art Gallery, and many other local opportunities to enjoy!

March 16—Early registration deadline for conference for adults \$140, young adults \$80; thereafter adults \$160 and young adults \$100.

For more information about the conference—registration, accommodations, workshops and programs for children and youth—go to:

<http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2010/AnnualConference2010>

Every Month at First UU:

Full Moon Dances are open to both women and men. Join in the dance to connect with the earth's power, celebrate the elements, and discover your personal power. Sun, 3/28, 7:00 pm Information: Kathy Hull 267-3860.

New Moon Circle meets at the church. Intended to complement the Full Moon Dances, we offer this time to gather on the New Moon for study, meditation, and ritual exploration of earth-centered spiritual growth. Sun, 3/14 **Ostara**, 6:30 pm potluck. Information: Kathy Hull, 267-3860.

Eclectic Readers group meet the 3rd Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the church. Contact: Marsha Ebaugh, 683-4782

Book Discussion Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joe Brewer, 2531 N Roosevelt. You are welcome to attend whether or not you have read the book. Information: 686-8575

Ethical Eating Group meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30. Bring a vegan dish to share. Contact Dianne Waltner, dwaltner@sbcglobal.net, or 946-1115 for additional information.

Family Choir meets at 10 a.m. the 2nd Sunday to practice the song for that service. All ages welcome. Information: Denise Jackson-Simon, 644-2022

Monday Movie Night meets the Third Monday at 7 p.m. Critically acclaimed movies. Vivien Minshull-Ford, selects the films and leads the discussion after each showing. Series coordinator, Del Smith, 612-0826.

Membership Committee meets the 4th Sunday at 10:00 am.

Personnel Committee meets the 4th Sunday at 10:15 am in the library.

Dinners for Eight. Date varies. Contact Nancy Milner, 685-7682.

Music Committee meets the 1st Sunday during 1st Sunday Lunch.

Every Week at First UU:

Southwind Sangha Zen Buddhist Meditation meets at the church. Introductory session, 7 pm, first Wednesday. Also meets 8-9 am on Sundays, 7-8 pm on Wednesdays and 6-6:45 pm on Thursdays. Half day retreat on third Saturdays, 8 am to 12 noon. Information: <http://www.southwindsangha.org/>, or Kathryn Riley, 84-8819 or Del Smith 612-0826.

Tai Chi classes. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 per class. Dress comfortably. Information: David Larsen, 612-4726 or davidlarsen@sbcglobal.net

Adult RE meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the southwest corner R.E. room. Current topic: Questions of Value Corey Swertfager, 201-6921

Meditation and Book Discussion Tuesday, 6 p.m., Bob Feleppa, 304-9170

The Book Discussion Group will be reading *Defining the World - The Extraordinary Story of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary* by Henry Hitchings. For the 250th anniversary of Dr. Samuel Johnson's most famous achievement, Hitchings's charming philology-as-biography shows Johnson to be no mere compiler of words but, as he himself put it, "a writer of dictionaries." Join us at Joe Brewer's home on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30. You are welcome to attend whether you have ready the book or not.

Please join the **Eclectic Readers** for lively discussion and lunch on Friday, March 19 at the Church beginning at 11:30 A.M. We will talk about Amy Tan's book *Saving Fish From Drowning*. For April we will be reading *Charlatan* by Pope Brock. It is about the Goat Gland Doctor who operated for a time in Kansas.

March 15 Movie Night Pick:

The Assassination of Richard Nixon

Sean Penn is brilliant in this film, based on a true story. Sam Bicke, a failed tire salesman, is not the usual role associated with Sean Penn. He gives a tightly-coiled restrained performance as a character swept away by a system that he can't understand. It's a system which never allows the salesman to get a break, no matter how hard he tries. Penn is in almost every scene. The supporting cast is just as strong, with Don Cheadle as Sam's only friend, and Naomi Watts as his estranged wife. Some may recall the story behind the film. On February 22, 1974, a failed tire salesman named Samuel Byck attempted to hijack a commercial jet and force it to crash into the White House. Obviously he failed, as Richard Nixon was not assassinated. Critics have pointed out the debt to Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*, but that does not take away anything from this well-done, solidly acted and directed film. (2004, US-Mexican, directed by Niels Mueller)

We begin at 7 pm, with a short introduction to the movie. Discussion follows. Decaf coffee is provided. Bring snacks to share. Everyone is welcome. As always we try to choose critically acclaimed films which have not had long runs, if shown at all, in Wichita.

**Don't forget to check
out new and interesting items on our
bulletin board outside the
restrooms.**

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6p Buddhist Discussion Group	2 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi 7p Green Sanctuary Committee	3 7p Buddhist Meditation	4 6p Buddhist Meditation 7pm Financial Commitment Committee	5	6 6:30 Leadership Dinner
7 8a Buddhist Meditation 9:30a Adult RE 12:30p 1st Sun Lunch 3pm Chamber Concert	8 6p Buddhist Discussion Group 6:30p Meatless Monday	9 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	10 7p Buddhist Meditation 7:30p Book Discussion at Brewer's	11 6p Buddhist Meditation 7p Aesthetics Committee	12 7:30 pm Chanting	13
14 12:30 pm Visiting steward training	15 6p Buddhist Discussion Group 7p Movie Night	16 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	17 7p Buddhist Meditation 7p Board Meeting NEWSLETTER CAL- ENDAR DEADLINE	18 6p Buddhist Meditation 7pm NOW Meeting 7pm Worship Committee	19 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	20 8am Buddhist Silent Retreat 6pm Great American Meat-Out *free food*
21 Partner Church Sunday! 6:30 pm Romanian Dinner	22 6p Buddhist Discussion Group	23 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	24 9:30a Newsletter Mailing 7p Buddhist Meditation 7pm Visiting steward training	25 6p Buddhist Meditation	26	27 10a Caring Committee 6:30 pm Stewardship Kick-off Dinner
28 7pm Full Moon Dance 12:30 pm Special Congregational Meeting *lunch provided*	29 6p Buddhist Discussion Group	30 6p Meditation and Book Discussion 7p Tai Chi	31 7p Buddhist Meditation		29	30

First Unitarian Universalist Church
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See our website
at
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Sunday Programs at First UU

Every Sunday: 9:30a Adult Religious Exploration
11:00a Children's Religious Exploration
11:00a Worship Service

3/7 Larry Bennett
3/14 Rev. David Carter
3/21
3/28 Rev. David Carter

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Vision Statement

It is our vision:

To be a growing, inclusive, vital congregation that encourages shared values amidst differing beliefs and nurtures creative exploration of intellectual and spiritual paths.

To be a visible community leader that promotes human equity and compassion, and celebrates life through the arts.

Mission Statement

Our mission, consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles, is to provide a joyful, safe, healing environment where diversity is embraced. We will inspire and uplift the whole person through enriching programs and services for all ages, and serve the larger community through social action and active promotion of the arts.