



The News

Volume 29 Issue 1

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The mission of Blue Hills Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship is to be a multigenerational congregation, guided by the principles and liberal tradition of Unitarian-Universalism, that promotes an environment of acceptance, inspiration, and action in order to create a sense of greater community.

SEPTEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

Sunday September 6:

10:30 Soapbox Sunday, the final summer soapbox.

Sunday September 13:

9:15 Adult Discussion

Linda Thompson, Board member and Social Action Chair, will lead a discussion focusing on UUA, UUSC and BHUUF Social Action activities--past and future. She will encourage members to consider meaningful and manageable projects for our congregation. Group projects could strengthen our fellowship community. Everyone please participate! Your thoughts and ideas will be welcome as we plan for the active year ahead.

10:30 Ingathering Service--April Nielsen

Our Annual Ingathering featuring our first worship service of the season will be held on Sunday, September 13th. Bring along a rock you picked up this summer--on your travels or nearby your home. Our ingathering service will include an opportunity to add a rock to our rock alter and share a story of your summer travels.

Sunday September 20:

9:15 Adult Discussion

Bette Colville, PAC, discussing the new Free Care Clinic being established in Rice Lake to serve those with limited or no means to pay for medical care.

10:30 Service--Bob Hasman

Sunday September 27:

9:15 Adult Discussion--Bob Hasman

10:30 Service--April Nielsen

Beginning in October, a series of Teaching Company DVDs on the World's Great Religions will be presented on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the 9:15 discussion time slot. Each lecture is 30 minutes in length allowing plenty of time for discussion of what was presented. More details to follow.....

Notice: This edition of the newsletter is being sent out in hard copy to an expanded mailing list as a reminder that we have started a new program year. Next month we will go back to paper saver mode. Those of you who have provided us with an email address will receive notice of publication and a link to our website www.bluehillsuu.org where the newsletter may be viewed and downloaded. We will mail copies only to those in our directory without an email address and those who request a copy by US mail. We also keep a stack of extra copies of current and recent newsletters at the church for those who wish a hard copy and attend regularly enough to pick one up in person. If you wish to request a mailed copy, please contact us by phone or email to express your preference. Phone at Church - 715-234-6337. April Nielsen 715-7902243 april@chibardun.net, or Pat Shifferd 715-466-5867 shifferd@centurytel.net

Notes from April's Garden

This is my first monthly column since officially beginning my first year as Lay Leader. After 3 months of summer wanderings, I am looking forward to seeing everyone back at Blue Hills UU Fellowship. Spending time in community with all of you is one of the things I most value about our Fellowship. For our In-gathering on September 13th, please bring a rock or other object that symbolizes your summer travels to add to our rock alter. I am looking forward to hearing where you have been this summer. Did you travel, discover new places, new ideas? Did you revisit a favorite place? Did you spend time in a garden, visit farmer's markets, re-connect with family and friends?

One of my big adventures over the summer was spending one week in July attending MidWest Leadership School in Beloit, WI. For me, one of the best parts of the week was attending worship services twice a day. For some, 11 services in 7 days was a bit too much. I enjoyed the variety of creative ideas used by teams of individuals who had about 24 hours notice to prepare a worship service together with 5 to 6 people they did not know. This was the first year MWLS included a youth track so our services were all multi-generational and most included 2 to 3 youth on the planning/presenting team. We shared a wide variety of music, movement, and non-traditional themes in our worship. I hope to include some of these creative elements in our worship services at Blue Hills UU this year.

I saw Peter Mayer for the first time at the Prairie Star District annual conference in April and instantly became a fan. One of the many things I like about Peter Mayer's music is his comfort with using language from his Catholic upbringing and redefining these words to fit with his UU spirituality as it continues to develop. In his song "Holy Now" Mayer says he walks the world now with a reverent air and sees the dawning of a new day as a sacrament. I hope to use several of Peter Mayer's songs in my worship services this year.

A few months ago, a question from Bob Hasman started me thinking about children's stories I heard repeatedly and the messages conveyed by these stories. One of the stories I find stuck in my memory, though I do not consider it a favorite, is "The Little Red Hen." Here is a quick retelling – One morning the little red hen decides to bake a cake. She proceeds in the tale to try to recruit her house mates, the cat, the rat, and the mouse, to help her with the many tasks required to complete this project. But each time she asks for help, her inquiry "Who will go to the wood pile ..., milk the cow ..., gather the eggs, is met with "Not I" from the cat, the rat, and the mouse who are too absorbed in napping and preening to be of any help. So the little red hen has to go and do all of the work herself. When the cake is finally finished, the little red hen asks, "Now, who will help me eat the cake." The cat, the rat, and the mouse all say "I will." But the little red hen says, "No you won't, I'm going to eat it by myself."

As a child, the message I got from this story was that it was bad to be selfish and lazy like the cat, the rat, and the mouse. And those who chose to behave in that way were likely to miss out on good things in life like freshly baked cakes. Looking back at this story as an adult, I realize that I also do not wish to be like the little red hen. When I invest my time, energy, and creativity in producing something good and worthwhile, be it cake, a garden, or a worship service, I want to enjoy sharing it with others. I don't want my spirit of generosity to be discouraged by disappointments or unmet expectations. I sometimes struggle with how to keep a balance between doing my best work independently, asking for help when I need it, and adjusting my expectations if a planned project grows into something I feel unable to complete with the resources at my disposal.

I feel blessed at BHUUF to work with a team of enthusiastic individuals who are often quick to volunteer their help with a wide variety of tasks at hand. I am looking forward to seeing the results of our shared projects this year as we continue to recreate our beloved community.

-April Nielsen, Lay Leader

We need your Input

While the board and committees of our church are given the responsibility of making decisions about the various things that affect our community--building, program, budget, whatever--we are committed to our 5th Principle:

"The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."

So we will try very hard to keep you informed about up-coming discussions and decisions so that you have a chance to input your opinions if you wish. The newsletter, e-mail, announcements at services, posting of minutes and budgets--these are all ways you can expect to hear what is going on. And of course, board meetings are always open. The next one will follow the In-gathering on Sept. 13.

Along that line, at its meeting Sunday, August 23, the board decided to move ahead with the replacement of the roof. When the bids and financing are finalized, we'll let you know the details.

The committee chairs are always glad to have additional people participate in their work. The more the merrier, or, at least, the more democratic. So don't hesitate to contact anyone of the following with ideas, opinions, issues, wishes:

Cora Ayers - Membership

Dick Ayers & Jay Bergstrand - Buildings and Grounds

Linda Thompson - Social Action

Sondra Lewis & Mark Van Etten - Program and Worship

Cora Ayers & Pat Shifferd - Youth Religious Education

Judy Barisonzi - Fund Raising

and last, but certainly not least: Randy Mattison - finance & budget

Finally, do not hesitate to contact me with general concerns, questions, or ideas. I'm at shifferd@centurytel.net or 715-466-5867.

In the spirit of community, Pat Shifferd, Board Chair

HELP WANTED - VOLUNTEER TASKS

There are a lot of jobs to be done by volunteers to keep our church and its programs functioning at the level we have come to enjoy. Two small jobs in need of volunteers include monitoring the church telephone voicemail and either returning the calls or directing the messages to the committee chairs for response, and regularly checking the church post office box in Rice Lake and bringing the mail to the church.

If you can help out with one of these jobs, contact Randy Mattison.

2009-2010 GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

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If you cannot be there or do the tasks for the month, please call someone from another month and switch dates. Each family unit is asked to help out for a two week period.

Coffee Hour

Arrive before 9:15 gathering to make coffee and hot water for tea. Use large stainless steel pot for regular coffee. Use small coffee pot for decaffeinated coffee. Coffee will be in frig/freezer. Directions for making coffee are in the drawer. We have fair trade coffee available – look for where it is stored

Set out snacks supplied or bring your own. You do not have to prepare elaborate snacks. ***Please do not leave leftover snacks, milk, etc. in the kitchen or in the refrigerator. Take them home with you.***

Check supplies (coffee, sugar, creamer, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, etc) in kitchen and bathrooms, replenish if needed, and turn receipts over to treasurer for reimbursement.

Clean kitchen and sweep/vacuum lower hall after coffee hour. Wash towels, napkins, tablecloths, etc. as needed and return to the kitchen.

Take home the trash – we don't have trash pickup service at the church.

Greeters

At Blue Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship we strive to create a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for all who enter our doors. We want to invite more visitors from the community to discover our fellowship and to feel welcome to return.

Greeters are asked to arrive a little early on Sunday morning and be prepared to greet our guests at the door with a friendly smile and a handshake. Research indicates that a friendly physical touch will enhance a person's experience for the next hour. If you are also doing coffee the same morning, please arrive early enough so that you are prepared to greet visitors 15 minutes before service and/or adult discussion. Please refer guest to guest table where they can fill out information sheet so we can follow up with a note in the mail, help them to make a name tag and offer a visitor's packet that contains a newsletter and other information about our fellowship.

Please sit with guests during service and accompany them to coffee to introduce them to members or introduce them to and ask another member or board person to sit with guest. This is very important in the welcoming visitor process. Before you leave pick up worship area – put papers into recycling box and leave hymnals on chairs. Wipe out bathroom sinks if needed – check toilets, toilet paper, and wastebaskets in bathroom and clear if necessary.

GREETERS FOR 2009-2010

Date	Name
Sept 1-15	Ayers
Oct 1-15	Chick/Davidson
Nov 1-15	Apelqvist
Dec 1-15	Hasman
Jan 1-15	Ayres
Feb 1-15	Crane/Warnberg
Mar 1-15	Van Etten
Apr 1-15	Shifferd
May 1-15	Barisonzi
June 1-15	Erspamer/Mattison
July 1-15	Thompson
Aug 1-15	Bergstrand

Date	Name
Sept 16-31	Mayo
Oct 16-31	Cummings
Nov 16-30	Nedland, Geri
Dec 16-31	Foley
Jan 16-31	Stelzer
Feb 16-29	Ferber/Williams
Mar 16-31	Asp
Apr 16-30	Bergstrand
May 16-31	Rude
June 16-30	Atchley
July 16-31	Bergstrand
Aug 16-31	Berry

2009-2011 GREETERS & COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

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COFFEE FOR 2009-2010

Date Name
 Sept 1-15 Ayers
 Oct 1-15 Chick/Davidson
 Nov 1-15 Apelqvist
 Dec 1-15 Barry
 Jan 1-15 Ayres
 Feb 1-15 Crane/Warnbeeg
 Mar 1-15 Van Etten
 Apr 1-15 Rude
 May 1-15 Foley
 June 1-15 Erspamer/Mattison
 July 1-15 Asp
 Aug 1-15 Hasman

Date Name
 Sept. 16-30 Lewis
 Oct. 16-31 Cummings
 Nov 16-30 Nedland,Geri
 Dec 16-31 Thompson
 Jan 16-31 Shifferd
 Feb 16-29 Williams/Ferber
 Mar 16-31 Apelqvist
 Apr 16-30 Bergstrand
 May 16-30 Nedland/Gerri
 June 16-30 Barisonzi
 July 16-31 Mayo
 Aug 16-31 Stelzer



Youth Religious Education Schedule 2009- 2010

Religious education activities for young people are offered each Sunday, 9: 15-10: 15, in the lower level of the church. Parents are invited to participate in the lessons or to attend the adult forum, which takes place at the same time in the upper level. The curriculum has been planned to accord with the mission of Blue Hills Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship and to reflect the 7 Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Dates	Topics	Teacher
Sept.13-Oct. 25	Understanding the 7 Principles	Cora Ayers
Nov. 1-Dec. 6	Religions of the World	Linda Thompson
Dec.13-Jan.17	Holiday Celebrations around the World	Patricia Shifferd
Jan. 24-Feb. 28	Earth and Spirit: Earth-centered Religions	Bob Hasman
March -May	To be scheduled.	

For more information about youth religious education or to participate in planning or teaching, please contact Cora Ayers, Membership Chair, cdayers@chibardun.net

Harvest Fest

Have you been spending the summer in your garden getting close to the interdependent web of nature? Now are you wondering what to do with all that produce? Here's the answer! The fundraising committee is planning a "Harvest Fest" in October, with the goal of raising awareness of local, organic foods in the Rice Lake Community. Tentative date is October 17. We'll have a dinner and possibly items for sale as well as educational outreach materials. We need help planning, creating, organizing, publicizing, and cleaning up after this event, which will be our major fundraiser for the fall. Interested in participating? Please e-mail Judy Barisonzi (judith.barisonzi@uwc.edu) and we'll set up a brainstorming session.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE

If you haven't done so already, it's not too late to make your pledge of financial support for Blue Hills UU Fellowship for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Don't have a pen or pencil or pledge form? No problem. Just e-mail your pledge amount to the BHUU Treasurer, Randy Mattison: randmatt@charter.net

WOJB UNDERWRITING DRIVE

Our funding for the WOJB radio broadcast of "Morning Edition" show runs out in September. The way that we pay for this is to ask our members who are supporters of public radio to direct that support through the church as a pass-through contribution. That way, the radio station gets your continued support and the Fellowship gets program underwriting announcements during the popular "Morning Edition" program. In order to continue without disruption, we will need some more contributions by mid September.

If you can assist with this noble cause, make out a check payable to BHUU with the notation "WOJB" in the memo field, and either place it in the collection box on Sunday or send it to Randy Mattison.

ECO SILK SHOPPING BAGS, FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND TEA

A new supply of colorful Eco-Silk shopping bags is now on display in the Fellowship Hall and is available for purchase. They make great gifts!

Also, the stock of fair trade coffee and tea has been replenished. These items are of high quality and are purchased through the Equal Exchange co-operative, so we are assured that the third world farmers receive a fair price for their hard work while we enjoy their quality products. A portion of the price of each item goes to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

From the Editor:

Hello Everyone! Well, it's a new year at BHUU, with a lot of new beginnings. You've probably noticed that the newsletter is a bit, well, sparse. OK, it's a LOT sparse. We're using new software and I need to hunt down the right plugins to get the job done, so our newsletter will need to grow from humble beginnings. Don't worry though, I'm confident that we'll be able to use your graphics soon, most likely by next month.

I'm hoping that this newsletter will be a voice for us all, so feel free to send in submissions.

So our newsletter will be different, but it's my hope that it will grow into it's own unique character.

Your Editor,
Jamie Maloney

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**April Nielsen 715-7902243 april@chibardun.net
or Pat Shifferd 715-466-5867 shifferd@centurytel.net**



**P.O. Box 614
RICE LAKE WI 54868**

**MEETING AT 230 WEST MESSENGER
RICE LAKE, WISCONSIN**

WORSHIP GATHERING EVERY SUNDAY	10:30AM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SEPTEMBER-MAY	9:15AM
ADULT FORUM AND DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER-MAY	9:15AM

BLUE HILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Meeting at 230 West Messenger Street, Rice Lake, Wisconsin

Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 614, Rice Lake WI 54868**

Phone at church: 715 234 6337

For information: www.bluehillsuu.org

Lay Leader: **April Nielsen**

Chairperson: **Pat Shifferd**

Treasurer: **Randy Mattison**

Building and Grounds: **Dick Ayers & Jay Bergstrand**

Members and Stewardship: **Cora Ayres**

Social Action: **Linda Thompson**

Programs/Worship: **Mark Van Etten & Sondra Lewis**

Fundraising: **Judy Barisonzi**

Religious Education: **Cora Ayers & Pat Shifferd**