



Newsletter of the
Idaho Falls
Unitarian Universalist
Church



All Services
10:30 a.m.

Meeting Place
555 "E" Street

Address

P.O. Box 50376
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83405-0376
Web Site: www.idahofallsuu.org

Minister

Rev. Lyn Stangland Cameron

Office Administrator

Theresa Gerstner
522-8269 or by appointment
office @idahofallsuu.org

Religious Education &
Exploration Administrator

Diane Harding
709-4128 or by appointment
Rebuild4RChildren@gmail.com

Executive Board

President: Kristi Brower
Past President: Hank Boland
President Elect: Alan Jines
Treasurer: Kay Vahalik
Secretary: Karen Schaefer
Members-at-large:
Jeff Leuschen
Ronda Knudson

For more information,
leave a message at 522-8269
or contact us via e-mail at
minister@idahofallsuu.org



Sunday Services, 10:30 am



November 1
Celebrating UU Saints

This year we celebrate *All Saints Day* by learning about several important Unitarian Universalist *saints*. In keeping with the Mexican *Dia de Los Muertos* we will again create a beautiful altar for *los muertos* — a place to honor the dead. Please bring photographs or mementos to honor loved ones who have died. If you have questions call the office, 522-8269.

November 8
Our Deepest Longing

For most of us our “needs” are generally satisfied; we have enough to eat, clothes to keep us warm, and a place to call home, yet still we “long” for more. What might one of those haunting “longings” have to do with finding a religious home? We also celebrate MEMBERSHIP Sunday

All are invited after the service to remain for our Second Sunday Shared Meal Potluck.

November 15
Civil Disobedience

Idaho Falls’ legendary teacher, James Francis addresses the topic of, “Civil Disobedience” using the character of Huckleberry Finn from Mark Twain’s literary masterpiece.

November 22
A Humanist Thanks-Giving

Often Thanksgiving is heralded as a time for thanking “God” for the bounty of the Earth. Humanism offers yet another way of offering “gratitude” for the blessings of life.

UUCIF staffs the Idaho Falls Soup Kitchen

November 29
In This Age of Technology, Who Cares about Nuts and Bolts?

Our UUCIF Board, our Finance Committee, and Lyn raid the congregation’s financial “tool box” to share insights about the way our church works!

December 6
Appreciating Adversity

Though our first impulse may be to separate ourselves from the past, there may be reasons for re-visiting the trauma and experience of pain if one is able, not to re-live or to forget, but to gain gems of wisdom as a result.



Riverside Rev-flections

by Lyn Stangland Cameron



Minister's Hours

This is a general guideline. The nature of ministry means that I may be called away for meetings and pastoral visits and may not be in the office even during announced times. Please know that I can be reached by phone message or email and that I will respond as soon as possible. In event of an emergency you may call my home phone, 523-1531 or Richard Wilde of the Committee on Ministry who will nearly always know how to reach me.

Monday
no regular hours

Tuesday
by appointment

Wednesday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday
Writing

Saturday
by appointment

Sunday
10:30 – 2:00

The IFUUF Website is:
www.idahofallsuu.org/
Take a look and
checkout the links!

And Then I Returned to Idaho

Only a few days ago I was fascinated when an area called, "Moon Rock" at Sunrise Ranch Retreat Center reminded me of "Dog Town," one of my favorite areas high above the coast of Gloucester on Cape Ann. Though the path up the Colorado mountain side boasted a cattle guard and there were no ocean sounds or smells, there were some dwarfed and gnarled pine trees, lots of colorful lichen and even a few small granite-hollow-pools. I simply love that sense of geographic sensory confusion.

The MDD Ministers' retreat was intense. It was good to get away; to walk amidst the dried grasses and the fluffy seed pods up to the granite outcropping, to look off past the pines to the searing color of bright aspens, across the near mountainsides all rust and tan and brown toward the hazy blue distant peaks.

There is nothing so restful for my spirit as getting away from the world of manufactured stuff and into a place of reverie. When I can lift my eyes and see a meadow, a horizon, or a sky, I find my breath deepens and my muscles loosen. My spirits rise and the tensions and anxieties I might have felt only moments before seem less pressing in the embracing world of nature.

And then I returned to Idaho!! Less than one month ago, on October 4, we hosted our very special Celebration- the 20th anniversary of this building – this "Home of Our Own." The event was wonderful with several beloved former members and elders attending to share their memories and hopes and a most inspiring sermon by our own Mountain Desert District Executive, Rev. Nancy Bowen. In spite of the threatening weather, the sanctuary was filled. Our own Occasional Choir opened the service with Jeannie Donaldson's "Welcome Song" and D'Yanna Amrito, Kristi Brower, and Kara Burrows provided a musical closing blessing. Following the service, people were invited to stay for the warmth and hospitality of a generous and tasty brunch – also organized by Kara and Kristi and Ronda Knudson.

Everywhere people were invited to learn more about the story of this congregation and our relationship to this building. Tami Thatcher's careful and complete "History of the Building" document will become a permanent part of the packet of materials we share with new members.

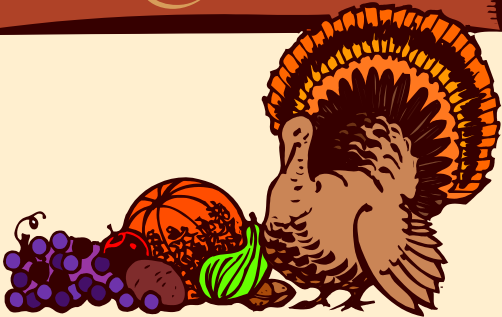
We were so blessed that Ruth Barnes Kunze had agreed to take on the task of creating "ambiance" for the occasion in addition to the herculean task of organizing and developing the history photo displays. Her artistic flare was reflected in the golden chalices that graced each table and the fanciful floral arrangements accenting our reception spaces. Ruth's work combining and highlighting the many photo albums and creating posters, with assistance and materials provided by Anne

"This is a place where people care about one another, and their world and where they are willing to step up and make things happen— right here in Idaho Falls . . ."

Riverside Reflections continues on page 4



Thanksgiving Feast



Share a Community Thanksgiving Feast Thursday Nov. 26

**Appetizers at 1:00 PM
Dinner at 2:00 PM**

*and then enjoy
an afternoon of
great food and
good company*

For the past three years folks have enjoyed sharing this holiday tradition right here at UUCIF. This year, once again we will host a Community meal on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26th. Rev. Lyn will roast the turkey and make potatoes and pies. Other guests bring appetizers, salads, side dishes and other desserts to share. We gather at 1:00 for canapés and plan to begin the meal at 2:00pm. Game- playing, conversation and extra nibbling are enjoyed into the afternoon. All ages are welcome. Please sign up on the sheets in the Willard social room and let us know if you can help set up in the morning, or help clean –up afterwards – remember “many hands make light work.” If you have questions or concerns, please call the office at 422-8269.

Riverside Reflections continued from page 2

Alexander, Donna Nelson and Lindsey Gerstner, was simply central to the depth and richness of the event. “Bravo!” To everyone who worked together in all the ways that were needed to make “Celebrating a Home of Our Own” the grand success it was! Thank you all!

And then there was the Annual Auction!! With barely three weeks intervening, “An Auction to Remember” on October 24, was another very important event in the life of this congregation! Many thanks to Annette Lovell who has become our very own quite clever and skilled “auction maven!” And thanks also to her creative trusty assistants, Elizabeth Preston and Kate Robertson. The kitchen crew headed by Hank Boland, with Marilyn Watts, Robin Hunt, Evelyn Huot, Michael Preston, Pam Lilburn (and Bert) also deserves a hearty “thank you.” The food was, as usual, a wonderful hit – almost as popular as Arthur Kull’s service at the bar, and Mick Ohman’s gilded tones at the mic.

Several of us also created a presence for the United Nations Day 2009, “350” Awareness campaign. As people all around the world found creative ways to participate in this event, we put up banners on the Broadway Bridge, chalked the pavement at the Farmer’s Market and library and handed out flyers and bookmarks requesting that people go to www.350.org to learn more about the necessity that humanity somehow reduce our carbon footprints to bring the atmospheric parts per million back to 350!! Go here to see what our own UUA member groups are doing: www.uua.org/socialjustice/calendar/151654.shtml

As I reflect back the month of October has been a rich one indeed. This is a place where people care about one another, and their world and where they are willing to step up and make things happen – right here in Idaho Falls our activity and devotion are creating a bright light that is illuminating our whole community!!

Blessed be. Lyn

Voluntary Simplicity Tip for November

Reduce the money spent on protein. Protein is the most expensive part of the food bill, and the average American consumes twice as much protein as she needs. Reduce your meat consumption by cooking stir-fries, casseroles and soup entrees twice as often.

TEEN COFFEEHOUSE

The teen coffeehouse will meet on Monday, November 16th at 7:00 pm



We hope to see all teens there.



Religious Education

Thank you for helping with the children this past month: Alan Jines, Elizabeth Cogliati, Adrian Ashworth, Annelies Kull, Katie Metz, Lala Chambers, John Liljenquist.

3rd Friday Family Fun Night November 20th. Join us downstairs at the church for food and fun, 5:00 (after work) till about 8pm.

Our annual Winter Pageant will be December 13, mark your calendar.

This month the Teton Class will be learning about darkness, light, sand, soil, and trees.

The Snake River room has begun a cool experiment with composting and will be investigating earthworms

If you would like more information concerning our program or Volunteer opportunities please contact Diane Harding 528-8779, Rebuild4RChildren@gmail.com

Actions of Immediate Witness How Will We Respond To These Important Issues?

At 2009 General Assembly of the UU Association in SLC, delegates voted to take actions of immediate witness in six areas. As part of this effort I, Karen, a delegate, am printing the resolutions out so each one of us can read them again and be inspired to take action for earth justice, and for social justice; for injustices being carried out in our name by our government in our country and outside our boundaries, or by other governments in foreign lands where humans have been calling out for relief, for recognition of the inhuman conditions, torture, or suppression of their civil rights. Our Social Justice Committee will be providing opportunities to become more informed on these issues, and is willing to unite our efforts to carry these concerns beyond our own congregation. We would love to have more people join us in our endeavors. Karen Schaefer

(Immediate Witness Continues on page 8)

Message from the Auction Chair

The 2009 Auction is over and luckily it was a great success. The church made over \$8,000.00 and it looked like all those that attended had a great time. It was a fun evening to dress up, get together and share some laughs.

I would again like to thank everyone who helped make the evening so memorable. First of all my creative team members, Elizabeth Preston and Kate Robertson. A special thanks to Karen Shropshire for her hard work and dedication working her magic on the computer. And a very sincere and heartfelt thank you to Hank Boland and her helpers, Marilyn Watts, Robin Hunt, Evelyn Huett, Pam & Burt Lilburn, and Michael Preston.

It takes many hands to pull off an event like the auction. Not just the helpers, but the donators and those that come and spend their hard earned money. Thank you, Thank you...

This is the first year we have had an autumn auction. It is usually held in the spring. I would be very interested in feedback letting us know how you liked or disliked the calendar change.

Until next year. Annette B Lovell 2009 Auction Chair

Message from the Board President

Dear UUCIF Members and Friends,

It is with gratitude that I write this message. Recently the Board wrote to all of you to explain the financial concerns our church is facing, and you answered loud and clear in support of our church. I am happy to report that the funds pledged in the last month have significantly reduced our financial shortfall. I am confident that as we finish this fiscal year we will come out on top. I am so proud to be a part of such a wonderful community!

I would also like to say a big thank you to Annette and all of those who assisted her in organizing our auction. It was a smash hit! Thank you to all who donated and attended, and provided child care as well. What a fun and supportive community we are!

On behalf of the board, Kristi Brower Board President

Social Justice Committee

The social justice committee has a new blog, http://uucifsocialjustice.wordpress.com.

What is the Social Justice committee? We identify areas of social injustice and ways in which we can help rectify those injustices. That may sound daunting, but our actions are all taken in the spirit of 'every little bit helps. Each individual action may seem tiny, but tiny actions can add up to big results.



Gathering Together

4th Sunday Forum *Energy Healing*

November 22nd

Long time UUCIF Yoga teacher, Sue Wilde, and student of alternative therapies, Tami Thatcher, team-up for this presentation on the topic of **Energy Healing**. Each woman brings her own wealth of life experience and her considerable research into this discussion. Questions call: 522-6910.

Soup Kitchen

There was another successful Sunday at the Soup kitchen. Seventy-eight people including fourteen children were served, which is an unusually large number of children. Thanks to the willing workers who were: Lloyd Pickett, Larissa Edwards, Catherine Nelson, Theresa and Doug Gerstner, Jazz, Lindsay, Pam, Michael, Alex Dawson, Robert, and Steve Watts. The next soup kitchen weekend is Nov. 21 and 22. We can always use help. We will need two days of effort of about eleven people each day: One on Saturday as usual and a second on Sunday. Marilyn Watts 523-0488

Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Group will meet at Evelyn Huots's home. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome and it begins at 5:30 pm, Friday, Nov. 13th.

Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Group will meet at on Friday, November 13 at 5:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Please come and bring a church friend who has not attended before. Call Richard Wilde at 522-6910 for location.

Benefit Dinner and Free Film Friday Nov. 6th, 6:00 pm

*Have a Great Meal, an Interesting Evening and
Donate to Help Someone Directly!*

Our local "Drinking Liberally" group and the Snake River Freedom Coalition have joined together and will be using our building on November 6 for a Spaghetti dinner benefit for our friend and fellow progressive Kym Lewis. This summer Lewis, who does not have health insurance, suffered a smashed elbow, and is scrambling to pay her surgery bills and medical costs. "DL" and the "SRFC" have teamed up and (with the cooking experience they have gained staffing the I. F. Soup kitchen on the 1st Sunday of the month!) they will be creating a terrific spaghetti dinner "benefit."

The company and conversation will be wonderful, the food terrific and we will all feel great having helped someone who needs our support. Suggested donations (\$10.00) for advance tickets help the team know how many to plan for. Tickets are available from Mary (marydem@gmail.com) Hollis Henry, hollishenry@gmail.com or from Rev. Lyn minister@idahofallsuu.org

New UU Workshop and Brunch Saturday Nov. 7th, 9:30 am -12:30 pm

If you are "new" to Unitarian Universalism, or new to this congregation, or if you are someone who simply wants to learn more about this church community, you're sure to enjoy the "New UU!" This Fall's "New UU Brunch" will be Saturday Nov. 7, 9:30 am until 12:30 pm *Coffee, tea, juice, fruit and light "brunch" foods are provided!*

The "New UU" is a quick introductory session designed to give folks a chance to meet one another, to get to know a bit about the history of our congregation here in Idaho Falls and a great way to find out more about the rich history of our Unitarian and Universalist heritage, what it means to be a UU and what is expected of members of this church community.

Please "sign-up" on the clip board in the Willard Room. Let us know immediately if you will need child care! If you want to learn more about this or other programs, please contact Rev. Lyn at 522-8269, or, minister@idahofallsuu.org, or President Kristi Brower at yoga_gurl30@msn.com.

Welcoming Congregation Workshop Wednesday, Nov. 18th

We learn about ourselves as we learn from the stories and experiences others share with us. When we gather on Thursday, Nov. 18th, we have an opportunity to listen to the stories of real people struggling with their experiences facing "the common elements of oppression." Whether you have attended before or not, all are welcome as we share our own understandings. Call 522-8269 if you have questions or concerns.

Around the Church, and the Community

Scrapbook Update

Our 20th Anniversary Celebration was a success, wasn't it? I've heard many comments and compliments about the scrapbook history. Thank you for your kindness. Donna Nelson had laid the groundwork for them at the 50 Year Anniversary. You might want to commend her, too.

Some people have told me about omissions or changes in the scrapbooks that I should make. I appreciate your remembrances and thoroughness. Please take time to look over our colorful history and let me know if you find other changes or inclusions I should make.

I noticed that we have nothing about the years we celebrated "Women's History Month" with discussions, plays, art shows, and weekend workshops. Imagine! not a single picture of something so important. If you can help me fill in this blank space, or any other blanks, I would be very grateful.

— Ruth Barnes (Kunze)



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

Pocatello UU Invites Us to Visit Their 10,000 Villages

This year's 10,000 Villages event is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009, 9 – 4 pm in conjunction with the Alternative Gift Market, in the church building. Last year's event was a great success, and this year will be even better with an even greater variety and quantity of merchandise.

Maybe it's Time for a New Congregational Banner—Would You Like to Help?

For many years when our UU congregations gather for district or UUA national events, churches have been invited to “bring their banners” — indeed those of us who helped with last summer's General Assembly in Salt Lake were privileged to witness the vast array of designs and images that our sister UU congregations have designed to represent themselves. Some UU communities have crisp professional-looking silk-screened-on-nylon banners, some have hand-made lovingly pieced, delicate appliqué's and quilted works of art. Some banners display simple graphics others are more complex laden with symbols and representations of nature or community.

Long ago the GA Planners came up with guidelines for banners and most church banners conform as to size and construction (providing a pocket for the poles with two panels displaying the name of the congregation) allowing them to be carried in the annual GA banner parade and displayed there and at other events. Their color and design a witness to the incredible diversity among the congregations that make up our movement. Our banner — formerly displayed behind the pulpit and now hanging on the side wall of our sanctuary, is an elegant reminder of our location here west of the Tetons in the beautiful Snake River Plain. But our banner is only one-sided and its velvets and brocades make it extremely heavy. So perhaps it is time that we consider the merits of designing and making a new banner!

If you would like to begin design discussions about “creating” a new banner for this congregation please plan to meet following the Second Sunday Shared Meal on November 8. We will begin brainstorming and considering what we might want in a “new” UUCIF banner. Perhaps by General Assembly 2010 in Minneapolis our congregation will be represented by yet another beautiful banner — designed to tell about who we are now! Now is a good time to start thinking—anyone can see UU banners from all over the country by going to www.uua.org and entering “banner parade” in the search box!



Support Bolivian UUs Struggling for Justice and Human Rights—2009 Action of Immediate Witness

BECAUSE Bolivian Olga Flores Bedregal, who helped found a UU [Unitarian Universalist] congregation in La Paz, had a brother, Carlos Flores Bedregal, who disappeared at the hands of the military dictatorship in 1980; and

BECAUSE for the past 29 years Olga has petitioned the government for information on her brother's whereabouts and protested this human rights violation to all three branches of the Bolivian government: the administrative, the legislative, and the judicial, exhausting all of her legal remedies with them to no effect; and

BECAUSE in 2006, Olga successfully won a case before the Organization of American States' Human Rights Commission, calling upon the Bolivian government to redress this violation, which the government continued to ignore; and

BECAUSE Olga undertook a hunger strike on April 26, 2009, which lasted for over 30 days; and

BECAUSE Olga had attended the International Convocation of UU Women [ICUW] in Houston in February 2009 and met many women from around the world who became inspired to write letters to the Bolivian government, international tribunals, and news agencies begging that the Bolivian Government accede to Olga's request for redress and to end her dangerous protest; and

BECAUSE this UU woman's brave campaign caused the Bolivian Legislature to pass a Resolution in early June 2009 that called for military archives to be opened; and

BECAUSE, although Olga found this victory to be incomplete, counsel from UUs in the ICUW online community around the world, who promised to stand in solidarity with her, finally caused Olga to end her hunger strike on June 12, 2009; and

BECAUSE Olga is no longer isolated and her cause is now moving toward a positive resolution in her journey toward justice and human rights; and a Resolution is not binding, nor guarantees answers or justice—it must be reinforced; and unless UUs increase our support through action, the Bolivian government—a fragile democracy—may bow to the wishes of a recalcitrant military and allow the Resolution to die; and Bolivian law, specifically the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons Act, and Law No. 2640, which requires compensation to victims of political violence during the military regimes, could be ignored; and information, return of remains, and justice could still be denied to Olga and her compatriots; and

WHEREAS opportunity exists because the indigenous President Evo Morales values his good standing in the world court of public opinion; and

WHEREAS momentum now exists that reinforces our faith that collectively we can move towards justice, using this case as an exemplar of past and continuing disappearances and abuses; and

WHEREAS our values and beliefs in truth, justice, dignity, and human worth demand our attention and immediate action,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that those in attendance at this General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association write to the Bolivian Ambassador to the United States (Ambassador Gustavo Guzman Saldana, Bolivian Embassy, 3014 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20008; phone: (202) 232-4827 / 28; fax: (202) 232-8017; email: Embajada de Bolivia website) urging the Bolivian government, pursuant to its Resolution, and the InterAmerican Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons Act and Law No. 2640 to structure a Truth Commission to investigate, clarify, and adjudicate all suspected human rights violations.



Idaho Falls Unitarian Universalist Church
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