



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

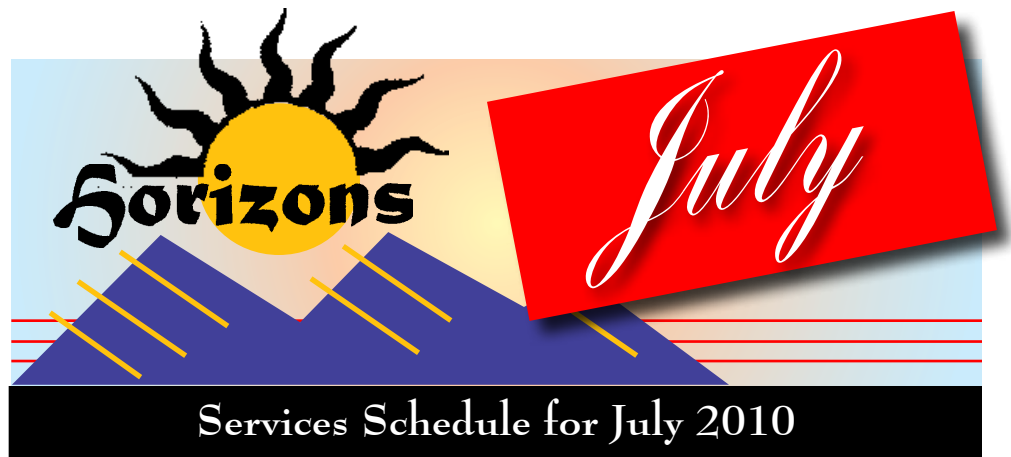
Religious Education &
Exploration Administrator

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

Executive Board

President: Alan Jines
Past President: Kristi Brower
President Elect: Debu Majumdar
Secretary: Robin Hunt
Treasurer: John Lym
Members-at-large:
Jeff Leuschen
Ron Allen

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



Sunday Services 10:30 am



July 4
Church and State

We say we practice the "Separation of Church and State" and yet there are those who believe that all religion is by its very nature political or maybe it's just that politics is really a kind of religion? A thoughtful topic for Sunday, July 4, 2010!

July 11
Evolutionary Spirituality

How does contemplating the cosmos really make a difference in our daily lives? Anne Timpany will discuss how an evolutionary perspective of the universe may offer a sense of purpose for our lives as well as a foundation of hope in troubled times.

July 18
The Evolution of Consciousness, an Inside Story

Richard Wilde will briefly review some models of consciousness evolution with emphasis on more recent views. He will attempt to interpret some current events in relation to our evolving structures of thought with a look at what the future might hold in store for the human race depending on which fork in the evolutionary road humankind may follow.

Forum discussion at noon, co-chaired by Richard Wilde and Anne Timpany on the homily topics of July 11th and July 18th, on evolutionary spirituality and evolution of consciousness.

July 25
Come one, come all and don't be nervous! Feel free to share a poem during our annual poetry service. The topic doesn't matter, it's your call. The poem need not be yours, just have a ball!

August 1
The Transformational Power of Music

Three members of our UU community will share how music affects them and their a short piece of their favorite music. Lay led by Molly Brinkerhoff and Ryan Terry.



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
by appointment

Thursday
by appointment

Friday
Writing

Saturday
by appointment

Sunday
by appointment

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

A Very Lively and *Living* Church Community

On Children's Sunday someone wondered if we might have "rented" those fabulous children and young people. They **were** wonderful – the dramatic reading was nicely done and their songs were on tune and sprightly and they were so attentive! We are indeed fortunate to be a great example of a "Living Church" –sometimes things get a little hectic but we are "living" in every sense of the word. A while back a colleague, *Rev. Steve Crump* wrote this:

*Living churches have problems;
dying churches don't.*

*Living churches make lots of noise;
dying churches are peaceful as tombs.*

*Living churches often outspend their income;
dying churches would not dream of
giving or spending more than they did
ten years ago.*

*Living churches look to the future for new
ways to serve.
Dying churches look to the past for old
ways to be secure.*

*Living churches are full of unfamiliar faces;
in dying churches everyone has known
everyone for years.*

*Living churches say, "We'll find a way;"
dying churches say, "We can't do that."*

*Living churches talk about money, life, death,
love, birth, anger and the weather;
dying churches talk about the weather.*

I think this is a great reminder that some of the best things are simply not tidy or easy or easy to label or find a place to put.

I am just days from leaving for this year's General Assembly in Minneapolis. Last year with GA in Salt Lake, many people from this congregation were able to attend and under the artistic guidance of our former member-artist Jennifer Rusky, did beautiful work to create "ambiance" for the Salt Palace. It was quite a time – all that painting and potting and shlepping things. And it was wonderful to share that adventure with so many beloved UUCIF people. This year things are different. I will be the only delegate from Idaho Falls! Oh, I will have a grand time. There is no place like GA for meeting old friends and for making new ones. But, it will be different too – I will feel again the full responsibility to bring home some of the creativity, commitment and enthusiasm that characterizes every GA. And this year we have some serious topics to address.

This past fall our Social Justice chair addressed the topic of "Ethical Eating" which will be explored again this year at GA. We will also be considering what becoming a "peace" community might entail. And then there will be lots of discussion about how we UU's might best address our concern that Arizona's law will again target and punish people for their ethnicity, and will abuse the poor and the disenfranchised without solving the real problems of immigration and crime and drugs.

There will be reunions with my old pals from the Ministry for Earth and with people from my several "old home" congregations, and with colleagues from seminary. There will be new curricula, new books and new music. I will return exhausted and filled to the brim with ideas and buried under resources. But by August I will be ready to be back with you in all our liveliness again.

Riverside Reflections continues on page 6

— sometimes things get
a little hectic but we are
"living" in every sense of
the word.



from the President

President's Report

The Spring Auction was a resounding success again this year. Under the capable leadership of Rae Eddy, the team pulled off another fun and successful fundraiser. Annette Lovell played the role of #1 assistant in planning and organizing the auction. These two made the action and donation lists and slips. When the anticipated auctioneer did not show up, Annette jumped in and did a dynamite job actually conducting the action! Annette was ably assisted by, Elizabeth Preston, whose coconuts, by the way, set an appropriate and festive tone for the entire evening. Lyn Cameron painted the island backdrop, while Tom and Rae Eddy constructed the Thatched Roof. Sue Wilde prepared the poster. Thanks for setting the atmosphere, no matter the location. Tending bar, we had Bob Preston and Kendal Lovell mixing magical wallet loosening potions. Annette made the tropical drink. Tom purchased the wine, beer and pop. Thanks. The all important food preparation, service, and clean-up was expertly handled by, Elizabeth Preston, Rae Eddy, Evelyn Huott, Sue Wilde, Marilyn Watts and Michael Preston. Katie Metz took on the difficult and stressful job of tracking the bidders and taking in the donations. Excellent work, Katie.

Most important to the success were the many kind donors and bidders that made the auction fun and profitable. A total of \$13,000 was raised at an expense of only a few hundred dollars. Amazing. My hat is off to all involved. Thank you.

The UUCIF softball team is having a blast playing 1 hour games each week. The team named itself the "Ripleys", is complete with uniforms, and is thriving under the leadership of Past President Kristi Brower. The games are fun to watch - if you have not been out to cheer, you should give it a try. The schedule for July is as follows:

- Thurs, July 1- 8 pm Ammon Quad #3- vs Sandcreek
- Wed July 7- 8 pm- Ammon Quad #1- vs IF 32nd
- Thurs July 15- 7 pm- Idaho Falls Stake (1st Street) #1- vs IF 32nd
- Thurs July 22- 8 pm- Idaho Falls Stake #2- vs Woodruff 2nd
- Thurs July 29- 8 pm- Ammon Quad # 2- vs Presbyterians
- The Ammon Quad is 1 mile east of Sand Creek Golf Course.

And finally, the Summer Day Hike Series continues each Saturday through August. You can find the latest information on hikes on the bulletin board in the Willard Room, or by looking at the events tab on the UUCIF Outdoor Activities Facebook Page. Try this link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Idaho-Falls-ID/Unitarian-Universalist-Church-in-Idaho-Falls-Outdoor-Activity-Event-Page/301529784171?v=wall>

I wish you all the best during our wonderful, though often short, Idaho Falls summer!
Alan Jines, President

Musical Evenings at Freeman Park Bandshell

On Thursday evenings this summer the volunteer band from Eastern Idaho Technical College will be playing music at 7:00 pm. Our own Sue Wilde and Bob Schaefer are members who have faithfully been preparing for the evenings. Come at 6:00 pm for a potluck UU picnic beforehand and stay to listen. Bring a chair to relax in, and wear a hat to keep out the rays from the setting sun, and maybe wear some bug repellent in case the wind stops blowing. They play even when rain showers are predicted. It sounds great. Talk to Karen or Richard who have been loyal listeners.

Humanist Meeting

The Humanist meeting is the 3rd Tuesday, the 20th of July in the Jefferson room. Four people will present The Baloney Detection Kit from Carl Sagan's book *The Demon-Haunted World, Science as a Candle in the Dark*. A group discussion will follow.

Simplicity Tip

The catastrophic oil well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico has led to 11 human deaths, countless deaths of marine life, destruction of critical estuaries, and the ruination of many economies that depend on this ecosystem.. Before you get in the car, think about this catastrophe, and consider these ways to reduce gasoline usage: 1) walk when possible, 2) maintain your car, 3) combine several trips in one, 4) carpool, 5) practice steady, moderate acceleration, 6) coast to a stop, 7) turn off the car, if stopped for more than two minutes, 8) roll down the windows, if going less than 35 mph and use the air conditioning with windows up, if going more than 35 mph.

Lala Chambers
Intermountain West Citizens for Sustainability
<http://citizensforsustainability.wordpress.com/>



Around the Church, the Community, and the World

Soup Kitchen

(Note from Editor- Mistakenly last month, I put an old soup kitchen report instead of the May report. So here is May's report since the June report "computer" is not working. Karen)

Sat. and Sun. saw a large crowd at the soup kitchen as 97 were served on Sat. and 90 on Sun. The new cook, Bob Murray did very well on Sun. and a gourmet meal was served. More than one guest said they had never had such a good meal. He served a scrumptious tomato-basil soup and ran out, so he opened cans of Campbell's tomato soup, added half and half and basil and had a very tasty soup. He is a good cook. Thanks to all the helpers, Heidi, Bill, Alex, Vic, Michael, Kay, Theresa, Steve, Joe, Marian, Catherine, Pam, Jim and Tami. The next soup kitchen is July 17 and 19. We can always use help. We will need two days of effort of about eleven people each day: One on Saturday, and a second on Sunday. Please call, Marilyn Watts 523-0488.

Social Justice Committee News

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. Contact Elizabeth Cogliati to help out.

Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Group will meet Friday, July 9th, 5:30 pm at Tami Thatcher's home. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.

Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Group will meet on Friday, July 9th, at 5:30 pm at Debu Majumdar's home, 1749 Delmar Drive, Idaho Falls, 524-2491 Refreshments will be provided. Please come and bring a church friend who has not attended before. For more information, call Richard Wilde at 522-6910.

Standing on the Side of Love

The United Nations is our best hope for defining and defending Human Rights. There are many programs and offices around the world helping to relieve the suffering of mankind. We have a Unitarian-Universalist United Nations Office at the United Nations N.Y. City headquarters that I proudly support and that our UUCIF supports with an annual donation. You individually also may do so by donating money to this very worthwhile effort. The UNO with Bruce Knotts at the lead, is involved at the committee level helping to hone out policy and conventions, and designing forums promoting and affirming these universal rights to all the governments and peoples of the world. It is a never ending job, but with much reward, as diverse people learn they can live in harmony and PEACE with equal opportunity for all.

In reality, each one of us is a member of the United Nations and an important voice, a human voice, affirming as often as needed these principles to those who have power so that we all may live a more joyful and satisfied life.

Recently, Rep. Mike Simpson voted NO to repealing, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." An e-mail came from the Human Rights Campaign asking us to write Rep. Simpson letting him know we are paying attention to his votes that ignore and prohibit the right of equal opportunity for members of the LGBT community.

Review of 23 other modern nations' armed forces show they do not have this law and they find that their armed service members work well together. These include Canada, Australia, France, Austria, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Ireland and the United Kingdom. On Sundays, I wear the, "Standing on the Side of Love" button at church. This week I decided to "speak out" to Rep. Simpson by adding my two cents on a form letter provided by the Human Rights Campaign. I thought I'd write about this hoping that you too will let him and our other members of Congress know this is an important issue, one not to be ignored.

I wrote:

Israel and other "modern" nations recognize that patriotic citizens come from people who cherish life and love others enough to contribute to upholding democracy for all individuals despite who they love the most. Live and let live. Love and let love live. Change your vote in support of Standing on the Side of Love, for the betterment of our armed forces and our nation.

Karen Schaefer, Envoy, UU-UNO.

Religious Education

Thank you for an excellent performance in the Sunday Service. The singing was beautiful. Our skit actors did a fabulous job: Alexis, Nicki, JoHanna, Shoni, Jessica, Jessani, Tiffany, and Alex.

We have a fun summer ahead with gardening and art, hiking and camping. Hope to see all of you often.

A special thank you for all of the cool RE supplies from Kathrine Nelson, Kate Robertson, Elizabeth Preston, Katie Metz, the late Shirley Stibal, Hank Bolland, Tom and Rae Eddy, and Lala Chambers.

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

Last year was an extremely messy “Living Church” year -we ended the summer already engaged in preparations for the celebration of our twentieth year in this building. And we continued to leapfrog from High Point to High Point all year long. We held a moving “ Day of the Dead” and our autumn auction and springtime auction were both fabulous. the RE folks created a sanctuary filled with holiday booths, several of us with help from Marsha Nipper and Sandra Brow put together the second of the “Winter Festivals” for the Museum of Idaho. Katie Metz and Lala Chambers organized a wonderful murder mystery dinner and we held our first ever “Chocolate” auction—and so many other things! Alan Jines organized ski adventures in the winter and this spring people have been leading hikes around the area. When we faced a budget shortfall our board members got involved and reached out to our members and friends.

Our music program has just blossomed as we have enjoyed more “special music” with D’Yanna and Kristi Brower, Kara Burrows, Lessie Brown, and Susanna Terry as well as all the good folks who created our Easter Choir extravaganza. Our Worship Associates have contributed moving and richly challenging services and have reached out to bring new people on board. Last September Molly Brinkerhoff put together a commemoration of the International Day of Peace and all winter I have smiled to see the peace flags flapping their hope-filled messages in the Idaho breezes.

Elizabeth Cogliati and others have been dogged and dedicated; helping us all to become more active in working for social justice – here at home and in the world at large and her bulletin boards and her blogs keep us up to date. Some folks have begun to meet here once a month as a UU Humanist group. “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” has evolved into “Women’s Spirit” and a new Spiritual Book Discussion group has formed.

When Marilyn Watts’ dreamed of having the Idaho Falls Soup kitchen open seven days a week, there were a few who could not see how our church could possibly do a whole weekend every month. But feed people we have done – thanks to all the faithful soup kitchen workers! Every third weekend, no matter the weather a UU staff cooks and serves and cleans up!!

So when this comparison of a “Living Church” with a “Dying Church” crossed my desk again – I thought of us and rejoiced to see that we are indeed a very lively and Living Church Community. Let us enjoy our summertime and come back together in September ready to continue to enjoy “life” together in this church community. Blessings and Shalom. Lyn



Idaho Falls Unitarian Universalist Church
P.O. Box 50376
Idaho Falls, ID 83405-0376