

UNITARIAN SOCIETY of MENOMONIE ~ WISCONSIN

SCHEDULE AND NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009

www.menomonieuu.org

Summer at last! and here is our Fellowship's SUMMER CALENDAR:

The wonderful months of warm sunny weather, and travel, and revitalization, and sailing and biking and fishing and hiking and gardening and loafing and ??? (your preference!) have FINALLY arrived. Like many small UU societies and fellowships nationwide, the Unitarian Society of Menomonie will NOT hold regular Sunday morning meetings for worship or RE during the months of June, July and August this year -- see further along in this newsletter for a humorous list of "reasons why"! Instead, the Program Cmte. has put together a calendar of social gatherings. These summer outings* might also be the perfect time to BRING A FRIEND - for a more casual introduction to our Fellowship than the regular Sunday morning services ... which will resume in the fall, beginning September 13..... Don't forget to gather a vial of water from your summer travels to share at the Ingathering Service in September!

*** June 14 - Sunday, at 11 a.m. - Devil's Punchbowl Gathering**

-- Let's convene at the head of the Red Cedar Trail (the Depot at Riverside Park) at 11 am. Then we'll carpool to the Punchbowl, one of Menomonie's best-kept secrets! After a time of meditation and a talk about it's unique geology and biology, we'll head back to the Riverside Park Pavilion for a potluck picnic! Bring beverage, and a dish to pass, with the usual eating tools.

July 12 - Sunday, 9:30 am - 12 noon -- Long-Range Planning

We will gather at the Mabel Tainter for the first of our Long-Range Planning sessions this summer; Tim Hirsch of the Eau Claire Fellowship, our recent District Liaison, will facilitate.

*** July 26 - - Sunday, at 2 pm - - ICE CREAM SOCIAL !!**

Graciously hosted by Hank & Barb Thomas at their home on the Red Cedar River. Ice cream and beverages will be provided; please bring toppings (berries, nuts, sauces, bananas, etc.), sunscreen, lawn blankets, etc. Directions: Hwy. 12/29 East to the Judicial Ctr.; N on Stokke Pkwy & over the Interstate to the

Glass Plant; then West on 650th Ave./Eagle Point Rd. for 1 mile to the very end: E5190 is a red brick 2-story house. Dock -- kayaks -- sun and fun!

August 2 - - 9:30 am to 12 Noon -- Long-Range Planning --
Session II -- at the Mabel Tainter.

* **August 9 - - at 11 a.m. -- Menomin Park Nature Walk**

Alex Fairchild, biologist and entomologist, will lead our hour-long excursion & educate us about the flora and fauna at Menomin Park. Wear sunscreen! Please be aware that there is no outdoor toilet facility or water at this park. (Directions: East on 12/29 to Stokke Pkwy. by Judicial Center. N on Stokke to Domain Dr. W on Domain about a mile; look for signs...)

Previews of Fall Services...

The Program Committee is arranging a calendar of interesting, exciting, and inspiring services for this autumn! Among them will be the Gathering of the Waters when we return Sept. 13; an open-air train ride to the Tiffany Bottoms nature area (9/27); a harvest festival in October; a special musical Thanksgiving service; sermons by Chris Moore; our Festival of Lights service in December; as well as a Purpose of Life circle discussion to round out the end of 2009. Watch for details in coming newsletters!

Other Dates to Keep in Mind :

June 27 -- Sat. -- 8 am to 2 pm -- Sustainability Day at Wilson Park in Menomonie -- an Info Fair!

August 5 -- Wed. -- 7 pm -- Program Cmte. meeting -- Maxson Office at the Mabel Tainter. The Program Cmte. welcomes new members. Contact Juliana Schmidt, at anoldsweetsong@hotmail.com or 715-505-3525.

August 18 - Tues. - 7 pm - UU Board Mtg - at the Mabel.

August 24 -- Deadline for info for the Sept/October newsletter. Please get info to: Karen Williams (williamskm@wwt.net -- or -- 1413 Oakwood Ave./ Menomonie WI 54751)

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NOTE about the Sunday, Sept. 27th Outing: an open-air TRAIN RIDE TO TIFFANY BOTTOMS:

There is a cost for this outing, and reservations need to be made by July 25th. Information is included below, and all who are interested are urged to contact Juliana Schmidt (at anoldsweetsong@hotmail.com or 715-505-3525) with questions or for reservations, as soon as possible.

Please join Sustainable Dunn on Sunday September 27, 2009 for a ride in an antique open-air train approximately eight miles into Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area's extensive lowland hardwood wetlands and open wet prairies near the mouth of the Chippewa River.

Participants can expect to see expansive lowland hardwood forests, sloughs of the Chippewa River and open wet prairie meadows with grasses exceeding six feet in height. Tiffany Wildlife Area and Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area offer excellent birding opportunities. The site is a concentration area for waterfowl, with numbers exceeding 25,000 on many days in the fall.

Several local experts will lead the trip and two to three hikes (0.25 - 0.5 miles each) are planned to access various wetland and prairie habitats.

Time: Meet at Tiffany Bottoms (about 4 miles south of Durand) at 9:00 AM; we should be done around 2:00 PM. There will be a lunch stop during the day; participants should bring a

bag lunch. Please dress appropriately for the weather, the trip will take place rain or shine. This outing is unfortunately not really appropriate for children under the age of 10. It should also be noted that there are NO toilet facilities available...

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SOCIAL JUSTICE / SOCIAL ACTION CMTE. SAYS:

Please don't forget the needs of the Interfaith Food Pantry during the summer!

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WELCOME to new member Gene Holte of Menomonie!

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and Farewell to former USM member Bob Karrow, who passed away at age 57 on May 16, 2009 in Cincinnati OH after a lengthy illness. Bob, wife Mary, and children Will and Elizabeth were members of USM in the 1980s before moving to Ohio, where they joined the Hopedale UU Community. Bob had passions for architectural restoration; nature and gardening; collecting art and antiques; reading; the arts, education, music, animals....He will be

missed. The family suggests that memorials in his honor may be made to the Unitarian Service Cmte, the American Red Cross, the Oxford Community Arts Center (P.O. Box 172/ 10 S. College Ave./ Oxford OH 45056) or the Animal Adoption Fdtn (P.O. Box 13119/ Hamilton OH 45013).

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Thoughts for Summer Voyaging -- by Walt Whitman ---

SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD

Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me.

HENCEFORTH, I ASK NOT GOOD FORTUNE - I MYSELF AM GOOD FORTUNE.
STRONG AND CONFIDENT, I TRAVEL THE OPEN ROAD.

I inhale great draughts of space;
The east and the west are mine, and the north and the south are mine.

ALL SEEMS BEAUTIFUL TO ME; I CAN REPEAT OVER TO MEN AND TO
WOMEN,
YOU HAVE DONE SUCH GOOD TO ME, I WOULD DO THE SAME TO YOU.

Whoever you are, come travel with me!
However sweet these laid-up stores - however convenient this dwelling, we
cannot remain here;

HOWEVER SHELTERED THIS PORT, AND HOWEVER CALM THESE WATERS,
WE MUST NOT ANCHOR HERE;

Together! the inducements shall be greater; we will sail pathless and wild
seas;

WE WILL GO WHERE WINDS BLOW, WAVES DASH, AND THE YANKEE
CLIPPER SPEEDS BY UNDER FULL SAIL.

Forward! After the Great Companions! and to belong to them!
They too are on the open road!

ONWARD! TO THAT WHICH IS ENDLESS, AS IT WAS BEGINNINGLESS,
TO UNDERGO MUCH, TRAMPS OF DAYS, RESTS OF NIGHTS,

To see nothing anywhere but what you may reach it and pass it,
To look up or down no road but it stretches and waits for you --

TO KNOW THE UNIVERSE ITSELF AS A ROAD -- AS MANY ROADS --
AS ROADS FOR TRAVELING SOULS.....

