

**Dear Members and Friends,**

**November 21, 2007**

Here's wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving! Gigi and I will have the pleasure of hosting 30 – not quite a record for us, but close. We hope that you'll be able to enjoy family as well this holiday weekend – if not so many all at once! Safe traveling for those of you, and those of your loved ones, who are on the road. I'll look forward to sharing holiday excerpts this Sunday morning! – *Michael*

### **This Sunday Morning at Park Hall**

We welcome Melinda Van Slyke, who will offer the Reflection for our UU Service this Sunday. Melinda is a Spring Green resident and the sole proprietor of Heart of the Sky Fair Trade, a website-based business (mostly) that deals directly with artists and craftspeople in Guatemala. As she has for the last ten years, Melinda continues to be involved in human rights and solidarity work in Guatemala. She will speak to us about that work through some of the people she has lived with and befriended. Leftover Thanksgiving desserts and snacks – fresh ones, too – are more than welcome!

### **Where Have All the Leaves Gone?**

Well, if you're asking about the Freethinkers' Park, most of them have been raked and moved to streetside... by Jack Ferver, our industrious, indefatigable groundskeeper! Just enough of those good maple leaves have been left on to provide nutrition for the trees, grass, and next year's savanna blossoming. Please don't refrain from giving Jack a pat on his strong back.

### **The Friday Open House at the Hansa-Ogren's Is, Alas, Still Canceled!**

Maria and David will let us know, via the newsletter and elsewhere, when it will be rescheduled.

### **Upcoming Programs and Events at Park Hall**

**Sunday, December 2, 8:30 a.m.** – Program Committee Meeting at Park Hall.

**Sunday, December 2, 10:00am** – *Spiritual Reflection Hour*. Maria Hansa will facilitate this roundtable discussion on the topic of “Birthday Angst”. More details next week.

**Sunday, December 9, 10:00am** – *Unitarian Universalist Service*. To be announced.

**Sunday, December 16, 10:00am** – *Annual Holiday Program*. Produced and performed by the youth of our R.E. classes. Don't miss it!

### **Special Announcements from Members and Friends**

**Volunteers Needed! Home Health United Hospice.** Volunteers are the “glue” that keeps family members and caregivers healthy and capable of meeting the special challenges of Hospice. HHUH offers volunteers an 18-hour training before they have direct patient contact. For more information, contact Mandi Payne at 608-643-6103 or [mpayne@hhuvns.org](mailto:mpayne@hhuvns.org)

**H.E.L.P. – Help Excite Little People** – will again be collecting gently-used toys and items for teens this holiday season. This community-wide project is based out of the First United Church of Christ – our kiddy-korner neighbor (off the northwest end of the park). Donations may be brought to the Washington Avenue entrance of the church and placed in or near the little red sleigh. Collection will take place through Dec. 12.

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance. Friday, November 30, 6-9pm.** Park Plaza Convention Center, 630 W. Pine Street, Baraboo. This is a fundraiser, with a buffet that will feature locally-produced food and drink. Tickets are \$28. For RSVP (or more info) contact Alison Duff at [alison@saukprairievision.org](mailto:alison@saukprairievision.org) or 608-477-0573 asap.