



The Beacon

January 2007

The Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter



**Burning Bowl Ceremony,
January 7, 2007**

In the Interim. . .

Reverend Benjamin Maucere



Hello, I must be going. (Always wanted to use Groucho's old line.) I'm here during this transitional period to help you prepare for your next settled ministry; to improve the odds that it will be long and successful.

On the highway of the church's journey, think of this time as a scenic stop. It's an opportunity to look back on what the church has been, to come to terms with your history, both good and bad. It's a time to assess where you are now, and to take steps to address your particular challenges. And it is chance to look ahead, to what you want the church to be.

As someone outside the system, I may see some things that you don't. As someone with thirty years' experience in UU congregations I have a sense of alternative ways of doing some things.

I believe in the power of UU congregations to help us grow souls and to make the world a more just and loving place. You have a beautiful setting and a lot of talented folks. I look forward to the next eighteen months with you.

Yours in the faith,
Benjamin



President's Corner

Bill Haskell



I Hope You All Had Joyous and Happy Holidays

I thought it would be appropriate for this month's heading to be something I forgot to wish everyone in December's Beacon. Sometimes even the simplest things slip past our attention. So, I'm hoping everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and is looking ahead to an exciting New Year. While for most people the holidays are a wonderful time with family and friends, for some in our congregation this period can be very difficult. If you know of someone who would love to hear a friendly voice, please call or visit them and let them know they are in your thoughts at this time.

Boy, does 2007 look to be an exciting year – I'm always accentuating the positive. Our first service in January will be the traditional "burning bowl" service where we get rid of our old "baggage" as we enter the New Year. Our interim minister, Rev. Benjamin Maucere, will be in the pulpit beginning the second Sunday in January. I, for one, am extremely pleased to have a minister for our congregation and I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing Rev. Maucere a rewarding interim ministry during the next 20 months as he is serving this congregation. In January we will also have a special congregational meeting to elect the nominees for the Ministerial Search Committee. The following month only gets better as who can forget Gorilla Sunday in February.

The Board of Trustees and I hope that 2007 will be everything you wish for.

In appreciation,

Bill Haskell

President, Board of Trustees

Unsung Hero Award for January

Cathleen Elliott, At-Large

It's hard to believe that Helen Sherwood, husband David, and sons William and Alex have only been attending Northwoods since 2000. Her high-level involvement places her on the



“Who’s Who” list. Helen has served as Youth RE Committee Chair, Youth RE teacher, and taught youth Love & Help religious classes. Currently, she serves as Adult RE Committee Chair, Service Auction Committee Chair, and on the Membership Committee. In October 2005-June 2006, Helen successfully led the church board, first as VP and later as President.

Helen recently shared her thoughts about the Service Auction. “Changing from a straight fundraiser format to a ‘party with a theme’ format has been a lot of fun. Each year, more and more people dress up for the service auction and offer parties and items related to the theme. Whether we are celebrating Oktoberfest, pirates or Robin Hood, we all get into the spirit of the event and the Northwoods community's spirit just seems to soar higher and higher each year. Our revenue generated by the service auction in the past four years has increased from \$13,000 to over \$25,000 this year. We've built a terrific service auction committee, each member bringing his or her own special talents to make the service auction the great fun and the successful event that it is.”



Well Wishes go out to Bill and Dianne

As many of you are now aware, our esteemed President of the Board, Bill Haskell, suffered a heart attack on his way to Phoenix over the Christmas holiday. He was taken to a local hospital upon landing in Phoenix where he underwent quadruple bypass surgery. Both Bill and Dianne will remain at the home of their son upon discharge while he rests and recovers. Your Northwoods friends are thinking of you both and sending lots of love your way. We will be awaiting your return. (Any church business is to be referred to VP Debi Racobs. Please see the Beacon Bits for address information should you wish to send cards and “Well Wish” letters.)

RE NUUws

Ryan Hoffland, DRE



Thank you Northwoods for the warm and sincere welcome that I have received as your new DRE. It is a true pleasure to serve a congregation like Northwoods. I am looking forward to working closely with each of you in our attempt to provide a religious education program that builds an affirming and loving community among children and adults.

On December 10th the children held their annual Christmas Pageant. This year the theme was on Christmas Carols and the children provided the history of and performed three songs: “Little Drummer Boy”, “Go Tell it on the Mountain”, and “Up on the Housatop”. Because of the wonderful children and all of the terrific volunteers this annual Christmas Pageant was a success! I would especially like to thank the RE Committee, Rusty Rhoad, David Shontz, and The Northwoods Folk Choir for the much appreciated support and needed guidance that I received in organizing and executing this program.

Mother Teresa once said, “Love cannot remain by itself -- it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.” This congregation truly knows how to serve. This past Christmas the Northwoods children adopted a family for Christmas. The overwhelming response which was received in gifts aided a family and their Christmas wishes.

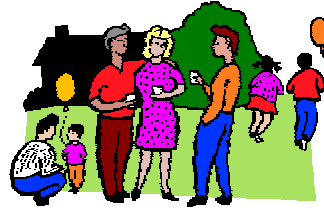
So with 2007 I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue working with such an amazing congregation. I hope to use collaboration and vision in implementing strategies that will make 2007 the best year ever for Northwoods.

Happy January Birthday!

Nicole Bealer	16 th
Maddy Easton	12 th
Katie Kaminski	17 th
Conner McDonald	10 th
Oliver Scheerhorn	1 st
Alex Sherwood	12 th



Community Corner



The kid's Christmas pageant was a huge success, thanks go out to Ryan Huffland and the dedicated people on the RE Committee, as well as Rusty Rhoad, folk choir, David Shonz, Jody Townsley for the photos, and of course... Santa Clause for his exciting guest appearance!



Resolve to make at least one person happy every day, and then in ten years you may have made three thousand, six hundred and fifty persons happy, or brightened a small town by your contribution to the fund of general enjoyment. ~ Sydney Smith



Untitled

By The "Beatniks and Bongos Party: 11/18/06", hosted by Mary Jo O'Neill and Steve Harr.

Life is just a bowl of love and wonder and beauty
U are U, I am I, we are we, they are they, they are U
I am we, we are they, I am U . . .
And there are lives lost to indifference and sadness

Sun upon our bodies, its warmth feeding us
Only a few times in our lives do we stumble upon the chance
To bare our souls, our thoughts with others of like minds.
"I pledge allegiance" choruses of children mindlessly recite.

Why would I feel any other way?
I look toward the heavens and cry, "Why?"
It is not true, it's never been true
Life is full of holes like Swiss cheese

If I continue to look behind me, I'll never see
What's in front of me.
For we shall all be heartbroken, yet we shall all love again
Peace, tranquility, why is it so difficult to achieve?

And when I think I know who I am, I find out I was mistaken
Spontaneous, impromptu; there is only this moment
in time weaving through the timeless universe.
And he turned to her and said, "Was that it?"

And then the odd beattle crowed and
out burped, "What was that about?"
And you watch who catches hell.

(submitted by Hallie Moore, keeper of the group-mind's artifact)

A Message from the Conflict Resolution Committee



The board of trustees of Northwoods has appointed a Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) whose purpose is to help facilitate members and friends of the church in resolving issues that may arise involving other members and friends, staff, minister or other committees or church related groups.

The Conflict Resolution Guidelines may be found either on the church website or in the church office. Anyone who desires to use the CRC is requested to review and follow the steps as recommended in the guidelines. Presently the members of the CRC are Lynn Rippelmeyer, Sai Boeker, Rev. Ross Henry, and Ben DeVries.



New Year's eve is like every other night; there is no pause in the march of the universe, no breathless moment of silence among created things that the passage of another twelve months may be noted; and yet no man has quite the same thoughts this evening that come with the coming of darkness on other nights. ~Hamilton Wright Mabie

GORILLA SUNDAY! February 11, 2007

Northwoods is doomed to repeat history Sunday, February 11, 2007. In spite of court decrees and mounting arbitration costs, yet another, appearance by the Northwoods Men's Gorilla Chorus & Orchestra™.

All men please seek appropriate legal, financial, and spiritual counseling soon. And participate with instrument and voice in the NWMGC&O. Three rehearsals will be scheduled in January for musicians and two for the Men's Chorus. Please look for announcements in the Beacon bits. For more information ask any man at Northwoods with a joyful smirk.

Oh. And yeah. The sacrificial teen. Of course.



WiseGorilla

A Message from the Program Council

With the approval of our new By-Laws last month, the Program Council consisting of the committees within Northwoods, is empowered to tend to much of the day-to-day business of the church.

One of the first tasks of the Program Council will be to work through policies and procedures that affect specific committees and how they work with one another. The work of the Program Council also involves budget allocation, calendaring and communication.

Please let me know who from your committee is able to attend this first gathering for Sunday, December 17th, at 12:30pm in the Garden Room. We will review a new organization chart for Northwoods and determine what policies should be drafted for which committee for inclusion in the Policies and Procedures guidelines that accompany our By-Laws.

If I have omitted any committee chairs or do not have the right person, please let me know. RSVP to daracobs@aol.com or call at 713-826-1580.

Building & Grounds	John DeCaire & Sean Kenneth Connelly
Finance	David Shontz & Paul Nelson
Membership	Dorothy Kennedy & Lynn Killean
Welcoming Congregation	Jeff Graeber
Adult Enrichment	Helen Sherwood
Community Relations	Teresa Allen & Joy George
RE Youth Programs	Anne Geyer, Kristine Hansen
DRE	Ryan Hoffland
YAC	Mike Mattner
Communications	Hallie Moore & Heather Kaminski
Sunday Services	Terry Leyenberger
Lay Ministry	Karen Kammann

*From New Year's on the outlook brightens, good humour lost in a mood of failure returns.
I resolve to stop complaining. ~Leonard Bernstein*

Guest at Your Table

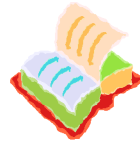
Surely we've all sat down to many lovely meals with family and friends since the "Guest at Your Table" boxes were distributed in November to members of the congregation and to children during the Religious Education classes. Have you imagined a third world guest at your table, sharing a fine meal, laughter, conversation and some insight into a life different from yours?

It's time to return the boxes to the church office or write a check to the Unitarian Universalist Service Cmte. You can see from the bulletin board across from the church office that the money is used wisely to help others help themselves. If you have any questions, feel free to call Teresa Allen at 281-350-3052.

If you meet UUSC membership goals (basic begins at \$40; \$20 for seniors; \$10 for students and youth) and fill out the form on the flap of the box, you receive an annual membership to UUSC. Gifts of \$75 or more from a family or individual will be doubled through a matching grant.

Thanks to all who participated.

Fifteen Years Ago, This Month Terry Leyenberger



Mary Branson, membership chair offered these thoughts to all Northwoods members in the January issue of the Beacon. "I am sentimental about anniversaries, and it has now been 10 years since Terry and I started attending Northwoods. During this time, Northwoods has been our extended family. We have shared the good times and the hard times, have given birth to two new UU's, have even moved away and returned home.

I am grateful for the presence of Northwoods in my life. My family benefits from our participation in so many ways. I am grateful for children's religious education which does not frighten or condemn, which broadens and deepens my children's awareness of the world, and our part in the web of life. I am grateful for music on Sunday, for the light which streams through the round window, for words which uplift and touch the heart. We have come a long way in this ten years, and the best is yet to be".

Northwoods Treasurer's Report

For December 2006



1. November was an exceptional month financially for Northwoods. Thanks to a major catch-up in pledges and a very successful service auction, income for the church year through November 30 was more than \$13,000 ahead of budget! Shown below is an analysis

Northwoods Operating Income for Nov 2006 and Year to Date Compared to Budget						
	Month of Nov 2006			Year to Date ov 30, 2006		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pledge Income FY 05/06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,765.49	\$ -	\$ 1,765.49
Pledge Income FY 06/07	\$ 18,138.91	\$ 11,978.66	\$ 6,160.25	\$ 56,049.75	\$ 59,893.32	\$ (3,843.57)
FY 06/07 Late Pledges	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ 166.67	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,166.65	\$ (3,166.65)
Allowance for Unrealized Pledges	\$ -	\$ (2,156.16)	\$ 2,156.16	\$ -	\$ (10,780.80)	\$ 10,780.80
Net Pledge Income	\$ 19,138.91	\$ 10,655.83	\$ 8,483.08	\$ 58,815.24	\$ 53,279.17	\$ 5,536.07
Cash Plate Collections	\$ 529.77	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (470.23)	\$ 4,469.27	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (530.73)
Millbend Contributions	\$ -	\$ 83.33	\$ (83.33)	\$ 1,034.13	\$ 416.65	\$ 617.48
Rentals	\$ 417.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 2,026.95	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 151.95
Service Auction	\$ 25,383.52	\$ 20,800.00	\$ 4,583.52	\$ 25,307.72	\$ 20,800.00	\$ 4,507.72
Other Fund Raising	\$ 223.14	\$ -	\$ 223.14	\$ 2,541.57	\$ -	\$ 2,541.57
Interest Income	\$ 367.16	\$ 200.00	\$ 167.16	\$ 1,337.49	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 337.49
Total Income for Nov	\$ 46,059.50	\$ 33,114.16	\$ 12,945.34	\$ 95,532.37	\$ 82,370.82	\$ 13,161.55

2. Operating expenses through November were \$25,440 under budget. Expenses are running under budget primarily due to the minister position being vacant. (Association assessments for the first half of the year for UUA and SWUUC were paid in November.)

Northwoods Operating Expenses for Nov 2006 and Year to Date Compared to Budget						
	Month of Nov 2006			Year to Date Through Nov 30, 2006		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Building and Grounds	\$ 2,974.58	\$ 2,973.31	\$ 1.27	\$ 14,782.00	\$ 14,866.59	\$ (84.59)
Minister-Salary, Housing, Exp	\$ -	\$ 5,398.83	\$ (5,398.83)	\$ 5,149.94	\$ 26,994.15	\$ (21,844.21)
Adminstration	\$ 1,517.33	\$ 1,562.47	\$ (45.14)	\$ 9,120.71	\$ 7,812.41	\$ 1,308.30
Religious Education	\$ 1,540.48	\$ 1,596.31	\$ (55.83)	\$ 1,631.69	\$ 7,981.61	\$ (6,349.92)
Association Assessment	\$ 8,336.00	\$ 1,116.65	\$ 7,219.35	\$ 8,336.00	\$ 5,583.29	\$ 2,752.71
Newsletter, Publicity, Membership	\$ 448.48	\$ 99.99	\$ 348.49	\$ 651.44	\$ 499.97	\$ 151.47
Child Care	\$ 213.00	\$ 229.16	\$ (16.16)	\$ 651.00	\$ 1,145.82	\$ (494.82)
Sunday Services	\$ -	\$ 73.33	\$ (73.33)	\$ 350.00	\$ 366.65	\$ (16.65)
Music	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (400.00)
YRUU	\$ 162.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 162.00	\$ 625.00	\$ (463.00)
Total Expenses for Nov	\$ 15,191.87	\$ 13,275.05	\$ 1,916.82	\$ 40,934.78	\$ 66,375.49	\$ (25,440.71)

3. Overall Northwoods operating income through November 30 exceeded operating expenses by nearly \$55,000.

Northwoods Financial Summary						
	Month of Nov 2006			Year to Date Through Nov 30, 2006		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Income	\$ 46,059.50	\$ 33,114.16	\$ 12,945.34	\$ 95,532.37	\$ 82,370.82	\$ 13,161.55
Total Expenses	\$ 15,191.87	\$ 13,275.05	\$ 1,916.82	\$ 40,934.78	\$ 66,375.49	\$ (25,440.71)
Net of Income less Expenses	\$ 30,867.63	\$ 19,839.11	\$ 11,028.52	\$ 54,597.59	\$ 15,995.33	\$ 38,602.26

4. The latest figures from the Service Auction held November 4, 2006 show net proceeds of \$25,383.52 with a few invoices still remaining to be collected. The budget anticipated net proceeds from the Service Auction of \$19,000. The 2005 Service Auction raised approximately \$20,700 net of expenses.

5. Northwoods fund balances as of November 30 are shown below:

Fund Balances as of Nov 30, 2006	
Operating Account	\$ 95,002.95
Hurricane Relief Fund	\$ 1,763.95
Ann Wright Lecture Series Fund	\$ 45.00
YRUU 2005 Special Fundraiser	\$ 1,743.75
Capital Account	\$ 52,105.10
Fair Trade Coffee	\$ 824.22
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,451.40
Minister's Discretionary Account	\$ 2,848.10
Millbend Coffee House Account	\$ 2,703.12

6. Detailed financial statements are posted outside the church office.

Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average... which means, you have met your New Year's resolution. ~ Jay Leno



Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time. ... Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. ... Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. ... Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look 10 years younger. Don't be afraid to say, "I love you". Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world. - Ann Landers

Millbend Coffee House Presents: Andrew McKnight January 13 @ 7:30



Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, singer, writer and guitarist Andrew McKnight's musical journey has traced over a quarter million miles of blue highways and small towns across the country, crafting his cinematic vignettes of Americans and their landscapes in music, poetry and prose.

The National Theatre says Andrew, "blends wry and romantic stories with keen tuneful observations in a delicious mix of folk, blues and bluegrass... a man not to be missed!" The *Norwich Review* says, this "Shenandoah singer/songwriter creates a diverse southern 'mountain gumbo' brand of music that mixes folk, blues and bluegrass in one appealing and energetic sound."

Get ready for Gorilla Dance Band unplugged! Those gorillas (known for their Texas Psychedelic Funk) will open the show with outrageous fun-- some percolating happening on the stage as well from the coffeepots in the kitchen.

Call Teresa at 281-350-3052 for answers, table reservations or childcare.



I will seek elegance rather than luxury, refinement rather than fashion. I will seek to be worthy more than respectable, wealthy and not rich. I will study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly. I will listen to stars and birds, babes and sages, with an open heart. I will bear all things cheerfully, do all things bravely await occasions and hurry never. In a word I will let the spiritual, unhidden and unconscious grow up through the common. ~ William Ellery Channing

Adult RE for January, 2007

Helen Sherwood



January Adult RE

- Jan. 7 Christian Gnostic Gospels (9:30)
- Jan. 7 Healing Magic 101, pt. 2 (11:15)
- Jan. 8 WWW: Tantric Loving (5:45)
- Jan. 14 A Chosen Faith Book Discussion, Pt. 3:
World Religions (11:15)
- Jan. 21 Non-Christian Gnostic Gospels (9:30)

Upcoming February Adult RE

- Series on Ghandi - dates TBD but will be in evening
- Feb 11 Chosen Faith: Jewish & Christian Teachings
- Feb 12 Integrated Energy Therapy
- Feb 18 Healing Magic 101, pt. 2

Upcoming Book Discussion: A Chosen Faith

The book discussion of A Chosen Faith will meet on the second Sunday of each month, beginning in November. Upcoming topics in this series include:

- Feb 11 Jewish & Christian Teachings
- Mar 11 Humanist Teachings
- Apr 8 Earth-Centered Spirituality

Upcoming Woodlands Wonder Workers:

- Feb 12 Integrated Energy Therapy
- Mar 12 Language as a Spiritaul Tool
- Apr 9 Horses as Therapists and Trainers

If you would like to present a class or series of classes in the Adult RE program, please contact Helen Sherwood at hsherwood@ev1.net or 281-376-6811.

From the Cutting Room Floor

Editor's Notes



Every year it seems I make the same New Years Resolutions, lose a little weight, exercise more, stay in better shape... Last year, tired of the same old thing, and realizing that Mark Twain was right, (*"Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual."*) I made a conscious decision NOT to make any new years resolutions. This year, however, as I was reading through Bill and Leslie Moseley's annual Christmas booklet of quotes and drawings, (thanks for that, by the way, we look forward to it now every year!) I realized that perhaps making new year's resolutions was more than the usual empty promise to yourself to go to the gym more often. Resolutions are about striving to become something better every year. We may not hit the mark every time, but I like to think that cumulatively, the struggle makes a difference. Like Oprah says, "*Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.*"

In preparation for this month's Beacon I found a number of inspiring quotes on making resolutions. I thought I'd share with you some of my favorites, (these come from a variety of sources; sorry I just couldn't list them all):

Do something you love to do, and that you do your best, every single day.

Give yourself credit and a pat on the back when you deserve it.

Strive to learn something new every day.

Listen more than you talk.

Take yourself a little less seriously.

Stop complaining.

Resolve to make at least one person happy every day.

Read voraciously to continue to learn and grow.

Be brave, step out of your comfort zone.

Last but not least, these ones come from "A Dog's New Year's Resolutions"

I will not walk under the big dog when he is peeing.

I will not steal Mom's underwear and dance all over the back yard with it.

AND, My head does not belong in the refrigerator!

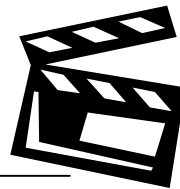
In closing my friends, here is my New Year's Wish for "ya'll".

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's Resolutions?

~Joey Adams

Video Discussion Group

January 2007



On most Sundays from 3-7pm, the Video Discussion Group meets to view & discuss films in the Garden Room downstairs. We have viewed a variety of films. Usually afterwards we eat a late dinner at a local restaurant for fellowship and more conversation. Upcoming movies are listed in the Beacon Bits email weekly. Contact Jeff Graeber at 281-728-2379 or jeff@gadflysite.com with any questions.

1-7 – In honor of the arrival of the Rev. Benjamin Maucere, our new Interim Minister, Jeff Graeber presents “The Frisco Kid” (1979), the story of a Polish Rabbi travelling across America to take up a congregation in San Francisco in 1850. Starring Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford.

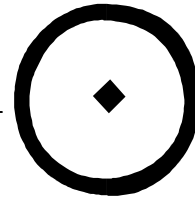
1-14 – Science fiction has often been used as a vehicle for exploring contemporary issues. We will be examining issues of medical ethics through three episodes of different science fiction tv series. The Star Trek: The Next Generation episode “Ethics” looks at the use of experimental therapies on patients, as well as the problems presented by cultural differences between patients and health care providers. The Babylon Five episode “Believers” further examines the problems when established medical practices conflict with the cultural and religious beliefs of patients and their families. Finally, the Star Trek: Deep Space Nine episode “The Quickening” looks at the competing needs of medical research and advancement and palliative care in patients with terminal illness.

1-21 – Cecilia Wilkenfeld presents “Munich” (2005)- The story of the Israeli agents sent to extract justice/revenge for the deaths of the 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972. Directed by Steven Spielberg.

1-28 – Jeff Graeber presents “Clerks” (1994)- Kevin Smith’s first film, wherein Jay and Silent Bob are introduced onto an unsuspecting world, tells of a day in the lives of two convenience clerks named Dante and Randal as they annoy customers, discuss movies, and play hockey on the store roof.

Services in January

services @ 9:30 and 11:15



January 7

Northwoods annual Burning Bowl Ceremony

January 14

Forty Acres and a Mule on this Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday Rev. Maucere will look at the case for reparations.

January 21

Why Pray? Unitarian Universalists often reject traditional religious concepts. Sometimes it's a "baby and bathwater" situation. Rev. Maucere will consider prayer and urge you to do the same.

January 28

Longevity. Rev. Maucere looks at how to grow old with grace.

Did you Know?

Submitted by Ross Henry



Historians are unsure exactly when Christians first began celebrating the Nativity of Christ. However, most scholars believe that Christmas originated in the 4th century as a Christian substitute for pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. Before the introduction of Christmas, each year beginning on December 17 Romans honored Saturn, the ancient god of agriculture, in a festival called Saturnalia. This festival lasted for seven days and included the winter solstice, which usually occurred around December 25 on the ancient Julian calendar. During Saturnalia the Romans feasted, postponed all business and warfare, exchanged gifts, and temporarily freed their slaves. Many Romans also celebrated the lengthening of daylight following the winter solstice by participating in rituals to glorify Mithra, the ancient Persian god of light (see *Mithraism*). These and other winter festivities continued through January 1, the festival of Kalends, when Romans marked the day of the new moon and the first day of the month and year.

After Church Lunch Bunch January 2007



Lunch Bunch: Join your fellow UUs for food and fellowship, every Sunday after services. Check the posting inside the door on Sunday or feel free to ask ahead if you need directions. Taipei makes a return to the list this month, after an extended absence. New management has suggested we give them another try.

January 7 - Taipei China Bistro

January 14 - Casa Imperial

January 21 - Lucky Cafe

January 28 - Taquerias Arandas

David Gilbert coordinates this weekly event. For more information or to make suggestions, contact him at any Lunch Bunch event or at david.gilbert@mail.com.



Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits. ~
Anonymous

Staff Office Hours



Sheryl Shuster Mon-Fri, 9:00am- 3:00pm

Rayan Hoffland, 9:00 - 1:00, Monday and Wednesday 4:30 -6:30, and Tuesdays and Thursday from 1:00 - 7:00.

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A New Years toast to love and laughter and happily ever after