



THE QUINCY UNITARIAN CHURCH

2000 – 2009

**A SECOND SEQUEL TO
“BEYOND THE CENTENNIAL YEAR”**

Compiled by

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2010

INTRODUCTION

The 200+ page history of the Quincy Unitarian Church (from 1939 to 1989) was completed and distributed to the membership in May, 1996. It seemed appropriate after an interval to have information available regarding the following years. This would be helpful and interesting, especially to board members and to leaders of the church.

Thus, a sequel was prepared in 2000 to cover the 1990s. It was printed in limited quantity, and intended as a reference for board members and others who may wonder ---

When did the church----?
What was the cost of ----?
Who served as ---- ?

Another decade of church life brought challenges, successes, new leaders, innovative activities and delights. It seemed right to continue the story. The Second Sequel covers the years: 2000 through 2009. A similar pattern of distribution is followed.

The material is a condensation of board minutes, newsletter reports, committee actions and routine data, presenting a quick study of the decade. There is an index. The limited number of copies are meant to be respected as the on-going property of the church.

QUNCY UNITARIAN CHURCH 2000

As the year 2000 began, new officers were elected to the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting on January 16, 2000. They were: Ellen Taylor, President; Nancy Winters, Vice-president; Steve Ward, Secretary. Janice Marshall-Miller remained temporarily as Treasurer, pending a Board selection of a Treasurer. Other members of the Board were: Addie Seabarkrob, Cindy Ahrens, Georgia House, Libby Haggard and Michael Flanagan. Carol Nichols submitted her resignation as Administrator, a position she had held for three years. A proposed budget was submitted at the annual meeting.

The minister, Rob Manning, had earned a sabbatical from Quincy University and had been away since August, 1999. The Worship Committee had accepted the challenge of providing Sunday morning speakers. Invitations had been sent to U-U ministers of the area and to 4th year students of Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Church members and others from the Quincy community would also present Sunday morning talks. Announcements of speaker and topic were carried by WQBU each week. Michael Flanagan produced a Web page and supplied an e-mail address for the church.

Hilary Landau-Krivchenia, from Meadville/Lombard, began an internship as a practicum minister, being in Quincy for one week-end each month. This arrangement was made possible by the Practicum Ministerial Program through financial support of the Central Midwest District in co-operation with the Meadville/Lombard Theological School. Hospitality was provided by church members. For the January 16th service the practicum minister chose the topic of "Synergy" and spoke of involvement and community energy.

In January Dr. Davidson Loehr, U-U minister from St. Paul, Minn., a participant of the International Jesus Seminar conducted an all-day seminar on the historical Jesus and ancient scripture. He is the only U-U scholar on the National Jesus Seminar. He also presented the sermon in the church on Sunday, January 30. The Seminar was a cooperative venture of the church with Quincy University. Among the guest speakers during this season there was the Rev. Eric Cherry from the Burlington U-U Fellowship and the Rev. Earl Holt, III from the First U-U Church of St. Louis.

Social activities continued. In addition to the long-standing Women's Alliance which met every month, there was a Lunch Bunch that met monthly in various restaurants and had a table-topic conversation, agreed to in advance. The "First Friday" gatherings, initiated by Sharon Buzzard and Steve Wiegenstein in October, 1999, enhanced the social life in the church. Various hosts and hostesses invited members and friends into their homes for a relaxed evening of becoming better acquainted. A Singles Book Club was another avenue for friendliness, and newcomers were especially invited.

The Sunday Music Series presented a program in the church -- "Carol Mathieson and Friends Salute Sir Arthur Sullivan."

Newsletter Quotes

“Don’t worry about the front yard sign,” wrote Tom House in the newsletter. “I’m having it repaired.” The improved sign has white engraved lettering on a smooth, black background.

After about two years of concern about the lack of a coat rack, Frieda and Floyd Marshall arranged for a coat rack to appear. It now stands in the southwest corner of the sanctuary.

In February Sherryl Lang began as church administrator. The Religious Education coordinators were Maddona Broeker and Jenny Howard, students of Quincy University. Information was shared about the OWL “Our Whole Lives” program for the R.E. department. Jennifer and Michael Drew would have training and be willing to devote time and energy to the start of the program in the fall. Purchase of needed resources (texts \$100 and filmstrip \$150) was approved. An overview would be shared with the Board and with the congregation.

The B&G committee reported an estimate for repair of the front steps. An older estimate was \$2,870. The Board approved the purchase of three square tables at \$25 each and three 6 ft. long tables at \$90 each. The amount was paid from memorial funds. In March the B&G committee reported leakage from two radiators in the sanctuary and now three were non-functioning. There was consideration of replacing the old cast-iron equipment which was original in the building in 1916. Estimates were received.

The Women’s Alliance members were planning the printing of a cookbook that would be composed of church members’ favorites – the specialties often shared at a carry-in dinner. The Fellowship Committee, spearheaded by Sandy Morrison, announced a Cookbook Recipe Kick-off carry-in for March 19 when people would bring favorite foods and supply the recipes – to be included in the soon-to-be published cookbook.

At this time the newsletter included the e-mail address and the Website code. The church was included in a national listing of Unitarian churches on the internet. The information could be accessed via the Quincy web-page. Nancy Winters, board member, pointed out that the by-laws committee had proposed a position of historian be created. Georgia House and Cindy Ahrens would co-chair the April Plant-Book-Bake Sale.

The president and the secretary of the Board, Ellen Taylor and Steve Ward, conducted the congregational meeting on May 14, 2000. Members of the by-laws committee were present to assist in clarification of items. The Articles of by-laws were considered individually and some slight changes were easily approved. The matter of church indebtedness, however, was referred back to committee. At the annual meeting, held on May 26, there was a vote on the indebtedness clause. The result of the voting set a three-fourths majority of favorable votes from active members needed to access the principle of the endowment funds. The revised by-laws set the length of board member terms to two years with the possibility of serving two consecutive terms. The church fiscal year was set to May 1 through April 30, instead of matching the calendar year. The members approved a motion to review the by-laws every five years.

The congregation arranged a special service for May 21, the last Sunday of Hilary Landau-Krivchenia's activity. There was a presentation of a gift - a Pictorial History of Quincy - and a farewell coffee hour. An Order of Service announcement read: "We are grateful for Hilary's compassionate and wise service to us in this last year. After her graduation she will be serving the U-U Church in Lafayette, Indiana." Hilary responded: "It has been my great pleasure to be with Quincy Unitarian Church over this year - to share sorrows and joys, to enjoy your wit and warmth, to push at edges, and to witness your congregational life. I wish you all the best in the future and thank you for all you have taught me and given me."

COMMUNION SET DEDICATION

A moment of dedication and remembrance was a part of the morning service. A communion set had been given to the church in 1858 from the congregation of the Northboro, Massachusetts, Unitarian Church. It had long been in the possession of the family of Caroline Schlagenhauf Sexauer, and now it was named in Caroline's will as a bequest to the church. It was Caroline's wish that this would be appropriately protected. The Women's Alliance provided a display case and a framed identification. The case is mounted on the south wall of the sanctuary.

By June three estimates for replacement of the old radiators had been received and they ranged from \$8,994 to \$15,000. A representative of the firm providing the low bid met with the Board to review their bid and answer any questions. After the meeting with Larry Crane of Comfort and Safety Services, the Board voted to accept this bid. Removal required using hoist and crane and careful maneuvering. The new radiators were installed in August.

Board member, Cindy Ahrens, accepted the office of treasurer, with approved assistance from the church administrator. Signature authority for banking purposes included the treasurer, the president, as well as the administrator. The Board president, Ellen Taylor, and the church administrator, Sherryl Lang, attended the U-U National General Assembly meetings held in Nashville in June.

At a meeting of the Quincy Preserves Commission, the church received a bronze plaque recognizing the church building as a historic landmark. This designation protects the exterior of buildings by citing architectural features that must remain intact for the building to retain its designation. Mary Belle Coffman accepted the plaque on behalf of the congregation. With guidance of Ted Morrison and help from Dave Ripper, the plaque was mounted on a post near the front steps of the church.

In August a survey of the church lot was completed at a cost of \$1,058.81. This revealed that the northern boundary lies in the driveway of the residence to the north. In discussion the Board came to an agreement that this property should be deeded to the current property owner to forestall any future concerns. A motion to quit-claim this area and pay any fees associated was made by Addie Seabarkrob, seconded by Steve Ward. The motion passed by vote of the Board.

A REPORT FROM THE UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY – NASHVILLE

Ellen Taylor and Sherryl Lang had attended the national meeting in June and they prepared a report for the August newsletter. They mentioned their hopes as they anticipated the gathering and their satisfaction in receiving welcome information during the discussions. “The sessions we attended were extremely enlightening and some conveyed real, practical knowledge. The seventh UUA principle acknowledges our place in the interdependent web of life, and in attending this conference, we found tangible evidence of this connection. Our church is part of a larger whole and the experience of meeting other U-Us was gratifying and deeply satisfying. We are grateful for this opportunity and would encourage others to attend a future General Assembly.”

Board president thanked the congregation for its steadfastness during our year-without-a-minister. Rob Manning sought board advice regarding his balance of church identity and the Quincy University schedule. A Letter of Agreement specified that Rob would conduct services on sixteen of the forty Sundays. The general plan was to have a lay speaker follow the minister’s talk each time. Rob thanked the Board for its flexibility and understanding in consideration of his additional responsibilities at Quincy University.

FALL FIELD TRIP TO ALTON U-U CHURCH

An invitation to visit the Alton U-U church on September 24 inspired another field trip for the Quincy congregation. The Alton church, founded in 1836, pre-dates the Quincy church by three years. The church building is on the National Register of Historic Buildings and was made handicapped accessible in 1969 with the building of an extension.

The Sunday sermon by the Rev. Carol Wolff, reflected that both the Alton and the Quincy churches received organizational inspiration from William Greenleaf Eliot. The Alton minister and the members were most welcoming. Our minister, Rob Manning, proudly introduced his group of about twenty visitors. Following the Sunday morning service, the Quincy guests were treated to a membership carry-in luncheon and they could also tour the church facilities. Afternoon side trips offered an opportunity to view the statue of Robert Wadlow, the world’s tallest man, and to visit the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. Appreciation was given for the cooperative efforts of the Alton members and to Sherryl Lang and Alan Starkey in making arrangements for a memorable event. There was also a benefit from the close supervision of Alton Board member, P. R. Hoshiko, sister of F. Marshall, A.L. Brigham and B. Danhaus of Quincy.

“A CLEVER LITTLE ENGLISH CHAPEL”

A feature story in the Sunday edition of the Herald-Whig had photos of the Unitarian Church exterior, the sanctuary, organ pipes and the Pilgrim Covenant stained-glass window. A full-page description by staff writer Ruth Hultz, architecture specialist, gave details of the “rich history” of the building, built in 1914 for \$17,719. There was mention of the woodwork, the masonry, the tower with its Queen Anne “witches hat”, the Founders’ Window and the Steere organ. A laminated copy of the September 17, 2000, news story is displayed in the Resource Room.

An orientation meeting for parents of children attending the OWL program brought up a meeting-space issue. The OWL class planned to use the tower room as their exclusive space to conduct class and store materials. This would require the meditation group to use another location in the church. The Great River Sangha meditation group had been meeting in the tower room during the summer. The Board met with members of the group and Al Starkey, representing the group, thanked the Board for accommodating them in the past. An agreement was reached for the group to use the stage in the lower level. The consensus was that this was a workable solution to their needs.

There was recognition of need for a new computer. The Board considered options and a decision was made to allow \$1,500 for the purchase of a new computer, to be installed by Dale McUmber-House. New software, specifically designed for Unitarian churches, would be included.

The church received a bequest from the estate of Amy Sunderland Stevens, who died at Good Samaritan Home September 19 at the age of 102. Mrs. Stevens, her brother-in-law and sister, Dr. and Mrs. Luther Markley, had lived at the Home since 1972. All three were supportive friends of the church. Mrs. Stevens was an aunt of Mrs. Robert (Anne) Mays. The \$5,000 bequest amount was deposited in the Memorial account as part of the Endowment/Principal category.

Dr. Hilliard M. Shair died at Good Samaritan Home on October 10 where he and his wife were residing. Dr. Shair, a well-known Bible scholar, had presented topics as a guest speaker and had often attended the church services. He is remembered for many accomplishments in the medical field, and as a community supporter with special interests in music and theater. His wife and four sons and their families survived.

In December, 2000, the Memorial/Endowment Fund of the Quincy Unitarian Church received two bequests: from John and Jean Sperry, a gift of \$12,000 and from David Wexler, a gift of \$200. A CD of this combined amount was invested as a Living Endowment from which interest will provide available funds for capital improvement projects.

With leadership from Dr. Wexler, the church sponsored a concert by the Bittersweet Christmas Band. The group featured traditional and contemporary Christmas music as vocals and instrumentations: guitar, hand drum, dulcimer and penny whistles. Donations were received for the Toys for Tots promotion.

Board members scheduled to complete their terms this December were authorized, by Board action, to continue until the annual meeting in 2001. This action was necessitated by the change in the church fiscal year.

2001

Good things were done in programming during 2000. There were special speakers, UU ministers, Dr. Davidson Loehr and the Christmas Band. A new computer and software were purchased and installed; payment from reserves.

At the semi-annual meeting of January 21, 2001 a prime congregational action was to adjust the fiscal year back to the former practice. This caused a change from matching the fiscal year with the calendar year. The change brought the fiscal year to May 1 through April 30.

The Board discussed the need to conduct better pledge drives. Ellen Taylor inspired a canvassing folder, "Gardeners of the Spirit," based on material she had seen while attending the General Assembly. There was considerable discussion about Long Range Planning and the intent to make the building handicapped accessible.

Unitarianism 101

A seminar "Intro to Unitarianism" was scheduled for the spring, anticipating classes for our regular members, new members and interested visitors. Rev. John W. Brigham, minister emeritus, would concentrate on the history of Unitarianism in Europe and in the USA. Frieda Marshall would speak of the history of the local church. Ellen Taylor would address the subject of "How we are organized." The initial session, held on March 11, was attended by nineteen individuals. The following sessions, April 8, and April 22 had twenty-two participants and included a discussion of the UU Principles.

Invitations were given on occasion by Paul Miller for people to attend neo-pagan gatherings at Lumbar Achers to celebrate the Spring Equinox, a Bardic circle, a Mabon Circle, a garden tour, a candle-making workshop and a Yule event reflecting the winter solstice.

To ease congestion in the Resource Room and to protect privacy of church records, the administrator's space was moved upstairs to share office space with the minister. A computer work center (ready to assemble), chair, and printer were provided with total payment of \$379.95 from memorial funds. A wireless microphone to pass among the members during the "talk back" sessions was recommended. This had been witnessed last fall as being successfully used in the Alton Church.

Providing service to the community, a group of members volunteered to prepare and serve the evening meal at a scheduled monthly time for the Salvation Army.

The Sunday morning service of May 6, 2001, had the form of a Memorial Concert in remembrance of Caroline Sexauer, Hettie-Marie Andrews and Alice Morrison Mays. Those attending were encouraged to bring a flower to contribute to the flower communion. Special music was performed by the Quincy Early Music Consort, led by Lavern Wagner. Carol Mathieson and Dale McUmbert-House also participated.

The "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) program had its last session in May. The program was pronounced successful due to the hard work and dedication of the instructors, Mike and Jen Drew. They inspired activities such as: a bowling party, a Christmas movie and an end-of-year event. Their compassionate care helped the young people to bond together and to deal effectively with difficult material. The younger children of the R. E. program were treated to a party by the R.E. directors : Jenny Howard and Madonna Broeker, students of Quincy University. The R.E. group admirably conducted the entire Sunday morning service on the day of the annual congregational meeting.

Anticipating the annual congregational meeting, the Board produced a carefully planned budget. The dues for UUA and CMD (Central Midwest District) were of special concern. The proposed budget listed \$44 per member for the UUA Program Fund and \$16 per member for the CMC Fund. The total budget was listed at \$49,044.00.

The May church newsletter included a letter from the meditators of the Great River Sangha group, expressing gratitude for use of church facilities for the past six years. "You have never asked for rent; your kindness enabled our little group to thrive and grow." With more members presently, the group would be meeting at a different location. The Board responded, thanking the group for their graciousness and indicating a continuing welcome.

A tradition of the Dogwood Parade day was an invitation to a porch/parade watching party at the home of Ted and Sandy Morrison. Congregational fellowship continued with First Friday social hours, an Easter Brunch, Alliance meetings, Coffee hours, Carry-in lunches, the annual Plant Sale, Church picnic in June, Soup lunch and Christmas tree decorating. These were evidences of the members and friends working together on common tasks and hospitalities.

Ellen Taylor, Board President, conducted the annual congregational meeting on May 20. Committee reports were given. Referred back to the by-laws committee were the amendments regarding incurring indebtedness and spending principal of endowment funds. The congregation approved budget option A of approximately \$46,000. The Long-Range Planning committee shared very preliminary architectural plans for a possible addition to the church building. Carol Mathieson was named Member of the Year for her services as devoted organist for almost thirty years. Rob Manning announced that he would be at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, during most of the summer. In his position at Quincy University, Rob Manning was promoted from associate professor to full professor of philosophy and theology.

V. SHERMAN BOND DIED

A much respected member, V. Sherman Bond, died in Good Samaritan Home on June 18, 2001, at the age of 89. He and his wife, Pauline, joined the church in 1942. Sherman served several terms on the Board of Trustees and was president in 1974 and treasurer in 1986. A bio-chemist, he had Quincy employment with Calcium Carbonate Company. He had served several local organizations. Memorial services were conducted in the Unitarian Church by Dr. Robert J. S. Manning on June 21, 2001.

The UUA General Assembly held its annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Rob Manning, minister; Ellen Taylor, board president; and Sherryl Lang, church administrator, attended. All three agreed it was a worthwhile experience. By attending different sessions, they absorbed information ranging from fund-raising and leadership, to the death penalty to racism, from history to theology. They appreciated the opportunity to connect with the wider world of UUA and planned presentations in the fall to share ideas and to benefit the church as a whole.

The Summer Discussion Series began again with a variety of topics announced. The 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning gatherings would invite members, friends and guests to have conversations about (for instance): Capital Punishment, Book Reviews, Gardening, Social Justice, Separation of Church and State, and for relaxation -- a session on "Humor." A further benefit is that the church is open to welcome an occasional visitor.

STAMP HISTORY ON WEB SITE

A new series of items on the Quincy Church website shows an exhibit of UU stamp history. This was prepared in 1974 by members of the Junior Stamp Club of the First Universalist Church of Rochester, New York, with assistance of Anna Louise Brigham. Postal stamps bearing images of prominent UUs are displayed along with biographies, some of which were written by the children who were no more than 12 years old. The site features intriguing histories of twenty UUs, including John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Dorothea Dix and Susan B. Anthony.

Graveside services were held in Bentley, Illinois, for Violet G. Moore who died in Blessing Hospital on August 7, 2001, at the age of 89. A member of the Quincy Unitarian Church since 1949, Vi was fondly remembered as a member of the Women's Alliance and a regular participant in church activities. She married Thomas Moore in 1945. He died in 1994. Following graduation from Gem City Business College, Vi had an extended secretarial career. In her spare time she did china painting. She often made the coffee and supplied cocoanut macaroons for the discussion group during the 1970s.

The R.E. committee reported that Jenny Howard would continue leading the younger children, focusing on Unitarianism. Heide Schulman, lifelong Unitarian and a sophomore at Q.U., would meet with older children in the tower room. She and others arranged and supervised a cook-out/camp-out at Siloam Springs for the Jr. High students.

The Alliance Cookbook, "In Good Taste," was an inspiration for people to bring a specialty item to the carry-in luncheon on September 16. The books were available for \$8 at the church. The spiral-bound books were attractive and described as being "full of wonderful recipe contributions from our members and friends."

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Ellen Taylor, president of the board; Rob Manning, minister; and William Sinkford, UUA president, responded compassionately with messages after the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. Their messages in the newsletter and in the UU World had a calming effect and encouragement for thoughtful recognition of basic goodness of people with alternate religious beliefs. The Board reached out to the local Muslim community with support and an offer of using the church building. The motion was to permit the local Islamic Faith group to use this facility for their services. The motion passed with no objections. Members of the congregation submitted letters to the editor of the Quincy Herald-Whig. Those that were printed during this season were from Rev. Dr. Rob Manning, Dr. James Hayashi, Dr. David Wexler and Georgia House.

A small group of members participated in the field trip to the Peoria UU Church on September 30. Georgia and Thomas House, former members of that congregation, completed the arrangements. The group found the experience rewarding. They were warmly welcomed by members of the 150+ member church and they could learn about their services and tour their facility. On this trip our members also enjoyed a tour of the Lakeview Museum, a contemporary art center.

The Women's Alliance began the season with an outing on October 6 to visit the newly restored windmill and museum in Golden, Illinois. A catered lunch was served by the women of the museum support group.

Some matters of interest took attention during October: Animals were residing in the attic above the tower room. Urine had stained the ceiling. A hole, discovered in the soffit, was patched.

Dr. Manning signed the contract for ministerial services. Some adjustment was made to reflect a housing allowance. This was approved by the Board.

Frieda Marshall received permission to use the church copy machine to make copies of the church history sequel. This covers the ten years since the printing of the centennial history that documented the church story from 1939 to 1989. Ten copies would be distributed to the Board members. Each board member could then share that copy on loan to other members.

The annual Halloween party was held in Reservoir Park for children up to Junior High age. Adults were welcome to join in the fun of games and activities, and to enjoy hot dogs, drinks and a warm fire.

The Bittersweet band performed in the church in November with proceeds going to the Indian Mounds Swimming Pool Fund. Members donated \$355 toward the fee for the band; admissions at the door would be added to the fund. The children of the R. E. group conducted a sale of hot chocolate, snacks and coffee during the intermission. This effort was a benefit for the Quincy Humane Society.

In October the local Muslim group accepted the offer to use the church building for their services. They held regular Friday services and met on Sunday evenings during Ramadan. Their plan was to meet in the church until they would be able to purchase their own facility. Unitarians were pleased to be able to offer this assistance to another faith community which, in Quincy, was recognized as a minority faith group.

MARY BELLE COFFMAN DIED

Long-time active member of the congregation, Mary Belle Coffman, died on November 11, 2001. Joining the church in 1942, she served several terms on the Board of Trustees, most recently from 1996 to 1998 and she was secretary and, later, vice-president of the Women's Alliance. Her sons: Robert W. "Chip" Halbach III and John F. Halbach were enrolled in the Unitarian Church R. E. program. Mary Belle was a volunteer at the Blessing Hospital Tea Room, a member of Friends in Council and active in other community organizations. Memorial services were conducted in the church by Dr. Rob Manning with participation of Chip Halbach. The photo accompanying the newspaper obituary was the photo from the church membership bulletin board.

Dr. Rob Manning moderated a panel discussion at the invitation of Quincy High School's TEAM organization. Featured were Quincy residents from the Middle East to showcase that region's religion and the peaceful nature of Islam. Participants were: Dr. Zakia Ali (India), Dr. Wallid Hafez (Lebanon), and Dr. Arif Chaudhry (Pakistan). They answered questions posed by the students of the organization.

Steve Ward had been in contact with a church-building firm and had forwarded a set of preliminary drawings for an addition. Board President Ellen Taylor reported in the November newsletter that members of the Board and the Long Range Planning and Building & Grounds committees had met with a representative of Zion Church Builders. This is a firm that specializes in church-related construction. Don Chapman examined preliminary plans for an addition to this building and gave a rough estimate that could be a noticeable saving compared to another estimate received so far. Information received would be shared with the congregation at the semi-annual meeting in January, 2002.

2002

Member Sarah McUmbler-House presented a proposition to the Board indicating her interest in searching for grant possibilities that might fund the building of a church addition. She outlined the situation thusly: "This small, architecturally unique church building and its congregation are in need of an additional structure erected on the existing grounds to add accessibility, restroom and activity areas while protecting the original building's historic integrity."

Her proposal quoted Steve Ward's recent correspondence: "Our plans call for a 2025 sq.ft. addition to be built on the vacant lot to the north of the present building. This addition would be attached to the present church by an enclosed corridor or breezeway that slopes upward to the main level of the church sanctuary. The primary purpose of the corridor is to provide handicap access to our church. The addition would include:

Fully accessible M/F restrooms

A social or "fellowship" room that can be divided by means of an accordion curtain to make 2 rooms for religious education or other activities.

A small kitchen area for the preparation of meals, similar to that in the basement.

Storage for RE and other materials.

Our original estimate by a local engineering firm was in the area of \$234,000. Our recent meeting with a representative of a church building firm gave us the \$170,000 estimate."

A pledge drive led by Treasurer, Cindy Ahrens; President, Ellen Taylor and Finance Committee Chair, Dave Wexler outlined the procedure for requesting information from members about their hopes for the future of the church. Of special interest would be: 1) Service content, 2) R.E. 3) The building, 4) Fellowship and 5) Community involvement. An ad hoc committee was established in February to advise and review the building addition project and set time guidelines for completion of the project.

At the semi-annual congregational meeting on January 20, 2002, a consensus was reached regarding the future. An overwhelming majority of those present indicated a preference for building an addition (over renovating existing space). A vote committed \$50,000 to the project. Also a vote of the members enacted a proposed by-laws amendment which requires passage by three-fourths majority of the active membership for the church to incur indebtedness.

At the Board meeting of February 3, 2002, Frieda Marshall presented the members with copies of the updated church history – a sequel to her previous work which covered the years 1939 through 1989. This ten-year sequel brings the history forward through 1999. All booklets are considered as on-going property of the church. The board members could make their copies available (on loan) to members of the congregation.

The Service of February 10, 2002, was titled "Faith in Action Sunday" with participation of members who would share experiences of living their faith through their volunteer work. Examples of this leadership were: Liza Hayashi, speaking of Cheerful Home, Addie Seabarkrob, speaking of the League of Women Voters. Some other organizations were: Chaddock School, Historical Society, Meals on Wheels. Following the formal service, the young people of the congregation served a luncheon, proceeds of which would be donated to the Humane Society's "Paw Pals." The luncheon area was set up for an Expo where fifteen (or so) others could display explanatory items of their volunteer action and give direct information.

Congratulations !

Rev. Dr. Robert Manning was honored with a reception and book signing at Quincy University for his recently published book, "Beyond Ethics to Justice through Levinas and Derrida: The Legacy of Levinas." The book presents several essays that discuss implications of theoretical ethical discourse for the development of a practical notion of justice.

Board news

Rob Manning reported to the Board that Quincy University allowed that he could have employment as the Unitarian minister and continue his professorship at the University. This might require an annual re-evaluation. Anticipating the annual meeting in May, President Ellen Taylor encouraged early pledging so a budget could be formed. Small group gatherings in various member homes had supplied ideas for better promotion of the pledge drive. There was also consideration of committee formation and invitation for members to volunteer.

The promotion of the annual Plant-Book-Bake sale began early with the naming of co-chairs: Georgia House and Cindy Ahrens. The Quincy Herald-Whig announcement began, "The seeds of the Unitarian Church's Plant Sale were sown more than 30 years ago and the sale has grown into a community event." The Rev. Calvin Knapp, former minister (1971-1976) and founder of the event, was expected to return to Quincy for the week-end. He inspired additional interest, having nurtured the development of humming bird-attracting plants (*lobelia cardinalis*) which were available at this sale through the cooperative efforts of the co-chair individuals. Rev. Knapp also was the Sunday morning speaker on April 28. His topic: "Twin Stars: Naturalism and Secularism." A quote of Carl Schulz – "Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them, but ... choose them as your guides and, following them, you will reach your destination." Three ministers were present at the service: Former minister, Calvin Knapp, present minister, Rob Manning and minister emeritus, John W. Brigham.

A Big THANK YOU was given to all who contributed to the success of the sale. Preliminary reports showed total sales of \$4,794.81 (before expenses). This surpassed the sales income of any previous Plant-Book-Bake sale.

Closely following the Plant Sale, according to the Quincy activities calendar, is the annual Dogwood Festival. A church group, inspired by Sharon Buzzard and others, devoted time and talent to the production of the first annual (?) Dogwood Parade float. It was being built by eager helpers, including children, in the Hayashi garage. Quoting the minister's message: "This year we have decided to announce and describe ourselves in a public way by having a float at the Dogwood Parade. Working together, we can let people know more about us than simply that we are the church with the plant sale."

Folks were invited to watch the Saturday morning parade from the vantage point of the Morrison's porch and lawn on Maine Street. Using scavenged materials and Dan Kelly's hay wagon and the artistic abilities of members, the group fashioned a grand float. A garden gate was featured, announcing "Quincy Unitarian Church – Gardeners of the Spirit – Tending Liberal Religion in Quincy since 1839." Children and flowers bedecked the float and the skirt named Unitarians of history, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Beatrice Potter. Float promoters walked alongside and offered seed packets to people in the crowd. A splendid photo was submitted to the UUWorld and it was published in the fall, 2002, issue.

At the annual congregational meeting on May 19, 2002, Kevin Ballard was elected president of the board and new members were: Liza Hayashi, Sharon Buzzard and Dave Ripper. Appreciation was given to Ellen Taylor, retiring board president, and the others who served on the board. The membership passed the by-laws amendment regarding indebtedness and the budget, totaling \$42,440.38, was submitted and approved.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that the tower room had been repainted (Leann Flanagan, Sherryl Lang, Steve Ward, Kevin Ballard). New carpet was installed and Memorial Funds paid \$282. The Meditation group was no longer meeting in the church; The AA group met regularly on Wednesday evenings in the Heritage Room (Dr. David Lockhart, leader). The Warm Hearth Food Cooperative, established by church members in the 1980s, rented church space for its one-Friday-a-month distribution. In October (2001) the Muslim group started meeting in the church on Fridays at noon. On-going problems mentioned were water leakage in the downstairs, erosion of the front steps and the raccoon invasion. A roof vent was soon repaired.

Other details – the Membership Committee announced eight new members during the year, two deaths, and two moving from Quincy: total active membership - 83. Rob Manning planned to attend the General Assembly meeting in Quebec in June.

The web site was updated on a monthly basis following the mailing of the newsletter. Mike Flanagan added the texts of some Sunday talks to the web page, allowing web browsers to read a fairly wide range of subjects. Thus, the web page is kept up-to-date and it is informative.

The R.E. children worked during the church year to earn money to aid the Quincy Humane Society. They made craft items to sell at the Bittersweet Christmas Band concert, hosted a spaghetti luncheon, and made and sold bird houses at the Plant-Book-Bake Sale. Through their efforts they netted \$875 which they donated to the shelter. A photo in the Quincy Herald-Whig showed the children as they made their presentation at the animal shelter. Many events were planned beyond the Sunday morning programs, such as camp outs, excursions to theater productions, and other communal fun events.

A Letter of Agreement for Ministerial Services of Dr. Rob Manning for period September 1, 2002 – August 31, 2003 was shared with Board members and signed by Dr. Manning and president of the Board, Kevin Sean Ballard. Specific items addressed were: 1) Freedom of the Pulpit, 2) Code of Professional Practices and ministerial duties, 3) Remuneration, and 4) Communications with the Ministerial Relations Committee. Dr. Manning expressed his appreciation for Board cooperation and understanding. He anticipated speaking every 3rd Sunday and would meet with an R.E. group on the 4th Sunday. This agreement would allow time for him to pursue interests as his recent fellowship at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D. C.

The church year began in September with great enthusiasm. The RE children tie dyed t-shirts before having them printed with a chalice and church logo. There was an outing to Siloam Springs. An orientation session was held to introduce families to the OWL curriculum to be implemented for grades 4 and 5.

The Women's Alliance began activities early with a gathering at Victorian Grace, a charming converted farmhouse northeast of the city. Their theme for the year was "American Women Crusaders" – concentrating on women who changed society and even the world.

In August, 2002, the Social Issues Committee had proposed the use of the church as a forum to address poverty as it pertained to children of Quincy. Plans were finalized by November and a first meeting was held in the church. Community leaders formed a panel to address the local problem. About one hundred people attended this meeting.

A committee of the church visited the Walter Hammond Day Care Center in December (Libby Haggard, Ted and Sandy Morrison). They delivered a box of books, gift-wrapped games, a bag of toys and \$90 – a check of \$50 from the Alliance and \$40 as collected from church members. Claudine Douglas, assistant director of the Center, was very, very appreciative.

2003

The first Sunday of January has been regularly scheduled for a "Sunday Music Series" program at the Unitarian Church. This year a presentation of French Music was performed, including numbers by Bizet, Dupare, Gounod and Ravel. Those participating were Dr. Carol Mathieson (church organist) and Phyllis Robertson, sopranos; Leonora Suppan Gehrich and Robert March, pianists; Brian Gehrich, violinist, and Christina Damn on clarinet.

A newspaper announcement on January 13 included a photo of Dr. Zakial Ali as she introduced the Islamic Center at 1004 Maine Street. Previously the members of the group had met at the Day's Inn and the Unitarian Church. Now the group had purchased a three-story building where they could have their own worship. Dr. Ali had attended the Unitarian Church morning service on December 8 and she spoke of the appreciation of the Muslim Society. They were invited, after September 11, 2001, to use the church for their Friday noon prayers.

The semi-annual congregational meeting was conducted by President Kevin Ballard on January 19, 2003. Treasurer, Cindy Ahrens, reported that expenses were in line with the budget. Reserve funding had been made to both the Building and Grounds and the Organ reserve. Steve Wiegenstein reported that current membership stands at 73, and attendance has averaged from 29 to 49 adults per Sunday with 75 visitors having been recorded. The past Christmas Eve service attracted the largest gathering with more than 85 attending, who appreciated the visiting children's choir of the Bethel AME church.

Ellen Taylor reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for building addition had met with a contractor on several occasions and had received a preliminary cost estimate to accomplish a proposed addition. Leann Flanagan provided a recap of the RE program including mention of Rob Manning's assistance, camping activities, Halloween party and the OWL program conducted by Jen and Mike Drew. Responses were given also by leaders of other committees.

Sherryl Lang resigned as church administrator since she had accepted a position as executive director of the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design. She received gratitude for her work for the church. She introduced Rochell Jacobsen who would continue the responsibilities of church administrator. Kevin Ballard announced the resignation of Addie Seabarkrob as member of the Board of Trustees. Jane Holt accepted the position as replacement.

JOHN ALEXANDER SPERRY, JR. DIED

A devoted and much respected member of the Quincy Unitarian Church, Dr. Sperry died in Blessing Hospital on January 24, 2003. John Sperry and his wife, Jean, joined the church in 1959. John had served as Board Member and frequently presented the Sunday morning sermon. He served two terms as President of the Board of Trustees, was active on committees, as church school leader, and was called upon to conduct two memorial services. Dr. Sperry became a faculty member at Culver-Stockton College in 1957 and his career extended through his retirement from teaching in 1992. He was designated distinguished professor of humanities emeritus, and the college Board of Trustees established the John A. Sperry, Jr. Chair of Humanities.

Memorial services were held in the Merillat Chapel on the Culver-Stockton College campus with the Rev. Steven Monhollen officiating.

The second session of the forum on poverty continued the process put into motion in November. Four panelists, representing various social service agencies, had presented viewpoints. The panel moderator was Joe Conover, former Quincy Herald-Whig editor. In January the attention was given to specific issues. Contact persons were named: Sherryl Lang (health care), Steve Wiegenstein (transportation), Rob Manning (housing), and Carrie Edgar (food). Follow-up meetings were set for February 20 and March 20.

Sunday morning services were presented in February by the Rev. Dr. Rob Manning, Dr. Lisa Fullam, Assistant professor of Theology at Quincy University, Robert Mathieson, professor of physics at Culver-Stockton College, and Sister Beth Murphy, a Dominican Sister, telling of her visits to Dominican Sisters in Iraq.

News Briefs

A Men's Discussion group was being initiated by Rob Manning to meet on alternating Thursday evenings. ** Paul Miller and Sam Walker invited folks to participate in a Brigid's Jam at their home – Lumbar Achors. ** The Women's Alliance voted to purchase a garbage disposal unit for the church kitchen. ** The Alliance also was sponsoring donations for Quanada, a local shelter for women and children. They requested good, used clothing, personal items and non-perishable food. ** Advance planning began for the Annual Plant/Bake/Book sale. Cindy Ahrens accepted the chairmanship position and the additional leaders were in place. ** The YRUU youth group sponsored a spaghetti dinner after the March 16 morning service with proceeds going to the Quincy Humane Society. ** A group of members volunteered to give clean-up attention to a two-mile stretch of highway near Ursa. An occasional Saturday morning schedule was arranged.

The Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee for building addition reported regularly. Steve Ward had met with a contractor and received a preliminary cost estimate. Architectural drawings would be needed. Bids would be sought. By March, Steve Ward had received a proposal from an architect who previously lived in the house to the north of the church property. Having been a church neighbor for some years, Mr. Mulch indicated a special interest and eagerness to work on this project. Board member, Dave Ripper, volunteered as chair of a fund-raising effort. Sarah McUmber-House stated willingness to continue working on the grant-writing process if the board would renew her contract. A process was begun to establish a tax exempt status for the church, especially aimed toward grant writing.

Patriots for Peace

A group, calling themselves "Patriots for Peace," organized a gathering in Quincy's Washington Park that attracted two hundred fifty people from across the community. At the March 16 meeting Rob Manning made the opening statement. Mike Moore, senior editor of the "Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists," spoke, followed by brief pro-peace statements from students, WW II vets, Protestant ministers, Catholic priests and others. Letters from Congressmen were read. Respectful attention was given to all.

The annual pledge drive was under way in April. Treasurer, Cindy Ahrens and Finance chair, Dave Ripper, prepared the appeal letter using a noteworthy quotation. "Active and Visible: this is what our church is becoming..." These words, by our minister, Rob Manning, accurately described the effect of the many activities many had been participating in this last year: "The Poverty initiative, the public forums to talk about the war, the recent start of a men's group, the Women's Alliance support of Quanaada and the continued dedication of our youth in raising funds for the Humane Society – these are some of the ways we are participating in the community."

The letter continued and a pledge form was supplied.

Twins - Zoe Catherine and Zachary Nathan - were born on May 1. Parents are Jennifer and Michael Drew. Congratulations to the entire Drew family: grandparents, Jim and Dienna Drew and aunt, Susan Drew! The twins were introduced at the church a few weeks later.

The Sunday morning service of May 11, 2003, was a recognition of Mother's Day and a memorial in honor of John Alexander Sperry, Jr.- led by Rob Manning. A formal service for Dr. Sperry had been held at Culver-Stockton College in January. Memorial tributes were offered by Al Beck, Dr. Robert Mathieson, Frieda Marshall and Sandy Morrison. The benediction was composed and read by the Rev. John W. Brigham.

Board President. Kevin Ballard, opened the annual congregational meeting on May 18, 2003, expressing his appreciation for the dedication of the members during the year. He saw a small community adjusting to new ways and meeting challenges. The main focus of recent times was the necessity for handicapped accessibility of the building. To this end the Ad Hoc Building Committee and the Capital Fund Campaign Committee were co-operating toward this goal. Their report listed accomplishments:

1. Met with contractor on several occasions to determine feasibility of building addition.
2. Obtained proposals from local architectural firms for plans for building and reviewed subsequent submissions.
3. Signed agreement with Klingner and Associates to prepare building plans and design.
4. Expect preliminary plans to be ready by June 8.

(Submitted by Steve Ward)

During the summer, someone looking at the budget, suggested the possibility of e-mailing the monthly newsletter to recipients who would agree. This could save postage costs and labor. Responses were invited.

Sharon Buzzard, new board president, announced formation of committees and board liaison members. Some committees were combined. The R.E. planning was being shared by Jen Drew and Mary-Carol Lindbloom. They proposed a curriculum with focus on the UU Seven Principles, service projects, a Halloween party, a Christmas play, music events and entertainments. Parents of children participating in R.E. were expected to help with responsibilities. Appreciation was given to Jen and Mary-Carol, Sandy Morrison, Leann Flanagan, and Sherryl Lang who had provided dedicated service to the R. E. program for many years. By October a Quincy University student, Alexis Engelbrecht, was hired to teach the younger children. Alexis was a junior English/Secondary Education major with a minor in political science, excelling also in music and dance.

The Quincy University annual run/walk to obtain money for the memorial scholarship fund to honor Gail Starkey brought participation of church members. This fund supports QU students of special education programs.

A quote from the October newsletter: As many long-time friends and members know, the issue of handicap accessibility has been debated and evaluated with no simple solution in sight. Various proposals have been made regarding chair lift, elevator, ramp, and any of these would be very expensive, still not satisfactory. For these reasons the congregation voted to pursue estimating the cost of building an addition with restrooms, kitchen area, and meeting rooms. Work continues for the long-range planning committee, the fund-raising committee and members of the congregation.

The death of Rev. R. Mondale was announced in the UU World. He served as interim minister in Quincy in 1968-69. He died on August 19, 2003 at the age of 99.

Barbara Ertel, who joined the church in 1988, died on November 30, 2003. A retired library assistant with the Quincy Public Library, she was active in the Women's Alliance.

The Sunday morning speakers of January were: Jan. 4 -- Ellen Taylor, "Where Do We Go From Here?" A layman's look at various concepts of life after death and the reward/punishment issues attached to our beliefs. Jan. 11 -- Dr. Hemchand Gossai, "Now Is Our Time." Dr. Gossai is professor of Hebrew Studies at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Jan. 18 -- Frieda Marshall, "A Perspective from the archives of the 1880's" How this church, organized 165 years ago, functioned in early times. Jan. 25 -- Rev. Dr. Rob Manning, "The Annual Talmudic Reading." A discussion from the Jewish Talmud, related to contemporary times (damages by fire, who is responsible, American foreign policy).

In November the church had received a statement from Klingner and Associates for architectural services: \$11,000 – payable in 30 days. A casual request was made for memorial funds. The Memorial Committee shared information with board members and reported that the CD investment, designated as the Memorial R. E. Wing, would mature on December 13 at \$7,118 + quarterly interest. This amount would be available at the official action of the Board of Trustees. Another CD would mature on January 19, 2004, allowing redemption of \$5,225 + quarterly interest. At the December board meeting, a plan was set in motion for the church treasury to receive from redeemed memorial CDs:

7,118	=	7,350
<u>5,225</u>	=	<u>5,462</u>
12,343	=	12,812

This set a pattern of redemption of memorial and endowment/interest CDs at the time of maturity to support the building of the addition. The Ad Hoc/Long Range Planning committees reported that final plans had been approved and working copies were in hand for contractor bids. These were expected to be received by January 15, 2004. Once the 501c3 status for the church would be in place, Sarah McUmbler-House would submit an application for a grant from the Shole Foundation requesting monies for the beginning of construction. Other fund sources would be available should this application not be approved.

President Sharon Buzzard conducted the Semi-annual meeting of January 18 that was devoted to information about the proposed building project. She referred to a survey to be answered anonymously and provide more specific information about members' ideas on the proposed building project. She reflected a report to Central Midwest District that stated our church membership at 72. "New people are attending the services," she said, "and some are looking ever more familiar."

Dave Ripper reported that the fund-raising arm of the Long Range Planning Committee had received donations from various sources of \$17,000. These funds were ear-marked by the Board of Trustees to be placed in a specific fund for the building project. It was the feeling of the Board that those attending the semi-annual meeting generally approved of the current investigation of the possible addition to the building.

REV. DR. JOHN WINTHROP BRIGHAM DIED

John Brigham served as part-time minister of the Quincy Unitarian Church and the Burlington (Iowa) Fellowship from 1976 to 1982. Following his retirement he served as minister emeritus, giving strong support to the Summer Sunday discussion series. His entire career was in the Unitarian ministry, beginning with ordination in 1938 at Castine, Maine. He then served churches in Billerica, Massachusetts; Sioux City, Iowa; Burlington, Iowa, and Rochester, New York and Quincy, Illinois. He was a graduate of Tufts University and the Crane School of Religion. In 1966 he was awarded the doctor of divinity degree from Meadville Theological School of Chicago.

He and Anna Louise Dege were married in Quincy on November 18, 1938. She and their three sons, Lawrence, Jeremy and Daniel, survive. There are also six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Although John Brigham had been diagnosed as having congestive heart failure and required the 24-hour use of oxygen, using a portable dispenser, he was an important contributor during the annual Sunday morning poetry presentation on December 28. He read several compositions from his two published volumes: "Windows of the Mind" and "Still Sounds the Buoy from the Sea." John Brigham collapsed and died in his home on January 23, 2004, at the age of eighty-nine. Memorial services were led by Rev. Dr. Rob Manning in the church on February 7, 2004.

The R.E. Sunday on February 29 highlighted talents of young people of the congregation. Under direction of Jen Drew, Alexis Englebrecht and Rachel Doll, readings, vocal and instrumental numbers were performed to the admiration of all. The young people and leaders of the department were also planning a spaghetti supper to be served in March. Proceeds would support R. E. service projects.

IN MEMORIAM

Two valued leaders of church life died March 13 and 14, 2004. The **Rev. Calvin Knapp** was minister of this church from 1971 to 1976. During those years the membership grew to 93 individuals as Rev. Knapp initiated many activities. The first Plant Sale was in 1973. Members cooperated on several Attic Auctions and Craft Shows as well as visits to other area UU churches. We remember the Gay Nineties review, the Pamela Bedford dance programs, and the candle-light and red velvet Christmas Eve services. Ordained in the Methodist church, Rev. Knapp, after 1-1/2 years of continuing study, was approved and accepted into the UUA ministry. He later served churches in Indiana and Tennessee. Calvin R. Knapp died in Nashville on March 13, at the age of 78. His wife Ruth, three sons and a daughter survive. The Quincy congregation sent an arrangement of pink and lavender spring flowers.

Jane Martin Shair joined the church in 1956 and was active in the church and the Women's Alliance. She served on the Board and on various committees. With her artistic background, she was a guiding influence in organizing the Foreign Film Series that brought four showings a season for 15 years. Jane established the Eliot Book Shop in

the church and nurtured it further as a commercial business. When we identify the Tiffany lamp table, we can realize that the lamp is a gift of Jane and Hilliard Shair. Jane also promoted the creation of the banner with symbols of the world religions.

Jane Shair died in Good Samaritan Home on March 14, 2004, at the age of 90. Graveside services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Rob Manning in the Valley of Peace cemetery.

We pay silent tribute to these beloved members at every Plant-Book-Bake sale and whenever we notice the Tiffany lamp or explain the chalice banner that hangs at the front of the sanctuary.

(Quoted from the church newsletter of April, 2004)

The annual Easter Brunch was served before church services on Easter Day. The committee, led by Sandy Morrison and Libby Haggard, would provide breakfast casseroles and others were invited to bring fruit or special bakery goods. "It is a good way," they said, "to celebrate spring and the rebirth of many things."

Jen Drew withdrew as adult sponsor for the young-adult R. E. program. A replacement individual was sought.

A suggestion was made during the April Board meeting that the church treasury might find it more convenient to establish a separate safe deposit box at First Bank. This would allow the treasurer and another officer to have key access, whenever needed, instead of borrowing a key from a memorial committee member.

The Highway Cleanup crew headed out again to Highway 24 to pick up trash and control the appearance of the assigned stretch of roadway.

The Building and Grounds committee scheduled a clean-up day to have the grounds in fine condition before the annual Plant Sale.

THE ANNUAL PLANT-BOOK-BAKE SALE

April 24

Steve Wiegenstein served as Plant Sale chairman. He encouraged cooperation and reminded: "This is our single, annual fund raiser; therefore, it is important for the budget and the teamwork of members and our place in the community." Later he gave appreciation to all who supported this endeavor in many special ways. He announced gross proceeds: Bake sale, \$724; Plant sale, \$2,932; Book sale, \$627 – a total gross of \$4267.85. The net proceeds would be close to the budgeted amount of \$3,400. Rob Manning added, "It's always a good experience for all to come together and make this a great success. Also it's great to see so many people come to the church and appreciate its beauty and hospitality. All members who participated have contributed to this incredible yearly event."

Having successfully guided the Plant Sale activity, Steve Wiegenstein (Chair of Finance Committee) then gave his attention to the pledge drive. He pointed out that, while the Plant Sale provides about 10% of church income, pledges make up the majority of church income. The letter of promotion explained that financial reports were available for all to see and members could earmark a portion of the pledge toward a capital campaign for building addition funds. The proposed budget was \$43,500.00.

Annual Congregational Meeting

There were reports from committees at the annual congregational meeting, chaired by President Sharon Buzzard on May 23, 2004. The **Worship** committee reported having scheduled 20+ guest speakers for Sunday morning services when Rob Manning would not be speaking. They called on members and non-members. About half of these were first-time speakers in this church. The **Religious Education** committee reported that Jen and Mike Drew had led the OWL sessions for 7 – 9th grades before church services each week. Younger children benefited from classes taught by Alexis Engelbrecht and Rachel Doll. All enjoyed a Halloween party in November.

The **Fellowship** committee listed several luncheon events, weekly coffee hour courtesies and frequent First Friday gatherings. The **Building & Grounds** committee, in addition to the regular functions necessary to the operation of the physical plant: 1) met with building inspectors from our insurance provider to determine safety needs and, subsequently, met recommendations; 2) contracted with a licensed animal-removal specialist to trap raccoons. This person cleaned the attic area of animal droppings and performed necessary repairs to prevent future entry.

Dave Ripper was elected president; Lynn Mercurio, vice-president; Kathy Cornelius, secretary; treasurer, Sherryl Lang. Elected to the board were: Judy Crocker, Kim Tonozzi and Kathy Cornelius. Past-president, Sharon Buzzard was commended for her wise guidance toward the goal of handicapped accessibility for our building.

The Annual Church picnic on June 11 was the last “formal” gathering for the church year. The men of the congregation were in charge of grilling the meats; others brought accompanying foods. The picnic was held in the church back yard.

In June a new stage curtain was installed by the technician of Mr. K’s Fabric Shop. This project was a cooperation of the Women’s Alliance and the Memorial Committee, approved by the Board. The cost was \$745.

The July newsletter carried an appeal from the treasurer for those who regularly contributed to the church pledge request, but who had not yet responded. The pledges stood at 39% of budgeted amount.

Dr. Theodore Stebbins died in Quincy on July 26, 2004, at the age of 94. Private services were held for the immediate family. He and his wife, Elizabeth “Biz” Stebbins became members of the Quincy Unitarian Church in 1951 and both were leaders in church activities during many years. Their three daughters, Leslie, Claire and Sally, were involved in R. E. activities. Dr. Stebbins was associated with the Quincy Clinic and the staff of Blessing Hospital and St. Mary Hospital.

Several special events highlighted the fall season. On September 26 the guest speaker was Paul Findley, former U.S. congressman from Springfield, Illinois. His topic was “On the Israeli-Palestinian Situation.” Attendance on that Sunday morning was the highest in memory of most of the members.

The newsletter announced that on the same morning “We will honor the memory of our former minister, Calvin Knapp, who, before he died last spring, was working on a book called “Matters of Immediate Conscience” in which he discussed Paul Findley’s ideas (among others). Other Sunday topics of that month were from Dr. Rob Manning: “Rooted in Utopia: Some thoughts as our church starts its 165th year” and “Making Sense of what is happening in Sudan.”

An Appreciation

The new bulletin board is a handsome accessory in the Heritage Room. It is indeed an honor to have it dedicated in recognition of our 60th wedding anniversary. Our wedding ceremony took place in this church on July 21, 1944. We thank those caring people who inspired this remembrance and all who gave congratulations.

(Newsletter item)

Frieda and Floyd Marshall

In Memoriam

Pauline (Polly) Johnson died on November 12 in Sunset home. She and her husband, Dr. Bruce Johnson, attended services regularly through many years and Polly was a valued member of the Women’s Alliance.

2004

In 2004 the Quincy Unitarian Church celebrates 165 years of continuous existence.

In 2004 the church building at 16th and Hampshire will have served the congregation for ninety years.

“History Sunday – Reflections on the Past” was on November 28. Announcement of the event was featured in the Quincy Herald-Whig with a Lisa Wigoda photograph of the church building. As the service began, Board President, Dave Ripper, introduced Quincy Mayor Chuck Scholz who gave congratulations and read a proclamation. The speakers: Frieda Marshall and Sandra Morrison reflected archival information and ancestral influences. A hymn of Frederick L. Hosmer and the covenant by James Vila Blake gave a reminder of ministers of this church in 1872-1877 and 1877-1883. Members of the Women’s Alliance hosted an elegant tea following the service. Later the proclamation was framed, courtesy of Judy Crocker, and it hangs on the Heritage Room, north wall.

Holiday festivities followed with the customary soup lunch and church decorating early in December. Christmas gift baskets were assembled and delivered to shut-ins. Young people of the R. E. classes presented the Christmas Eve service of readings, vocal and instrumental music. Rob Manning gave the talk, titled “Jesus Come, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace?” The entire congregation sang “The First Nowell” “Silent Night” and “Let There be Peace on Earth.” Following the service a Christmas Eve gathering was hosted by the Hayashi Family in their home.

End-of-the-year details: Kim Tonozzi and Jim Olson painted the tower room. The Buddhist group indicated an interest in returning to the tower room at the church. The Long-Range planning committee filed pertinent papers in a basement file cabinet.

2005

At the January 16 semi-annual meeting, Sarah McUmbler-House gave an up-date on grants she was pursuing to help make our building handicapped accessible. Sarah had been officially designated to act on behalf of the Board in obtaining funding, the document having been signed by Board members.

The congregation responded to those in need by sending packages of clothing and blankets to India after the tsunami disaster hit that nation. Members contributed items and supported the shipping of many relief boxes.

The R.E. committee was seeking volunteers to teach the third-seventh grade group. Sherryl Lang and Rob Manning volunteered and parents were asked to carry the responsibilities for a month or so. The R.E. Family Game Day was hosted by Jodi Conrad and Kim Tonozzi in February.

A formal correction of the December, 2004, board minutes was an item of the February meeting of the Board of Trustees: "Board approved committing \$50,000 from the church treasury for current building addition plans to add handicapped accessibility to present building per congregational vote during annual meeting of June, 2002." In the March newsletter the President's Message stated that "After months (or years) of hard work, a grant application has been submitted requesting funds to help us get our beloved church building accessible to all."

An opportunity to purchase Quincy UU T-Shirts was offered and led by Lynn Mercurio. Sizes and colors were described and promise of delivery was made for the shirts to be available so people could wear them at the Plant/Book/Bake sale. Sherryl Lang and Steve Ward had volunteered to supervise the Plant Sale this year, to be held April 23. A request for help in all departments was urged and a careful Cleanupalooza would be a part of the on-going effort. The Board approved having 25 Plant Sale signs printed at \$10 each. These yard signs will be usable year after year.

The 33rd annual sale was a huge success due to the participation of so many. "It appears we will have earned the highest total net sales ever – result of the hard work and contributions of so many members and friends." (Sherryl Lang and Steve Ward, co-chairs). Net proceeds of \$4,660.30 were announced.

The Board of Trustees in the April meeting approved the plan for installation of ceiling fans in the sanctuary. Two fans were installed by Heintz Electric at a cost of \$162.82 each. A change was made to change internet server from ksni to adams.net with continuing assistance from church web-master, Mike Flanagan.

Rob Manning announced that he had been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Romania from January to June 2006. He requested input from the Board (and the congregation) regarding their understanding of his future with the church. He hoped to return in time to attend the UUA General Assembly in Dallas this June.

The Board considered setting up a file in the minister's office for members to designate: Living Will, Power of Attorney, Funeral Arrangements. Discussion on this matter will continue. The Board authorized payment of \$7,000 from the set-aside fund to Klingner Architects for services to start the building project.

In Memoriam -- Bertha Dege Danhaus

Bertha Danhaus, church member since 1931, passed away quietly at Good Samaritan Home on May 4 at the age of 94. She was the mother of Dienna Drew, mother-in-law of Jim Drew, grandmother of Susan Drew and Mike Drew, great-grandmother of the twins, Zach and Zoe Drew. Bertha's sisters are Anna Louise Brigham and Frieda Marshall of Quincy, Clara Lily White of Springfield and Patsy Rose Hoshiko of Edwardsville – all dedicated Unitarians in their churches. Her husband, Russell Danhaus, died in 1992. Bertha was the first chairperson of the Memorial Committee. The chalice, a part of the Sunday opening ceremony, was presented to the church in recognition of her leadership (1961-1990). The Kawai piano in the sanctuary was a gift from Bertha with a matching grant from the memorial fund in 1995. It bears a dedication "In loving memory of Herman E. and Anna B. Dege," parents of Bertha and her sisters. A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Robert Manning in the church on May 15.

In Memoriam -- Pauline E. Wessels

Pauline Wessels wrote in her mini-biography for the church newsletter that she had an admiration for the church long before she became an official member in 1996. She died in Blessing Hospital on May 14. In her career she was employed at the Department of Justice in Washington, D. C. and later served in the Department of Justice in Chicago. In Quincy she worked at the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service. She had many friends in Quincy through her association with Gardner Museum, Y.W.C.A., Art Center, Historical Society, Women's City Club and the League of Women Voters. Dr. Rob Manning conducted memorial services at Hansen-Spear Funeral Home on May 17. A reception followed at the home of Ted and Sandy Morrison.

An event of May 14 was the wedding in the church of Alexis Engelbrecht and Jose Villafane, conducted by Rob Manning. Alexis was a Quincy University student, majoring in English and having special ability in music and dance. She had been on the R. E. staff since October, 2003, and "her work with our teen group has been invaluable." Church members hosted a reception at Rob Manning's house following the wedding. Congratulations were also given to Alexis for her graduation from Quincy University and to Alexis and Jose for their being employed in the Quincy School system next fall.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 22, 2005, reports were given by various committees. The Worship committee reflected that the minister had spoken an average of two Sundays each month and guest speakers spoke on other Sundays – on a wide variety of subjects. Special recognition was given for the Christmas Eve service and the R.E. Sunday service. Rob Manning announced that he would be teaching all summer in Stanford, California. Sherryl Lang and Steve Ward were named as “Volunteers of the Year.” New members elected to the Board of Trustees were: Ben Morrison, Jen Harvey and Bill Holden.

Retiring President Dave Ripper gave a summation of accomplishments. He stated that the Board had voted to take an aggressive approach to making the church building handicapped accessible and the Long-Range Planning committee would be working to bring into reality the dream of a building addition. “Advancements have been made,” he said, “and over \$150,000 secured at this time.”

Newly elected Board President, Sherryl Lang, soon outlined plans for the coming year. Consideration was given for organizing a foreign film series, as had been done many years before. The Long-Range Planning committee focused on membership goals, maintenance of the building and ministerial needs. Drawings for the building had been completed so that contractors could bid on construction costs. A congregational meeting was planned to share information with the membership.

Robert H. Myers, husband of Claire Myers, died in his home on July 13, 2005, at the age of eighty-one. He was a long-time friend of the Unitarian Church and had recently become a member. A respected educator in the Quincy Public School system, his teaching career spanned the years from 1946 until his retirement in 1980. He was a founder of the Quincy World Federalist Chapter and had devoted much of his life to the promotion of world peace through world law. Memorial services were conducted by Dr. Robert Manning in the Quincy Unitarian Church on July 18. Memorials were suggested to the Unitarian Church Building Fund.

Activities of work and play accelerated in September. Dr. Rob Manning, minister and professor of philosophy and theology at Quincy University, presented the first two Sunday services: The annual water communion and “Connections with the Hindu Upanishads.” A theme for the season was “Many Paths – One Spirit.” The Morrison family invited all to join in celebrating Forty Years on the Porch at their home on Maine Street. From this vantage point friends were welcomed to watch the Quincy Dogwood Parade year after year. Fellowship dates were listed: 9/25-Harvest Lunch carry-in; 10/22 R.E. Halloween Party; 12/4 Hanging of the Greens; 1/15 Semi-annual meeting-Chinese food; etc.

The Board considered the problem of mold on basement walls and Kim Tonozzi organized a work crew that brushed and scrubbed mildew buildup off the basement walls. Continuing maintenance could include silicone sealant caulking to seal cracks in the mortar.

The treasurer reported total building funds available of \$155,397. The financial report of the Memorial/Endowment committee listed Endowment/ Principal funds of \$69,284 (by-laws state that these are restricted funds.), available funds of Endowment/ Interest and Memorial donations totaled \$54,045. The Board received an estimate from VonderHaar Construction for replacing the church entrance steps which were badly worn. The \$5,600 bid was approved for future installation. The most recent estimate from Zion Building for the construction of an addition was \$290,000 without excavation costs.

Nayer Attai hosted a fall luncheon in her home on October 1. An open invitation brought interested church members and friends who could gain an insight into how the Alliance functions, provides friendliness and good programs and supports church projects.

The first film of the revived Film Series was *Cinema Paradiso*, which had won the 1989 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. The screening on October 7 at the church was open to the public without charge. There was a basket for free-will offerings. The Board had approved the purchase of a projector for not more than \$1,500.

The R.E. program continued under leadership of Kim Tonozzi, Jodi Conrad and Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane. Kevin Ballard and Chris Wiewel volunteered additional help. Parents had attended an informational meeting at which themes of study were considered: our seven principles, world religions, Christian and Jewish heritages and the history of the UU faith. Outings for fun were also listed to be included during the year.

In November Rob Manning, minister and professor of philosophy at Quincy University, spoke at a conference in Leuven, Belgium. His presentation focused on the 20th Century Jewish philosopher, Emmanuel Levinas.

December activities included preparation of gift baskets for the home-bound and volunteer assistance for the Festival of Lights in Wavering/Moorman Park. The Hayashi Family hosted a gathering in their home following the Christmas Eve Service. An end-of-year column in the Quincy Herald-Whig listed the church among the top ten Quincy church Websites. The comment was "Orderly and efficient. Check out which famous people were Unitarians or Universalists." Compliments were extended to the Webmaster, Michael Flanagan.

2006

A January newsletter message gave thanks to Paul Miller and Sam Walker for providing an "absolutely wonderful" pine tree for the Christmas decoration. This has been their continuing practice since 1999-2000-2001 and so on.

The semi-annual meeting of the congregation was held on January 15 with a Chinese catered lunch that followed the morning service. Sherryl Lang, board president, requested reports from the various committees. A main item of the meeting was the presentation of information regarding the proposed addition. The long-range planning committee reflected expected costs, plans for fund raising and announcement of funds currently on hand.

Rob Manning, in his minister's report, said that he would be out of the country from late January until August this year. As the winner of a Fulbright Program Scholarship, he would be teaching philosophy classes in Romania, including a class about the holocaust. He noted that he and the Board members had arranged for Sunday services and pastoral duties to be performed by others during this absence. He gave options to the Board and the congregation to make decisions in the best interest of the future of the church in Quincy. This is a quote from his report: "I continue to consider being the minister of our church as a great honor." He intended to return to his position at Quincy University at the fall term of 2006.

A fund-raising campaign was launched to support the building of an addition. The Board of Trustees announced a fund drive "Affirmation in Action" with a goal of raising \$160,000 to bring the fund to the estimated \$310,000 that would be needed for the project. For the initial phase, a brochure was prepared to solicit pledges. This ambitious plan aimed at having our building handicap accessible and compatible with the present historic structure. A contact was made with Zion Builders, an organization that specializes in church building. The guiding committee included: Bill Holden, Sherryl Lang, Ben Morrison, Dave Ripper and Ellen Taylor. Grant proposals were being prepared.

Replacement of the front entry steps was an accomplishment on February 22-23. The limestone treads had eroded to a point of safety concern. The crew of VonderHaar Construction removed part of the west pillar and the old stone pieces, installed new steps and replaced the west pillar. The work was documented in photography at 9:30, 1:30 and 4:30 by F. Marshall. The discarded treads were sold for a contribution. Total cost \$8,033.

In April the fundraising campaign was going well with thanks to all who made pledges and had given encouragement and energy to the development of the project. Available funds in January were \$150,000 with \$31,600 already paid. Drawings for the proposed addition were presented before the Quincy Planning Commission for approval. The site plans, construction plans, and all plans from Klingner & Associates were presented by Melissa Holden on April 12. The Commission endorsed "an addition onto the back of the Unitarian Church at 1479 Hampshire Street. Steve Ward, church member, said the 2,200 square foot addition would provide more space for the congregation and a handicap accessible area to cater to the needs of those with health or mobility problems." Questions of legal representation would possibly be referred to Liza Hayashi. Fred Stephan, working with Kim Mulch, Klingner associate, would monitor the addition construction. Local architects and contractors were approached.

April News

The foreign film series continued with a bi-monthly showing followed by refreshments and discussion. The cost of the projector (\$1,400) was being offset by donations that had reached \$530.00. Rob Manning's message for the April newsletter described his situation in Timisoara, Romania, and his teaching responsibilities under the auspices of the Fulbright Scholarship at the University of the West. In the interest of smoother transition of board responsibilities, action was taken to extend trustee terms to three years instead of two years with two-year extension if desired. This was a returning to past practice.

The annual Plant Sale was held on April 22 with Sheryl Lang and Steve Ward as organizers. Many members devoted time and talent to this annual effort that seems to identify the church to the larger community. As a fund raising project, it is always an example of co-operative members' pulling together for a good cause. The treasurer reported that proceeds of the sale cover about 8 – 10% of the annual operating costs. The remaining 90% of the budget is supported by donations from members, friends, and guests of the church.

Mike Flanagan met with the Board to discuss church internet/website services. He proposed sending the monthly newsletter on line to those who would agree. The change would be gradual, allowing for adjustments as necessary. The advantages would be a reduction in postage costs and the ability to add updates during the current month. A user name and password would be supplied each month for those who would prefer this method. As church Web-master, Mike asked for responses and information. The newsletter production team had gradually grown to four persons: Frieda Marshall, Liza Hayashi, Mike Flanagan and Chris Wiewel.

By May the members were unanimous in their desire to proceed with building the addition when 85% of the project cost would be pledged. This goal was reached by May 21. Some memorial funds would be available. President Sherryl Lang reported that the Board and committees had continued the work of the church ably during the absence of the minister. The noticeable accomplishment was the implementation of the fund-raising campaign for the building addition. At that time \$100,000 in new pledges had been made. The congregation would vote at the annual meeting on May 20 to break ground when 85% of amount needed for the addition would be pledged.

Some other details: A plan was proposed by Mike Flanagan for recording Sunday Services in a format which could be distributed by "pod-cast" on the Internet.

Kevin Ballard, audiologist, offered information about hearing devices that would cost \$463 each. He described to the Board a transmitter receiver that would interface with the P.A. system and would be wireless so the user(s) could sit anywhere in the church. The R. E. leaders, Kim Tonozzi, Jodi Conrad and Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane, were given appreciation for their dedicated leadership. Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane and Jose Villafane completed the OWL (Our Whole Lives) training in Topeka, Kansas, and would work with Kim to organize the classes. A request was made for parents of those in the class to support the costs of the training.

In June Rob Manning had visited the Unitarian Church in the Transylvanian city of Cluj, a big church associated with a Unitarian High School nearby. He wrote that there are currently about 70,000 Unitarians in Romania. This is about .03% of the population.

At the July Board meeting, officers were elected: Steve Ward, president; Judy Crocker, vice-president, Jen Harvey, secretary and Ben Morrison, treasurer. The reported pledges received were announced as \$25,535.

The Board signed a construction management contract with Fred Stephan who was working closely with architect Kim Mulch of Klingner Associates. The site plan was approved and the city permit secured. Fred requested approval to use Fischer Builders as the lead construction company and the release of \$2,200 to complete the plans. The Board approved.

The church was the setting on July 8, 2006, for the wedding of Kristina Mathieson and Christopher Darnell. Kristina is the daughter of Robert and Carol Mathieson. Carol has been church organist for many years. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. William Fox, president of Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri.

A new format for the monthly newsletter of the church was proposed and approved by the Board. Using standard 8 1/2x11 paper instead of 8 1/2x14 colored paper, there would be no need for the expense of printing press service.

Rob Manning returned to Quincy in August. He thanked the Board and especially the Worship Committee for their support while he was in Romania. Guest speakers had included members and friends, other clergy and community leaders. The Fulbright Foundation in Romania asked Rob to return for another semester (end of September to early February). The Board co-operated with this plan. So it happened that Rob went to Romania, but made a quick return trip to Chicago to officiate at the wedding of Monica Holliday and Adam Sherman in October. A number of Quincy church friends attended. Rob asked that his second semester salary be put toward the building fund.

On October 29, Ellen Taylor, Kevin Ballard, Ben Morrison, and Fred Stephan met with Fisher Builders. Their final estimate for the building construction was \$600,000. Fred volunteered to contact Schlipman Construction and Steve volunteered to contact Zion Builders for competitive bids.

A foreign film showing in November was "Big Night" (1996) and included a pasta meal, described as "a food movie" that is not about food. Donations of \$120 were received and accepted to help cover the cost of the projector. Kevin Ballard continued leadership of the foreign film showings.

Other activities continued: The Women's Alliance had chosen a theme of "Understanding the Wider World Through Discussion of Selected Books." Coffee Hour hosts volunteered regularly. First Fridays occurred to offer friendly social events. There were sometimes inventive inclusions. Chris Wiewel volunteered to re-finish the front and back doors of the church. Steve Ward had purchased a projector through e-Bay and donated it to the R. E. department for use in the OWL program. Kevin Ballard and Steve Ward had repaired the church office ceiling.

The Board was attentive to liability insurance. The charge was \$248 annually for three years. This would cover \$1,000,000 per incident. Engineering work performed by Klingner & Associates totaled \$2,344. Don Chatten of Zion Builders presented a plan to the Board.

Christmas activities were celebrated as usual. Gift baskets were prepared for shut-ins. Pointsettias were provided and given as remembrances. The candle-light Christmas Eve service featured young people of the R. E. department. An Open House followed, hosted by Bill and Melissa Holden. The Annual Poetry Sharing Sunday ended the year 2006.

2 0 0 7

Our minister, Rev. Dr. Rob Manning, had been asked by the Fulbright Foundation to return to Romania for another semester (beginning Sept. 2006). He regularly sent messages for the monthly newsletter and indicated he was looking forward to being back in Quincy in late January. "...in my house again and with the church community."

The treasurer noted in the January Board meeting that building-fund pledges collected totaled \$25,595 in December. A \$2,344 check was made to Klingner & Associates for the complete building plans. A UUA fair share report was discussed. The fair share requested was \$4,000. In the past the church contributed \$1,300 to the UUA and \$650 to the CMD. The Board agreed to increase the amounts: \$2,000 to UUA and \$1,000 to CMD.

Dave Ripper volunteered to chair the spring plant sale with Kevin Ballard leading the book sale and Leann Flanagan and Lynn Mercurio in charge of the bake sale. Liza Hayashi and committee were compiling the church "Policies and Procedures" document intending to have a final copy available to members at the annual meeting in May.

The semi-annual congregational meeting was conducted by Vice-president Judy Crocker on January 21. Reports were given by Treasurer Ben Morrison and Administrator Rochell Jacobsen. Kevin Ballard gave an up-date on the plans for the building addition. Fred Stephan was working closely with the architect and local builders to bring this project forward. Melissa Holden and Liza Hayashi were helping to meet all requirements. The site plans had been approved by the city and some cost estimates had been received.

By February bids had been received from Fischer Builders, Schlipman Construction, ranging from \$600,000 to \$420,000. Zion Church Builders submitted a bid of \$350,000 with a management fee of 10%/\$350,000. Inquiries were made to other churches that had had construction from Zion. All comments were positive. The Board agreed to proceed with the building project. A special Board meeting was called for February 11 to review information regarding a contract with Zion Church Builders. Jim Hinza, president of Zion, answered satisfactorily all questions addressed to him. After discussion, Judy Crocker made the motion to approve the contract with Zion and proceed with the project. Kevin Ballard seconded the motion. All members attending voted to accept the motion.

This was also the Sunday when Rob Manning's talk was entitled: "Rob's First Talk Since His Return From Romania." The Building committee reported a building fund total of \$330,000.

The Religious Education Program continued successfully under the direction of Kim Tonozzi. Students finished a series on the Bible and began a segment on Tolerance, Diversity and Inner dependence. This was followed with a concentration on Native American Spirituality and other world religions. Recreations were scheduled on a regular basis. In March an over-night at the church, with Kim and other chaperons, was deemed a highlight of the year. Games, movies, pizza and doughnuts were part of the activities.

In Memoriam – Frederica “Fritzi” Mohrenstecher Morrison

Life-long Unitarian, “Fritzi” Morrison died on March 22 in the house in which she had been born ninety-seven years earlier. Daughter of Unitarians Anna Kespohl Mohrenstecher and Otto Mohrenstecher, she was a noted watercolorist, a singer, a writer, and a spiritualist. She married Dr. John Morrison, a geographer, in 1933. He became an active Unitarian when they moved permanently to Quincy after his teaching years in Washington, D. C. and Pittsburgh.

GROUND BREAKING

On Easter Sunday, April 8, Rob Manning was the speaker. The service was followed by a ground-breaking ceremony on the north lawn, led by Dr. Manning and Board president, Steve Ward. “Golden” spades, in the hands of R. E. students, turned the first earth. The Memorial Committee, represented by Frieda Marshall, presented an introductory check, made payable to “Unitarian Church-Building Fund” in the amount of \$28,500.

The feature story in the Quincy Herald-Whig reported, with help from the church P.R. people, that the 2,100 square-foot addition was expected to be completed during the summer. Built by the Nebraska-based Zion Church Builders, at an expected cost of \$425,000, the addition would extend the architectural style of the church, built in 1914. Handicap accessibility and other features would create advantages for the congregation.

PLANT SALE REPORT

Chairman Dave Ripper gave appreciation and gratitude to all members and friends who helped make this year’s event the most successful Plant Sale ever! He noted the positive P.R. for the congregation and the joy of being together and working for a common goal. This main fund-raiser of the church year was expected to bring a net profit of about \$4,200.

President's Message

In the next issue of the church newsletter, Steve Ward, wrote: "I'm certain that, in the long history of our church, there have been periods that have equaled the current time in terms of pure excitement and joy. The present-day happenings of our community have surely been plentiful and rewarding. We have just completed our annual plant, book and bake sale. For 35 years our sale has been a rite of spring for so many. Again, this event brought us together in many ways and involved so many individuals working hard to make a successful event." He gave THANKS to everyone involved. "Without the efforts of these dedicated individuals, we would not be able to pull this event together."

In Memoriam – Stillman Taylor

Stillman Taylor, a faithful member of the church since 1983, held a record of every-Sunday attendance for many years. A recent resident of a care facility, he died in Blessing Hospital on April 21 at the age of 92. In earlier years he served on the Worship Committee and (with Nancy Winters) he organized a group, called Dine and Opine, that had once-a-month carry-in dinners with literary discussion. Stillman had a long and successful career as a library administrator, including the Quincy Great River Library System.

In Memoriam – Anna Louise Brigham

A Quincy native, Anna Louise Brigham was active in the church at the time that her parents, Herman and Anna Dege, became members in the 1930s. She was married in 1938 to the Rev. John W. Brigham who served Unitarian churches in various locations during his career. Her life as minister's wife highlighted her friendly personality and interest in others. In later years Anna Louise and John moved to Quincy as he became the part-time minister of this church. Anna Louise died in St. Vincent's Home on May 14 at the age of 91. An avid stamp collector, she produced "UUs on Stamps" that is included in the church web-site. A memorial service was planned for August 18.

CELEBRATION OF ROB MANNING'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

This church year marked the tenth anniversary of Rob Manning's ordination as minister of this church. A celebration was planned for the Memorial Day weekend when members of Rob's family would be in Quincy. A sequence of restaurant dinner, hospitality at Crocker's home and special Sunday service was arranged. Those who participated in the May 27 service were Ellen Taylor who presented opening words by Fr. Bill Burton, Frieda Marshall who presented the talk: "Our Ministers Through the Years" and Kerry Manning who spoke words of appreciation to the congregation on behalf of his brother, Rob. Rob expressed appreciation to all who planned the weekend celebration and said it gave his family members "a chance to understand better how much this church has been a vital part of life during these years."

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The HR/Risk Management committee, under leadership of Liza Hayashi, presented the document of Church Policies and Procedures to the congregation. This encompassed financial and personnel matters, protection of children and youth, building and grounds and church activities issues. It also reflected current practices and the recommendation of insurers.

A comprehensive building progress report was given by Steve Ward. He mentioned the satisfaction of working with Bob Huddleston, project manager, who was alert to many details and gave informed over-sight. The foundation work, exterior and interior walls and the roof trusses were completed or in process. Zion president, Jim Hinza, was to come for the first project review.

Regular reports were submitted by leaders of other committees. Persons of the PR committee gave "thank yous" – "To Michael Flanagan for keeping the superior website up to date, to Frieda Marshall and Liza Hayashi for their tireless work on the monthly newsletter, and to Jen Harvey for her contacts with WQUB and the local press."

FIRST FRIDAY -- FAREWELL FRIDAY

The First Friday Party of June on the Morrisons' Porch gave an opportunity to honor people who were moving away from Quincy and who had made great contributions to the church life during their involvement in Quincy. They were: the Lang/Wards, Engelbrecht/Villafanes, Buzzard/Wiegensteins, K. Tonozzi, J. Conrad, and A. Jenkins. The Farewell Friday let those people know they had all good wishes for their new adventures and they would not be forgotten.

The title of the talk by Dr. Manning on the last formal Sunday service of the season was: "Arrivals and Leave Takings and the Life of Our Church." He reflected the same appreciation and noted also that arrivals and departures are continuing experiences in church life.

On the following Sunday the church annual picnic was to be held off-site because of the addition construction. The gathering was at All America Park on Bonansinga Drive, near the river. The men planned the lunch and there would be equipment for games. Temporary leave-taking for Dr. Manning would bring him to Europe, especially Romania, for most of the summer. The Summer Discussion Series would continue with meetings each Sunday morning. Topics for consideration would be chosen at the first meeting.

Judy Crocker was elected president of the Board of Trustees, Kevin Ballard, vice-president; Jen Harvey, secretary; and Ben Morrison, treasurer. There was consideration of a return to three-year terms for board members. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Committees were organizing. The film series continued through the summer. The Board approved the purchase of a new computer. Proceeds from the movie nights were directed toward the computer cost. Kim Tonozzi suggested plans for building bookcases for storage of book-sale books. Chris Wiewel stained the two front doors.

Steve Ward had received a request and had given permission to the building architect, Kim Mulch, to use this project as an example of his services. Mr. Mulch stated his complete satisfaction with the project thus far and had a good working relationship with the project manager and with the workers. He mentioned his delight that the architectural concept and historical relationship that he had aimed for was being followed. At this point the roof was completed, most windows were installed, electric lines were being run. Monthly meetings were held with the general contractor. Kevin Ballard took over from Steve Ward as liaison between the project manager and the building contractor.

The Website had been re-designed to allow pod-casts, which required more space. The Internet bill increased from \$48 to \$78. The Board approved the increase. Michael Flanagan was able to add pictures showing the building progress. He was developing a slide-show of the activity. He also was making digital recordings of the services and "podcasting" them on the Internet. Over the years many sermons had been preserved with permission of the speakers. More and more newsletters were being sent by the electronic method. The newsletter team would honor all requests for electronic or land-mail delivery of the monthly newsletters.

In August an idea of sponsoring a Candlelight Dinner Series was advanced by members of the Fellowship Committee. Their careful research and consideration of details brought positive responses from church members. ** The building addition work was slightly behind schedule, but the costs were close to budget. A Dedication Ceremony was planned and tentatively set for September 23, 2007.

Anna Louise Brigham Memorial Service

Family members and many friends attended the memorial service for Anna Louise Brigham at 10:30 a.m. on August 18. Rev. Dr. Rob Manning conducted the service. Remembrances of their mother's life were given by the three sons: Larry of Ohio, Jeremy of Iowa and Daniel of New York. A reception followed. Anna Louise's sisters are Frieda Marshall, Clara Lily White and Patsy Rose Hoshiko. Nieces are Janice Miller and Dienna Drew.

Coming together again in September, members felt the excitement of the addition development. The R.E. leadership introduced Liz Alonzo, senior theology major at Quincy University, and approved Jordan Ripper in her continuing care for the youngest children. Twelve large, library-style bookcases (on casters) were designed and built by a team led by Kim Tonozzi and Michael Flanagan. These will provide good display of books at the spring Book Sale time and safe storage during the year. As a service to the community, members recognized a need for disposable diapers for families in need. Jen Harvey explained the situation and would be the responsible person in connection with her work at Transitions.

Robert John Mathieson Memorial Service

Bob Mathieson, a faithful and enthusiastic member since 1974, died in Blessing Hospital on September 11 at the age of 68. A gentle and unassuming person, he was, nevertheless, active in many church programs. He had served as president of the Board of Trustees, helped on committees, was an occasional Sunday speaker and served as organ-repair specialist when needed. Bob was emeritus professor of physics, geology, computer science and mathematics at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri, where he was associated for over 41 years. He was also active in other groups where he held membership: the Canton Kiwanis Club and the Quincy Museum.

Bob's wife, Carol Fisher Mathieson (church organist since 1977) and daughter Kristina were also active in the church. The funeral service was conducted in the Merillat Chapel at Culver-Stockton College on September 14. A memorial Service was celebrated on September 16 in the Unitarian Church by the Rev. Dr. Rob Manning.

DEDICATION OF THE ADDITION TO THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS September 23, 2007

On September 23 the dedication of the new building addition followed the Sunday morning service. The grand event was very well planned. The title of Rob Manning's talk was "The People, the Church, and the Building: Looking Back and Looking Ahead." He spoke of those who had been leaders in the church in past years and of those who devotedly supported this project of making the church handicapped accessible. He said, "The addition is the result of more than a decade of dreaming and planning by our congregation." The Order of Service included the responsive reading, "Our House" and the closing hymn, "We Would Be One."

BUILDING DEDICATION

Then a procession began from the chancel area. John Hayashi, violinist, led the way as a "Pied Piper" through the aisle to the front door. Stephen Schlinkmann and Graham Ballard were the ribbon bearers and Daniel Hayashi carried the ceremonial scissors. Children followed. Nursery helpers carried the youngest. The adults then left the pews, following to the front door, down the steps, to the sidewalk and north to the curved driveway in front of the addition. There Max Ballard was the Master of Ceremonies. Emily Dozier and Ian Taylor sang "Bless This House." The gathered congregation recited the "Affirmation of Faith."

For the ribbon cutting, fifth generation descendants of families of the past were featured. Four-year-old twins, Zoe and Zach Drew were assisted by Jane and Ben Morrison. Zoe and Zach - great, great grandchildren of Herman and Anna Dege. Jane and Ben - great, great grandchildren of Sam and Annie Eldred.

Visitors included the architect, Kim Mulch; Sherryl Lang and Steve Ward, who returned from Savannah, Georgia. (Steve participated in the morning service); Dave Wexler from Peoria, and others. A great crowd of members and friends experienced the joy of the event. Refreshments, courtesy of the Board of Trustees, were served in the addition. Quotes from the next newsletter: "The efforts of so many people in our congregation came together to produce the almost miracle of our new building addition." (Minister, Rob Manning) "It was a great day to be a Quincy Unitarian." (President, Judy Crocker)

In Memoriam – Maureen Ann Hallas 1949 - 2007

A friend of the church since 1999, Maureen Hallas died in her home on September 26 at the age of 58. Her strength in facing the effects of ALS was evident in the farewell gatherings she arranged as a comfort to be among friends. She was a pharmacist who nurtured her children, Sarah, Casey and Rachel. A humanitarian, she had varied interests in art, travel and gardening. She was introduced to the church by several good Unitarian friends. A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Rob Manning in the Quincy Unitarian Church on October 6, 2007.

The possibility of Friday Night Candlelight Dinners with Concerts developed from Fellowship Committee meetings led by Judy Adams, Sandy Morrison and Leann Flanagan. For the fund-raising events Larry Finley agreed to be program manager, scheduling musicians for the evening's entertainment. A date of November 30 was proposed.

QUINCY PRESERVES HOUSE TOUR

The “Behind Closed Doors Fall Architectural Tour” is sponsored by Quincy preserves. This year marked the 32nd year of the public open house event on Saturday, October 20th. The Unitarian Church building and its addition was chosen as one of the participants. Other locations on the tour would be four homes and two businesses. The promotional material stated that the church at 1479 Hampshire Street “offers spectacular stained glass and painted windows. It is a quaint mix of styles that fit within the Arts & Crafts movement. The addition was designed after research that makes it completely harmonious with the main building. The new handicapped-accessible addition includes meeting rooms and a new kitchen.”

Quincy Preserves offered the opportunity to the church to be the hospitality center, serving lunch to the participants. About 600 visitors were expected. Members and friends stepped up to the challenge of welcoming Quincy visitors and those from other locations. A cleanupalooza was scheduled and concerted action resulted in a very clean building and attractively landscaped yard areas. The organizers planned to serve coffee and pastries throughout the day and to serve lunches at mid-day. The food-service people, numbering about a dozen, set up arrangements in the addition. Most of the food was donated by church people. Volunteers were greeters who were prepared to offer historical insights. A slide show documented the structural progress of the addition. As a fund-raiser, the event brought a profit of almost \$1,000. This established a fund designated toward furnishings for the addition.

An article in the next newsletter named the many, many helpers and servers and gave heartfelt appreciation to those who had generously donated food. Chairpersons, Leann and Michael Flanagan, expressed it this way: “What an honor for our church to be included in the Quincy Preserves House Tour on Saturday, October 20. This was an excellent opportunity for us to invite the public in to see our beautiful, historic church and our new addition. To all of the members and friends who so graciously gave their time, hard work, historical perspective, and culinary skills to make this such a special day – Thank You.” The minister echoed, “The dedication of so many members and friends made this day a great success for our church.”

WOMEN’S GROUP TOURS CHURCH

Members of a Women’s Group from Union United Methodist Church visited the church on November 8 in their program of learning about other local churches. Arrangements were made by Dave Ripper. Judy Crocker, Sandy Morrison and Frieda Marshall assisted in hosting. Some of the guests mentioned having attended a wedding, a memorial service, or the Plant Sale in the church. Other saw the interior for the first time. All admired the premises, especially the addition, and they were appreciative of the courtesies extended.

“NEWS” On the Church Website Pages

A link to the Website was approved by the Board to provide information from the monthly newsletter without including sensitive, personal information. Thus the casual browser could access news of activities and protection would be provided of members' privacy.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE ON BUILDING FUNDING

A congregational meeting was called to include all members in the approval of meeting final costs associated with the building addition. Proxy ballots were provided for those unable to attend the meeting. Treasurer Ben Morrison shared information about the current status of the building budget. His discussions with Ken Hubbard of Zion Church Builders indicated that costs were about 7 or 8% over budget at this time. He reported that the church had raised over \$370,000 (90%) of the current costs of this project. He considered this an amazing accomplishment that reflects the spirit and generosity of our community. Ken at Zion said we were the first church he has worked with that had “paid as we built.” Most churches borrow about half the costs of their bigger projects.

The result of the voting was that three-fourths of our active members voted in favor of securing a loan – if necessary. Efforts of the building committee’s fund-raising and the careful attention of the financial advisors were appreciated. They responded, “We find ourselves in secure financial circumstances.” Many expressed satisfaction with the building and compliments were received regarding maintaining the architectural integrity of the existing building.

MEMORIAL/ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

For the Board of Trustees – December 2007

As the planning and construction progressed for the handicapped-accessibility of the church, funds of the Memorial/Endowment investments have been made available.

1-20-2004	12,812.66	architect fees
4-5-2007	28,500.00	ground-breaking ceremony
9-25-2007	22,500.00	building fund
12-18-2007	<u>6,001.51</u>	building fund
	69,814.17	

The December 18, 2007, redemption depletes the investments of the memorial category. In March 2008, a CD of the endowment/interest category will come to maturity at 7,717. This redemption will deplete invested funds of the endowment/interest category. Memorial/Endowment Committee: Frieda Marshall, Ted Morrison, Mike Flanagan

In Memoriam – Dr. Bruce Willard Johnson

A devoted friend of the Unitarian Church for many years, Dr. Bruce Johnson died in Florida on December 11, 2007, at the age of 89. He and his wife, Pauline (Polly), regularly participated in church services and activities. Dr. Johnson was engaged in his private medical practice in Quincy from 1954 until his retirement in 1989.

Dr. Johnson's leadership in supporting the construction of the church addition to provide handicapped accessibility inspired the cooperation of all to make this become a reality. His generous contribution was given in memory of his wife, who died in 2004. After Dr. Johnson moved to Florida, letters and photos of the addition construction were sent by the church Board.

Memorial services were conducted on December 22 by the Rev. Dr. Robert Manning at the Hansen-Spear Funeral Home in Quincy.

A Summation of the Year – 2007

Monthly First Fridays offered hospitality and friendship with members volunteering their homes for the gatherings.

The Women's Alliance continued to meet every month. They sponsored the sale of note cards showing the church building. They arranged the luncheon that followed the Annual Meeting in May.

The Fellowship Committee sponsored a Spring Brunch in April.

By the middle of the year newsletters were being sent by the electronic method. Digital recordings were made of the Sunday Services and podcast on the internet. Through the years many, many sermons were made available as texts on the internet.

Various members hosted the every-week coffee hours that welcomed people after the Sunday morning service.

The Summer Discussion Series set a program of interesting topics. The arrangement assured that the church would be open to welcome any visitors.

The R.E. department held a recognition of the recent graduates of the OWL program.

The Foreign Film Series had Thursday night showings once or twice a month. In February a dinner preceded the showing of "An Inconvenient Truth." A variety of films, showings supervised by K. Ballard, reflected Australian, Palestinian, Czech, Canadian and American productions.

Sunday speakers included Dr. Rob Manning, minister; guest speakers of renown as well as concerned, able and dedicated members of the congregation.

As the new year began, the Board received appreciation from UUA and CMD for a notable increase in contributions than had been sent in the past. This did not yet reach the \$4,374 amount requested, based on the number of church members. The treasurer reported \$10,000 to \$15,000 outstanding bills for the addition. The semi-annual meeting with a carry-in luncheon was held in the attractive new building addition.

The church members co-operated with members of other churches in sponsoring the production of "Godspell Junior" at St. John's Episcopal Church with performances on February 2 & 3. The performance also included a soup dinner and dessert. Ian Taylor carried a leading role in the performances. Proceeds were marked for Habitat for Humanity.

Guest speakers during the month included Doug Muder, who regularly contributes articles for the UU World and Gerald McWorter, professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana. Their respective titles were: "Some Assembly Required" and "The Challenge to be Moral in an Immoral Society." Rev. Dr. Rob Manning spoke on the remaining Sundays. His focus was on "Abraham Lincoln's Religion Reconsidered" and "Antigone and the Politics of Mourning."

The anticipation of Candlelight Dinners with special music prompted a desire for a grand piano in the sanctuary. There was also a suggestion that the sanctuary would be an appropriate place in terms of size and sound quality for recitals and other music performances. With approval of the Board, an ad hoc committee, under leadership of Sandra Morrison and Kevin Ballard, was formed to consider options and logistics and to raise funds for the purchase of a model C1 Yamaha Grand.

Jennifer Harvey gave appreciation to all for supporting the social action committee's diaper drive. The diapers have been donated to Transitions Parents as Teachers program since last October. "So far over 1300 diapers have been collected as well as \$400 to purchase diapers." The Christmas Eve service offering was directed to this effort and brought \$311 for the fund.

Dave Ripper agreed to chair the Plant Sale again. The 36th Plant Sale would present new opportunities with the plants being displayed in the addition. The bake sale area would allow extra space for tables and chairs so friends could visit while enjoying the treats offered. Kim Tonozzi and a dedicated team of skilled members had built rolling bookcases for the organized shelving of books in library style.

The March movie night featured Belle Epoque (Spanish, 1992). Before the showing of the movie, a pasta dinner with all the trimmings was served. Reservations totaled 28 and the donations added \$251 to the decoration fund.

Rochell Jacobsen, administrator, reported that the last invoices for the building addition had been paid. The final \$6,660 was paid to Zion Builders.

A Book Study Group was being formed with leadership of Christine Jach and Ruth Cuthbertson. The first book chosen was "Building Your Own Theology" written by the parish minister of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, New York. "BYOT" was described by the author as: "designed to help each person distill and give voice to his/her own beliefs through a reflection of past experiences and through group study and discussion. We each have the responsibility to decide the meaning, values and convictions of our beliefs." The meetings were planned for Monday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30, during April and May at the church.

The April newsletter had a new photograph in the masthead. Fred Stephan produced the photo of the church which also shows the addition. Webmaster Mike Flanagan was arranging for sermons in text form to be available on line. And there were "pod casts" of many Sunday morning presentations.

From welcoming the public at the front yard sign-in structure to the guidance indoors to favorite priority interests: bake sale, book sale or plant sale, the people appreciated the new arrangements for this April Plant Sale. Many members contributed to the success of this fund-raising effort. Those who concentrated on the plant displays and sales enjoyed expanded space; the bake sale people provided not only donated specialties but also warm treats right from the oven. The book display allowed easy selection and people expressed appreciation to those in charge. At the end of a day of work and fun, Dave Ripper announced income of \$4,483.51.

THE GRAND PIANO

On May 13 the grand piano was delivered from the Springfield supplier and set up at the front-west section of the sanctuary. The Kawai upright piano had been moved into the addition. It was useful and would enhance that area of the church. It had served since 1995 when that purchase was funded by Bertha Danhaus with matching memorial funds. The funding response of the congregation for the grand piano was successful. All realized that this was a separate effort, independent of the church budget. The fund balance in March was announced as \$5,305 and in April - \$11,505. The fund grew toward the goal of \$14,000. Many generous donations were received, including Jean Sperry's memorial in remembrance of her husband, John Sperry.

Committee members in this promotion were Sandra Morrison, Kevin Ballard, Larry Finley, Jane Holt, Leann Flanagan and Judy Adams. The actual cost was \$13,886 which would include delivery and two tunings. An additional \$300 was in a reserve fund for a piano cover, a humidifier and for future tunings.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A main focus of the Annual Meeting, conducted by President Judy Crocker on May 18, was consideration of proposed changes in by-laws regarding the term length of Board members. The proposal, having been explained to members earlier, changed the term limit from two years, plus an optional two years, back to the previous arrangement of three-year terms. This would provide a more controlled transition from year to year.

A member chosen to complete an unfinished term would be eligible to serve a full three-year term. The proposal was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were given: R.E. plans were shared by Chris Wiewel. The leaders were working on developing an age-group appropriate curriculum. A preferred text was "Teaching Tolerance." Liz Alonzo, a Quincy University student, was employed as a class leader.

The Worship committee's report reviewed Sunday service presentations of recent months: The Rev. Ed Searls of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, Illinois, spoke of "America's Most Reviled Minority." Patrick Hotle of the Culver-Stockton faculty spoke of "A History of the Crusades: A perspective Across the Centuries." Susan Hebble, visiting her parents-Sandra and Ted Morrison, presented "Sooo Sorry: The Art of Apology." Rob Manning led the service on many Sundays and there were other speakers from the membership.

The membership report by Dienna Drew noted eight new members, five deaths, and eight moving away from Quincy. She stated a total active membership of 69. Bill Holden distributed copies of the Long-range Planning Committee's report. Building and Grounds Chairman, Kevin Ballard, reflected indoor and outdoor maintenance and gave appreciation to Mike and Leann Flanagan for an intense cleanup of the furnace room. Interesting items were discovered to be saved as well as unwanted items taking space. Those were delivered to the city-wide cleanup in the fall.

Other reports were given regarding Public Relations (Jen Harvey's attention to the "Wayside Pulpit" and work with WQUB), Fellowship Committee (coffee hours, luncheons, First Fridays and more), Social Action (diaper drive), Memorial Committee (total funding for the addition - \$82,593). Personnel/Risk Management (attention to employees, insurance, etc.) The Women's Alliance met monthly during the season. Church Administrator had completed five years of supervisory assistance. Current Membership Directories were distributed.

"CELEBRATE THE PIANO"

A large gathering of a "First Friday" group on May 23rd celebrated the dedication of the Yamaha grand piano. After an official toast, Sandra Morrison cut the price tag from the piano. Members of all ages took their turns, playing a selection or selections of their choice. There was exceptional music, good fellowship, wonderful food, and a grand aura of accomplishment. Members and friends also anticipated many coming events featuring the piano. The first Candlelight Dinner and Concert was being planned for September.

In June Kevin Ballard was elected president of the Board. Committee liaisons were named. Bill Holden explained results of the anonymous survey. The church employees were: minister, director of music, administrator and educators. Dr. Rob Manning was to be in Romania from June to August, but he would send messages for the summer newsletters. Dr. Manning and Dana Craciun were married in Timisoara.

Summer Sunday morning discussions continued with topics chosen by the group. The book discussion group held regular evening meetings with the study of a new book, "The Varieties of Religion" There would be one movie shown each month during the summer.

A date of September 26 was set for the first Candlelight Dinner and Concert. Reservations were being received at \$25 per person. Funds were to be used for piano maintenance and for future furnishings and decoration of the addition. Roman shades were on order for the windows of the addition. Carol Nichols painted a Triptych to cover acoustic fabric. These three panels corresponded in size to the addition windows and were mounted on the west wall. An antique quilt, on loan from Nancy Winters, was hung over the coat rack area.

A cozy nook at the east area was furnished with sofa, floor lamp and chairs. Additional art work appeared, including a photograph of the church, donated by Fred Stephan. Mike Flanagan refinished the library table for the entry area and built four three-panel screens to serve as dividers. Members then covered the frames with fabric to enhance the room decor. A portrait of Rob Manning, painted by Shirley Crank, was hung in the upper landing area as the most recent addition to the ministers' gallery. Identification was provided by Ridgely Pierson.

The congregation, being aware of the shooting tragedy at the Unitarian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, sent condolences and a card of sympathy and solidarity, made by Carol Nichols.

The First Friday in August was described as an "Adventure in Canton, Missouri." Attractions would be: a street fair, displays at an art gallery, a tour of the refurbished Lewis Street playhouse (formerly Miller-Star Opera House). Hostess Carol Mathieson welcomed guests. "Come to experience the fun of a small town on a Friday evening in summer."

Information was received that the Rev. Bruce Marshall, son of Frieda and Floyd Marshall, with 30 years' experience in the Unitarian ministry, was appointed by the UUA District Executive of the Knoxville area to serve as consultant to the members of the two affected Tennessee churches. This involved frequent travel from Silver Spring to Knoxville during the fall and into spring, 2009, to offer consolation therapy and to help the members cope with this situation.

The First Friday in September was a celebration of marriage hosted by the Ben Morrison and Ted Morrison families at the Maine Street home of Ted and Sandy Morrison. Those honored were Rob Manning and Dana Craciun in the first year of marriage and Ted and Sandy Morrison who celebrated a 50th wedding anniversary. It was a good way to start the 2008-2009 church year.

The Book Study group planned to continue their meetings and would focus on Vol. 2 of Building Your Own Theology. Topics for the discussions were: Exploring, Truth and Authority, Unity in Diversity and The Nature of Spirituality. The Board approved and would assist in securing the books.

The monthly newsletter was now being e-mailed to all who agreed to this method. Printed copies were being mailed to others and extra copies were available at the entry of the church. This resulted in a savings of preparation time and postage. An additional advantage was that changes in copy could be made during the month. By accessing "Newsletter on the Web" during the month, members would have the most up-to-date information. Mike Flanagan, Webmaster, was the contact person.

Members of the Buddhist Meditator group returned to hold meetings in the tower room on Sunday mornings at 9 o'clock. Rental use of the church included a monthly distribution of the Warm Hearth Food Co-op and Wednesday evening meetings of the AAs. There were occasional weddings of non-members and recitals. The church was offered without charge to the Sunday Music Series for an annual January program.

A listing of planned events was submitted by the Fellowship Committee. They included: Carry-in lunch in October, Hanging of the Greens and soup lunch in December, Semi-annual meeting and Chinese lunch in January, Spring Brunch, Annual meeting in May and End-of-year picnic in June. Two film showings were scheduled for September: "Othello" (2002-UK) – updated for the modern audience. And "Concert for George" (2002-UK) – friends of the late George Harrison play musical tribute to him.

FIRST CANDLELIGHT DINNER AND CONCERT September 26, 2008

Good food, good music, good company – a description of this great event in the history of the church. The members devoted to this effort learned how work and fun come together for a successful fund raiser. As Marlee Labroo reflected in her "after-glow" article for the newsletter: "The dinner took place in the lovely new addition at 6:30 following gathering and visiting in the Heritage Room." Tables for eight accommodated an over-flow crowd of 64 guests. Judy Adams, chief chef, directed the food preparation and had assistance from many helpers. The servers were men of the church.

The musicians were Dr. Gregory Jones (trumpet and flugel horn), Kristina Lowe (violin) and Larry Finley (the grand piano). The program included classic and modern selections. Friends were invited to attend the concert only – admission by contribution.

Another event was being organized for Valentine's Eve, February 13, 2009.

A warm welcome was extended to Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane and Jose Villafane who returned to Quincy with their young son, Kurtis. Alexis re-joined the R. E. Staff as assistant to Chris Wiewel. The R. E. group participated in the local Monster Garage Sale, held at the Oakley-Lindsay Center. Church members contributed items and the young people arranged the set-up and conducted the sales. This activity provided an opportunity to be involved in community service and to contribute to the church.

A fall clean-up time brought a good response. Cork Adams re-painted and re-hung the storm windows at the entry area and sanded and re-painted window sills outside of the tower room. Ben Morrison cleaned leaves and pine needles from the gutters. Others did lawn work and indoor work. A section of the church roof near the chimney had been repaired.

The annual R. E. Halloween Party was held at Reservoir Park. There was warm food and a roaring fire. Children and adults were ready in costume for the fun and games.

November speakers included Rob Manning, Paul Miller and two guest speakers: Mike Moore – “How to Avoid a New Cold War” and Doug Muder – “How Can You Stand Not to Know?”

Traditional “Hanging of the Greens and Soup Lunch” led the December activities. The Christmas poinsettia display, arranged by Sandy Morrison and Leann Flanagan, had good support from individuals who honored the memory of someone special. The Holiday Gift Basket team, with supervision of Kim Tonozzi and Liza Hayashi, assembled donations from members and friends, resulting in Happy Greetings to special friends. Deliveries were made after the church service on December 14.

Young adults of the R. E. program cooperated with Rob Manning to present an outstanding Christmas Eve service. Jane Holt provided the organ music. Those who performed were: Max Ballard, Jane Morrison, Ben S. Morrison, Jane Hayashi, Marlee Labroo, Sarah Fentem and Ian Taylor and Friends. Their readings, vocal and instrumental selections provided a true delight for the congregation.

The congregation gave a special welcome to baby Sebastian Craciun Manning, son of Rob Manning and Dana Craciun.

In advance of the semi-annual congregational meeting, Board President Kevin Ballard, reflected in the January newsletter how the Board has reviewed and up-dated policies of the church community. He mentioned building and grounds issues and fiscal issues and the steps to becoming a welcoming church. Attention was being given long-range planning and establishing goals so that the church would remain a viable voice for liberal religion in this area. These points would be shared at the semi-annual meeting.

A Chinese catered lunch, supervised by the Fellowship Committee, accompanied the meeting on January 18.

In Memoriam – Pauline Ringo Bond

Pauline Bond was a loyal and faithful member of the church since 1942. She will be remembered for her friendly personality and interest in others. She was active in the women's groups and graciously served occasionally as hostess to the group. She was supportive of her husband's leadership in the church as treasurer and as president of the Board. V. Sherman Bond died on June 18, 2001. Their three children are Judy, Rodney and Peter who had Sunday School experience in their early lives.

Pauline Bond died at Bickford Cottage in Quincy on January 18, 2009, at the age of 97. Memorial services were conducted by Dr. Robert Manning in the Unitarian Church on February 7. Members of the Women's Alliance hosted the reception that followed.

ST. VALENTINE'S EVE – CANDLELIGHT DINNER AND CONCERT February 13, 2009

The Garden Room at the church was the setting for an evening of fine dining and "simply lovely" music, focusing on romantic love songs. The menu announced salad greens, boeuf Bourgogne and a chocolate surprise dessert. A vegetarian alternative main dish of curry tofu was available. The after-dinner concert, master-minded by Larry Finley and Michael Flanagan, was a perfectly paced 60 minutes of Broadway show love songs ranging from those of Romberg and Gershwin to tunes by Sondheim and Lloyd Weber. The twelve vocalists, many of them church members, performed solos, duets, quartets in the happiest manner imaginable to the delight of all who attended. Reservations were not required for the concert only. Admission was by contribution.

Not only the performers but also the planners and workers received much appreciation for their efforts. Judy Adams, the gracious leader, had assistance of additional chefs and cooks, Roman Jach, as Maitre d', had assistance of the crew of men who served the dinner. Others in the background gave exceptional service even through the clean-up detail. A response from the minister: "The whole evening illustrated for everyone not only how much we can accomplish together, but even more importantly how much fun we can have together while doing it."

In advance of the event, Michael Flanagan and his helpers had constructed eight round-top tables – recycling the no-longer-needed book-sale planks. Each fold-away table with white-painted top provided perfect visiting comfort for eight participants.

Alexis Englebrecht-Villafane volunteered to lead the April 25 Plant Sale and she was excited as she read the announcements and summary reports of recent Plant Sale leaders. “What a rich history of an intelligent, caring, and talented congregation!” she said. She urged early help from all volunteers. Soon additional information named organizers: Dave Ripper (plants), Kevin Ballard and Joe Conover (books) and Leann Flanagan and Lynn Mercurio (baked goods). Kim Tonozzi and others were assisting in regard to Al Beck’s heritage plant nurturing.

The discussion group began meeting again on Monday evenings. They would consider “Building Your Own Theology, Volume 3: Ethics.”

A collection basket was set in the Heritage Room for contributions to help Christopher Mackenzie with his work in the orphanage in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He had addressed the congregation in a Sunday talk and would now return to Ethiopia to give assistance and care.

To mention a few more details: A spiral-bound edition of “Singing the Living Tradition” was ordered for convenient use by organists. The organ fund supplied payment. - Security plans included having at least the Sunday morning greeter call 911 and alert others to the need to call 911 in the event of an emergency. - The church office computer was up-graded for high-speed connection at not much more cost than the recent dial-up service.

Plant Sale Report

The sometimes identity of the church is, “Oh, Yes, the Plant Sale Church!” This was upheld in a grand manner again because of the devoted efforts by many specialists in plants, books and baked goods. “This annual event is anticipated not only among the members but in the entire city,” said Board President Kevin Ballard. Chairperson of the 37th annual event, Alexis Englebrecht-Villafane, agreed and gave a preliminary report: Books - \$746.60; Bake sale - \$1,009.85; Plants - \$3,685.50 = Gross - \$5,459.95. Expenses - \$1,111.85 suggest a net benefit to the church of \$4,348.10.

In Memoriam – Judith Ann (Judee) Melvin

Judith Ann (Judee) Melvin was a friend and faithful church member since May, 2005. She was also a member and leader of the Women’s Alliance who served as secretary of the group for six years and she was a steady assistant at the Plant Sale bakery area. Judee held a master’s degree in education from the University of Illinois. She had an extended career as an elementary school teacher in Palmyra, Missouri. Judee moved to Arizona for health reasons. There she died on April 29, 2009, at the age of 61. A memorial service was conducted in the church by Rob Manning for Judee’s siblings, friends and for our members on September 12. The Women’s Alliance hosted the reception that followed.

Addition Decor

Alan Starkey, one of our many talented artists, received appreciation for donating a special item of his artwork. The piece is a wall-mounted, welded, metal sculpture of a chalice. This Unitarian Universalist symbol is displayed in the foyer, above the water fountain, for all to admire.

Social Events

Members and friends were invited, as usual, to the Morrison Family's Dogwood Parade Porch Party. The First Annual Golf Outing was sponsored by Roman Jach at Spring Lake Country Club. The Women's Alliance members were invited to meet at the Midwest Antique Company in Palmyra, courtesy of Leann Flanagan.

In Memoriam – Thomas Edward House

Thom House had been a member of the church since 1985. During this time he served two terms as a member of the Board of Trustees and was helpful in committee activities. He also co-operated on the completion of the Ministers' Gallery. His wife, Georgia, son, Dale, and his wife, Sarah McUmbert-House, were also active members of the congregation. Thom's employment was as a journeyman pattern-maker in Quincy. He died in his home on May 5, 2009, at the age of 75. Memorial services, conducted by family members, were held in the church on May 24. A reception followed, hosted by the Women's Alliance members.

Building Improvements

Appreciation was given to Chris Wiewel for providing the safety measure of stair treads on the front stairway leading to the downstairs hall. A very co-operative crew of seven or ten individuals did an excellent (and very hard) job of re-laying floor tile in the east section of the downstairs hall. The recent Cleanupalooza-Fixupalooza saw many willing workers doing all kinds of outdoor and indoor improvement tasks.

Bill Holden accepted leadership of the Long-Range Planning Committee as they made a careful study of Vision – Mission – Covenant to present their findings to the Board. The UUA "Welcoming Congregation" book was a guide to the planning. The recommendations of the committee were presented to the members and friends at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 17, 2009. Their report concluded with a statement of considering these statements as "the foundation for establishing goals to ensure that we remain a viable voice for liberal religion and to maintain our long-term financial security."

Other reports were presented: Administrator (Rochell Jacobsen), Treasurer (Ben Morrison), Religious Education (Chris Wiewel), Building & Grounds (Cork Adams), (Dienna Drew (Membership), Fellowship (Sandra Morrison), Memorial/ Endowment (Frieda Marshall), Women's Alliance (Jean Sperry), (and others).

The annual meeting was preceded by a luncheon, provided by the Women's Alliance. Board President Kevin Ballard conducted the meeting and gave appreciation to trustees: Ben Morrison, Jen Harvey and Bill Holden who had completed their three-year terms.

New members were elected to the Board of Trustees: Cork Adams, Roman Jach and Chris Wiewel. Officers were announced in June: Ellen Taylor, president; Roman Jach, vice-president; Liza Hayashi, secretary and Kevin Ballard, treasurer. Recent Orders of Service carried a new church illustration on the cover. This was the photo supplied by Fred Stephan.

WE ARE STILL CELEBRATING THE PIANO

The First Friday of June was a celebration of the grand piano. Beginning at 5 p.m. and continuing through the evening, anyone, so inspired, could play a selection or more... or sing... or play another instrument. Everyone was welcome. Sharing food and drink, joining in applause, basking in conviviality – all participated in the celebration of the piano. Appreciations were given to the leaders of the project of bringing the dream of a grand piano to reality. Larry Finley was noted with thanks for engaging the youth of the congregation into performing at Sunday services. He also completed the piano project with overseeing the purchase of a classic instrument cover for the piano. The music committee: Joe Conover, Jane Holt, and Carol Mathieson would continue their attentive care of the piano(s) and the organ.

Following the last formal service of the season, with a talk by Christine Jach on “A Perspective of Faith,” the members and friends attended the annual picnic held on the grounds of the Women’s City Club – a block away. Men fired up the grills; people brought food to share. There were games and activities for all who gathered.

The minister’s family – Rob, Dana and young Sebastian – would be in Romania and surrounding areas for most of the summer. Regular greetings and reports of their travels would appear, however, in the monthly newsletters.

Summer Connections

Sunday morning discussions would continue as the participants chose topics of varied subjects. They would “carry on the work of progressive religion in a less formal way than in the regular Sundays.” The Meditation Group would also continue Sunday morning meetings at the church. The Book Discussion Group met on Monday evenings and began a consideration of “A Celestial Omnibus: Short Fiction on Faith.” Discussion leaders: Christine Jach and Ruth Cuthbertson invited all to come - for a few sessions or for many sessions.

The Board met to assign liaisons for the list of committees. Building improvements continued; Cork and Jeff did masonry work in the window wells. The annual inventory of the hymn books was accomplished.

A social event was the reunion gathering to visit with Sherry Lang during her short return to Quincy. Kim Tonozzi hosted the friendly get-together in her home and yard.

Some folding chairs were sanded and repainted in anticipation of more comfortable use at the next candlelight dinner. The Alliance offered financial help to purchase additional chairs.

A First Friday invitation was extended by Paul Miller and Samantha Walker to gather at the "LUMBARACHERS CHURCH IN THE WOODS AND ELF REFUGE ROLL YOUR OWN LAMMAS OPEN HOUSE GATHERING on the August 1st date. First Friday hospitality was regularly offered by members and friends of the church.

Board members approved a budget as presented - \$52,000 – almost identical to last year's budget. Early pledges amounted to \$26,230. For the 2008-2009 year, total income was 54,012; expenses were \$49,219. All fund raiser events added over \$7,000 in revenue. A goal for the future would be to present the budget and schedule canvassing by the third week of April. A change was suggested and approved that the Semi-annual congregational meeting be held in November instead of in January. The Annual meeting would continue to be held in May. On those congregational meeting dates non-Unitarian guest speakers would not be scheduled.

At the August Board meeting, Ridgely Pierson reported for the Worship Committee that 37 of the 40 Sundays of the 2009-2010 season were filled. Three Sundays would be devoted to the history of the Quincy Unitarian Church. The newsletter and orders of service carried this announcement:

THIS IS A CELEBRATION YEAR

In 2009 the influence of Unitarianism in Quincy dates back
to the founding of the Unitarian church here in 1839.

2009 – 1839 = 170 years

Our present church building has served our congregation since 1914.

2009 – 1914 = 95 years

UUA PRESIDENT ELECTED AT G. A.

A new president was elected at the UUA General Assembly, held in Salt Lake City in June. The Rev. Peter Morales most recently has served as senior minister at Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. He sees growth as the top issue that the UUA faces. He is quoted in the UU World of Summer 2008. "The potential for us to be a vital participant in American Religious life and really touch the lives of tens of thousands of people is a very real possibility." Peter Morales follows the Rev. William Sinkford, who was first elected UUA president in 2001 and re-elected in 2005. (The UUA by-laws limit a president to two terms).

Candlelight Dinner - November 13

To celebrate the harvest season, plans were being made for the next Candlelight Dinner and Concert to be held on Friday, November 13. The evening's musical program would feature Nashville jazz vocalist, Monica Ramey, accompanied by Larry Finley and Friends. Ms. Ramey's performance would include favorite jazz standards. Reservations were being invited.

There was much liveliness in the church as the season began in September. The Alliance members had participated in a project called "A Little Elbow Grease at Church." They met on August 28 and completed a thorough cleaning of the new kitchen. Work in other nooks and corners gave the members a satisfaction of tasks well completed.

Minister Rob, wife Dana and babe Sebastian returned from summer months in Romania and travel in additional European countries. The traditional First Friday, hosted by the Morrison Family, gave opportunity for re-connection.

Social action continued: support of the diaper drive to benefit families of Traditions of Western Illinois. Support of food programs by donating items to Quanaa – this year also included pet foods to Paw Pals. A collection basket was available at the monthly First Friday gatherings. Tracee Farmer accepted leadership and responsibility for scheduling coming First Friday events. The committee arranged for donation of textbooks, "To Kill a Mocking Bird," to a high school class.

Appreciation was given to the minister and to the organist for leadership of the memorial service for Judee Melvin on September 12. Appreciation was also given to the Women's Alliance members for hosting the reception after the service. This provided a visiting time for the family members (some of whom came from a distance) and for our members and for friends of the family.

The R.E. program was being led by Chris Wiewel who requested parental help for toddler and middle-school groups. The High School R.E. group was planning several activities and meeting for a bagel breakfast one Sunday morning each month. Alexis Englebrecht-Villafane was the leader. Max Ballard would be watchful for the toddlers during church services. The R. E. committee decided to distribute the \$150 gained from last year's fund raising to local, national and international charities.

Movie nights returned with a showing on October 17 – The Savages – an American film. Screening at 7 p.m. Refreshments to follow.

The Social Action Committee was participating in the local Unmet Needs Committee, a co-operation of representatives of several Quincy churches. Plans were begun for adopting a family at Christmas time

In anticipation of future Candlelight Dinners, a crew of members sanded and repainted 18 of the old folding chairs. The Alliance treasury supported purchase of 16 additional chairs from the Illinois School Supply for a cost of \$280, giving a total supply of 64 nice, comfortable chairs.

In the October meeting of the Board of Trustees several topics were given attention. Treasurer Kevin Ballard reported that at 42% of the church year, 61% of pledges had been received. The appropriate officers secured a safe deposit box at the bank. Mugs and T-shirts, featuring the Unitarian chalice and the message: "Quincy Unitarian Church – Many Paths-One Spirit," were offered for people to order. A suggested name for the addition "Garden Room" was floated for possible acceptance. A decorative quilt, produced by Ann Miller Titus was an addition to the décor. Liza Hayashi and Kevin Ballard videotaped the church contents as advised by insurers.

Reflecting Quincy Unitarian Church History

The planning committee determined that three of the Sunday morning services would be devoted to consideration of church history. On October 25, Dienna Danhaus Drew, a third-generation Quincy Unitarian Church member, presented "1479 Hampshire: Not Just Stone and Mortar." Her very careful research reflected that the church is not the building. She quoted remarks from the time of the building dedication in 1914. "After 75 years of Unitarianism in Quincy, we are aware that the world changes and we change with it, always being open to all truths that science and thought have established." In 1929 the Rev. Daniel Sands said, "The church is not a dead pile of stones and unmeaning timber. It is a living thing, made up of the beating of human hearts – of the nameless music of our souls."

The present church was called by the architect, "a clever little English chapel." The city of Quincy and the Quincy Preserves Commission designated the church as a local landmark in September, 1999.

The complete script of the presentation was made available on the church website, accessible by code: uuquincy.org.

Semi-annual Congregational Meeting

The semi-annual meeting was held on November 1 by recognition that this is the mid-year point in the church year. After the morning service while people were still in the sanctuary, there were brief oral reports from committee representatives. Written memos were shared from Membership and Memorial committees. The Women's Alliance made all the arrangements for the dinner served in the Garden Room. The entrée was roasted turkey from Hy-Vee grocery. Other main dishes and desserts were provided by the members of the Alliance. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all at \$5 per person and \$15 per family.

Candlelight Dinner and Concert

The third Candlelight Dinner and Concert held on Friday, November 13, was a festive occasion inspired and sponsored by Bill and Melissa Holden. Following hospitality in the Heritage Room, an autumn harvest dinner was served in the Garden Room. Judy Adams again attended to reservations and artful seating. Melissa Holden and Angela Kettelman coordinated the dinner. The men of the church were waiters and a support crew of over twenty volunteered as greeters, cooks, servers and the clean-up crew. Dan Kelly contributed organic fruits and vegetables, Chris Wiewel and Leann Flanagan prepared delicious desserts. The December newsletter named all others who generously helped: Lisa Wigoda, Kevin and Max Ballard, Joe Conover, Lani Schneider, Lisa Barnes, Kim Tonozzi, Liza Hayashi, Ridgely Pierson, Sharon Labroo, Roman Jach, Cork Adams, Mike Flanagan and Rob Manning.

A near capacity crowd enjoyed a wonderful meal as the people visited at the round topped tables, covered with snowy white cloths and set with peaked matching napkins. (Linens supplied by Dave Ripper.) Fantastic centerpieces were invented by Peggy Ballard.

The Concert

For the concert, the church sanctuary was transformed into a theater. Bill Holden and Larry Finley produced the evening's musical presentation. The audience was treated to an extraordinary show, as jazz vocalist Monica Ramey, Nashville recording artist, presented favorite jazz standards and several original works to the accompaniment of Larry Finley and the Quincy group, Ben Bumbry and The Messengers. This Quincy performance was the first event on a promotional tour to introduce Monica Ramey's debut CD. The encore piece was "Make Someone Happy" – the title of her CD.

The following evening a repeat performance was staged at the State Room in Quincy. Audiences had a rare opportunity to hear live jazz in Quincy.

Much appreciation was given to members and friends of the church who helped make this Candlelight Dinner and Concert such a success. Guests enjoyed a wonderful meal and a first-class show! Thanks to all of the volunteers and the very generous musicians, the evening brought nearly \$1,000 for the church treasury – tentatively intended for the pew cushion fund.

Activities of the Board included discussion of installing laminate flooring for the fireplace section of the downstairs hall. The cost for supplies was estimated to be \$400 / \$500, with installation being accomplished by a membership crew, led by Roman Jach. The Board approved this expenditure and the project was completed with helpers: Cork Adams, Kim Tonozzi and Kevin Ballard. Actual cost for supplies: \$408. Kevin noted the need for up-dated audio equipment, expected to cost \$500. The Board approved this expenditure, both projects to be funded from the Building and Grounds reserve.

The traditional "Hanging of the Greens" followed the Sunday morning service on the first Sunday of December. Members of the Fellowship Committee provided various hot soups and others brought "finger foods" and desserts. The decorating of the pine tree, donated by Paul Miller, was skillfully accomplished. Candelabra setting and windowsill enhancements brought a holiday atmosphere to the sanctuary along with many potted poinsettias that were arranged on the chancel stairs.

Liza Hayashi reported that the congregation's response to the holiday adopt-a-family project was wonderful. With appreciated donations from church members, Christmas gift baskets were prepared as usual and delivered by members to special friends of the congregation. The offering of the Christmas Eve service was a benefit for the diaper fund through Transitions.

A year-end report from the Memorial/Endowment Committee reflected a re-investment on November 25. Information supplied to the Board listed:
Endowment/Principal fund - (Restricted) \$68,200; Endowment/Interest fund - \$6,780 and Memorial fund - \$3,091.

Looking forward, the Board anticipated providing leadership in taking action on the recommendations provided by the Long Range Planning Committee. These recommendations might include attention to physical structure, membership, religious education and visibility in the community.

QUINCY UNITARIAN CHURCH

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1st year	2nd year	3rd year	Officers
2000			
Addie Seabarkrob	Sandra Walters	Ellen Taylor	E. Taylor Pres.
Georgia House	Ellen Taylor	Steve Ward	N. Winters V. P.
Cindy Ahrens	Libby Haggard	Nancy Winters	S. Ward Sec.
			J. Miller Treas.
2001			
Steve Ward	Addie Seabarkrob	Sandra Walters	E. Taylor Pres.
Kevin Ballard	Georgia House	Ellen Taylor	S. Walters V.P.
Robert Mathieson	Cindy Ahrens	Libby Haggard	S. Ward Sec.
			C. Ahrens Treas.
			S. Lang Admin.
2002-2003			
Liza Hayashi	Steve Ward	Addie Seabarkrob	K. Ballard Pres.
Sharon Buzzard	Kevin Ballard	(Jane Holt)	S. Buzzard V. P.
Dave Ripper	Robert Mathieson	Georgia House	S. Ward Sec.
		Cindy Ahrens	C. Ahrens Treas.
			(S. Lang Admin.
			(R. Jacobsen "
2003-2004			
Gerald Crank	Liza Hayashi	Robert Mathieson	S. Buzzard Pres.
S. Lang	Sharon Buzzard		S. Lang V. P.
Jim Olson	Dave Ripper		R. Mathieson Sec.
Jane Holt			R. Jacobsen Admin.
L. Mercurio			L. Mercurio Treas.
2004-2005			
Kathy Cornelius	Sherryl Lang	D. Ripper	D. Ripper Pres.
Judith Crocker	G. Crank		L. Mercurio V. P.
Kim Tonozzi	J. Olson		K. Cornelius Sec.
	J. Holt		S. Lang Treas.
	Lynn Mercurio		R. Jacobsen Admin.
2005-2006			
Jen Harvey	Kathy Cornelius	Sherryl Lang	S. Lang Pres.
Bill Holden	Judith Crocker	Jane Holt	K. Tonozzi V. P.
Ben Morrison	Kim Tonozzi	Lynn Mercurio	J. Harvey Sec.
			B. Morrison Treas.
			R. Jacobsen Admin.

QUINCY UNITARIAN CHURCH

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1st year	2nd year	3rd year	Officers
2006-2007 Steve Ward Kevin Ballard Leann Flanagan Liza Hayashi	Jen Harvey Bill Holden Ben Morrison	Judith Crocker Kim Tonozzi	S. Ward Pres. J. Crocker V. P. J. Harvey Sec. B. Morrison Treas. R. Jacobsen Admin.
2007-2008 Judith Crocker Ellen Taylor Judee Melvin (Kim Tonozzi)	Kevin Ballard Leann Flanagan Liza Hayashi	Jen Harvey Bill Holden Ben Morrison	J. Crocker Pres. K. Ballard V. P. J. Harvey Sec. B. Morrison Treas. R. Jacobsen Admin.
2008-2009 Ellen Taylor Frieda Marshall Ridgely Pierson	Kevin Ballard Liza Hayashi Leann Flanagan	Ben Morrison Jen Harvey Bill Holden	K. Ballard Pres. E. Taylor V. P. J. Harvey Sec. B. Morrison Treas. R. Jacobsen Admin.
2009-2010 Roman Jach Cork Adams Chris Wiewel	Ellen Taylor Frieda Marshall Ridgely Pierson	Kevin Ballard Liza Hayashi Leann Flanagan	E. Taylor Pres. R. Jach V. P. K. Ballard Treas. L. Hayashi Sec. R. Jacobsen Admin.
2010-2011	Roman Jach Cork Adams Chris Wiewel	Ellen Taylor Frieda Marshall Ridgely Pierson	

BUDGETS
2000 – 2009

		Treasurer	Administrator
1-2000/5-2001	\$ 14,000 or 9,000 (interim)	Cindy Ahrens	Sherryl Lang
5-2001/4-2002	46,000	“	“
5-2002/4-2003	42,440	“	“
5-2003/4-2004	43,417.	Lynn Mercurio	Rochell Jacobsen
5-2004/4-2005	43,500	Sherryl Lang	“ “
5-2005/4-2006	47,975	Ben Morrison	“ “
5-2006/4-2007	47,025	Ben Morrison	“ “
5-2007/4-2008	47,700	Ben Morrison	“ “
5/2008/4-2009	52,000	Ben Morrison	“ “
5-2009/4-2010	55,571	Kevin Ballard	“ “

MEMBERS

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 2000 | David D. Wexler
Peggy Ballard
Kevin Sean Ballard
Michelle Ripper
Dave Ripper
Megan Cahill | 2005 | George Scott
Anna Wiegenstein (Jr.)
Robert H. Myers
Bill Holden
Melissa Holden
Judith Ann Melvin
Alexis Engelbrecht
Jose Ramon Villafane |
| 2001 | Phyllis Dopp | | |
| 2002 | Judith D. Crocker
Claire Myers
Diana Robison
Jim Olson
Shirley J. Crank
Gerald L. Crank
Barbara Burchard
Micheal Hobbs | 2006 | Bob Reinertsen
Devin Ward (Jr.) |
| 2003 | Carrie Edgar
Mark Edgar
John Louis Degonia
Reginald L. Willis
Jennifer L. Harvey
Alan Harvey
Dave Cornelius
Kathy Cornelius | 2007 | Judy Adams
Cork Adams
Jane E. Hayashi (Jr.)
Jordan Ripper (Jr.)
Christine Wiewel
Mike Schlinkmann
Lydia McUmbert-House (Jr.)
James Schluessler
Amelia Schluessler
Joe I. Conover
Christine Jach
Roman Jach |
| 2004 | Ben Morrison
Jodi Conrad
Kim Tonozzi
Antony Wollaston
Jill Wollaston
Robin Taylor
Ridgely Pierson | 2008 | Tracee Farmer
D. Terrell Dempsey
Barbara Flowers
Edward Flowers
Lane Fairchild
Melissa Fairchild
Catherine W. Inman
Jeff V. Legg |
| | | 2009 | Claire Don
Kate Daniels
Virginia Ewing
Jack Ewing |

D E A T H S

		Service conducted by
Hettie Marie Andrews	March 4, 2000	Rev. Judith Taylor
Amy Sundermann Stevens	September 19, 2000	----
Hilliard M. Shair	October 10, 2000	Michael Saul
V. Sherman Bond	June 18, 2001	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Violet Moore	August 7, 2001	Rev. Robert Swickard
Phillip R. Fleming	September 4, 2001	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Mary Belle Coffman	November 11, 2001	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Mardi Denham Halbach	June 8, 2002	Rev. Scott Snider
John Alexander Sperry	January 24, 2003	Rev. Steven Monhollen
Barbara Helen Ertel	November 30, 2003	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Rev. John Winthrop Brigham	January 23, 2004	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Jane Martin Shair	March 14, 2004	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Rev. Calvin R. Knapp	March 13, 2004	Nashville UU Church
Theodore L. Stebbins	July 26, 2004	Private
Pauline "Polly" Johnson	November 12, 2004	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Bertha Dege Danhaus	May 4, 2005	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Rev. Thomas J. Maloney	May 6, 2005	(Minister, 1953 – 1956)
Pauline Wessels	May 14, 2005	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Robert H. Myers	July 13, 2005	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Robert H. Manning	January 19, 2006	Robert Manning's father
Donald A. Busbey, Jr.	May 19, 2006	----
John William Albsmeyer	June 27, 2006	Dr. Steve Wiegenstein
Frederica "Fritzi" Morrison	March 22, 2007	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Stillman K. Taylor	April 21, 2007	----
Anna Louise Dege Brigham	May 14, 2007	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Betty J. Albsmeyer	July 25, 2007	Albsmeyer Family
Anna Louise Dege Brigham	May 14, 2007 / 8-18	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Robert John Mathieson	September 11, 2007	Dr. William Fox / 9-14
"	Memorial Service 9-16	Dr. Robert Manning
Maureen A. Hallas	September 26, 2007	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Bruce Willard Johnson	December 11, 2007	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Frederick John Stephan	October 5, 2008	----
Pauline Ringo Bond	January 18, 2009	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Judith "Judee" Ann Melvin	April 29, 2009	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning
Thomas E. House	May 9, 2009	Family service
Jewel E. Fleming	August 3, 2009	Rev. Mike Duffy
Maria Petzoldt	November 27, 2009	Rev. Dr. Robert Manning

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OFFICERS

2000 – 2001

Pres. Sandra Morrison
V.P. Mary Belle Coffman
Sec. Polly Johnson
Treas. Libby Haggard
Sunshine Frieda Marshall

2001 – 2002

Pres. Georgia House
V.P. Shirley Crank
Sec. Judee Melvin
Treas. Nona Miller
Sunshine Diana Robison

2002 – 2003

Pres. Georgia House
V.P. Shirley Crank
Sec. Judee Melvin
Treas. Nona Miller
Sunshine Diana Robison

2003 – 2004

Pres. Cindy Ahrens
V.P. Shirley Crank
Sec. Judee Melvin
Treas. Judy Crocker
Sunshine Jean Sperry

2004 – 2005

Pres. Judy Crocker
V.P. Shirley Crank
Sec. Judee Melvin
Treas. Nayer Attai
Sunshine Jean Sperry

2005 – 2006

Pres. Sandra Morrison
V.P. Judy Crocker
Sec. Judee Melvin
Treas. Nayer Attai
Sunshine Libby Haggard

2006 – 2007

Pres. Judy Crocker
V.P. Sandra Morrison
Sec. Judee Melvin
Treas. Nayer Attai
Sunshine Libby Haggard

2007 – 2008

Pres. Shirley Crank
V.P. Jean Sperry
Sec. Judee Melvin
Treas. Nayer Attai
Sunshine Libby Haggard

2008 – 2009

Pres. Jean Sperry
V.P. Claire Myers
Sec. Jean Schweda
Treas. Nayer Attai
Sunshine Libby Haggard

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

During the years, membership in the Women's Alliance stayed steady at about twenty. The monthly meetings from October through May were held in the homes of various members. Usually a co-hostess assisted, and guests were always welcome. Printed programs announced the membership list and the speaker of the afternoon.

In the early months of 2000, the discussions were based on "The Art of Happiness" by the Dalai Lama. The theme for the fall of 2000 and the spring of 2001 was "Our Nature to Nurture." A meeting on November 4, 2000, was held at Steamboat Company, a gift shop with specialty goods, where owner, Sondra Bartley gave a cooking demonstration and then served the delicate luncheon.

In March, the Alliance sponsored a carry-in lunch for the congregation to kick off the gathering of recipes that would later form a cookbook. Quoting the newsletter item, "Many times our friends have asked for recipes of the dishes that were brought to the carry-ins. Now a collection of these favorite recipes will be available to the congregation. Contact Sandy Morrison or Libby Haggard." At the May meeting a committee was appointed to edit the cookbook. Also the members considered the choice of books to be placed in our church library and some duplicate copies to be donated to the Quincy Public Library. The collection was supported by payment of \$98 from the Alliance treasury.

The Alliance members, feeling the loss of a beloved member, Caroline Sexauer, conducted a dedication service on May 21 to recognize the communion set given to the church by bequest of Caroline. The Alliance provided the display case for the set and arranged a framed information plaque.

The theme of the 2001-2002 season was "Our Passions/Hobbies" and various speakers from the congregation shared their enthusiasms. Those scheduled included the Rev. Dr. Rob Manning (telling of his path, through study, to his present ministerial/professorship), Lynn Mercurio (devoting herself to helping others), Peggy Ballard (on arts and etching), Dr. Jim Hayashi (on cycling), Rob Ahrens (on blacksmithing), and Mike Flanagan (on genealogy). The presentations from the guests inspired the members also to share information about their own passions.

For the October, 2001, meeting the Alliance members traveled to Golden, Illinois. There they had lunch, catered by the Golden Historical Society, and had the opportunity to tour the newly restored Golden Windmill. Appreciation was given to Shirley Crank, who made the arrangements, and to the Historical Society members who graciously served the lunch and led the guided tour.

The Alliance-sponsored cookbook was given the title "In Good Taste" and 150 copies had been ordered. Members eagerly purchased the cookbooks at \$8 a copy. The spiral-bound book, published by Morris Press, has 190 recipes, identified by contributor.

Appreciation was given to Sandy Morrison, Libby Haggard, and others who had led this project to a successful conclusion. The books were available at the church and through the courtesy of Jim Drew at Wild Birds Unlimited. They were also available at Osage Orangerie and the Red Barn Antique Mall.

Leadership from the Alliance members prompted a collection of clothing and personal items for the women and children who were being cared for temporarily at Quanada, a shelter for those fleeing abusive situations. Church people generously provided many, many items, both used and clean and just purchased from the stores.

In a summation of the Alliance year, it was noted that the members had supported the Clara Barton Camp for diabetic girls, the United Nations and Quanada. Donations were made to the memorial fund in remembrance of V. Sherman Bond and Mary Belle Coffman. "We were able to fully pay our loan from the church treasury for the cookbook publication and we can now reduce the cookbook price to \$6."

The 2002-2003 year began on September 28 when sixteen members and friends joined for lunch at Victorian Grace. This is a charming, converted farmhouse, located east of Quincy, built in 1876 and now renovated and refurnished to its original period. A pleasant lunch time and tour of the home offered an opportunity for the members to come together after the summer. The theme for the season was "American Women Crusaders" and this brought presentations about Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary Baker Eddy, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Goodall, Madaline Murry O'Hara, Maya Angelou, Mother Jones and Gloria Steinem.

During the 2002-2003 season the Alliance gave charitable support to the Clara Barton Center for Diabetic Girls, and the UU office of the United Nations. Members voted a monetary contribution to the Walter Hammond Day Care Center and both Alliance and congregational members included gifts. Alliance members voted to sponsor the installation of a garbage disposal system for the church kitchen, and contributed \$25 to the memorial fund in remembrance of Dr. John A. Sperry. The Alliance sponsored a church-wide, spring donation to Quanada which included clothing for women and children and a selection of personal items. Canned goods and non-perishable food items were also collected. Appreciation was given to all officers for their loyal and responsible service for the past two years.

As president, Cindy Ahrens led the Alliance in the 2003-2004 season. The membership roster included Cindy Ahrens, Nayer Attai, Pauline Bond, Shirley Crank, Judith Crocker, Dienna Drew, Libby Haggard, Georgia House, Rochell Jacobsen, Pauline Johnson, Frieda Marshall, Judee Melvin, Nona Miller, Claire Myers, Sandy Morrison, Maria Petzoldt, Diana Robison, Jean Sperry, Elizabeth Stebbins, and Anne Stupavsky. Listed as honorary members were: Anna Louise Brigham, Bertha Danhaus and Jane Shair. Yearly dues were \$15, and funds were used to support various charities and to make purchases for the church as voted upon by the membership.

The Alliance activities continued with various program presenters, including Addie Seabarkrob, telling about the League of Women Voters; Carrie Edgar, explaining her work at the Farm Extension Office. She reflected unethical practices of large corporations and promoted Equal Exchange, a fair-trade organization.

Two presenters, who had been scheduled earlier, were included in this year's programs. Rob Ahrens spoke of his blacksmithing hobby and of enthusiasm for boating and skating. Mike Flanagan showed genealogy charts and recommended helpful books on genealogy. He shared his own work with family tree and biographies.

In January, 2004, Lisa Wigoda told of her path in developing a career in photography. She showed photos on large mounts. There were wedding photos, individual portraits, and others. She showed a portrait of twin women, though she didn't remember at that moment who they were. Frieda could identify them as Marilyn and Carolyn, although she could not say which one was Marilyn and which was Caroline. Fifteen members and guests attended the meeting hosted by Judy Crocker and Shirley Crank.

Libby Haggard and Cindy Ahrens hosted the February meeting which was held in the home of Leann Flanagan. Leann demonstrated her artistry in creating Victorian-style lamp shades. It was fascinating to hear the story of this development and all admired the results of her work. On another meeting day, in the absence of the president, Judee Melvin conducted the meeting. She also, as secretary, read the minutes and she presented the program. She spoke of changes in the school system that she had witnessed during her career as kindergarten teacher in the Palmyra, Missouri, elementary school.

Election of new officers occurred in May to serve in the 2004-2005 season. On that meeting day, Frieda Marshall, as church historian, presented a 1981 talk she had given in the church. "Belle of the Industrials" reflected Belle Dimmick, an admired leader of the Quincy Unitarian Church Sunday School and the Ladies Industrial Society of the church in 1880.

The Alliance provided services during this year – cleaning the church kitchen and, planning the annual meeting luncheon. Contributions to the memorial fund were given in remembrance of Barbara Ertel, the Rev. John W. Brigham and Jane Shair. They also arranged for a new stage curtain.

On June 4, 2004, a new stage curtain was installed by the technician of Mr. K's Fabric Shop. This project was a cooperation of support from the Women's Alliance and the Memorial Committee, approved by the Board of Trustees on April 4. The "Atlas Lipstick" flame-retardant curtain replaced a dark green curtain that was a project of a former young women's group. That project was completed in September, 1958, at a cost of less than \$100 and the dark green curtain replaced the "almost unbelievably old, black, roll curtain which probably had been installed when the building was new in 1916. Over time it had become torn, dirty and almost impossible to raise or lower. This new curtain cost \$745. The committee in charge consisted of Sandy Morrison, Libby Haggard and Frieda Marshall.

Women's Alliance Meetings 2004 – 2005

The season began on October 4, 2004 with a theme of "Our Unitarian Heritage." In November the members began to plan a special "High Tea" to accompany the celebration of the 165th Anniversary of the Quincy Unitarian Church. This was the focus of the November 25, 2004, Sunday morning service. Mayor Chuck Scholz presented a Proclamation of Recognition to Board President, Dave Ripper, for 165 years of Unitarianism in Quincy. Church historian, Frieda Marshall, presented the talk: "A Perspective from the Archives of the 1880s – How This Church, organized 165 years ago, Functioned in Early Times." Sandy Morrison told of the social fellowship in the church through the King's Daughters, the Evening Hour Alliance, and the Supper club to the present time: Women's Alliance, First Fridays and Halloween Picnics. The Alliance members graciously arranged an elegant coffee hour (or "High Tea") to highlight the observation of this special event.

At the February 12, 2005, meeting, Sandy Morrison, even with one arm in a sling, presented the program: "Religious Education in Unitarian Universalism." She conducted the meeting as a day in a Sunday School class with opening, chalice lighting, hymn and lesson. She then distributed supplies for making valentines. Everyone participated and some revealed quite artistic and skilled abilities. Special friends of the church received the valentines.

Nayer Attai invited members to her home in March and presented a program: "Islam to Unitarianism." Everyone appreciated this particularly interesting and informative talk. The Alliance sponsored the church annual meeting luncheon in May. During this season the theme had been "The Status of Unitarianism in Today's World." The Alliance had contributed to the memorial fund in remembrance of former members: Pauline Johnson and Bertha Danhaus.

Alliance Meetings 2005 - 2006

All members of the church were invited to a Guest Day on October 1, 2005, at the home of NayerAttai. Nine non-members accepted the invitation to join other members. A special soup, chicken salad, fruit and cookies lunch was served. During friendly conversation, the aims and programs of the Alliance were shared. Sincere appreciation was given to the hostess for this special event.

The Theme for the season was "Understanding the Wider World through Discussion of Selected books." For example, these were included: "When the Birds Stopped Singing: Life in Ramallah Under the Siege" -- "No God but God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam" -- "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." The members considered the impact of the books on young readers and the reaction to the imaginary wizard world created by the author.

Two U.S. presidents were noted in the decorations at the February meeting at the home of Frieda Marshall. Surrounding the table centerpieces were Lincoln pennies and Washington postage stamps. Frieda invited the members to the 90th birthday celebration for her sister, Anna Louise Brigham, and Dienna Drew showed photos of her new granddaughter, Kaitlyn Elizabeth Drew, born on February 10. Members donated toward a shower gift for Kristina Mathieson who would be married in the summer. Some treasury funds supported this gift and a gift of an engraved silver cup for the Drew baby.

At a later meeting a general review of the season's programs served as a wrap-up of the various book reviews. Appreciation was given to Judy Crocker who, as library contact person, had researched and recommended the books for study. In the business meeting, arrangements were finalized for the Alliance members to provide the meal for the annual meeting of the church in May. Also, with slight adjustments, the officers of the past year agreed to serve again.

Alliance Meetings 2006 – 2007

The executive committee prepared a brunch for members in September, 2006, as an informal "catching up with what happened during the summer." A suggestion was made that members save Hy-Vee bar codes which may be redeemed for cash to support church expenses. The conversation considered cares and concerns of church members.

A cooperation developed between the Alliance members and Mike Flanagan to produce note paper featuring an illustration of the church. Mike was the designer and he printed in white and ecru. Then a committee folded and packaged with matching envelopes – six cards to a package. These were mostly intended for sale at the April Plant Sale. The Alliance carried the cost of supplies - \$25. The Alliance assisted with the Christmas baskets and donated \$50 for gifts through the Salvation Army.

The programs during these months were presented by Dot Nelson (Poverty), Melissa Holden (Human Rights Commission), and Joe Messina (The Book of Ruth).

At the February, 2007, meeting, hosted by Diana Robison and Libby Haggard, the program was presented by Rob Manning, telling of his year as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Timisoara, Romania. There he taught American studies, philosophy and feminist theology – being the first time that such theory was taught in the country.

In the business meeting, Judy Crocker, member of the building committee, reported that the building contract was finalized with Zion Church Builders of Wisconsin. Their manager would supervise the construction and local contractors would be employed. Fred Stephan volunteered to be an on-site advisor. The Alliance had donated \$250 to the church building fund.

Nayer Attai, treasurer, stated that there was a balance of \$730 in the Alliance treasury.

Guests at the April meeting were Jason Eilers and his wife, Dagmar. Jason is the son of Lynn Mercurio and the grandson of Libby Haggard. The couple shared stories of their teaching experiences in Quincy and in Germany. They gave comparisons of the different approaches to learning.

In the business meeting members approved an Alliance donation of \$250 toward the building fund. The sales of note cards at the plant sale amounted to \$24 (so far).

The Alliance members again sponsored the annual meeting luncheon and realized an income (after expenses) of about \$100. A complete report was presented to the annual congregational meeting in May.

In the celebration of Rob Manning's 10th year as minister of the church, the Alliance members hosted a splendid reception after the morning program.

The group initiated the fall season by accepting an invitation to meet at the Cooper-Adams Bed and Breakfast on 11th and Kentucky Street. Judy Adams, owner and church member, served a delicate luncheon and presented a program, explaining how she had established this Bed and Breakfast business.

In the Alliance meeting the members approved a group membership to the Quincy YWCA, now being served by Melissa Holden, executive director. Plans were discussed for serving a lunch during the Quincy Preserves Home Tour on October 20. The result of careful planning and generous participation brought a profit of \$881 to the Alliance treasury.

At a following meeting Claire Safford and Ridgely Pierson spoke of the Family Planning Association. They reflected the leadership of Quincy Unitarians in the founding of the organization. Memorials were given in remembrance of Bob Mathieson and Anna Louise Brigham. The treasurer reported a balance of \$754.52. A \$100 food transport cart was supplied for the church to provide ease of moving dishes and equipment between the new kitchen and the Heritage Room. There was mention of the exploration by the congregation for securing a baby grand piano for the church sanctuary.

At one meeting a substitute program featured the "Alliance Quizz" relating to the history of the Quincy church. This seems to appear every five or six years. Members also observed scrapbooks of church history.

The meeting of March, 2008, was a wondrous event at the home of Nayer Attai. The program was announced as "Women of Another Culture." As Nayer greeted the members, she wore a fine, red jacket over her outfit and she introduced three friends. One was from Korea; two were wearing beautiful saris. They were from North India and from South India. Nayer had another surprise. When she invited her friends from other countries, they wanted to bring ethnic foods. Members put aside their lunch sandwiches and were treated to grilled chicken, spicy vegetables, rice and other foods. Dessert was a pretty plate of various fruits and a brownie. The friends told of their growing up, family situations, education and coming to the USA. This was a special meeting to be remembered for a long time.

As Judee Melvin had moved to Arizona for health reasons, various members volunteered to serve as temporary secretary of the Alliance, a position Judee had held for many years. At the April meeting, Claire Myers presented the program, explaining the objectives of "Americans for UNFPA" an organization that supports family planning and related knowledge.

"An Adventure in Canton" was the theme of the May meeting. Car pooling was arranged and three drivers brought nine members to Canton, Missouri, on Friday morning, May 16. The group met at the Culver-Stockton College Crown Student Center where Mr. Dale Zschoche led the tour of the Jean Stimson Sperry Alumni Art Gallery. This area was dedicated on April 15, 2007, at an Open House in recognition of Jean's 80th birthday. A short drive into town brought the group to the Java Shack where they had lunch in a private dining room. A visit to the Canton Area Arts Council building followed. There a delicious strawberry trifle was served for dessert, courtesy of co-hostesses Jean Sperry and Carol Mathieson. The adventure continued with browsing at the Saturday Store, just across the street, and a tour of the rejuvenated and refurbished Lewis Street Playhouse. This was formerly an Opera House, now available for special occasions and also featuring movies and plays. A drive to the Mississippi River Lock and Dam No.20 was the completing part of the field trip "Adventures in Canton."

A special Alliance meeting was held in June at the home of Frieda Marshall. Nayer Attai skillfully conducted the meeting and gave the treasurer's report. These details were noted: Check to grand piano fund - \$500. Deposit for dues and cookbooks - \$44. Deposit for luncheon and cookbooks (sold at Plant Sale) - \$149.

Sandy Morrison reported on the success of the annual meeting luncheon, including details of the menu – both purchased and donated foods. She also spoke of the successful fund drive and celebration event for the dedication of the grand piano and of the performances by pianists of our congregation.

Upon leaving, each person was invited to choose a souvenir from a collection of variously-designed hot-pot holders recently made by the hostess.

Alliance Meetings 2008 – 2009

The season began on October 11. President Jean Sperry welcomed all and introduced Dana Craciun, wife of our minister, Dr. Rob Manning. The members introduced themselves to her. She presented a fascinating overview of "Romania – My Native Land." She included personal background information of her family, education and of growing up in Romania and extended the presentation with information of Romanian geography, history and culture. Following this very informative presentation, she graciously responded to questions from the members.

The November meeting, hosted by Judy Crocker, featured recollections and memories of Fritzi Morrison. Several members shared interesting stories about this long-time, past member of the church, a noted watercolorist. Two copies of her illustrated book "Alishar Remembered" were displayed. This tells of travel in Turkey with her husband, John Morrison. Alliance member, Jean Schweda, was listed in the acknowledgments as a "friend/helper" and she spoke gently about this association.

The business meeting discussion considered items that the Alliance might provide for the church addition – a kitchen clock, for instance, and additional serving dishes and silverware.

The story of another artist was the topic of the next meeting when Ridgely Pierson spoke of Neysa McMein, born in Quincy in 1888; died in New York in 1949. She was noted for painting portraits and magazine cover features. She led a fascinating life among cultural, literary and artistic figures of the time. Members signed greeting cards to be sent to Pauline Bond, now living at Bickford Cottage, and to Judee Melvin.

In following meetings, the programs were presented by
Christine Jach – “Women and Buddhism”
Jen Harvey – “Transitions” Her work with Toddler and Infant services
Iris Nelson – “Report of Lincoln’s 200th Birthday Party and
Women Important in His Life.”

During these months the reports of the officers reflected that there was a February treasury balance of \$725.10, the customary gifts of identity cups for babies were purchased at \$55 for Sebastian Cracuin Manning and for Kurtis Engelbrecht-Villafane. Sandy Morrison also purchased a new clock for the kitchen of the addition. The Alliance members hosted the reception following the memorial service for Pauline Bond. They donated to the memorial fund in remembrance of Pauline Bond and Judee Melvin, who died in Arizona in April. The Alliance members support all of the church projects and provide the luncheon at the annual meeting.

The May meeting was held at the Midwest Antique Company in Palmyra, Missouri, by invitation of Leann Flanagan who is an employee. She made arrangements for a luncheon space and explained the arrangements of multiple booth that displayed antiques for sale. The guests responded with a gift of appreciation. In the business meeting careful plans were made for the arrangements of the Annual Congregational Meeting luncheon. Then the guests could leisurely stroll through the extensive building to see items of the past. Some happily made purchases.

Officers were elected in June, hostesses were named for the next season, and a date was set for the members to serve the church by devoted clean-up before the fall season of services would begin. They called it “A Little Elbow Grease at Church.” On August 28 the members brought their brown-bag lunches and visited after the tasks were completed. Programs for the coming season were distributed, naming hostesses and program presenters.

Marlee Labroo, a high school student with strong connections to the church, presented the program at the October, 2009, meeting held in the home of Nayer Attai. She presented reflections of “Communications Through Writing” and compared both written and spoken language and the use of the computer in the current world. Interesting discussion followed. The business meeting focused on preparation for the Semi-annual meeting – this year set for November 1.

In November Jane Holt told of founding the "Paw Pals" organization, an outreach program that brings information and supplies to pet owners who are in need of these services. She showed video photos of pets and of activities of this organization. The minutes of the business meeting recorded that the Alliance treasury made a payment of \$279.96 to Illinois School Supply for 16 folding chairs to help bring the supply to 64 chairs for the meetings, dinners and luncheons held in the Garden Room.

The December meeting ended the report of the 2009 meetings of the Women's Alliance. Kate Daniels presented an informative explanation of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). She also brought examples of vegetable produce to illustrate her presentation. Looking ahead, there was the matter of securing a larger coffee pot needed when an activity would bring in a large attendance.

President Jean Sperry mentioned the poinsettia donations for the church. Carol Mathieson reminded everyone about carol singing at the Veteran's Home later that same afternoon. Frieda Marshall spoke about the out-of-town visitors, members of her son's former church on Long Island, for whom she recently provided a detailed tour of the Quincy church and the city of Quincy.

PLANT SALE

BOOK SALE BAKE SALE

No one could have foreseen that the Unitarian Church annual plant-book-bake sale, initiated by the Rev. Calvin Knapp in 1973, would continue and grow through 27 years and more. In the spring of 2000 and of 2001 Georgia House and Cindy Ahrens served as leaders and enthusiastic church members supported this fund-raising effort.

The 28th Annual Plant Sale, held on the Saturday between Easter and the Quincy Dogwood Festival, was a resounding success. Frieda Marshall prepared labels and mailed invitational post card reminders to those who had attended during the past two years. Mike Flanagan sent promotional notices to the media. Jim Drew and Samantha Walker promoted the sale on television spots. Jim Drew made arrangements with Holtschlag Florist to supply greenhouse flower and vegetable plants on commission. Members dug plants from their gardens: lily of the valley, hosta, raspberry bushes, rhubarb, althea rose, iris, jonquil, daffodil, peony, etc. New tables were purchased for the bake sale and four card tables for check-out use. The total expenses were approximately \$1,000. Dienna and Susan Drew and Jean Sperry served in the plant sale "holding area." Carol Nichols set up a calligraphy table and sold her skilled work.

All the members helped willingly as they had helped in recent years. The department heads and final profit figures were:

		2000	2001
Jim Drew	Plants	\$2,992	\$2,682
Nancy Winters & Alan Starkey	Books	709	510
Lynn Mercurio & Leann Flangan	Bakery	<u>671</u>	<u>625</u>
		\$4,372	\$3,818

In the April church newsletter Georgia had written, "Enthusiasm builds as we begin to prepare for our annual fund raiser. The co-chairs, Georgia House and Cindy Ahrens, encourage your participation NOW and LATER at the sale. There will be many things to do and we urge members and friends to join in the fun."

In the May church newsletter Cindy expressed appreciation: "What a beautiful day and turnout we had for our 28th annual fund raiser. It was a great success in all ways – due to the energetic and dedicated support of our members and friends. Thanks to all who donated their time and many resources for this effort."

PLANT SALE 2001

Additional details in 2001 included a colorful poster composed by Sarah McUmbert-House to be displayed in prominent locations. Al Beck produced heritage plants: pregnant onion, tomato, etc. The orange/yellow, large tomato plants were called "Frieda Toms" and they sold out quickly. Seeds are now listed in the international trade publication. Cindy had helped nurture, dig and display.

In the plant sale area additional helpers and cashiers included P.R. Hoshiko, Sandy & Ted Morrison, Ben & Evie Morrison, Jim Drew, and others. Only eight or ten people brought plants from their own gardens.

The bakery department included Leann Flanagan, Joe Mercurio, Shirley Crank and others. The Drews made a lot of raspberry jelly. Georgia made tomato preserves, Jean Sperry made many, many loaves of English muffin bread, etc. It was a good showing.

Dave Wexler chaired the book sale and Sandy Walters, Gloria Carpenter, Shirley and Gerald Crank and others helped. For the second year Ian Morrison (son of Fritz Morrison) came from his home in New Hampshire and purchased boxes and boxes of books for his bookstore.

The registration tickets indicated that over 275 people (couples and families count as 1) had attended the Plant Sale of 2001

Ted Morrison and Frieda Marshall worked on eliminating some unwanted things from the storage shed during the time that the books were at the sale. Also they eliminated some unwanted furnishings and things left behind by workmen: plumber's pipes, clay pots, and such things. Ted arranged for a trucker to haul away the debris after the sale.

PLANT SALE 2002

The 30th annual Plant Sale brought special excitement as the founder, Rev. Calvin Knapp, now retired and living in Nashville, Tennessee, would be present. He had served as the Quincy Unitarian Church minister 1971-1976. Many individuals came to the sale expressly to greet Rev. Knapp. He had promoted the cardinal plants, and co-chairs: Georgia and Cindy produced these specialties. Cal followed the Saturday event by presenting the Sunday morning sermon. (See pages 12 and 13) Children of the R.E. department painted bird houses for sale, profits to be donated to the Humane Society.

Welcome to the visitors was capably offered by Board President Ellen Taylor. She also drew names of winners for the door prizes, gave notification and made pick-up arrangements.

In a wrap-up article for the May newsletter, the co-chairs, Georgia and Cindy, gave their appreciation. "Thank you to all department leaders, our members and friends who contributed in numerous ways this year. Also thanks to Calvin Knapp for attending and for inspiring us with the cardinal plant. Participation was stellar...the book and plant brigades, donations of books and baked goods and plants. Volunteerism was generous. All efforts enriched us through a great feeling of community spirit."

Preliminary reports showed total sales of \$4,794. This surpassed the sales income of any previous Plant-Book-Bake sale.

And then! A church group produced the first annual (?) Dogwood Parade Float one week later. Read all about it on page 13.

PLANT SALE 2003

Planning for the 2003 Plant Sale began early. Cindy Ahrens accepted the chairmanship and the additional department leaders continued in their positions. The announcement in the Herald-Whig carried a photograph of volunteers, Dave Wexler and Sandy Walters, as they sorted books for the annual sale. "Hundreds of people are expected" according to the article, and, indeed, it appeared that three times as many came compared to the year before (a rainy day).

The news article continued: "Church members and friends donate items from their gardens and the basement tables are filled with all kinds of plants. The book sale arrangements are in the sanctuary and the bake sale offers pies, cookies, breads and sauces and jams."

The book brigade occurred after the Easter morning services. Jim Drew managed everything in plants. Al Beck provided heritage plants. Others supplied plants of grand variety. The cardinal plants were available for the second year. Master gardeners, Samantha Walker, Georgia House and Carrie Edgar, were on hand to answer inquiries.

Claire Myers was greeter with assistance from Frieda and her sister, P.R. Hoshiko of Edwardsville. Ben Morrison arranged for children to help with carry-out. They were Trevor Ripper, Max Ballard, John and Jane Hayashi, Delaney Ward and others. The bake sale and book sale sections repeated their offerings. Just about everyone helped in some way.

Cindy gave thanks to all who contributed. The preliminary numbers (before expenses) were: Books - \$470.85, Bake - \$722.40, Plants - \$3,914.80. A total of \$5,108.05.

PLANT SALE 2004

Steve Weigenstein served as chairperson for the April 24, 2004 Plant Sale. Other leaders were: Plants – Jim Drew, Carrie Edgar, Liza Hayashi, and Sandy Walters. Plant check-outs: Sandy and Evie Morrison, Steve and Devin Ward and others. For Bakery: Leann Flanagan and Lynn Mercurio. Books: Liza and Jim Hayashi, Ridgely Pierson, Rob Manning and Kevin Ballard. The supply of books was overwhelming! Many were sold and at the end of the morning, remaining books were culled to save the better books for the next year. The Bake Sale had its regular people and the goods sold out. At the end of the morning only a few cookies were left on the table.

There are additional details on page 21 of the 2004 Sequel report.

PLANT SALE 2005

Chairpersons, Sherryl Lang and Steve Ward, were named in January. A "help" sheet was available at a get-together to plan the event. People could mark their willingness to bring plants, baked goods and books. A careful Cleanupalooza was scheduled before the Plant Sale time. The Board approved having weatherproof yard signs printed at \$10 each. These signs, displayed in members' front yards throughout the city, would be suitable year after year. An opportunity to purchase UU T-shirts was offered and led by Lynn Mercurio. People could be identified as church members while wearing the shirts at the sale.

The "regulars" of the church accepted their challenges and served again as they had for many years. It is almost cliché to say that each sale is better managed and brings better profit than past sales. The 33rd annual sale was a huge success due to the participation of so many.

Welcome to the visitors was by Jen Harvey, Ian Taylor, Max Ballard and Nayer Attai. A home video by Judy Troje was available for those who might wonder what Plant Sale was all about.

The bakery goods were plentiful and attractive. Ellen Taylor, Judy Crocker, Lynn Mercurio and Leann Flanagan priced and displayed the items. Helpers were Libby Haggard, Shirley Crank, Judee Melvin and Chris Wiewel. Chris and Leann offered freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. The bakery area also handled sales of the Alliance cook books.

The preliminary accounting showed \$6,449.30 and net proceeds of \$4,660.30. As the registration slips were processed and filed for the coming year, a surprising count of 112 addresses of first-time attendees would be added to the mailing list.

For their devoted support of church events, Sherryl and Steve were recognized and named "Volunteers of the Year" at the annual congregational meeting in May.

PLANT SALE 2006

The 2006 sale was chaired by Steve Ward and Sherryl Lang who strongly promoted the plant sales with help of Jim and Dienna Drew and others. Membership plants, however, were more scarce this year as some regulars were not able to supply the quantity as in previous years. Sherryl and Kim Tomnozzi gave advance help in securing Al Beck's plants. Holtschlag Florist generously allowed storage in a greenhouse for several weeks and their crew nurtured the plants until sale time.

There was good help to bring the books from storage to the sanctuary where the crew produced a neat display. Many books were added to the stored books. Paul Miller, through his connection with a Hannibal bookseller, supplied boxes and boxes of romance novels, priced at \$1 for a bagful and \$2 for a boxful. Some culling was appropriate and, at the end of the sale, a table was set in the driveway with "free" books. This pleased some who lingered and carried many books away.

The first mention was heard of "When the new addition is constructed ..." there could be a re-location of future book displays to the church basement and creation of rolling carts for the books to preserve the sorting into subject categories.

Baked goods were plentiful. In addition to home-baked specialties and jellies and jams, Leann and Chris baked cinnamon rolls throughout the event. The fragrance of spice whetted the appetites of the attendees.

Preliminary totals were listed: Books - \$567.50, Baked goods - \$869.35, and Plants - \$2,589.45.

Judy Crocker drew the names of the door prize winners and made the phone calls. Winners appeared promptly to claim their prizes. The Wayside Pulpit message was changed, books were re-stored to the shed, other clean-up work was done well and promptly. Another successful Plant Sale had come to an end.

PLANT SALE 2007

A big challenge this year was that construction had begun on the church extension. Along with other work, the driveway had been demolished and the back door was blocked off. The storage shed still stood; but how would the florist deliver plants? How would the books be brought into the building? Do not fear! Arrangements were made. On the Sunday before the sale, planks were laid on the muddy ground and books were relayed into the sanctuary. Planks were also laid to assist in florist delivery.

Dave Ripper volunteered to be chairman and he contacted helpers. It hardly seemed necessary to provide sign-up sheet. Chairpersons and helpers were there wherever needed. The regular promotional activity was put into motion. Dave was a guest on several talk-radio programs. Whimsical parodies (by fvm) appeared on the weekly Orders of Service: Two were set to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

Let's get ready for Plant Sale. Let's get ready again.
Take a slow walk in your own back yard.
Digging some plants up is not very hard.
Our Dave will be a great chairman, so give your help as you can.
We'll have Plants! Books! Baked goods galore
At the annual Plant Sale!

Let's get ready for Bake Sale. Let's get ready again.
People want more of that home-baked bread.
All our goods are the best, it is said.
So get out your favorite cook book
And make your cookies and pies.
Bake your cakes that everyone buys
At the annual Bake Sale!

There was also a Book Sale song.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

(Tune: Tramp, Tramp, Tramp)

Books, books, loaded on the church pews,
Books, books stacked upon the floor.
Though we had some left from last year,
We always will welcome more.
Folks enjoy our range of subjects;
They come crowding through the door.
So thanks to Ridgely P.
And also Kevin B.
And the ones who give a lift.
A new book is quite a gift!

Saturday morning's weather was perfect. A table was set for the greeters in a canopy west of the front steps. People waiting in line early were patient and understanding as all activity was in and out of the front door. The people exited the downstairs by the back stairway and went through the book and bakery area to leave by the front door. This went smoothly.

The baked goods were plentiful. In addition to member-donated items, Leann and Chris produced freshly baked caramel rolls, pretzels and chocolate chip cookies. A customer who bought over \$20 of goodies, received a bonus Alliance cookbook. Membership donated plants were better than the year before. Kim Tonozzi gave helpful assistance in nurturing Al Beck's heritage plants. Left over plants at the end of the sale would be donated to the Garden Club plant sale to be held during the Dogwood Parade on the next Saturday.

As the event wound down, Michelle and Dave prepared food – sloppy Joes – for the workers. Dave expressed his pleasure in serving and reflected everyone's joy of being together and working for a common cause. The newsletter report listed the numbers: Books - \$786.50, Bakery: \$996.40, Plants: \$3542.10. Total gross: \$5325.00 It was expected that the net profit would be about \$4,200.

By September (note page 37) twelve large library-style bookcases (on casters) had been designed and built by a team led by Kim Tonozzi and Mike Flanagan. These would provide good display of the books at the spring Book Sale and safe storage during the year.

PLANT SALE 2008

Anticipation was strong for the first Plant Sale with the use of additional space. Dave Ripper volunteered again to be Chairman. He ordered the invitational post cards from Priority One – a new server this year. Department leaders and helpers eagerly participated in this annual fund-raising event. The Quincy Herald-Whig carried two articles announcing the sale. The headlines were: “Unitarian Church Plans Annual Sale” and “Church Addition Expands April Tradition.” Two quoted sentences: “The public will benefit from a \$425,000, 2,100-square-foot addition added last year.” “The annual sale will spotlight the new look of the church.”

The traffic flow was enhanced by direction signs. From the front door people were guided to the Bake Sale in the Heritage Room, to the Book Sale down the front stairs (exit by back stairs) and to the path down the indoor ramp to the Plant Sale area in the addition. There one door was marked for entrance and the other door for exit. Cashiers were at tables on each side of the lobby. The Sixteenth Street doors provided exit and loading of plants into cars that could come through the circular driveway.

In the book department, the “rolling bookshelves” on casters displayed books in identified categories. Magazines, games and puzzles were arranged on tables. In the Heritage Room, an abundant supply of baked goods could please every taste. Three card tables with inviting flower centerpieces were set for people to visit and have some refreshments. Freshly baked rolls, cookies and coffee were available.

The preliminary report (before expenses) indicated: Plants, \$3,441 – Bakery, \$959 – Books, \$967. Dave stated, “We have again had a successful sale. Some of the success is measured by the fun we have and the service we share.”

PLANT SALE 2009

Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane generously stepped up to chair the sale this year. Dave Ripper would give his attention to leadership of the plant department. Joe Conover and Kevin Ballard shared chairmanship of books; Leann Flanagan and Lynn Mercurio led the bake sale. The addition allowed a more convenient operation. The arrangements and the participants repeated as in previous years. A slide show of the 2006 sale was activated so people could enjoy seeing photos of people patiently waiting in line while holding umbrellas, a photo of the bake goods display and so on.

Alexis described the event as a well-oiled machine, saying, “Each component ran smoothly. Seeing young people with bags overflowing with books, individuals discussing gardening techniques with church members, and friends laughing over rolls and coffee made the day complete. Our church is full of talented, caring and supportive individuals. It was a pleasure to serve.”

(Additional details on page 49)

UNITARIAN CHURCH SPECIAL PROJECTS

Feb. 2000	Purchase 3 square tables @ \$25 ea. & 6 long tables @ \$90 ea. (Memorial Funds)	\$ 239
Mar. 2000	Display case for communion set (Alliance)	\$ 139
May 2000	Property Survey	\$ 1,058
Aug. 2000	Replacement of Radiators (Comfort and Safety Services)	\$ 8,994
Mar. 2001	New Computer by Dale McUumber-House	\$ 1,500
Mar. 2001	Replacement water heater-Women's room (Memorial Funds)	\$ 410
Sept. 2001	Computer work station, printer, chair (Illinois School Supply) (Memorial Funds)	\$ 380
Nov. 2001	Carpeting Tower Room (Memorial Funds)	\$ 282
Mar. 2002	Eight Banquet Tables – Staples	\$ 720
Feb. 2003	Speaker System Installed – (Memorial Funds)	\$ 563
Feb. 2003	Kitchen garbage disposal (Alliance)	\$ 90
May 2003	30 gallon water heater installed	\$ 283
June 2003	Air conditioner in minister's office	\$ 268
June 2004	Replace stage curtain (Alliance)	\$ 745
Apr. 2005	Two ceiling fans in sanctuary	\$ 325
Oct. 2005	Film projector (offset by donations)	\$ 1,400
Feb. 2006	Entry steps replacement (VonderHaar Construction)	\$ 8,033

UNITARIAN CHURCH SPECIAL PROJECTS

Page 2

Apr.- Sept. 2007	The 2,100-square-foot handicapped-accessible Building Addition Zion Church Builders of Nebraska Kim Mulch, architect – Klingner & Associates Local construction firms	\$ 425,000
Aug. 2007	Rolling Bookcases-(constructed by membership crew)	\$ 400
Dec. 2007	Sixteen folding chairs (Alliance) (Illinois School Supply)	\$ 280
May 2008	Baby Grand Piano (membership donations)	\$ 13,886
2008 – 2009	The Candlelight Dinner and Concert events became fund raisers with proceeds designated toward furnishings for the addition. Among other items already mentioned there were: Roman shades at the windows, a carpet, a sofa, a commissioned quilt and four three-panel screens – all chosen with intent of providing comfort and giving acoustic benefit.	\$ 6,000
Feb. 2009	Eight round-top tables	\$ 831
May 2009	Re-laying floor tile of the east section of the downstairs hall.	\$ 403

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