

THE UNITY CLUB AND UUAA AS AN OPEN FORUM

Unity Club Lecture Course.

The Unity Club announces the first lecture in its course for the current year, for Nov. 7, by Prof. R. M. Wenley, on "Robert Burns." Prof. Wenley's ability as a lecturer always insures him large audiences. "Savonarola," by Rev. R. A. White, of Chicago, will probably be the second number. As a lecturer Mr. White has received very favorable comment in the Chicago newspapers. Prof. J. M. B. Sill, Ex-U. S. Minister to Korea, will speak on "Korea and its People." Prof. Harry B. Hutchins, dean of the law school, will speak on a subject to be announced later. Mr. John R. Effinger, instructor in French in the university, will speak on "Montaigne." Rev. Florence Kollock Crooker will close the course with a lecture on "The Ministry of the Beautiful to the Masses." This lecture will undoubtedly be a great treat to the Ann Arbor public, as Mrs. Crooker's broad culture makes her especially competent to speak on this subject.

Ann Arbor Argus 1898

Staebler Will Discuss Views On India's Future

Democratic National Committeeman Neil Staebler of Ann Arbor will discuss "The Future of Democracy in India" at 8 p.m. Sunday in First Unitarian Church to open the church's summer Sunday-evening program series.

While on a recent world tour, Staebler spent time in India, where he had an opportunity to talk with government officials and politicians.

Staebler is a candidate for congressman-at-large from Michigan.

Other speakers and topics for the church series are as follows: Prof. Richard L. Cutler, University psychology department, "The Psychology of Prejudice," Sunday, July 8; a panel discussion on fair housing legislation, Sunday, July 15; Prof. Stanley Cain, state conservation department, "Social Questions Raised by the Boom in Recreation," Sunday, July 22;

The Rev. Erwin A. Gaede, minister of First Unitarian Church, "My Journey to Unitarianism," Sunday, July 29; Prof. Robert Leestma, U-M school of education, "The Peace Corps Training Program for Thailand," Sunday, Aug. 5.

All programs are open to the public. Discussion periods will follow each talk.



Neil Staebler

Ann Arbor News 1962

"The Human Rights Challenges of the 21st Century": 2014 Klein Lecture. Lecture by Unitarian Universalist Service Committee president **Bill Schulz**, the former executive director of Amnesty International USA. Reception follows. 3 p.m., *First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Tickets \$10 in advance at uaa.org/150. kleinlecture@uuaa.org, 665-6158.*

Ann Arbor Observer 2014

From our beginning in 1865, this congregation has always been known for opening its doors to the community for public lectures and dialog.

Even before 1882, when the congregation moved into the church on the corner of Huron and State, near the University, our minister Jabez Sunderland had started "The Unity Club", a series of Sunday evening lectures open to the Ann Arbor public, and always well attended! To quote Jabez Sunderland,

"Who can tell the value of the work it has done, in binding our young people together, in bringing students into acquaintance with us, in furnishing to all, old and young, facilities for social intercourse of the very best kind, in stimulating intellectual activity among us all; and in reaching a hand of fraternity out across sectarian lines to touch and draw into friendly relations with us many outsiders, and members of other churches who would not come to our religious services, but who would come to our Unity Club lectures. Thus, with all the rest, it has been a constant silent influence in the city to soften religious prejudices and draw people of different religious names into a little more friendly relations."

Newspaper clippings from the 19th century are filled with charming accounts of the latest edifying lectures at the Unity Club.

As the times changed, our Sunday evening programs continued, but progressed from the 19th century goals of civilizing Ann Arbor with lectures on poets and philosophers, to programs with more social emphasis. In the 1930s when the university closed their doors to controversial speakers, this church declared their assembly hall open to any group that wished to meet for legal purposes and welcomed speakers from labor unions.

The list of Sunday evening lectures given in 1962 starts with Congressman Neil Staebler speaking on the Future of India, and included topics such as the "Psychology of Prejudice", and "Peace Corps Training for Thailand"

Since 1991 our congregation has held a series of lectures called the "Klein Lecture". This nearly annual Fall lecture is dedicated to the memory of former members Robert and Ruth Klein that their spirit - the spirit of peace, goodwill and justice, might flourish. The Klein Lectureship is sponsored through memorial funds donated by friends of Robert and Ruth Klein and their children.

Since 1991 these lectures have tackled a whole range of issues presented by an impressive list of speakers:

- In 1994, death with dignity advocate, Dr. Jack Kevorkian – challenged us to think about end of life issues.
- In 1996, Geoffry Canada author of the book "Fist Stick Knife Gun" gave us recommendations on how to alleviate violence in the inner cities.

- Men's studies author Neil Chethik spoke in 2001 of how men deal with grief and the loss of their fathers.
- And in 2008 Ari Weinzweig, co-founder of Zimmerman's, discussed with us the importance of food bought locally and produced sustainably.

Next Sunday afternoon at 3:00 we continue our 150 year tradition as a public forum by proudly presenting the 2014 Klein Lecture: The Reverend Dr Bill Schulz, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Former Director of Amnesty International, and Past President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will speak to us about the *Human Rights Challenges of the 21st Century*. Please plan to be come, bring your friends and take part in a proud UUAA tradition. Come see us during coffee hour at the 150th Anniversary table to get your tickets today!

Mini-History, 10/5/2014 presented by Bob and Beth Hospadaruk