



A·L·U·U·C NEWS

Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation



217.585.9550

February 2007

www.aluuc.org

Minister:

Rev. Martin Woulfe
minister@aluuc.org

Minister Emeritus:

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minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

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CRE@aluuc.org

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Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
11 am - 2:30 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
11:00 am - 4:30 pm
Available at other times by appointment.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Services are held Sunday morning at 10:30am at the Congregation Building. Visitors are welcome. Religious education and child care are provided for children of all ages.

January 28:

Spiritual Lessons From Fossils by Rev. Martin Woulfe

One of Rev. Woulfe's hobbies over the years has been to collect fossils. In this service, Rev. Woulfe will share various samples of animal and plant fossils and relate the lessons he has gleaned by collecting them and meditating on their significance.

(This will be a New Member Recognition Sunday)

February 4:

Walking Through the Valley of the Shadows by Rev. Martin Woulfe

Candlemas, Groundhog Day, and Imbolc all coincide on February second. What do these three celebrations have in common? What can we learn from them that will inform our own spiritual journey?

(This will be a Change for Change Sunday)

February 11:

Our UU Heritage by Rev. Martin Woulfe

Fifty four years ago, local religious liberals founded this congregation. In this service, we will celebrate their vision and important milestones along the way.

February 18:

The Divine Imperative by Rev. Henry Farrington

He is an active member of our congregation and involved in social action ministries, including the Helping Hands Overflow Shelter for homeless people. Rev. Farrington will be talking about steps we can do to strive to be the best we can be, with our family, our community, and the world.

February 25:

The Butterfly Effect by Rev. Martin Woulfe

There is an imaginative theory that says that the flapping of a butterfly's wings can trigger a storm somewhere else on the planet. This notion is sometimes invoked as a modern parable of the interconnectedness of all existence. In this service, Rev. Woulfe will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this theory.

March 4:

Four Years of War & Woe by Rev. Martin Woulfe

This month marks the fourth year that the U.S. has been at war in Iraq. Rev. Woulfe will discuss the progress and morality of this conflict.

(This will be a Change for Change Sunday)

Join your friends in festive
song in the sanctuary
before the Sunday
morning services at
10:20am.

This is a great opportunity
to sing familiar songs &
learn new ones.

From the Minister. . .

Four years ago this very month, I first set my eyes on ALUUC. The day as I recall was fairly overcast and the church building stood surrounded by fallow fields.

Previously, I had made contact with the members of the search committee, exchanging packets and conversing with them during a conference call. But in February 2003, I met Rachell Anderson, Beverly Charles, Wes Duiker, Debbie Hagan, Brian Otwell, Jim Redlich and Victoria Vincent in person. During our one weekend together, we endeavored to determine whether I would be a good match here.

How long ago that sometimes seems.

Much has changed during these past four years. Some of it has been uplifting: examples include: the surge in new members; the paving of the parking lot; the long range planning; the bylaw revisions; our growing presence within the Springfield community and also the denomination. To name but a few changes.

Not every congregation is open to change. In some congregations, I am told, change is met with stiff resistance. Elsewhere, one hears the mantra that “we’ve never done it that way before” or “we tried that here once but it didn’t work.” That attitude, I am happy to report, is absent here.

I am mindful that some of the people who made it possible for ALUUC to call its first full time minister are no longer with us. I think about them from time to time, and I do miss them. Those who knew them no doubt share my feelings.

I am equally mindful that serving as a minister is always a privilege. The people of this congregation have also made it a pleasure. Here, like many of you, I have found a spiritual home. For that, I remain ever grateful.

~ *Martin*

From the Board President. . .

Our Bylaws require that we have an Audit Committee and that a yearly review be conducted of our financial records and other matters. As far as I know, we have never complied with this requirement....until this year! Hooray!

Our brave Audit Committee (Victoria Vincent, Delinda Chapman, and Henry Farrington) have provided the Board with a report of their findings. They make a point of stating that it's "not really an audit" in the CPA, independent, formal-findings sort of way. But they did do a thorough job of reviewing our files in an organized, business-like manner and they produced a substantial report. The good news is that our money handling is done properly and well documented. Our financial house is in order. The not-so-good news (although, it's not really news) is that our non-financial record keeping and policy compliance has lots of room for improvement. That's not a surprise to anyone who has held a leadership position in the congregation. Our records are scattered in basements and attics throughout Sangamon County. It's seldom we can identify which policy and procedure is the most recent. Committee reports are often lost and required deadlines missed. But we're working at it! We have started posting our procedures, minutes, and policies on the website -- where they can't get lost or forgotten. We're hoping to have a major achieving project to index and organize our records. And improved office administration is a top priority.

At least it's a start. Maybe next year's report will note our progress and provide us further guidance for improving our management and making our congregation as effective as possible. Thanks, again, to our dedicated Audit Committee.

~ *Jim Redlich*

From the Coordinator of Religious Education. . .

The Religious Education Program at ALUUC is geared up for an exciting 2007! We launch into this New Year with our teachers and children having returned to their normal schedules for class as of January 28th. We missed our teachers and are so glad to have them back! The weeks during November, December, and most of January allowed us an extended amount of time for Children's Worship Service. Children's Worship Service is time set aside for kids to come together as an entire group to work and play. Building a sense of community among our youth is an important goal in our program. Learning about worship is also an aspect of this time.

As we continually seek to improve our service to the children and families of ALUUC, the Religious Education Committee is gathering with RE teachers to assess our program thus far and to look to the future. Some of the topics we'll be discussing are the playground facilities, the R.E. Commons Area where Children's Worship Services are held, expanding our Curriculum to include Science & Religion offerings, and the length of class time on Sunday Mornings. This brings me to an exciting announcement that will help us address such issues. The RE department has received a generous donation of several thousand dollars to be used toward these and other important goals in our program. Again, I can't say enough about the wisdom and insight of adults in our congregation who truly believe "the children are our future". It brings me great joy to watch our congregation grow each year as new young families enter our doors seeking a religious home for themselves and their precious children. What a privilege to be entrusted with the care of those so fresh from God. May we do justice to the charge which we have been given.

~ *Meg Schnake*

New to UU Class

Now that you've found us, are you thinking about joining? Do you want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and what it means to become a member? If so, then this orientation is for you. Rev. Martin Woulfe will conduct a 2 part series that will present the fundamentals of liberal religion and the history of this congregation. These classes will meet on two consecutive Tuesdays, February 20 & 27, from 7:00 to 9:30pm at ALUUC. Please let us know if you will need child care. The sign up sheet is on Rev. Woulfe's office door. If you cannot meet on these dates, contact Rev. Woulfe at 585-9550 or email minister@aluu.org.

MILESTONES

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Eugena & Todd Austin who welcomed a new daughter on January 16. Aegea Austin weighed 9 lbs & 14.5 oz. Mother & daughter are doing well.

A memorial service for Louise Giesecke has been scheduled for Saturday, March 24th at 10:00am at the ALUUC. Following that service, a service of internment will be held in Bloomington, Illinois.

Upcoming Events. . .

Book Discussion Group

BookGroup@aluuc.org

Joins us on February 27 at 7:30pm at Barbara Moore's home, 1800 Hastings Road, as they discuss "Night" by Elie Wiesel. Call Barb if you have any questions. Bring a suggestion for one or two books for future reading by the group. Note that in March, the group will read the "Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin".

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group meets at the church on the second Friday of every month at 7:00pm. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, contact Chris Romaine.

Buddhist Meditation Groups

The Thursday Night Meditation Group meets every Thursday night from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, please contact Debby Hagan at meditation@aluuc.org.

The Sangamon Zen Meditation Group sits most Saturday mornings at the ALUUC from 9:30am to 11:30am. Please check the website calendar for dates.

Build Your Own Theology Group

BYOTG@aluuc.org

Join us February 19 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC. Mike and Linda Haynes will present an hour-long film entitled "Suzuki Speaks—Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Life". In this film, David Suzuki delivers a powerful message about the relationship between the four elements (Earth, Air, Fire, Water) and their influence on the interconnectedness we feel individually with each other and with the rest of the world.

Christian Interest Group

ChristianInterestGroup@aluuc.org

Join us on February 26 at 7:30pm at the ALUUC. We will watch and listen to, and then discuss, a half-hour DVD entitled "What Did Jesus Believe about God" presented by the religious liberals Marcus Borg and Amy-Jill Levine. The program will be followed by a Communion Service for those who wish to stay.

Labyrinth Walk

This month's walk will be on Friday, February 23 from 7:00 to 9:30pm. Questions regarding the Labyrinth Walk can be directed to Rev. Martin Woulfe.

Movie Night

Sunday, February 25 at 6:00pm at Rev. Martin Woulfe's home. Film yet to be determined. Contact Rev. Woulfe for more information or for directions.

News Covenant Group

NewsGroup@aluuc.org

Join us on February 1 at 7:30pm at Frank & Linda Kopecky's home. Call Frank if you have any questions.

The Occasional Choir

Choir practice is held on various Sundays. Please check the online calendar for those dates. For more information about the choir, please contact Jim Redlich or Bonnie Ettinger.

Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter

www.prairiewindcuups.org

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is an eclectic Earth-centered group. We host several rituals throughout the year. Check out the CUUPS bulletin board (located by the water fountain) for more details. Please join us on February 3 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC, as we celebrate Imbolc/Candlemas. More information about this holiday can be found on their website.

**Don't forget about
Committee Night!
Tuesday, February 20
7:00pm at the ALUUC**

*** February 11th ***
Valentine's Day themed
Potluck after service

2006-2007
ALUUC Member Directories
Are In!

If you have not received your copy, please see Scott Wade or Michael Naber on any Sunday morning. There is a \$3.00 suggested donation per copy. You don't have to pay to receive a copy. You are more than welcome to pay at a later date. Also, just a reminder, the Member Directory is posted on the website. You will need a password to open the document. If you don't have the password already, please send Scott Wade an email at webmaster@aluuc.org, requesting the password. The online directory is constantly updated whenever changes are submitted. There is an online form to submit directory changes. This form along with the online version of the directory can be found on the Member Directory webpage.

Conscientious Knitters

All ALUUC knitters are welcome.
 Feb. 18th from 3:00 to 5:00pm
 Jan Droegkamp's house
 806 S. Glenwood Ave., Springfield

Jan's house is 2 houses south of Lawrence, between Macarthur and Walnut. Please call Jan at 523-5931 if you will be attending. Jan is thinking of starting a Conscientious Knitters Group. "The Conscientious Knitters are a Unitarian Universalists organization founded in 2005 to explore Community, Social Justice, Environmental Respect and Spirituality through Knitting." <http://www.conscientiousknitters.com/>

**Sign the Membership Book
 and grow with us!**

Are you thinking about joining ALUUC? Membership is open to any person, aged 17 or older, who is in sympathy with this congregation's mission & purpose. In order to participate in ALUUC's next annual meeting (June 10, 2007) as a full voting member, you must sign the membership book by March 12. Contact Rev. Woulfe or a member of the Board of Directors for more details.

**Small Group Ministry
 Sign-up Deadline Feb. 4th**

**Connect with other ALUUC Members
 & Explore your Spirituality**

In keeping with our General Assembly's Race and Class Initiative, we will use the UUA program Weaving the Fabric of Diversity as our guide. These 8 sessions, with 8-12 participants each, will meet in homes or at the church, and will be led by a trained facilitator. Times and dates will be determined by those who sign up. The sessions will explore race, class, gender and age among other topics.

Heart and Hands is our second spring offering for those who like to create things. It will be led by Adriel Ippolito, local artist, educator and therapist. This 8 week program will explore creativity and spirituality on Thursday nights from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Talent is not required but openness to new experiences is. Participants will meet at the church and bring their own supplies which range from buttons and ribbons to glue and scissors.

Sign up with Gwen Childs, 529-6396 (Gmchilds50@aol.com). Sign up at church with Gwen or Jan Droegkamp (jdroe1@uis.edu).

Game Night at the ALUUC *February 24th at 7:00pm*

Mark your calendars! The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a Game Night at the ALUUC. Get ready to be challenged and have lots of fun playing various board games with your friends! This event will be free and welcome to all ages. We invite you to bring a board game, if you have one, but it is not necessary. We hope to see you all there!

For more information about Game Night or the Fellowship Committee, please contact the Fellowship Chairperson, Linda Haynes, at fellowship@aluuc.org.

2nd Chance Prom

If you didn't like your prom in high school, then get ready for a do-over!

Wandering what to donate to support this fundraiser?

Here's some ideas. . .

- JEWELRY
- TICKETS TO SPORTS EVENTS
 - BEARS
 - CARDINALS
- ART PIECES
- GIFT CERTIFICATES
 - RESTAURANTS
 - DEPARTMENT STORES
- MOVIE PASSES
- SPA/SALON SERVICES
 - MASSAGE
 - PEDICURE
 - MANICURE
- COOKING CLASSES
- TICKETS FOR SHOWS
 - HOOGLAND ART CENTER
 - SANGAMON AUDITORIUM
 - FOX THEATRE (St. Louis)
- SERVICES
 - AUTO (Repair, Maintenance, Detail)
 - HOUSEKEEPING
- THEMED BASKETS
 - BABY
 - KIDS
 - DATE NIGHT
 - COFFEE/TEA
 - HOUSEWARMING
 - RELAXATION
 - DIVINATION
- UNIQUE ITEMS

To make a donation, please complete the donation form located in the church office or you can complete the online form on the 2nd Chance Prom webpage at www.aluuc.org.

Saturday, March 17th 7:30pm

Event Co-Chairs: Buffy Lael & Brenda Wade
Email: 2chanceprom@aluuc.org

February 2007

* Event not held at the ALUUC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
				1 Meditation 7:00pm * News Group 7:30pm	2	3 Zen Meditation 9:30am
4 Sunday Service 10:30am	5	6 Board Meeting 7:00pm	7	8 Meditation 7:00pm	9	10 Zen Meditation 9:30am
11 Sunday Service 10:30am Potluck after service	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Meditation 7:00pm	16	17 Zen Meditation 9:30am
18 Sunday Service 10:30am CUUPS Meeting 12 Noon	19 President's Day Build Your Own Theology Group 7:00pm	20 Committee Night 7:00pm New to UU Class 7:00 to 9:30pm	21	22 Meditation 7:00pm	23 Labyrinth Walk 7:00 to 9:30pm	24 Zen Meditation 9:30am Fellowship Committee presents Game Night 7:00pm
25 Sunday Service 10:30am	26 Christian Interest Group 7:00pm	27 * Book Group 7:30pm New to UU Class 7:00 to 9:30pm	28			

Dates & Times subject to change. Please check the website calendar for any changes/updates.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clergy:

<i>Minister</i>	Rev. Martin Woulfe	minister@aluuc.org
<i>Minister-Emeritus</i>	Rev. Berkley Moore	minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

Board of Directors:

<i>President</i>	Jim Redlich	president@aluuc.org
<i>Vice President</i>	Carol Floyd	vicepresident@aluuc.org
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tina Layer	treasurer@aluuc.org
<i>Secretary</i>	Jeff Bennett	secretary@aluuc.org

<i>Board Members</i>	Carley Mattimore Ceceilia Haasis Henry Farrington Bill McCall Mike Haynes Nancy Ray
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Committees:

<i>Committee on Ministry</i>	Frank Kopecky, Chair Rob Ewart Michael Plog Brenda Wade Gwen Childs Perry Hines	CoM@aluuc.org
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<i>Endowment</i>	Frank Kopecky Kurt DeWeese Dave Braddock Nancy Standen Victoria Vincent
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<i>Electronics & Communications</i>	Michael Naber	ECC@aluuc.org
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<i>Facilities</i>	Kurt DeWeese	facilities@aluuc.org
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<i>Fellowship</i>	Linda Haynes	fellowship@aluuc.org
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<i>Finance</i>	Barbara Moore	finance@aluuc.org
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<i>Flower</i>	Vi Lanum	flower@aluuc.org
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<i>Membership & Publicity</i>	TBD
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<i>Pastoral Care</i>	Jodi Perko Delinda Chapman	pastoralcare@aluuc.org
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<i>Program</i>	Craig Bailey	program@aluuc.org
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<i>Religious Education (RE)</i>	Brenda Wade	RE@aluuc.org
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<i>Social Action</i>	John Malan	socialaction@aluuc.org
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FYI...

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Newsletter submissions should be made electronically to newsletter@aluuc.org no later than the Friday following the monthly scheduled committee night.

Scott Wade
Newsletter Editor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of address notices and other subscription request can be done on the ALUUC website by clicking on the Member Directory link. Or you can email the information to webmaster@aluuc.org, or by mail to:

ALUUC Attn: ECC
745 Woodside Road
Springfield, IL 62711-7346

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMING EVENTS

Submission for Announcements and Coming Events should be submitted electronically to office@aluuc.org by Thursday at 12:00 noon.

Removal from Newsletter Mailing List:

If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, please either contact the church office or send an email requesting to be removed from the newsletter mailing list to: newsletter@aluuc.org

*** Reminder ***

Please remember when participating in meetings held in the RE classrooms to clean up afterwards. We want our youth and our volunteer teachers to know that we value their efforts by respecting their space. Thank you!

Unitarian Universalism Service Committee (UUSC)

Justice Sunday: Drumbeat for Darfur

We each have the power to help stop injustice in our world. In fact, our principles call upon us to do so. And the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee enables us to do so. On Sunday, March 25, ALUUC will stand together with UUSC and UU congregations across the country to speak out against the genocide in Darfur. The principles of Unitarian Universalism call upon us to work for justice in the face of this devastating crisis. Join us to take action for justice on Justice Sunday, March 25. To learn more about how you can help, visit www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur/index.html. Our congregation can change the world! ALUUC and congregations nationwide will stand together on Justice Sunday, March 25, 2007, to end the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

UUSC Holiday Card Design Contest

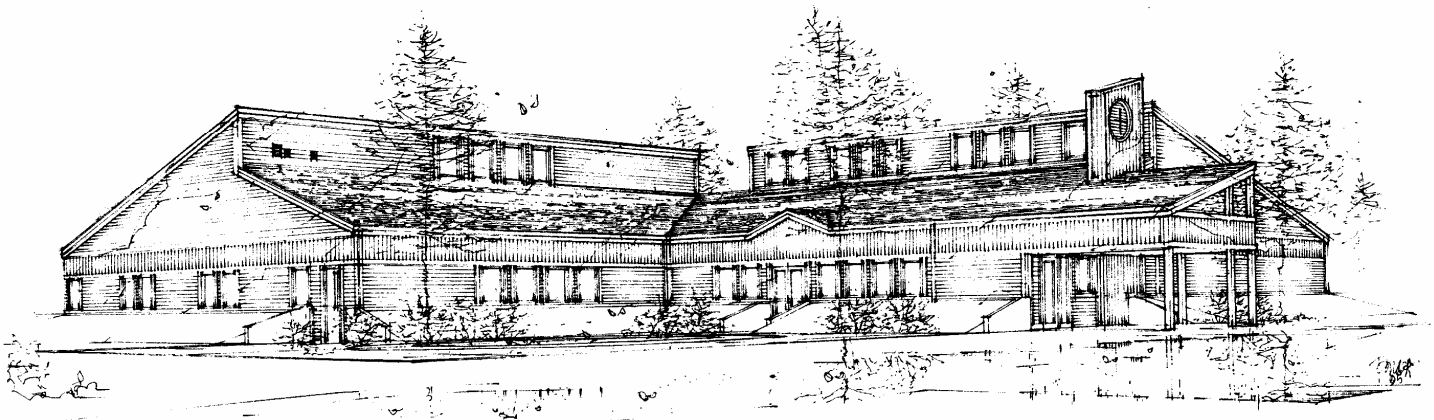
We're pleased to announce the 2007 UUSC Holiday Card Design Contest! Creative UUs of all ages are invited to submit festive original designs for UUSC holiday cards for the 2007 holiday season. Each year, UUSC holiday card sales help support our worldwide work for human rights. One of these cards could be designed by you! Create an original design that reflects the joy of the holidays, as well as the spirit of justice, equity, and compassion. Please visit www.uusc.org/holidaycards for submission guidelines and to see the 2006 award-winning card. Submissions must be received on or before April 27, 2007. Mail submissions to: UUSC Holiday Card Contest, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

E-mail submissions to: volunteerservices@uusc.org

Become a Human Rights Defender

To receive the electronic newsletter, UUSC eWire and action alerts, sign up at www.uusc.org.

Our local UUSC Rep at the ALUUC is Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, email UUSC@aluuc.org



ALUUC * Since 1953 * Celebrating over 50 years of liberal religion in Springfield