

May 2007



A·L·U·U·C NEWS



Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Office Hours:

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

Office Phone:

217-585-9550

Website:

www.aluuc.org

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Rev. Martin Woulfe
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Minister Emeritus:

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Next Newsletter Deadline:

May 25, 2007

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

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

May 6:

Why I am an Agnostic by Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this sermon, Rev. Woulfe will define what agnosticism is and is not, as well as share his insights into the Divine, Nature and human nature.

This is a "Change for Change" Sunday

May 13:

Mother's Day

During this service, Penny Wollan-Kriel will be coordinating "A Tribute to Mothers" in poetry, song and stories.

This will be a Children's Worship Sunday

May 20:

Q & A Sermon by Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, Rev. Woulfe will invite members and friends to pose their questions about Unitarian Universalism, be they liturgical, theological or historical.

May 27:

Let Us Remember, Once Again by Rev. Martin Woulfe

During this Memorial Day weekend, let us reflect upon those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" and the significance of that sacrifice.

June 3:

Flower Communion by Rev. Martin Woulfe

On this day, we will celebrate the joy and beauty of community, in a tradition made popular by Unitarian minister Nobert Capek. Members and friends are invited to bring a flower which they will share with others during the service.

This is a "Change for Change" Sunday

From the Minister. . .

On Stewardship:

Does anyone remember the time when the parking lot consisted of tons of gravel? How about a time when volunteers signed up to clean the church on Saturdays? Or when adults needed to commit to watch the young children on Sundays? Perhaps you remember when, had you missed a sermon, you had to rely on verbal reports instead of a CD recording?

Tally these changes, and dozens more that I could name, and you will know the meaning of the word transformation. Next, consider the pace of this transformation – it seems astonishing. This is all the more true because these changes were not directed by a deus e machina, nor by Boston. Rather, this transformation has come to pass because you have taken matters into your own hands. You have been dedicated leaders and powerful stewards.

What does powerful stewardship look like? Here's one example, reported to me this very evening. I'm told that one of our new members was excited to fill out her first pledge card, declaring "Now I feel like an official member!" Would that we all felt such enthusiasm for pledging!

How might we all feel like "official members"? Recognize that this is a purely voluntary association. Come as often as you can. Join a group. Pledge. Invite a friend. Have fun. Enjoy Bonnie's music; sing. Cultivate your spirituality, intellect and ethics. In short, to paraphrase Emerson, grow your soul.

Where will this all end? It depends, I suppose, on where we choose to stop. Stewardship offers so many opportunities for growth and transformation. As it is with individuals, so too is it with institutions – for is not the latter the sum of the former? May we be reminded of the minister, who, when asked where Universalists stood, jubilantly declared that "Universalists don't stand, they move." And movement, after all, is a sign of life.

~ *Martin*

From the Board President. . .

After a false start back in March, Spring seems to be here for sure. Lawn mowers are humming, kids are graduating, and the boats are back on the lake.

For the congregation administration, Spring is a time for tying up loose ends. Next year's budget gets finalized, new officers are nominated and elected, and the pledge drive totals are in. And things look pretty good for the ALUUC.

Our membership is up, our finances are in OK shape, and our programs are expanding both in participation and diversity. On the other hand, our committee structure is still a little ragged and our policies and procedures are in desperate need of attention. But, we're ending the congregation year with a solid foundation in place and the future looks bright.

~ *Jim Redlich*

From the Coordinator of Religious Education. . .

Wow! What an amazing Earth Day celebration we had this spring? Out in our field multitudes of kites in various vibrant colors were nothing short of inspiring. We couldn't have summoned a more perfect day from any deity out there and the Fellowship Committee deserves a great big pat on the back for such an excellent idea. As I watched about 100 people of varying ages, mom's, dad's, grandma's and grandpa's, and certainly lot's and lot's of kids, I was moved by our sense of community. There were several guests in attendance and I was proud of the scene they observed. Couples without children joined in the playful event and adults willingly helped any child in need of assistance. The beauty of the property and joy of being together drew my attention again to the congregational playground.

As I gazed over to the fenced in area, I couldn't help but begin to dream about how much that space could offer our community. We now have an average child attendance each week of 50 children and we've outgrown the backyard-type of equipment we've used in the past. It seems now that we must look to invest in the future members of our congregation, and research permanent playground structures. Visiting churches around our district as a Senior Youth Advisor, I've noticed that this is a natural addition to most UU congregation facilities. The UU Church of Peoria recently took on such a project and I'm planning to have conversations with the leaders of their congregation in order to better understand the scope of this type of project.

I hope we can begin to discuss this kind of commitment to our kids and the future of our congregation and our facility. In talking to members, new and old, I'm encouraged to hear positive notions toward this end. I continue to be proud that I am part of a church family that works together to move onward and upward.

~ *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 class that will present the fundamentals of liberal religion and the history of this congregation. The class will meet on 2 consecutive Wednesdays, May 16 & 23 from 7:00 to 9:00pm 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

Blood Drive

ALUUC will host a blood drive conducted by the American Red Cross on Sunday, May 20 from 11:00am until 2:00pm. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in our parking lot during those hours. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Office door. You are eligible to donate if you gave on or before December 10, 2006. Please consider being a donor. Please direct all questions to Rev. Martin Woulfe at 585-9550 or minister@aluu.org

Group Meetings & Other Events. . .

Book Discussion Group

Joins us on May 22 at 7:30pm at Alice Kaige's home to discuss "Cold Sassy Tree" by Olive Ann Burns. Call Alice if you have any questions. Future readings include "Slow Man" by J. M. Coetzee, and "Spectator Bird" by Wallace Stegner.

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.

The *Sangamon Zen Meditation Group* sits most Saturday mornings at the ALUUC from 9:00am to 11:30am. Please check the website calendar for dates.

Build Your Own Theology Group

Join us May 21 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC. Matt Vernau will present "Why There Probably Should Be a God". He will be using Richard Dawkins book The God Delusion as both outline and foil. There are no reading requirements. Attendees would do well to consider questions related to the nature of both progress and morality. Fasten your seat belts, please. All are welcome.

Christian Interest Group

Join us on May 28 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC. We will watch a video presentation entitled "The Lost Tomb of Jesus", apparently produced as an attempt to convince viewers that the tomb of Jesus of Nazareth has been unearthed. The program will be followed by a Communion Service for those who wish to attend.

Conscientious Knitters of ALUUC

This group will be meeting on May 6 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Jan Droegkamp's home. New knitters are welcome. Bring any yarn and needles you could share with others. The next meeting date will be June 10. Please direct any questions to Jan Droegkamp.

First Friday Kids Club

First Friday Kids Club will be held May 4 at the ALUUC from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Kids Club is open to children from Kindergarten to 5th Grade (younger siblings welcome if the parent stays). A \$3 donation is suggested to help with the cost for food and beverages. Come watch a movie, eat pizza, and have some fun with fellow UU kids!

Labyrinth Walk

This month's walk will be on Friday, May 18 from 7:00 to 9:30pm. Questions regarding the Labyrinth Walk can be directed to Rev. Martin Woulfe.

Movie Night

Sunday, May 20 at 6:00pm at Rev. Martin Woulfe's home. They will be watching An Inconvenient Truth. Refreshments will be provided and a discussion will follow the film. Contact Rev. Woulfe for more information or for directions.

News Covenant Group

Join us on May 3 at 7:30pm at Renata & Heiko Buchloh's home. Contact the Buchloh's 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 Grapevine Folklore Society

Saturday, May 19 at 7:30pm at the ALUUC. Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society presents River Ramblers, a five-piece bluegrass group celebrating their 20th Anniversary in 2007. Come and enjoy a great evening of music.

Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter

Come join us on Saturday, June 23 for our Summer Solstice Ritual. Child Care is available and a \$3.00 donation is suggested to help with the costs of providing childcare and any ritual expenses that occur. Check out their website at www.prairiewindcuups.org

From the ALUUC Nominating Committee

The committee is pleased to report that the following individuals have agreed to be candidates for election at the congregation's June 17, 2007 Annual Meeting: President, one-year term: Mike Haynes; Vice President, one-year term: Gwen Childs; Secretary, one-year term: Carol Floyd; Treasurer, one-year term: Jeff Bennett; Board member, to fill remainder of term expiring in 2008: Delinda Chapman; Board members, two-year terms: Henry Farrington, Ceceilia Haasis, Scott Wade; Nominating Committee, two-year terms: Debby Hagan, Roger Powers.

Carley Mattimore & Bill McCall, elected in 2006, will continue as Board members until 2008.

John Malan & Berkley Moore, elected in 2006, will continue on the Nominating Committee until 2008.

Submitted by Berkley Moore, Nominating Committee Chair

Unitarian Universalism Service Committee (UUSC)

Drumbeat for Darfur

Targeted Divestment to Stop the Genocide in Darfur. Visit www.uusc.org to help cut the flow of funds financing the genocide in Darfur. Fidelity Out of Sudan and UUSC's Drumbeat for Darfur are pressuring Fidelity to divest their \$1.2 billion in holdings in Chinese oil company Petrochina. Through its mutual funds, Fidelity is one of the two largest holders of Petrochina and has been significantly increasing its holdings. Since 70-80 percent of Sudan's oil revenues are used to purchase weapons, Americans are literally funding the genocide against the Darfuran people through their savings and retirement accounts.

UUSC Action Alert: Increase the Minimum Wage

Visit www.uusc.org to tell your members of Congress that low-wage workers deserve a raise now and ask them to support efforts to move quickly to final passage of a conference agreement on HR 2. Legislation raising the minimum wage to \$7.25 passed the House and Senate by wide margins. Disagreement over tax breaks for small businesses has delayed a conference agreement. To force action, House leadership attached the minimum wage increase to the Iraq war supplemental appropriations bill.

Equal Exchange

Over half of all UU congregations now participate in the UUSC Coffee Project with Equal Exchange, by far the highest percentage of any of their interfaith partners. (ALUUC is one of these!!!) You can purchase these products each Sunday! Please consider purchasing your coffee, tea and cocoa at ALUUC to support this very worthwhile program. Equal Exchange returns a small portion of each purchase to UUSC for our Small Farmers' Fund, which is used to assist in defending the human rights of the small producers. About \$17,000 was raised in this way last year. In addition to coffee and tea, Equal Exchange now offers chocolate bars, cocoa, cranberries, and healthy snacks. Many Equal Exchange products are organic and the coffee is shade-grown, which also makes their products environmentally friendly. Just as fair trade brings hope to agricultural communities overseas, Equal Exchange is also working to bring hope to small farmers in the United States. Family farmers in the United States are under tremendous pressure. The number of farmers has steadily declined, and suicide is now the number one killer of family farmers. Learn more, and order Equal Exchange products, and free educational materials, at www.equalexchange.com.

More about UUSC: We're counting on your membership!

Become a UUSC member today for \$40 (or \$20 for seniors and just \$10 for students and youth). Especially in these critical times, the Service Committee depends on the support of individuals like you to continue to protect human rights here in the United States and around the world. Gifts of \$75 or more from a family or individual will be doubled through a matching grant. To learn more about UUSC membership or to make a donation today, visit: <http://www.uusc.org/info/membership.html> or contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, UUSC Local Rep at UUSC@aluuc.org

Message from the CMwD Assembly

The Central Midwest District Assembly was held in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook April 13- 15. Over 300 UU's attended this annual event. Congregations from Illinois, Wisconsin, eastern Missouri, northwest Indiana and the upper peninsula of Michigan were represented. I, Frank Kopecky, was authorized by the Board to represent our congregation at the Annual Meeting. I believe the ALUUC is entitled to three members based on our size, but I was the only person able to attend the business meeting. Rev. Wolfe also was in attendance for the earlier portions of the meeting. The ministers generally hold a meeting prior to the annual meeting.

The keynote speaker was Alice Mann of the Alban Institute which is a non denominational organization that offers support and consultation to congregations across the country. Her primary message was that all congregations have a story to tell about their mission and history, and that it is important to tell newcomers this story. Newcomers must feel welcomed by the story and be made a part of that story if they are to remain in the congregation. She presented a method to make sure core members of the congregation fully understand the congregation's story so that they can retell it in a variety of formal and informal settings. The story must have a future direction as well as a past.

I also attended a workshop put on by the Channing Murray Foundation of Champaign. They were advocating a regional approach to campus outreach ministry. It seems like an idea that is worth exploring. The UUA for several years has stressed that programming needs to be developed to address what they refer to as the GAP. The GAP is the fact that there are not many young adults in our congregations. The GAP includes UU youth who do not become active with UU congregations after bridging to adulthood. It is hoped that regional college outreach centers would provide meaningful activities for college bound UU youth as well as others who may become interested in our denomination.

The Annual Assembly is a three day event. Beginning on Friday evening with an Opening Celebration, a workshop and meeting day on Saturday topped off with a banquet, and finally a closing worship service on Sunday. Next years meeting is planned for mid April in St. Louis.

~ Frank Kopecky

Social Action Update

Did you know you can make a larger contribution to the church with a little judicious shopping around? For example, Shell gives us 1.5% of the value when you use their scrip, while Speedway gives us 4%. You can do your comparison shopping at <http://www.glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx>. Go to "Select retailer type" and choose the category you're interested in to narrow the search.

Coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange are back at last. See Jack Kriel or John Malan after the service in the foyer.

John Malan, Social Action Committee Chair

Race and Class Initiative at ALUUC

May 6 at 12:15pm at ALUUC: After the potluck, there will be a showing of the nationally known video "Tale of O." In an office setting what is it like to be an o among lots of x's? What is the experience of people of difference? Leroy Jordan, a friend of ALUUC and long time educator and activist, will facilitate a discussion of the video to explore people of difference-the x's and the o's. Contact Jan Droegkamp.

May 2007

* Event not held at the ALUUC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
		1 Board Meeting 7:00pm	2	3 Meditation 7:00pm * News Group 7:30pm	4 Kids Club 6:00 to 8:00pm CUUPS Paganism 101 6:00pm	5 Zen Meditation 9:30am Open Mic Night 7:00pm
6 Worship Service 10:30am Congregational Potluck following service	7	8	9	10 Meditation 7:00pm	11 CUUPS Paganism 101 6:00pm	12 Zen Meditation 9:30am
13 Worship Service 10:30am	14	15 Committee Night 7:00pm	16 New to UU Class 7:00pm	17 Meditation 7:00pm	18 CUUPS Paganism 101 6:00pm Labyrinth Walk 7:00 to 9:30pm	19 Zen Meditation 9:30am Prairie Grapevine 7:30pm
20 Worship Service 10:30am CUUPS Meeting 12 Noon * Movie Night 6:00pm	21 Build Your Own Theology Group 7:00pm	22 * Book Group 7:30pm	23 New to UU Class 7:00pm	24 Meditation 7:00pm	25 CUUPS Paganism 101 6:00pm	26 Zen Meditation 9:30am
27 Worship Service 10:30am	28 Christian Interest Group 7.00pm	29	30	31 Meditation 7:00pm		

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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<i>Stewardship Campaign</i>	Michael Plog
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FYI. . .

NAMETAGS

If you need a replacement nametag, please either email your request to nametags@aluuc.org, or print your name on a piece of paper and place it in the nametag slot on the nametag rack.

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 ECC@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:

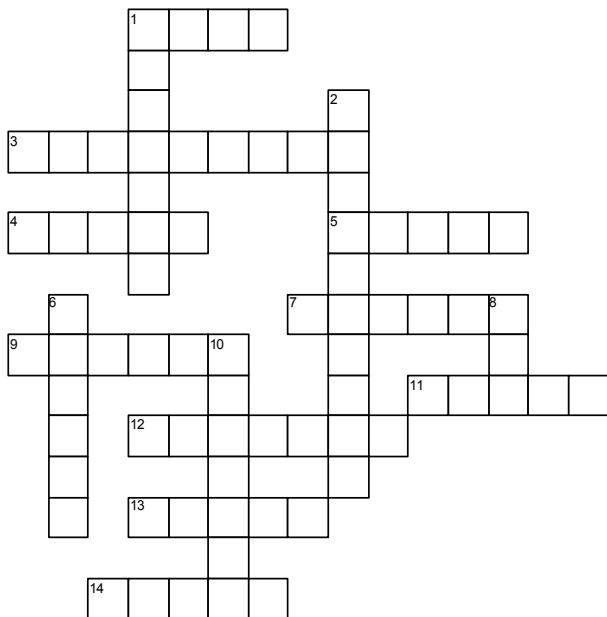
If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, please either contact the church office or send an email requesting to be removed from the newsletter mailing list to: newsletter@aluuc.org

*** 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!

The Fun Page

Our Solar System



Constructed using Crossword Weaver

ACROSS

- 1 The red planet
- 3 A thing that sucks everything else into it including light.
- 4 Burning ball of gas
- 5 Our home
- 7 Thrid furthist away from the sun
- 9 Planet with large rings
- 11 Second closes to the sun
- 12 Targets planet that has a red storm going in one spot all of the time
- 13 Very cold planet usually the furthest from the sun
- 14 Amixture of ice and rock that travels around the sun

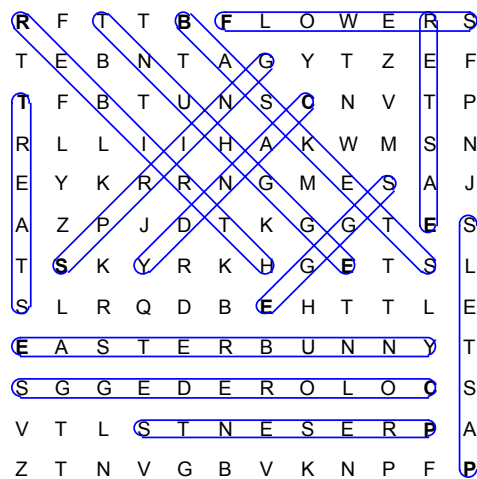
DOWN

- 1 Hottest planet in the solar system
- 2 Pieces of rock that survived a fall through the atmosphere.
- 6 A group of solar systems, stars and planets.
- 8 Star at the center of our solar system
- 10 Dark blue, usually the second farthest away from the sun

This Month Back In . . .

- 1494 - Columbus discovers Jamaica
- 1704 - Boston Newsletter publishes 1st newspaper ad
- 1780 - American Academy of Arts & Science founded
- 1844 - Samuel Morse sends 1st telegraphic message
- 1847 - American Medical Association organized (Philadelphia)
- 1865 - 1st US train robbery (North Bend Ohio)
- 1866 - American Equal Rights Association forms
- 1873 - 1st US postal card issued
- 1884 - Construction begins on Chicago 1st skyscraper (10 stories)
- 1902 - "A Trip to the Moon," the 1st science fiction film released
- 1919 - 1st US air passenger service starts
- 1931 - Empire State Building opens in NYC
- 1935 - Canada's 1st silver dollar is circulated
- 1939 - Batman comics hit street
- 1941 - General Mills introduces Cheerios
- 1952 - Mr Potato Head, introduced
- 1963 - 1st American (James Whittaker) conquers Mount Everest
- 1970 - 1st woman jockey at Kentucky Derby (Diane Crump)
- 1979 - Elton John becomes 1st pop star to perform in Israel
- 1980 - Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in Wall" is banned in S Africa
- 1987 - Congress begins Iran-Contra hearings
- 1996 - 2 US Marine helicopters collided during joint US & British war games

Solution to April's Puzzle



Map Birthdays

- Rebecca Anderson, Inge Lundh
- Michael Plog, Mary Salisbury
- Meg Schnake, Larry Shiner
- Nancy Standen, Michael Whitmore

