



# A·L·U·U·C FOCUS

APRIL 2008



745 Woodside Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62711  
217-585-9550  
www.aluuc.org

Abraham Lincoln  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

**Office Hours:**  
Monday & Friday  
11:00am to 2:30pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
11:00am to 5:00pm

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

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

### April 6

#### **“Legends of Liberalism: William Ellery Channing” by Rev. Martin Woulfe**

In this service, we will pay tribute to the life and works of William Ellery Channing, one of the greatest heroes of American religious liberalism. Channing’s legacy includes several key defenses of Unitarianism and religious toleration and the inherent dignity all of persons.

(This is a “Change for Change” Sunday.)

### April 13

#### **Questions Asked & Answers Offered by Rev. Martin Woulfe**

In keeping with the tradition of the free pew, attendees may pose questions on matters pertaining to religion, theology, UUism and ALUUC and Rev. Woulfe will offer his responses. This exchange will take the place of the sermon during the worship service.

### April 20

#### **The Still Small Voice that Whispers Still by Rev. Martin Woulfe**

On this Earth Day, we will celebrate the quiet, persistent presence of the Sacred in our everyday lives and in the interconnections of all living things.

### April 27

#### **Beltane Sunday Service - “Remembrance of Your First Love”**

#### **Presented by the Prairie Wind Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans**

Do you remember the joy of your first love? Do you recall the very first moment of inspiration that made your heart soar? Join us as CUUPs leads you to examine and experience it once more. Please wear the color Red in honor of the fires of passion and inspiration this holiday brings.

### May 4

#### **Why the Holocaust Matters by Rev. Martin Woulfe**

May first, 2008, was “Holocaust Remembrance Day.” In this service, Rev. Woulfe will reflect on the continuing importance of the Holocaust, including its impact on memory, policy and hope. (This is a “Change for Change” Sunday)

#### **What is Change for Change?**

On "Change for Change Sundays," we take a special collection during the service. Half of the money collected helps support the general mission of ALUUC; the other half is used to support various Social Justice Initiatives of the congregation. Past beneficiaries have included the Springfield Overflow Shelter and Peace Camp.

## *From the Minister. . .*

Every year, every UU congregation faces several crucial tasks: these include recruiting new leadership, fostering a deeper sense of fellowship, and raising money. These efforts require dedication, vision, creativity and a lot of hard work. May we all offer our sincerest appreciation to all here at ALUUC who are engaged in these efforts.

Because our Pledge Drive begins on April 20th, let me say a few words about money. True, in UU circles, it is sometimes claimed that we prefer to avoid the topic. Yet we know we must, at least on occasion, raise the subject – because we also know, at least instinctively, that while a faith community is not a business it must be on financially sound footing.

When congregations are in decline, certain symptoms become evident. Membership contracts, the median age increases, and the remaining community relies more and more on shrinking pools of people and income to support itself. Invariably, in those cases, programs are cut and operating funds continue to wither. If the cycle is not reversed, the institution must ultimately disband.

Four years ago, the Rev. Daniel O’Connell spoke at my service of installation; to paraphrase one of his memorable quotes: “The good news is that there is enough money for all of this congregation’s programs. The bad news is that it’s still in your wallets.”

People laughed, knowing of course that there was truth in what he said.

We know that fund raising is a collective effort. We also know that when a new budget is considered, the basic question to ask is -- what does this goal seek to accomplish? Will this be a budget that strives for growth, or seeks maintenance of the status quo, or will it reflect a phase of contraction? The answer, as my colleague pointed out, depends on us.

Those of you who were here eight years ago no doubt remember well the discussions concerning the financial risks of calling ALUUC’s first full time minister, Rev. Alex Holt. That decision reached was a commitment to growth. A few households contributed to two different leadership funds, in essence pledging twice. All hoped that new members and friends would join ALUUC who would in turn help to carry the increased financial obligations. Thus far, this has proved to be the case.

Those who made those special pledges have fulfilled their promises. Thank you, for your vision and sacrifice. No doubt you have marveled at increase in the operating budget over the past few years. You have also have been astonished to witness our congregation undertake several ambitious projects – paving and extending the parking lot, special fund drives for a new piano and a new children’s playground. Perhaps you felt vindicated as well.

We are growing. Our investment is both for the present and for the future. Thank you to everyone who contributes in so many ways.

~ *Martin*

## Group Meetings

### Book Discussion Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 22nd at Barbara Moore's home. We will discuss "The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: a memoir" by Bill Bryson. Everyone is welcome. Call Barb if you have any questions.

### Bridge Group

This group meets at the ALUUC on the second Friday of every month at 7:00pm. Group contact person is Chris Romaine.

### Build Your Own Theology Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday, April 21st at the ALUUC. Join Mary Ryan and Delinda Chapman for a discussion of life after death and consciousness. Do you believe in life after death now? Will you recognize it after the discussion? Come find out or share what you do understand.

### Christian Interest Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Monday, April 14th at the ALUUC. The group will view and discuss the video "Was Jesus Really a Peacemaker"? The discussion will be followed by an optional Communion Service.

### Dream Discussion Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday, April 7th at the ALUUC. This is a chance to engage in an informal discussion of the meaning and importance of recent dreams which we have had. All are welcome.

### First Friday Kids Club

This club meets every first Friday of each month, except in July & August. Children from Kindergarten through 5th Grade are welcome. First Friday Kid's Club will be held on April 4th from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the ALUUC. We will be celebrating April Fools. So come dressed in your "foolish" apparel (which means "just be creative") and join in the fun. A \$3 donation is requested to help with the purchase of supplies. If you have any questions, contact Marla Johnson. Please RSVP to KidsClub@aluuc.org.

### Humanist Discussion Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday, April 28th at the ALUUC. **Does talking about evolution as a source of morality cause more heat than light?** Matthew Vernau will review Evolution of Morality by Richard Joyce. Joyce examines whether morality is innate and what difference that makes or should make to the content of ethics. One commentary is found at <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=6383>

It is not necessary to have read the book to participate fully in the discussion. If you have questions about the Humanist Group, please contact Carol Floyd. All are welcome.

### Labyrinth Walk

The walk will be held on Friday, April 18th from 7:00 to 9:30pm at the ALUUC. A labyrinth is a spiritual device used by various cultures since ancient times. In its most basic sense, it is a pathway consisting of different circuits that one follows - first leading towards the center and then back again towards the point where you began the journey. Unlike a maze, there are no dead ends or choices to make between possible right or wrong turns. There is only the one path.

### Meditation Groups

Thursday Evening Meditation meets every Thursday night from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the ALUUC.

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

### News Covenant Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, April 3rd at Lori and Henry Farrington's home. Call Lori or Henry if you have any questions. All are welcome.

### The Occasional Choir

The choir practice is at 9:30am on Sundays. Check the online calendar for dates. For those parents with children, childcare now starts at 9:30am. For more information about the choir, please contact Jim Redlich or Bonnie Ettinger.

### Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter

The Prairie Wind Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is an eclectic Earth-centered spirituality group. They host several rituals throughout the year. For more information about the chapter, please visit [www.prairiewindcuups.org](http://www.prairiewindcuups.org)

## **ANNUAL SPRING WORK DAY** **Saturday, April 12th**

Plan to skip your daily workout and channel your energy into helping ALUUC maintain our beautiful building and grounds! Join the dedicated and convivial folks on the Facilities, Aesthetics, Religious Education and Green Sanctuary Committees as we tackle a variety of important tasks. We need help planting a "Teacher Appreciation" tree, removing a dead tree, repairing the playground fence, adding dirt around our foundation, weeding and mulching, cleaning windows, caulking around windows and doors, replacing light bulbs, and spot-cleaning carpets. We will start at 7 am. During Meditation (9-11:30 am) we will work outside, and then some of us will resume working inside. In the event of rain, we will focus on inside work starting at 11:30am. When lots of people show up, the work goes quickly and is much more fun!

### **New Member Recognition Ceremony**

The last New Member Recognition ceremony was held on October 21, 2007.

Since then, the following persons have joined ALUUC:

**Virginia Forrer**  
**Stu Jacobson**  
**Mattilou Catchpole**  
**Rick Crouse**  
**Jennifer Crouse**  
**Jack Kriel**  
**Gayle Keiser**  
**Bernie Carver**  
**Kim Benita Furumoto**  
**Becky Croteau**  
**Robert Croteau**

The Sunday service on April 20 will include a short ceremony to recognize these new members. If any member of the congregation has not yet participated in this type of welcome, please contact Rev. Martin Woulfe so you may be included as well.

### **New Member Photos**

If you have not yet had your photo taken for the ALUUC Membership Directory, please see either Scott Wade or Rev. Martin Woulfe after a Sunday service. We will add your photo to the online directory.

### ***You drink, you spill, we lose!***

Did you know that the dye in red and blue drinks is usually impossible to remove? Tropical punch and drink boxes are the worst offenders, and we urge everyone to avoid serving these at ALUUC. We also have many coffee and cocoa stains, and we would like to thank Anna Williams for coming in periodically to work on removing these. Professionally cleaning our carpet once a year costs \$660, and a recent estimate on replacing our carpet came in at approx. \$20,000--so let's all try to keep it looking as nice as possible for as long as possible!

## Pledge Drive Begins on April 20

The annual Pledge Drive to support the ALUUC will commence on Sunday, April 20th after the Sunday service. We appreciate your generous support to this congregation & to liberal religion in central Illinois. If you would like to assist the drive as a canvasser, please contact Michael Plog.

## SISTERS & Congregational E-mails

All women who are members & friends of ALUUC receive a weekly email from our SISTERS coordinator, Megan Moore. If you do not presently receive this, please contact Megan at: [SISTERS@aluuc.org](mailto:SISTERS@aluuc.org)

All members & friends are eligible to receive congregational emails that relay important news concerning the ALUUC Community. If you do not receive this at present and would like to do so, please sign up by sending an email to Jerry Zarley at [email@aluuc.org](mailto:email@aluuc.org)

## Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Central Midwest District of the UUA is holding its annual District Assembly (“DA”) in St. Louis April 25 – 27. DA is like a mini general assembly, complete with worship and workshops for UU’s from various congregations in Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri and Illinois. Hundreds of UU’s from the Midwest are expected to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet congregational and District leaders. Workshops this year include “Working Together for the Homeless,” “Enneagram Insights,” and “Publicity & Marketing UUism.” The event will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac from April 25-27. Brochures are available in the church office. You can register online at [www.regonline.com/131778](http://www.regonline.com/131778). The cost per adult to attend the entire DA is \$155.00 (\$190.00 after April 4). Please note that registration costs do not include your room or meals; you must make those arrangements separately.

Title: General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations  
URL: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

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Representing over 1,000 liberal religious congregations  
25 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02128  
<http://www.uua.org>  
[info@uua.org](mailto:info@uua.org)

## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Update

*UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.*

### **JustJourney to Mexico – Globalization, Indigenous Peoples, and Workers' Rights**

Join UUSC and UUJEC for a JustJourney experience, May 24-June 1, 2008, to explore the important ways corporate-led globalization and free trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have affected the lives of Mexicans, particularly the landless poor, women, indigenous people, and migrant workers. JustJourneys are unique educational travel experiences that focus on human-rights and social justice issues. Meeting UUSC program partners and other human-rights activists, participants share in the enduring hopes, daily struggles, and ultimate victories of human-rights defenders in the United States and around the world. Visit [www.uusc.org/justjourneys](http://www.uusc.org/justjourneys) for more information about this and other upcoming JustJourneys. Any congregation, group, or institution with an interest in social-justice issues can contact us with a proposal for a JustJourney. We will work together to establish the best possible option based on your objectives and UUSC's program work. Perhaps there are a group of ALUUC members that would be interested in developing a proposal? Perhaps there are a group of ALUUC members that would be interested in developing a proposal? If you are interested, please contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant (see contact info below).

### **Become a Member to Win a Human-Rights Experience!**

Students and youth who join, or renew, at their \$10 membership rate by June 30, 2008, will be entered in a raffle for a spot on a 2008-2009 JustWorks camp! (The winner will be responsible for getting to and from the camp location.) You can join, or renew, your membership at the \$100 level by June 30, 2008, to be entered in a raffle for a spot for yourself or a loved one on a 2008-2009 JustJourney! (The winner will be responsible for getting to and from the JustJourney location.)

### **Economic Justice Partner Empowers Women Workers**

Strengthening women's economic security is critical to reducing poverty and promoting gender equality. Throughout the world, women workers are some of the biggest contributors to the economy, but, at the same time, they are often the most vulnerable and unprotected. UUSC's Associate for Economic Justice Ariel Jacobson recently visited UUSC partner STITCH in Guatemala. STITCH works with unions regionally (primarily in Central America and the United States) to foster solidarity among women workers with the goal of building an international movement for gender and workers' rights. UUSC played an integral role in the participatory process that led to the creation of STITCH's new "Women, Labor and Leadership" curriculum, an educational tool that labor organizers can use to mobilize women workers to fight for their workplace rights. Learn more at [www.uusc.org/economicjustice](http://www.uusc.org/economicjustice) and [www.stitchonline.org](http://www.stitchonline.org).

For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee <http://www.uusc.org> or contact: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Local Rep at [UUSC@aluuc.org](mailto:UUSC@aluuc.org)

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Clergy:

<i>Minister</i>	Rev. Martin Woulfe	<a href="mailto:minister@aluuc.org">minister@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Minister-Emeritus</i>	Rev. Berkley Moore	<a href="mailto:minister-emeritus@aluuc.org">minister-emeritus@aluuc.org</a>

## Staff:

<i>Office Manager</i>	Cheryl Wycoff	<a href="mailto:office@aluuc.org">office@aluuc.org</a>
<i>RE Coordinator</i>	Meg Schnake	<a href="mailto:CRE@aluuc.org">CRE@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Music/Pianist</i>	Bonnie Ettinger	<a href="mailto:music@aluuc.org">music@aluuc.org</a>

## Board of Directors:

<i>President</i>	Mike Haynes	<a href="mailto:president@aluuc.org">president@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Vice President</i>	Gwen Childs	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@aluuc.org">vicepresident@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Victoria Vincent	<a href="mailto:treasurer@aluuc.org">treasurer@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Secretary</i>	Carol Floyd	<a href="mailto:secretary@aluuc.org">secretary@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Board Members</i>	Carley Mattimore Bill McCall Delinda Chapman Henry Farrington Ceceilia Haasis Mark Hanson	

## Committees:

<i>Committee on Ministry</i>	Rebecca Anderson	<a href="mailto:CoM@aluuc.org">CoM@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Endowment Trust</i>	Dave Braddock	<a href="mailto:Endowment@aluuc.org">Endowment@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Nominating</i>	Roger Powers	<a href="mailto:Nominating@aluuc.org">Nominating@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Aesthetics</i>	Deb Hagan	<a href="mailto:Aesthetics@aluuc.org">Aesthetics@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Electronics &amp; Communications</i>	Scott Wade	<a href="mailto:ECC@aluuc.org">ECC@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Facilities</i>	Kurt DeWeese	<a href="mailto:Facilities@aluuc.org">Facilities@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Fellowship</i>	Linda Haynes	<a href="mailto:Fellowship@aluuc.org">Fellowship@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Finance</i>	Barbara Moore	<a href="mailto:Finance@aluuc.org">Finance@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Flower</i>	Vi Lanum	<a href="mailto:Flower@aluuc.org">Flower@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Membership &amp; Publicity</i>	Renata Buchloh	<a href="mailto:MPC@aluuc.org">MPC@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	Jodi Perko Delinda Chapman	
<i>Program</i>	Craig Bailey	<a href="mailto:Program@aluuc.org">Program@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Religious Education (RE)</i>	Brenda Wade	<a href="mailto:RE@aluuc.org">RE@aluuc.org</a>
<i>Social Action</i>	Tom & Rachel Zehr	<a href="mailto:SAC@aluuc.org">SAC@aluuc.org</a>

# FYI...

## NAMETAGS

If you need a replacement nametag, please either email your request to [office@aluuc.org](mailto:office@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 can be done by completing the ALUUC Membership Update Form found in the church office. You can also email the information to [webmaster@aluuc.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@aluuc.org) no later than Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

## NEWSLETTERS ON TAPE

If you would like an audio tape of the ALUUC Newsletter, please contact Jim Redlich. A cassette is produced every month and duplicates are available upon request.

## NEWSLETTER OPTION

If you would rather receive this newsletter via email, please send your request to [webmaster@aluuc.org](mailto:webmaster@aluuc.org) Thank you.

## \*\*\* 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!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Here are the names of members and friends who are celebrating birthdays this month. We have many new members and friends whose names possibly didn't get on the birthday list. If this is 'your month' and your name didn't get included, we're sorry. For future months, please email Scott Wade at [webmaster@aluuc.org](mailto:webmaster@aluuc.org) with the month of your birth.

- Delinda Chapman**
- Henry Farrington**
- Margaret Hade**
- Linda Kopecky**
- Tina Layer**
- Bill McCall**
- Liz Reither**

## New to UU Class

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 conducts a class that presents the fundamentals of liberal religion and the history of this congregation. The class will meet on two consecutive Tuesdays, April 22 & 29 from 7:00 to 9:30pm at the ALUUC. Please let us know if you will need child care. You can sign-up by contacting Rev. Woulfe at 585-9550 or email [minister@aluuc.org](mailto:minister@aluuc.org)

.....  
: *Welcome New Members* :

- Becky Croteau — 29 Feb 2008
  - Robert Croteau — 29 Feb 2008
- .....

## MOVIE NIGHT

The children's animated film "Ratatouille"(2007) will be shown at ALUUC on Sunday, April 27 beginning at 4:00pm (note this is a change from the usual show time). Parents may either drop off their children at the church or stay to enjoy the show themselves. Refreshments will be served.



### In Memoriam

Former ALUUC member Betty Madden Work passed away on Sunday, March 2. She had moved to Traverse City, Michigan several years ago. A memorial service will be held at the Boardman-Smith Funeral Chapel (800 S. Grand Ave West) on Friday, March 28. Rev. Berkley Moore will officiate.

## ALUUC Membership Anniversaries for April

- Kathleen Crawford (2007)
- Wes Duiker (1975)
- Margaret Hade (1988)
- Roy Hinds (1963)
- Maggie & Perry Hines (2005)
- Frank Kopecky (1984)
- Sandy Mills (1994)
- Jodi Perko (1998)
- Kathy Rem (2006)
- Brian & Barb Reynolds (1995)
- John Taylor (1992)
- Mike Velten (2007)
- Anna Williams (1996)
- Evan Withers (2007)

# April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
		<b>1</b> Board Meeting 7:00pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Meditation 7:00pm * News Group 7:30pm	<b>4</b> Kids Club 6:00 to 8:00pm	<b>5</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:30am Fantasy Auction 6:00pm
<b>6</b> Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am	<b>7</b> Dream Group 7:00pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>11</b> Bridge Group 7:00pm	<b>12</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:30am
<b>13</b> Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am	<b>14</b> Christian Interest Group 7:30pm	<b>15</b> Committee Night 7:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Meditation 7:00pm Committee on Ministry, 7:00pm	<b>18</b> Labyrinth Walk 7:00pm	<b>19</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:30am
<b>20</b> Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Pledge Drive Begins	<b>21</b> Build Your Own Theology Group 7:00pm	<b>22</b> New to UU Class 7:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>25</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>26</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:30am
<b>27</b> Choir 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Movie Night, 4:00pm	<b>28</b> Humanist Group 7:00pm	<b>29</b> New to UU Class 7:00pm * Book Group 7:30pm	<b>30</b>			

\* Event not held at the ALUUC

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