



# A·L·U·U·C FOCUS

JANUARY 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. Guests are welcome. Religious education and child care are provided for children of all ages.

### January 6

**Dr. Walter Milton, Jr.**, Superintendent of Springfield School District 186, will be our guest speaker.

### January 13

Meadville Lombard Seminarian, **Sarah Gettie Burks-Anderson**, will be our guest speaker on this Sunday before Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

### January 20

#### **“Valuable Exchanges” by Rev. Martin Woulfe**

Religious toleration requires an active dialogue with people from different faith traditions. The goal for such persons is conversation rather than conversion. Rev. Woulfe will explore how to create such important connections.

### January 27

#### **Thoreau & Civil Disobedience by Rev. Martin Woulfe**

Henry David Thoreau is best remembered as a recluse and a keen observer of nature. Equally important were his speeches and writings denouncing injustice and evil in society, which ultimately influences Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. In this service, Rev. Woulfe will share some of Thoreau's views and how they relate to contemporary views of social justice.

#### **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. . .***

All "new" years arrive far too soon I think. On the other hand, I am cheered by the promise they inherently carry. Consider this latest addition. In Springfield, the year 2008 CE (Common Era) is being heralded as a "Year of Reconciliation" by various religious groups, because this year marks the centennial of the 1908 Race Riots. It is the hope of diverse faith communities that people will reach across racial and denomination lines to make connections that will bind up the wounds of the past and carry the entire community forward. I regard this present initiative as a potentially crucial milestone in Springfield's story.

Twenty oh-eight is also a significant milestone in the history of liberal religion in this community. One hundred and fifty years ago, the First Universalist Society dedicated its new brick church, located at the corner of Fifth and Cook Streets, on Christmas Eve. That little congregation promoted a liberal gospel and welcomed women preachers, who were a rarity in that day. More recently, a Unitarian fellowship was established by twelve men and women -- this was fifty five years ago come February. One of the more remarkable facts about that group is that not only did both men and women hold key leadership positions, but the group itself was racially diverse.

As we participate in the religious assemblies and various observances connected with the anniversary of the race riot, let us be mindful of our particular legacy -- and, of course, let us be motivated to create a noble history worth passing on to the next generation.

~ *Martin*

***From the Board Treasurer. . .***

The Board of Directors has been urging that the congregation be better informed concerning our finances. Starting with this issue, I will be reporting on our income for the previous month. In future issues, I might also comment on specific financial issues.

Comments are welcome by email sent to [treasurer@aluuc.org](mailto:treasurer@aluuc.org), or leave a note in my mailbox in the office.

For the month of November, 2007:

Pledge payments	\$ 8,852.75
Sunday cash collection and donations	\$ 1,682.57
Playground Fund donations	\$ 100.00
Memorials and Gifts	\$ 7,182.26

Not all sources of income are included and figures are not audited.  
The monthly operating expense in the ALUUC Budget is \$13,023.

~ *Ken Wade*

***From the Board President. . .***

New Beginnings...

As a new year begins we look forward to longer days, and the promise of spring—a new beginning. Our congregation starts out this year looking forward to more growth and more community involvement.

Our Membership Committee is in full swing with Renata Buchloh taking the lead. Many people have signed up to be ushers and greeters, ensuring that our visitors are met with a friendly face and a warm greeting.

Our Social Action Committee has new leadership as Tom and Rachel Zehr step into their role as chairs.

The playground fundraising is going well with Phillip Anderson in the lead, and I have noticed a sign-up sheet in the hallway for those wishing to join in raising funds for our new piano.

We also have a new comment box on the table in the foyer. Any and all comments are welcome and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors. It is clear that it is people like the members of our congregation that make good things happen and bring forth new hope for a better future.

~ *Mike Haynes*

***From the Coordinator of Religious Education. . .***

Heaving a deep sigh of relief, I must relate to you what a superb show many of you missed Sunday during the RE Holiday Service. The weather was DREADFUL and many of us wondered if indeed “the show would go on”. But gosh darn it; those young UU families are a tough lot! Out they trudged through the cold temperatures and blowing snow, over ice and through wind, with their elf ears, reindeer antlers, and more. The children “acted well their part” as the old thespian saying goes. This year was especially challenging for them with the level of dialogue called for in the production. Perhaps most unique however, was the theater in the round style of seating that was called for via the script.

The sanctuary was arranged in a horseshoe, with seating on three sides. The fourth side of the “round” was the stage. Children sat on the floor, lining the inner three sides of chairs. From this spot they floated up on stage or out in the middle as a train (a row of adorable young boys in their train caps & bandana’s), or reindeer, or elves, or the Clement Moore family. Many other characters rounded out the show, often using every side of the place to create a sense of audience participation.

The service also included a moment for RE teacher appreciation and a special offering to support the playground initiative. The noble adults, family members and even those brave souls who had no child in the performance, gave as usual their loving support, laughing in all the right places.

~ *Meg Schnake*

## Group Meetings & Other Events . . .

### Book Discussion Group

[BookGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:BookGroup@aluuc.org)

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 22 at Barbara Moore's home. We will discuss "The Atonement" by Ian McEwan. Call Barbara if you have any questions. Future books we will discuss include: "*The Girls*", by Lori Lansens; "*March*", Geraldine Brooks; "*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: a memoir*", Bill Bryson; "*The Secret of Lost Things, a novel*", Sheridan Hay; and "*My Sister's Keeper*" by Jodi Picoult.

### Bridge Group

[BridgeGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:BridgeGroup@aluuc.org)

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

[BYOTG@aluuc.org](mailto:BYOTG@aluuc.org)

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday, January 21 at the ALUUC, where we will continue a discussion begun in December. Clark Olson will be interviewed by Delinda Chapman regarding Michael Dowd's new book Thank God for Evolution. Dowd, who spoke at ALUUC in July, is one of the advocates of accepting evolution as a scientific reality and then infusing it with religion. Could this scientific/spiritual way of looking at the world become a common ground for different faiths and philosophies? What does it do well and what less well? Where do we go next in relating science and religion? Join us for an interesting presentation and discussion—it is not necessary that you were at the first session. Questions about this group can be directed to Martha Bray

### Christian Interest Group

[ChristianInterestGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:ChristianInterestGroup@aluuc.org)

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Monday, January 14 at the ALUUC. Berkley Moore will lead a discussion on "The Various Liberal Christian Interpretations of Judas Iscariot - Which is Right, and What Difference Does it Make?" The program will be followed by a Communion Service for those who wish to attend.

### Humanist Discussion Group

[HumanistGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:HumanistGroup@aluuc.org)

The Humanist Discussion Group meets the 4th Monday of most months. It will not meet in January. The next meeting will be Monday, February 25 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC. Frank Kopecky will review So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle Over Church and State by Forest Church. If you have questions about this group please contact Carol Floyd.

### 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.

### Movie Night

Come join us at the ALUUC on Sunday, January 27 at 6:00pm. Title of film to be announced at a later date.

### 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 meets on two consecutive Tuesdays, January 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)

### News Covenant Group

[NewsGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:NewsGroup@aluuc.org)

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

### The Occasional Choir

Check the online calendar for rehearsal dates. For more information about the choir, please contact Jim Redlich or Bonnie Ettinger.

### Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter

[www.prairiewindcuups.org](http://www.prairiewindcuups.org)

The Prairie Wind Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is an eclectic Earth-centered group. We host several rituals throughout the year.

## ALUUC Newsletter Change

Hello to everyone receiving this newsletter. This message is to inform all of you about the upcoming change with our monthly newsletter. With Board approval, the newsletter will be going electronic starting in February 2008. This means that the newsletter will be emailed to all of those that have an email address on file with the congregation. The newsletter will no longer be mailed out, except in cases for those that do not have email or internet services. There will also be hardcopies of the newsletter placed on the guest table outside the sanctuary every Sunday. The benefits for this change are many to include saving the congregation the expense of almost \$2000 dollars per year, precious time of our Minister and Office Manager with picking up the newsletters from the printers, printing out the address labels & affixing them, and taking the newsletters to the Post Office. The other benefit is that you will receive the newsletter much quicker—the first day of each month. We are also helping out the environment! I did a test run email in December and it was successful. I also emailed this newsletter out. If you did not receive the newsletter by email, then we may not have your current email address on file. Please contact me if you would like to be added to our e-newsletter list, or to update your email address.

With this change also means a change in the current newsletter deadline for articles to be submitted. All newsletter articles were to be submitted no later than the Friday evening following Committee Night. This will change to the 25th of each month starting this month. The 25th will be a hard date, meaning that if I receive your article on the 26th, it will not make it into the newsletter. I will be replying back to all newsletter articles submitted, so you know that I did receive it. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send me an email.

Scott Wade, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor

[webmaster@aluuc.org](mailto:webmaster@aluuc.org)

## Message from the Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter

January is usually a quiet month for the Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter, however, this year we will be offering a Wicca 101 class starting on January 4th. This course is a basic overview of the history, theory, and practices of Wicca, one of the major branches on the pagan world tree. This course will be taught by our General Coordinator, Amanda Ensley. Amanda has been practicing Wicca for over ten years in various forms. Please see our bulletin board for more information and sign up. Please mark your calendars for our business meeting on January 20th at Noon, and Imbolc on February 2nd at 7:00pm, which will be led by Buffy Lael.

Brightest Blessings!  
Cat Arremann  
Assistant Coordinator

## Your Gift Can Secure the ALUUC Legacy

The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian-Universalist Congregation Endowment Trust (the “ENDOWMENT TRUST”) is a special fund created to insure the longevity of the congregation, to respond to unforeseen emergencies, and to provide necessities that cannot be funded by general revenues for the ordinary and contingent expenses of the congregation or by other special purpose fund-raising. The “ENDOWMENT TRUST” is growing in size and significance to secure, strengthen and extend the long-term survival and mission of the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation (ALUUC). The “ENDOWMENT TRUST” is managed by 5 ALUUC Members elected by the Congregation. You, your family and friends can give gifts, bequests or other donations to the “ENDOWMENT TRUST” that will be carefully managed so that it will grow in value and effect. Outright gifts at any time, memorial donations, other bequests (usually by will), naming the ENDOWMENT TRUST as a beneficiary in an insurance policy, or by terms of personal trusts, are the ways that important personal choices can reflect your interests, beliefs and commitment to a strong liberal religion in Springfield. Any such gift to the ALUUC must specify the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian-Universalist Congregation Endowment Trust as the recipient. Please consider giving a gift to the “TRUST.” Discuss the gift with family members. Contact your financial advisory or estate attorney prior to a final decision.

Contact members of the “ENDOWMENT TRUST” for more information: **Dave Braddock, Chair; Frank Kopecky; Kurt DeWeese; Nancy Standen; and Victoria Vincent.** The resolution creating the “ENDOWMENT TRUST” is on the ALUUC website at: [http://www.aluuc.org/uploads/ALUUC\\_Bylaws\\_June2007.pdf](http://www.aluuc.org/uploads/ALUUC_Bylaws_June2007.pdf)

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## An Update on Recent Fundraising at ALUUC

- \$301.01 was collected on November 18 to benefit St. John’s Breadline.
  - The UIS students who served the Pancake Breakfast on December 2 collected about \$400.00 which will help pay for their trip to Mexico to study social justice issues there.
  - Sixty one persons attended the Marina V concert held at ALUUC on the evening of Friday, December 21. Marina Verenikina and Nick Baker performed songs in both English and Russian from her previous albums as well as her latest release, “Modern Fairytale.” ALUUC received \$260.00 dollars from this event. A special thank you goes to the Fellowship committee, which served refreshments during the intermission.
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## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Update

### Guest at Your Table

During the January 13 worship service, we will gather up the Guest at Your Table boxes. We are so proud that this year our congregation has continued the tradition of Guest at Your Table. Each Guest box reminds families that they are where UUSC's commitment to the inherent worth and dignity begins. UUSC can advance human rights in the U.S. and throughout the world because of the support of members.

Your Guest gifts can earn membership for each member of your family. UUSC membership rates are:

- \$40 for a single regular membership
- \$10 for a youth/student membership
- \$20 for a senior citizen membership (65 and over)
- \$75 for dual regular membership

And your Guest gift can do even more good in the world! All individual and family unrestricted contributions of \$100 are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, N.Y.

**Please count the money inside your box, make out a check to UUSC, and fill out the coupon on the side of the box making sure to mark your membership type.** If you'll be using a Guest donation envelope instead, please be sure to fill out your envelope completely and circle your membership type.

**Round up!** - Considering rounding up your Guest donations to the nearest dollar. Fifty cents might not seem like much of an increase, but when every household in our congregation rounds up 50 cents, it makes a huge difference. Imagine if every household in each of the hundreds of congregations participating in Guest at Your Table did the same!

**Help everyone become a member.** Consider helping to spread the memberships. Have you or your family given a donation that could be enough for your membership and to purchase a membership for a child, youth or friend? If so, please consider giving an additional membership.

### Drumbeat for Darfur - D.C. Days of Action

This is a critical time for Darfur — conditions on the ground are deteriorating, peace talks are off to a rocky start, and the U.N.-A.U. peacekeeping mission is still not deployed. We must not let the White House, Congress, or the International community, postpone action any longer.

UUSC's Drumbeat for Darfur campaign is helping raise the decibel level of voices working to bring peace to Darfur. You can join the steady stream of action and advocacy to:


- Protect civilians — especially women — from the ongoing violence,
- Promote a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict, and
- Hold perpetrators of the genocide accountable for crimes against humanity.

Visit <http://www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur> today to join and support the campaign.

For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Contact: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Local Rep at [UUSC@aluuc.org](mailto:UUSC@aluuc.org)

# January 2008

\* Event not held at the ALUUC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Meditation 7:00pm * News Covenant Group - 7:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:00am
<b>6</b> Worship Service 10:30am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Board Meeting 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>11</b> Bridge Group 7:00pm	<b>12</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:00am
<b>13</b> 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	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:00am
<b>20</b> Worship Service 10:30am	<b>21</b> Build Your Own Theology Group 7:00pm	<b>22</b> New to UU Class 7:00pm Dream Group 7:00pm * Book Group 7:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Meditation 7:00pm	<b>25</b> Labyrinth Walk - 7:00pm  Newsletter Deadline	<b>26</b> Zen Meditation Group - 9:00am
<b>27</b> Worship Service 10:30am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> New to UU Class 7:00pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 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	<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>	Ken Wade	<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	

## 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 and other subscription request can be done by completing the ALUUC Membership Update Form found in the church office. You can 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 DEADLINE

All articles for next month's newsletter must be submitted by no later than the 25th. Please email all articles to [webmaster@aluuc.org](mailto:webmaster@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!

# Welcome New Members

Rick Crouse - December 2, 2007  
Jennifer Lynn - December 2, 2007  
Jack Kriel - December 17, 2007  
Gayle Keiser - December 17, 2007

## ALUUC Membership Anniversaries For the Month of January

Heiko & Renata Buchloh (2007)  
Mary Capparelli (2003)  
Henry & Lori Farrington (2005)  
Jeanne Fisk (1993)  
John Herron (2003)  
Jeremy Izzard (2007)  
Carol Kneeler (1991)  
Buffy Lael (2002)  
Doug & Teresa Liberati (2007)  
Sally Millichamp (2002)  
Barbara Moore (1972)  
Berkley Moore (1970)  
Pamela Salela (2007)  
Meg Schnake (2002)  
Dan Schull (1998)  
Stacey Shinkle Van Bogaert (2003)  
Rachel Walker (2005)  
Jerry Zarley (2005)

## 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.

**Tracy Anderson  
Peggy Fenley  
Linda Haynes,  
Shelley Reither  
Catherine Talano**

