



ALUUC Focus

Newsletter for the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation
www.aluuc.org



AUGUST 2009

Worship Services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30am. Religious education and child care are provided for children of all ages. Large Print Bulletins and Hymnals are available upon request.

August 2 ~ Cambodia Through Fresh Eyes

Dr. Jeff and Mrs. Tina Bennett offer a presentation on Cambodia, with accompanying slides of their trip to that country. A rare opportunity to see a fresh view of distant civilization through the eyes of our fellow members and friends.

August 9 ~ "Why Eat Local?"

Eating local foods is getting a lot of interest. From a resurgence of farmers' markets to large corporations looking to procure locally grown food to Local Flavors lunches and dinners, appreciation for the value of eating local is building. Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Extension Specialist, Small Farm and Sustainable Agriculture, University of Illinois, has worked in the area of sustainable agriculture for over 20 years will share how eating locally is good for you, your family, the economy and the environment. She will also provide information about national, regional, and local resources and organizations.

August 16 ~ "Expanding Love"

Rev, Clare Butterfield will speak about making sure we include the whole natural world in our love. She will include some stories of how congregations of different faiths understand that responsibility and are responding to it through partnership with Faith in Place. Rev. Butterfield is an ordained UU community minister, and the Director of Chicago-based Faith in Place and the Interfaith Power and Light Campaign. She has a graduate background not only in Divinity (Meadville Lombard Seminary) but in Law (Univ. of Illinois College of Law). She will also be leading a Sunday afternoon workshop at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Springfield's north side. Information on this workshop will be available closer to the time of the workshop.

August 23 ~ "The Wonderful World of Bats"

Dr. Todd Austin has passionately been involved with bat conservation for nearly two decades. In this inter generational service, Todd will strip away the myths associated with these 'mysterious flyers of the night'. He'll tell the true story of bats with slides from his own personal conservation efforts (as well as slides from the world's leading bat photographer, Dr. Merlin D. Tuttle), and explain why bats are vitally important to the web of nature of which we are a part.

August 30 ~ The Limits of Toleration Rev. Martin Woulfe

To some, "toleration" is a dirty word. To others, it fails to capture the essence of one of the cardinal virtues cherished by religious liberals. What do we mean when we say that we affirm & promote "religious toleration?" Are there some things that should not be tolerated?

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217-585-9550

From the Minister...

I recently had the opportunity to attend “Ministry Days” and “General Assembly,” both of which were held in Salt Lake City this past June. Both events afford myriad opportunities to see old friends and classmates, congregants, and even former mentors. And more: one may attend workshops, plenaries, meals and meetings. In fact, one of the joys of attending GA is just to be part of the “larger UU experience,” i.e., sharing the better part of one week with thousands of fellow UUs. Often, many UUs lose sight of the larger picture, that we are members of a religious movement, and not merely of one congregation. General Assembly reminds us that UUism contains a rich diversity and a tremendous energy. The experience spawns a deep appreciation for all the individuals and institutions that stay committed to our ideals. It is also an opportunity to observe important milestones, such as the welcoming, or loss, of colleagues.

Several years ago, when GA was held in St. Louis, nearly ten percent of our congregation was able to attend. Those who did, came back energized, and several important changes were implemented, such as the pre-service singing on Sundays. Next year, the annual convention will be held in Minneapolis; I hope that others from here will be able to go.

One of the notable things announced during this GA is a new national campaign entitled “Standing on the Side of Love.” In brief, this campaign is a response to the murders that occurred one year ago at the Tennessee Valley UU congregation. In the year since that attack, that congregation and the denomination as a whole have lifted up our message of prophetic love and justice on behalf of those who are marginalized in today’s society. One way that we can participate in this campaign locally is to march under that banner during the State Fair parade. Given that the theme of this year’s parade is “An All American Fair,” we hope to publicly affirm “Fairness for All Americans.” For more details, please visit the UUA’s website, www.uua.org and check out the information on “Standing on the Side of Love.”

In the meanwhile, it is important to remember that there are other UU congregations planted in central Illinois - it would mutually benefit us all to communicate and even collaborate with these fellow UUs. Our mission in life is to transform ourselves, our communities and by extension, the world - we need not strive to carry the burden ourselves, nor should we. There is strength as well as wisdom in numbers. My hope for this coming liturgical year is that we will participate fully with one another, both here and in the larger community, to further the blessings of creation.

~ Martin

Special Notice: Rev. Woulfe will be on vacation from July 22 until August 5. If there is a pastoral care emergency during this time, please contact either Rev. Berkley Moore or the chair of the Pastoral Care Committee, Michael Plog.



New Members:

Three persons have recently joined ALUUC as members. Please be sure to welcome the following and get to know them better:

Chelsea Fry, Jennifer Lutz-Skaggs & Ricky Stead

From the Board President...

Remember the old days...when we UU's took a break from the usual routine to spend a leisurely morning with the newspaper and the CBS Sunday Morning program on TV? There was a smug old joke which asked why UU's don't go to church in the summer, and the answer is: "Because they are the only ones God can trust out of his sight for 90 days!"

Well...I admit I liked the reprieve from church duties, but I also missed checking in with my friends and spending time together in a shared search for inspiration. I was always happy when Ingathering Sunday rolled around again, and we sang "Here We Have Gathered" with great enthusiasm.

Those days are long gone, for these days we acknowledge that life goes on during those 90 days, and so does our need to build relationships and support each other. We also know that summer is a time when many people "shop around" for a church home. Have you noticed how many visitors we have on any given Sunday? We certainly need to be here to welcome them, and to answer their questions about our unique way of religion.

We still have some positions to fill before fall, and one of the most important ones is the Membership and Publicity Chair. Our Board is committed to doing a better job of welcoming and integrating new members, as is our new UUA president, Rev. Peter Morales. We have much to offer, and there are many resource materials available, but we need someone to assemble a great team of hospitable people. Are you that person?

We also need to fill the Social Action Chair. Everyone knows that UU's are very committed to making positive changes that benefit our communities—and many of us are active individually—but we need to keep our members aware of opportunities to serve and to identify our "Change for Change" recipients each month. Could you share your passion for helping others by leading this team effort?

Lastly, I would love to find one or two people who will coordinate the Chalice Circles this year. It really isn't difficult. There are many sources of ideas for discussion topics (books, newsletters, etc.) and groups usually start up in the fall and spring, although we may want to experiment with some groups that meet all year. These small groups are enormously popular in other churches because they are a way to build deep and meaningful relationships with others. They help us move from small talk to great conversations, and I have learned so much from others in the groups I have attended. Please consider volunteering for this very special program.

Now...if several lovely souls take on these leadership opportunities, I may still have time to take a little break from church duties this summer. I'll still be at church whenever possible, but maybe God will let me out of his or her sight for a week or two! Please email me at President@aluuc.org or call my home, 529-6396, to volunteer.

~ Gwen Childs



Contact Information

CLERGY:			
Minister Minister Emeritus	Rev. Martin Woulfe Rev. Berkley Moore		minister@aluuc.org minister-emeritus@aluuc.org
STAFF:			
Office Manager RE Coordinator Music/Pianist	Cheryl Wycoff Bonnie Ettinger		office@aluuc.org CRE@aluuc.org music@aluuc.org
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:			
President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Board Members	Gwen Childs Delinda Chapman Kitty Wrigley Kelly Anderson Beverly Holmes Doug Liberati Phillip Anderson Bill McCall Megan Renner		president@aluuc.org vicepresident@aluuc.org treasurer@aluuc.org secretary@aluuc.org
COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION			
Committee on Ministry Nominating Committee Endowment Trust	Rebecca Anderson Frank Kopecky		CoM@aluuc.org nominating@aluuc.org endowment@aluuc.org
COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD:			
Electronics & Communications - Newsletter Facilities - Aesthetics - Flower Fellowship Finance Green Sanctuary Membership & Publicity Pastoral Care Program Religious Education (RE) Social Action	Mike Haynes Pam Daniel Kurt DeWeese Vi Lanum Diana DeWeese Mark Hanson Meg Evans Michael Plog Penny Wollan-Kriel Dianne Roberts-Hill		ECC@aluuc.org newsletter@aluuc.org facilities@aluuc.org aesthetics@aluuc.org flower@aluuc.org fellowship@aluuc.org finance@aluuc.org greensanctuary@aluuc.org MPC@aluuc.org pastoralcare@aluuc.org program@aluuc.org RE@aluuc.org SAC@aluuc.org

F Y I

Change of Address or Email: Changes can be submitted by email to Updates@aluuc.org or by completing the ALUUC Membership Update Form found in the office.

Newsletter Option: To stop receiving this newsletter by mail or to change to receive it by email, please email your request to Pamela Daniel at newsletter@aluuc.org

Nametags: If you need a replacement nametag, please email your request to our Office Manager, Cheryl Wycoff, at office @aluuc.org or print your name on a piece of paper and place it in the nametag slot found on the nametag rack.

This year's fabulous

TRASH AND TREASURE SALE

will be held Friday and Saturday, **October 2-3**

Start saving your donations for ALUUC!

**SAVE
THIS
DATE!**

It is that time of year once more; time to unload your trash for our treasures. Start making your piles and sacks full of unused items hiding in closets, drawers, basements and garages. The ALUUC Trash and Treasure sale is scheduled for October 2 and 3. The first day for drop off will be Sunday, September 27 after the service. Set up will begin September 28 and run through Thursday, October 1.

Delinda Chapman is once again chairing the event and is looking for VOLUNTEERS. If you have lead the organization for a section of the sale and are willing to do so again this year, please let Delinda know. Save Dan Schull a call by signing up now to help. We need everyone's participation one way or another. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Cleaning the Building...

"Thank you" to everyone who generously offered to sponsor a week of professional cleaning last year. We made it through the whole year without having to organize volunteer cleaning crews. Yeah!!!

This year, we face the same budget challenges, so we need to ask for your donations again. If you would like to sponsor a week, the cost is \$100, and you will not be contacted if we need to recruit volunteer crews. We hope to receive enough donations to avoid doing this! To donate, please make out a check to ALUUC, with "cleaning" in the memo line, and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate.

Volunteers Needed

As you may have noticed in the budget that was passed, the hours for our Office Manager, Cheryl Wycoff, were reduced from 20 to 16 hours per week. We need to find someone who is free on Thursdays to help print, fold and assemble the bulletins and announcement inserts, and also to help with a few other small tasks to prepare for Sunday services. In addition, she will need help from time to time with congregational mailings. Could you spare a few hours a week? Please call the church office—585-9550—and speak to Cheryl if you are able to assist her. Thanks!

Other Opportunities:

Archives, Anyone?

Indulge your inner historian by preserving our ALUUC documents for posterity. No Pay, but Very Flexible Hours.

Love Landscaping?

We have plenty of weeds to go around, no reasonable offer refused. Anyone who shows interest will receive a special invitation to the next workday party sponsored by the Facilities Committee.

Please call the office---585-9550--- if you can give some of your time to these projects.

Groups and Other Events

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: The Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us on Tuesday, August 25th at 7:30 p.m. at Barbara Moore's home. We will discuss "Heart and Soul" by Maeve Binchy. This is a story of "family, friends, patients, and staff who are part of a heart clinic in a community caught between the old and the new Ireland." Call Barbara if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a suggestion or two for future books for this group to discuss.

In September we will discuss "Stormy Weather" by Paulette Jiles. This is an historical novel taking place in oil-rich East Texas during the darkest years of the depression.

DREAM GROUP: The Dream Group will hold its monthly meeting at the church in the Emerson Room on Monday, August 3, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting gives folks an opportunity to discuss their recent dreams in a relaxed and informal setting. New members of the group are most welcome. For more information about the Dream Group, please contact John Glosser.

MONTHLY YOUNG ADULT EVENT

Young adults! Please join us for the first "Second Sunday Brunch" on Sunday, August 9. We'll meet in the congregation's vestibule at noon on the Second Sunday of each month. We'll drive (or carpool) to a local restaurant such as Denny's or Cracker Barrel for lunch/brunch food and fellowship. If you prefer to meet us at the restaurant, please call or text Megan so we can tell you where to go!

LABYRINTH WALK: Labyrinth Walks will resume at ALUUC in the fall and be held on the third Friday of each month. Mark your calendar! The first scheduled Labyrinth Walk of the 2009-2010 liturgical year will be held on Friday Sept 18, beginning at 7 pm.

MOVIE NIGHT: Will resume in September.

FLUTE CIRCLE: This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the ALUUC. Flutes will be made available for others to try. The focus of this circle will be the care and playing of the Native American Style Flute, but other types of flutes are welcome. Any questions can be directed to Mike Haynes at FluteCircle@aluuc.org

THEOLOGIES IN DIALOGUE GROUP

Theologies in Dialog group will not meet in August. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 21 at 7 p.m. Carol Floyd will review a newly published book by author Richard Grigg. His central claim in *To Re-Enchant the World: A Philosophy of Unitarian Universalism* is "...that contemporary Unitarian Universalism, with its unique ability to bring together a plethora of different spiritualities within a single community, is a particularly powerful site for the re-enchancement of the world, for the rebirth of the sacred." More details in the September newsletter.

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP: Join us on Monday August 24 at 7:00 pm at the ALUUC. Carol Floyd will review *Living Without God: New Directions for Atheists, Agnostics, Secularists and the Undecided* (by Ronald Aronson). A brief summary of the book can be found at http://www.thehumanist.org/humanist/09_may_jun/Brockman.html It is not necessary to have read the book to participate fully in the discussion. If you have questions about the Humanist Discussion Group, contact Carol Floyd. at HumanistGroup@aluuc.org

NEWS COVENANT GROUP: The News group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us on August 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Renata and Heiko Buchloh's home. Call Renata or Heiko if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome to attend.

NEW to UU SESSION : If you are interested in becoming a member, or desire more information on UUism and this congregation, an orientation will be offered Wednesday August 19 at ALUUC, 7 – 9 pm. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain; if this time is not convenient, please contact Rev. Woulfe to REschedule. Please indicate if childcare is needed.

ALUUC YOUNG ADULT GROUP: is sponsoring a "Harvest BBQ Potluck" Sunday, September 13th 6pm at Washington Park playground picnic area. We invite the congregation to bring a dish, something for the grill experts to grill, or yard games. Summer has ended, school has started, and we celebrate autumn with food and socializing. Contact Rhiannon at youngadult-group@aluuc.org for more information.

ALUUC Focus

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Zen Meditation 9:30 am
2 Worship Service 10:30 am	3 Dream Group 7:00pm Board Meeting 7:00 pm	4 *Harmonious Drumming in the Park 7 - 8:00pm	5	6 Meditation 7:00 pm *News Covenant Group 7:30 pm	7	8 Zen Meditation 9:30 am
9 Worship Service 10:30 am Young Adult Group Social Event Noon	10	11	12 Flute Circle 7-9:00 pm	13 Meditation 7:00 pm	14	15 Zen Meditation 9:30 am
16 Worship Service 10:30 am	17	18 *Harmonious Drumming in the Park 7 - 8:00pm	19 New to UU Session 7-9:00 pm	20 Meditation 7:00 pm	21 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 pm	22 Zen Meditation 9:30 am
23/30 Worship Service 10:30 am	24/31 *Humanist Discussion Group 7:00	25 *Book Discussion Group 7:30	26	27 Meditation 7:00 pm	28	29 Young Adult Group Social Event

* Events not held at the ALUUC

Dates and Times are subject to change. Please check the website calendar for any changes.

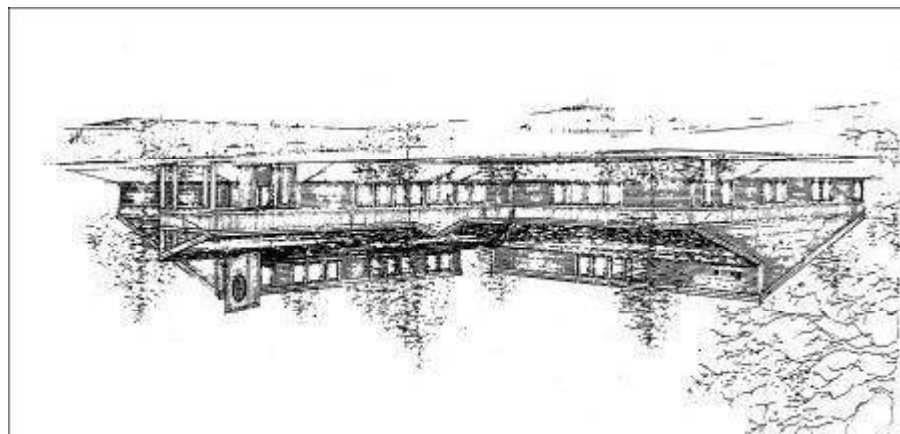
State Fair Twilight Parade

If you are interested in joining your fellow ALUUC friends who will be marching in the State Fair Parade, scheduled for Thursday, August 13, please contact Rev. Martin Woulfe and/or sign up on the sheet posted near the water fountain. Since the theme of this year's parade is "An All American Fair," we will promote "Fairness for All Americans" in keeping with the UUA's current campaign, "Standing on the Side of Love." If you want to know more about this campaign, please visit the UUA's website at www.uua.org.

Abraham Lincoln
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ALUUC ~ Since 1953 ~ Celebrating over 50 years of liberal religion in Springfield



Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org