



ALUUC Focus

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



June 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.

June 7 ~ "Flower Communion" by Reverend Martin Woulfe

Many UU congregations mark the close of the liturgical year with a flower communion. This practice has a long history among religious liberals here in the Midwest, dating at least from the 1880's. In more recent decades, the communion has come to be associated with the Unitarian minister Nobert Capek, who was murdered by the Nazis. Regardless of its origins, this tradition is a celebration of Spring and of the gifts of community. I have long cherished the Flower Communion, as it mirrors the Water Communion, which opened the liturgical year. In this year's Flower Communion, we will make a special effort to recognize those persons who have contributed so much, in terms of time and talent, to the success of the congregation during the past twelve months. With that said, all are encouraged to attend the service, which promises to be rather colorful. And, of course, all are equally encouraged to stay for the annual meeting - this event is crucial to the health of the congregation.

June 14 ~ "Five Things I Learned during My Sabbatical" by Reverend Martin Woulfe

A sabbatical is a time spent apart from the normal duties associated with ministry. In this service, Rev. Woulfe will relate five things that he has gleaned from his experiences during these past few months.

June 21 ~ "Who Do People Say I Am?" by Reverend Marcellus Leonard

The title of Rev. Leonard's sermon is taken from Jesus' question to his disciples as found in the Christian New Testament. His address will ask us all to know ourselves and what we contain. Using the reflection of our reputations as an indication of how we affect others, he will focus on Jesus' exhortation for his followers *to love our neighbors because love works no ill to neighbors*. Marcellus Leonard is a former retail merchandiser who earned his Ph.D. at age 50. He is now an Associate Professor and Interim Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He notes that he is married with 3 grown children and 18 grandchildren, several of whom are just starting college, so he has a strong interest in education. Dr. Leonard is not only a college teacher but a minister and a published poet.

June 28 ~ "The Place of Music"

A three service mini-series begins this Sunday, reflecting on different aspects of the place of music in our life and worship. Bonnie Ettinger leads a program in which members/friends of the congregation sing, or play their musical instruments and explain how music is part of their spirituality.

July 5 ~ "From American Exceptionalism to Maturity"

Music sometimes illustrates or exemplifies ideas better than speeches or books. In a celebration of Independence Day, Craig Bailey will share music from the American Manifest Destiny era. He will use the words of author, career Army officer and Boston University history and international relations professor Andrew Bacevich to bring us up to the modern era through his book *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*. (The featured guest on a Bill Moyers program last fall, Bacevich is a retired Army colonel and former West Point teacher who lost a son in the Iraq war.)

745 Woodside Road, Springfield, IL 62711
217-585-5990

From the Board President...

School is almost out for the summer! Children (and teachers) are always excited about the prospect of more leisure time, and it works the same way at churches. Most of us wind down our programs to a basic level and take a bit of a break. Still, we have some business to take care of before we rest and begin again.

The Annual Meeting is June 7th, and the Board is now busy with several tasks to prepare for next year. Soon we will be contacting people to see if they want to continue as Committee Chairs, or if they are willing to serve as Chairs where we have openings. Also, the Board is putting together a committee to hire a new Coordinator of Religious Education. If you are interested in chairing a particular committee, or if you are interested in applying for the CRE position, please contact Delinda Chapman, Vice President, or me.

During the summer, when there is less demand for building use, we try to concentrate on maintenance issues, inside and out. We always have plenty of weeding, mowing, painting and cleaning to go around. We could really use a librarian and an archivist, and the courtyard needs a lot of TLC. If you are someone who yearns to unleash your inner gardener, or if you are willing to pick up a paintbrush, or if you are someone who gets satisfaction out of creating order from chaos---we'd love to talk to you. Just as there are many paths to the divine, there are many ways to serve our church...

*where we can grow, and each one's gift is sanctified and spirits lift,
where every door is open wide for all who choose to step inside
---Alicia S. Carpenter, Hymn #300*



~ Gwen Childs

From the Board Treasurer...

Treasurer's Report
May 18, 2009

Per our financial statements for April 2009:

Operating revenue for April 2009: \$ 9,782.

Operating expenses for April 2009: \$ 15,065.

Mortgage liability paid for April 2009: \$ 1,800.

Total outflow: \$ 16,865.

If you have any questions about financial issues, please feel free to ask me. I would be happy to show you the process. A copy of the current financial statement is posted on the Board's bulletin board in the hallway.



~ Victoria Vincent

Groups & Other Events

Book Discussion Group

The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday, June 23rd at Barbara Moore's home. We will discuss "An Incomplete Revenge" by Jacqueline Winspear. Call Barb at if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome.

Dream Group

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on Monday, June 1st at the ALUUC. This is a chance to discuss recent dreams in a relaxed and informal setting. If you have any questions, please contact John Glosser.

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

Humanist Discussion Group

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on Monday, June 22nd at the ALUUC. Janet Factor will address "How Morality Has Emerged Through Evolution" (emergence of morality as a natural consequence of evolution in a social animal). She will draw upon E.O. Wilson, Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, and Steven Pinker among others. If you have questions about the Humanist Group, please contact Carol Floyd at HumanistGroup@aluuc.org

Labyrinth Walk

The Labyrinth Walk is held from 7:00 to 9:00pm on the third Friday of each month from September to June. All are welcome.

Meditation Groups

The Thursday Evening Meditation meets every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the ALUUC. The Sangamon Zen Group sits most Saturday mornings at the ALUUC from 9:30 to 11:30am. Please check the website calendar for exact dates.

News Covenant Group

The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday, June 4th at Renata and Heiko Buchloh's, 7901 Hunt Road. Everyone is welcome. Call Renata or Heiko at 585-1944 if you have any questions.

The Occasional Choir

The choir rehearsal is at 9:30am on specified Sundays. Please check the website calendar for exact dates. For more information about the choir, please contact Bonnie Ettinger at music@aluuc.org

Theologies in Dialogue

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on Monday, June 15th at the ALUUC. The topic will be a discussion of apparent conflicts between faith and reason that can be resolved. Craig Bailey will offer a presentation and moderate a discussion using ideas in New York University retired Professor James P. Carse's book The Religious Case Against Belief. (If this had been written by a Unitarian Universalist for UUs, a better title would probably have been The Spiritual Case Against Dogma.)

Spanish Interest Club

This group will meet once in June, on Sunday June 14th at the home of Rev. Martin Woulfe. All are invited to come and enjoy an evening of Spanish conversation and culture. We will gather at 5:00pm. Please call to confirm your attendance.

Milestones

Alphonso McKamey (77) passed away in St. John's Hospice on May 3, 2009 following a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Cathy McKamey. A funeral service was held at Butler Funeral Home and he was laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Sangamon Zen Group

Zen Buddhist teacher Elihu Genmyo Smith will visit the Sangamon Zen Group on June 6th at the ALUUC. He will be joined by Bhikkhu Ashin Vansarakkhita, a Theravada monk who is currently in residence at the Vihara in Springfield. The talk will begin at 9:00am followed by meditation and a potluck lunch at 12:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of the event. For information, contact Ed Mushin Russell at 217-528-4834 or email pzc@prairiezen.org

Take me out to the ball game!
Take me out with the crowd!

The Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring a night at Lanphier Ballpark on Friday June 12th. The Springfield Sliders will be playing the DuPage Dragons. The game starts at 6:35pm. Sign up soon. Tickets are \$4 each, BUT, the first 20 people who sign up will receive a free ticket to the game. The clipboard for signup is in the hallway above the water fountain.

The "New" Newsletter Editor

I'm proud to announce that I will be passing on the reigns of the ALUUC Newsletter to Pamela Daniel, and she can be reached at newsletter@aluuc.org

It's been a pleasure doing this newsletter for the past three years.

Scott Wade

News from the Green Sanctuary Committee...

LOCALLY GROWN FOOD IS GREENER

Fruits and vegetables grown in our own locale are almost always friendlier to the environment and tastier than food trucked in from somewhere far away, warmer--think Florida, California and Mexico. Here's the evidence:

1. Most food we buy in local stores has travelled an average of 1,500 miles to reach us. That's 1,500 miles of burning non-renewable gasoline or diesel fuel in transit, emitting tons of CO₂, the global warming greenhouse gas all along the way. Food grown locally has travelled but a few miles to our dinner table.
2. Locally grown food can be picked at its peak of ripeness, when it's most delicious and nutritious. Food from afar usually must be picked before it's ripe so it will still be usable after its long trip to our area. Distant food also must be packaged to reduce damage in transit thus using paper, cardboard and plastic that will go to the landfill unless recycled.
3. If you buy locally grown produce you can ask the farmer whether the food was sprayed with toxic chemicals that could be health impairing.
4. Food grown on area farms helps support the local economy and keeps your community farmers in business.

How practical is it to be able to rely on having locally grown foods even in the summer? Plant your own backyard vegetable patch, using instruction offered by the University of Illinois Extension office. There are local Farmers' Markets in Carlinville, Jerseyville, and Springfield, where farmers begin selling in May. Families can also join a Community Supported Agriculture farm that provides up to 30 weeks of fresh produce to members.

ALUUC YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The newly formed Young Adult Group is kicking off with a "Meet and Greet" at the ALUUC on Wednesday, June 10 from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

Bring a snack to share, notebook/pen, an item to share something about you.

You will be meeting like-minded attendees, brainstorming social interest activities, and how we can benefit ALUUC. The children play room will be available.

The Young Adult Group was formed to bring together ALUUC members and friends 18-40 years of age. This group encourages social interaction, community outreach and a safe place for further spiritual studies. Age was recently changed to 18 to welcome Senior Youth Group members who will be crossing over into Young Adult.

Check out the calendar and be a friend on www.myspace.com/aluucyag
A Facebook page is coming soon.

Please contact me if you have any questions or to RSVP.
Rhiannon Gurley
youngadultgroup@aluuc.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

Become a UUSC Member

This month, our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is urging President Obama to fully investigate the use of torture by the U.S. government and hold responsible from the Bush administration all of those who are accountable. A crucial aspect of restoring our nation's reputation internationally is knowing the full extent of our use of torture and taking steps to ensure that such immoral and inhumane practices are never used again.

Each UUSC membership gives UUSC the power to create positive social change. When UUSC meets with elected officials, they make it known that they represent 40,000 members and supporters around the country who are committed to positive change. Imagine if that number were 150,000. It starts with you.

In this uncertain economy, it is even more vital that we practice our principles through UUSC membership. There is so much to be done for human rights here in the United States, and worldwide. Help UUSC meet its Annual Fund goal of \$450,000 by June 30, 2009. Every gift helps!

As your UUSC Local Representative, I urge you to renew your membership today, or give in honor of a friend or loved one, online at www.uusc.org. Membership is \$40.00 (General), \$75.00 (General, dual), \$10.00 (Student/Youth), \$20.00 (Student/Youth, dual), \$20.00 (Senior) and \$40.00 Senior (dual). UUSC is a membership-based organization, separate from and independent of the UUA. It receives no funding from the UUA.

Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey

Please join us for the 6th Annual Freedom Summer: Civil Rights Journey, July 11 – 18, 2009. Participants will travel from Atlanta, Ga., to historic sites in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Ala., retracing some of the most powerful moments in the U.S. civil rights movement. Watch a powerful seven-minute video about last year's journey. For more information, please contact Anna Bartlett at 617-301-4367 or abartlett@uusc.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

ALUUC Focus

CONTACT INFORMATION

CLERY:			
Minister Minister Emeritus	Rev Martin Woulfe Rev Berkley Moore		minister@aluuc.org Minister-emeritus@aluuc.org
STAFF:			
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President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Board Members	Gwen Childs Delinda Chapman Victoria Vincent Carol Floyd Ceceilia Haasis Beverly Holmes Mark Hanson Phillip Anderson Kitty Wrigley Bill McCall		president@aluuc.org vicepresident@aluuc.org treasurer@aluuc.org secretary@aluuc.org ceceilia_haasis@yahoo.com baholmes98@warpmet.net mark_al_hanson@hotmail.com phillip74@aol.com kittywrigley@gmail.com bill.mccall@lcc.edu
COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION:			
Committee on Ministry Nominating Committee Endowment Trust	Rebecca Anderson Roger Powers Frank Kopecky		CoM@aluuc.org nominating@aluuc.org endowment@aluuc.org
COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD:			
Electronics & Communications Facilities - Aesthetics - Flower Fellowship Finance Green Sanctuary Membership & Publicity Pastoral Care Program Religious Education (RE) Social Action	Mike Haynes Kurt DeWeese Debby Hagan Vi Lanum Diana DeWeese Barbara Moore Meg Evans & Stu Jacobson Jodi Perko Michael Plog Penny Wollan-Kriel Tom & Rachel Zehr		ECC@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

FYI...

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.

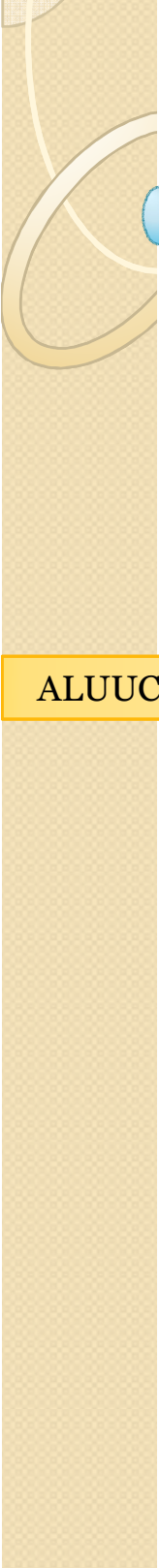
June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	1	2 Board Meeting, 7:00pm	3	4 * News Group, 7:30pm Meditation, 7:00pm	5	6 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
7 Worship Service, 10:30am	8	9	10 Flute Circle, 7:00pm	11 Meditation, 7:00pm	12	13 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
14 Worship Service, 10:30am * Spanish Interest Club, 5:00pm	15 Theologies in Dialogue, 7:00pm	16	17	18 Meditation, 7:00pm	19 Labyrinth Walk, 7:00pm	20 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
21 Worship Service, 10:30am Committee Meetings, 12:15pm	22 Humanist Discussion Group, 7:00pm	23 * Book Group, 7:30pm	24	25 Meditation, 7:00pm	26 Newsletter Deadline	27 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
28 Worship Service, 10:30am	29	30				

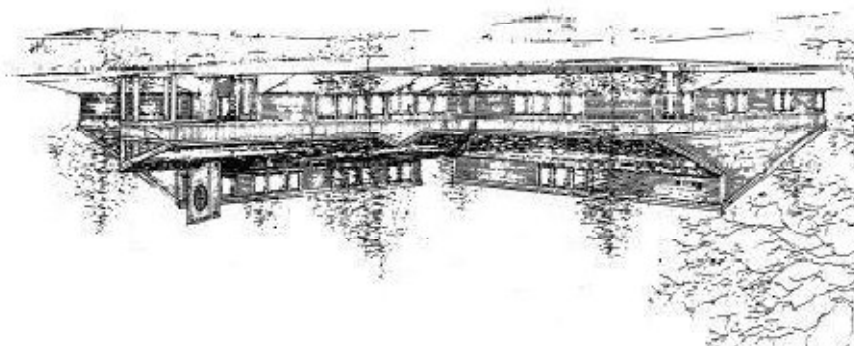
* Event not held at the ALUUC

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

**Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
745 Woodside Road
Springfield, Illinois 62711**



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



Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org