



ALUUC Focus

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



May 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.

May 3 ~ Recipe for Advanced Spirituality by John Glosser

How does a person move from the lower levels of spirituality to the higher levels of spirituality? What role do courage, love and wisdom play in such spiritual progression? Mr. Glosser will explore these questions.

(May's Change for Change is the Midday Meal ISKCON Food Relief Program serving Mumbai, India. It involves provision of lunch free of cost to school-children on school days. The goals of the program include protecting children from classroom hunger, and increasing school enrolment and attendance. For some children, this will be the only complete and hygienic meal they have access to all day.
www.middaymeal.com)

May 10

Kathryn M. Harris, Library Services Director at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, will present Harriet Tubman "in person" during an intergenerational service. Called "the Moses of her people," Harriet Tubman is best known for her work with the Underground Railroad, a network of places and people that helped escaping slaves reach freedom.

May 17 ~ Mind in Buddhism by Bhikkhu Mahinda

What is our mind really? Is it what I am doing now? Is it what I am thinking now? Bhikkhu Mahinda, Buddhist monk and part-time teacher of Eastern religions will share the concept of Mind in Buddhism.

May 24

Learn more about the UUA Presidential Candidates and General Assembly issues during this "UUA Infomercial."

May 31 ~ RE Committee Recognition

This service celebrates the learning that has occurred in the past year for our students in the RE department. Come and hear short snippets of what was accomplished, see a play from the middle school group and wish well our graduates who will leave us in the fall. This service is sure to be full of poetry, song, and artistic expression with high entertainment value for all. Join us

June 7 ~ Flower Communion by Reverend Martin Woulfe

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

From the Board President...

How our spirits soar and sing...how our hearts leap with the spring!

These are some of my favorite words from a favorite springtime hymn. They pop into mind often when I notice a sign of new life emerging from the winter landscape—a little reminder that harsh, dreary days are a prelude to the new joy on the way. No matter how bleak things may sometimes seem, there is always something in nature that calls us to say “yes” to life. And this solace is free and accessible to everyone.

This passage by Wendell Berry, which can be found in our hymnal, has long been a great source of comfort to me: “When despair for the world grows in me, and I wake in the night at the least sound, in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the presence of wild things, who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.”

Handling stress does not come very naturally to me. Exercise would probably do me a world of good, but at least for now, I prefer the Wendell Berry method. I take time to sit with my dear little dogs on each side of me and let my heartbeat slow down to match theirs, or I watch the sunrise as I drink my morning coffee, or I delight in an unsolicited hug or a big, toothy smile from my grandson. And despite the worries that kept me awake in the night, my heart leaps.



~ Gwen Childs

From Religious Education...

As the programming at church slows down in anticipation of lazy summer Sundays, the Religious Education Committee is busy distributing surveys. The Religious Education Committee uses feedback from teachers, parents, members, and friends to improve existing programs and determine which new programs would be of most value to our congregation. This time for me is bittersweet. It is wonderful to see how much has been accomplished and what we've all achieved together. At the same time, the plans for next year bring a pang of sadness as I've chosen to step down from the leadership position as CRE (Coordinator of Religious Education).

Over the years, I've had the privilege of working on many projects to improve our RE programming. Initially, it was rewarding to help bring a scope and sequence curriculum to our congregation. In this way, we were able to create a plan that would give life-long RE students a balanced and complete education from Pre-Kindergarten through High School. We had always used the alternating years of World Religions and UU Principles; however, with this addition we could ensure that students would get a balance of information regardless of which volunteers we might have over the years.

Other favorite aspects of my work have included The Holiday Pageants which seem to grow and improve year by year, the Playground initiative, and formal Adult RE programming. Planning Sunday morning services with the Senior Youth Group, and for the RE program as a whole has always been rewarding.

Some things will not change, primarily my involvement with the teens of our congregation. I am so proud of this group over the years. They have held CMwD Conferences for hundreds of teens, making thousands of dollars for our church and done everything from building floats, to holding pancake breakfasts, to raking leaves for elderly or ill members of our congregation. They are definitely a group to keep your eye on.... never a dull moment.

Maybe more than anything, it has been my privilege to watch people come together to achieve such amazing things over the years. It has been inspiring and gives me great faith in our ability to make so, whatever we set our minds and hearts to in the coming days ahead! Thank you all for the love and support you've given me in my capacity as CRE. I will make myself available to assist in the transition to the new CRE as we move onward and upward at ALUUC!



~ Meg Schnake
Coordinator of Religious Education

From the Board Treasurer...

Treasurer's Report
April 24, 2009

Per our financial statements for March 2009:

Operating revenue for March 2009: \$21,804.
(This includes the receipts from the Fantasy Auction.)

Operating expenses for March 2009:	\$ 9,589.
Mortgage liability paid for Mar 2009:	<u>\$ 1,800.</u>
Total outflow:	\$11,389.

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, May 26th at Barbara Moore's home to discuss "The Member of the Wedding" by Carson McCullers. Everyone is welcome. Contact Barbara if you have any questions. Future Books include, "An Incomplete Revenge" by Jacqueline Winspear.

Dream Group

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on Monday, May 4th 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

Joint Meeting of Humanist Discussion Group and Theologies in Dialogue Group

Join us on Monday, May 18th at 7:00pm at the ALUUC. John Malan will present "How liberals and conservatives can learn to talk to each other about moral values: a second conversation." The first conversation, in November, was led by two conservatives so we figured it was the liberals turn. Based on Jonathan Haidt's five moral systems: care, fairness, loyalty, respect, and sanctity: http://www.edge.org/3rd_culture/haidt08/haidt08_index.html

You can place yourself on Haidt's moral foundations profile at www.YourMorals.org It is helpful but not necessary to have read these items to participate in the discussion. If you have questions about the Theologies in Dialogue Group, please contact John Glosser. If you have questions about the Humanist Group, please contact Carol Floyd.

Kid's Club

The Kid's Club meets every first Friday of the month. Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome. Kid's Club will be meeting on May 1, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the ALUUC. This will be a surprise ending to our year. Kid's Club will be taking a break during June, July, and August. So come join the fun and see what kind of evening I have planned for you. A \$3.00 donation is requested to help with expenses. Please RSVP to Marla Johnson, Kid's Club Coordinator at KidsClub@aluuc.org. Thank you for a great year.

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, May 7th at Barbara Moore's home. Contact Barbara if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome.

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

General Assembly, Anyone?

There is still time to register for General Assembly in Salt Lake City, UT, June 24-28. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gwen Childs for information. Our minister, Martin Woulfe, will be attending, and it would be wonderful if others could join him. If you have never been to GA, you will be amazed at the variety of programs and workshops available.

2009 is an election year for the UUA. We will say goodbye to our President, Rev. Bill Sinkford, and we will elect a new leader. The candidates for the top posts are Rev. Peter Morales and Rev. Laurel Hallman. At our Annual Meeting on June 7th, our congregation will be asked to vote on our preference. You can read their profiles at their websites: www.hallmanforuupresident.org and www.moralesforuupresident.org or you can read about them on the uua.org website, with links in the *Members* section. Here, and in your latest version on the UU World Magazine, you can find information about them and the other candidates for various positions. We will have some hardcopies available at the church for those who do not use the internet or have a subscription yet.

Pay it Forward Groceries ~ Supporting Each Other One Favor at a Time

Members of our congregation are not immune to the current economic crisis. As part of our commitment to help one another, the ALUUC Board and the Pastoral Care Committee are urging members to purchase a **grocery gift card** in any amount at your local grocery store.

You may drop gift cards in the offering plate on Sunday or drop them off in the office. If you would like a record of your contribution, please include the **cash register receipt with your name and address clearly written on it.**

These cards will be added to the Benevolence Fund to help our members. Those who may need them will be encouraged to return the favor when their circumstances improve in the future. For all those who are able to help with this, thank you!

If you are experiencing a financial crisis and need some assistance, please speak to Rev. Martin Woulfe or Michael Plog, Pastoral Care Committee Chair. All inquiries and outreach will be confidential. Your friends at ALUUC want to be supportive.

Election Slate for the 2009 Annual Meeting

The ALUUC Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the following individuals have agreed to be candidates for election at the congregation's June 7, 2009 Annual Meeting:

President, one-year term: Gwen Childs
Vice President, one-year term: Delinda Chapman
Secretary, one-year term: Kitty Wrigley
Treasurer, one-year term: Victoria Vincent

Board members (two year term):

Kelly Anderson
Beverly Holmes
Doug Liberati

Board member (one year term):

Megan Renner

Nominating Committee:

Frank Kopecky
Carley Mattimore

Reverend Martin Woulfe is entering the final month of his 4 month sabbatical. He will not be available the week of May 11th.

Did you know that the ALUUC website has two calendars? One is a public calendar and the other is the "Admin Calendar" for members & friends. If you need to know the availability of any room during the weekend, or at night when you can't reach the Office Manager, go to www.aluuc.org and click on the Members link at the top. Then scroll down and click on Admin Calendar. Once you find the date you want and it's open, please call Cheryl at 585-9550 or send a email to office@aluuc.org with your reservation requirements.

Marina V Concert

On Monday, April 13th, a small but enthusiastic crowd of men, women & children gathered at ALUUC to welcome back Marina V & revel in her music. This was her third appearance here during the past four years. Only the week before, Marina V had been on tour in Australia. Accompanied by her husband, Nick Baker, Marina V serenaded the group with many energetic songs from "Modern Fairytale" and earlier works. One half of the door proceeds from this concert were donated to ALUUC, netting us \$185.00. In appreciation of our continuing support for her music, Marina V donated five "Modern Fairytale" CDs to the congregation which may be purchased at \$10 a piece.



ROTARY SEEKS A GOOD HOME FOR AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

The Downtown Springfield Rotary Club is looking for a host family for its next foreign student. The student is a Scandinavian teen boy who is fluent in English; he will be enrolled in one of the area high schools for the 09-10 academic year. Normally, a Rotary sponsored student arrives in August and will live in succession with three different host families during the year. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Michael Plog who will serve as President of the Downtown Rotary Club during 2009-2010.

Audio ALUUC Newsletter for the Visually Impaired

A cassette tape version of the monthly ALUUC Focus is recorded each month by Jim Redlich for use by the visually impaired members and friends. Jim will be leaving Springfield in the very near future and we need a volunteer to take over this simple but important task. Blank cassettes and a tape recorder will be provided. If you are interested or have questions/concerns, please contact Jim Redlich as soon as possible.

**Important News from the
Webmaster/Newsletter Editor:**

This message is to inform everyone that I have decided to step down from my duties as webmaster and newsletter editor. Mike Haynes will be taking over the website, and the person taking over the newsletter will be announced in June's newsletter. I will also no longer be chairing, or be a part of, the Electronics & Communications Committee (ECC). I've been maintaining the website for nearly 4 years, and the newsletter for about 3 years. It's been a pleasure volunteering my time for both of those projects. My focus now has turned to helping Buffy Lael and Meg Schnake with the Senior Youth Group. Thanks to everyone.

Scott Wade

Spanish Interest Club

This group will meet twice in May, the second and fourth Sundays, at Rev. Martin Woulfe's home at 5:00pm. (Note: Previous months was the 1st and 3rd) Participants are asked to please contact Rev. Woulfe to confirm their attendance.

ALUUC Focus

CONTACT INFORMATION

CLERY:			
Minister Minister Emeritus	Rev Martin Woulfe Rev Berkley Moore	726-8281 793-0024	minister@aluuc.org Minister-emeritus@aluuc.org
STAFF:			
Office Manager RE Coordinator Music/Pianist	Cheryl Wycoff Meg Schnake Bonnie Ettinger	585-9550 529-3089	office@aluuc.org CRE@aluuc.org music@aluuc.org
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:			
President Vice President Treasurer Secretary	Gwen Childs Delinda Chapman Victoria Vincent Carol Floyd	529-6396 529-9330 793-1163 787-1174	president@aluuc.org vicepresident@aluuc.org treasurer@aluuc.org secretary@aluuc.org
Board Members	Ceceilia Haasis Beverly Holmes Mark Hanson Phillip Anderson Kitty Wrigley Bill McCall	698-1039 522-1974 697-5908 585-0224 726-9310	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	498-1012 533-1616 529-3235	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 Craig Bailey Penny Wollan-Kriel Brenda Wade Tom & Rachel Zehr	965-4403 546-5834 793-8810 553-4042 546-5834 523-6241 698-7843 793-2509 622-5161 546-5157 487-7339 698-8348	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 receive it by email, please email your request to Scott Wade at webmaster@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.

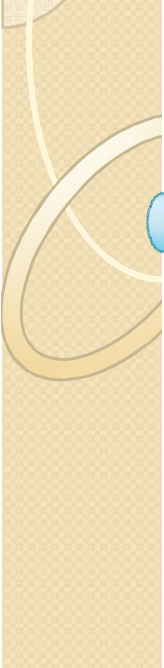
May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Kid's Club 6:00 to 8:00pm	2 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
3 Worship Service, 10:30am	4 Dream Group, 7:00pm	5 Board Meeting, 7:00pm CINCO DE MAYO	6	7 * News Group, 7:30pm Meditation, 7:00pm	8 Bridge Group, 7:00pm	9 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
10 Worship Service, 10:30am	11	12	13 Flute Circle, 7:00pm	14 Meditation, 7:00pm	15 Labyrinth Walk, 7:00pm	16 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
17 Worship Service, 10:30am Committee Meetings, 12:15pm	18 Joint Meeting of Humanist Group & Theologies in Dialogue 7:00pm	19	20	21 Meditation, 7:00pm	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
24 Worship Service, 10:30am	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26 * Book Group, 7:30pm	27	28 Meditation, 7:00pm	29	30 Zen Meditation, 9:30am
31 Worship Service, 10:30am						

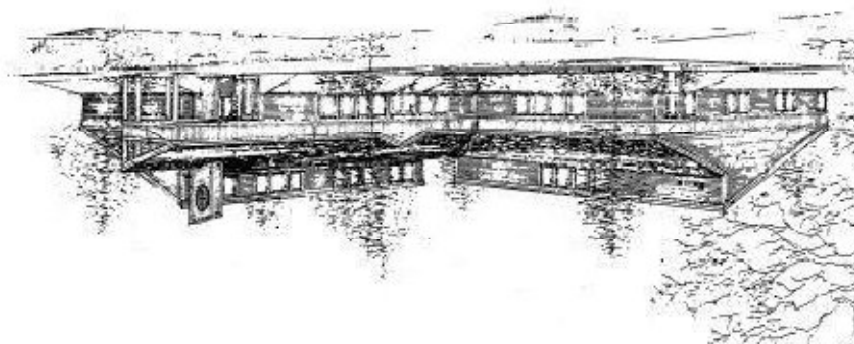
* Event not held at the ALUUC

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