



# ALUUC Focus

Newsletter for the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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



**JUNE 2010**

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, as well as hearing devices, are available upon request.

## **June 6 ~ Flower Communion**

*Rev. Martin Woulfe*

This service continues a festive tradition created by Unitarian congregations in the late nineteenth century, celebrating the twin beauty and marvels of Spring & community. Members and friends are invited to bring a flower to share with another, and to receive one in return.

*\* ALUUC's Annual Meeting will follow the service \**

## **June 13 ~ Q & A Service**

*Rev. Martin Woulfe*

In this service, Rev. Woulfe will welcome your questions, on matters theological and congregational. This might be a fine opportunity to learn how many angels dance on a pin – and to discover to which tune do they dance?

## **June 20 ~ Spare the Rod?**

*Rev. Martin Woulfe*

In his book *Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think*, George Lakoff presents a fascinating analysis that the “great divide” between liberals & conservatives is rooted in our basic notions of family and authority. In this service, Rev. Woulfe will share some of the insights he has gleaned from this writer, and how they apply to our religious values.

## **June 27 ~ Dr. Seuss**

*Coordinated by Stacey Shinkle Van Bogaert*

Today, the congregation will explore the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism through the writings of Dr. Seuss.

## **July 5 ~ Abigail and John Adams: Their Letters in Dialogue**

Using the Adams' letters, Jack Kriel and Penny Wollan-Kriel will converse about topics such as justice and equity, the democratic process, the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the goal of liberty and justice for all.

745 Woodside Road, Springfield IL 62711  
217-585-9550

## *From the Minister...*

One of the more fascinating – and important – discussions which is currently taking place within the larger UU circle centers on issues of diversity. Actually, this has been an on-going conversation for more than a decade. It's worth noting that our notions of diversity have evolved over the decades – once, diversity meant that theists and humanists could coexist relatively peacefully within Unitarian congregations. In time, diversity pointed towards racial diversity, followed by sexual orientation, and more recently, the conversation has expanded to include different levels of education and class.

At the heart of this discussion are two key questions “why aren't we growing more as a religious movement?” and “why are we attracting more minorities?” In response to the first question, I am reminded that Thomas Jefferson once famously predicted that within a generation of his own lifetime, most US citizens would be Unitarians. As we all know, that did not happen. For nearly two centuries, religious liberals have bemoaned our apparent lack of success.

Nonetheless, the first question is worth asking again and again, for it prompts us to take a realistic assessment of who we are at present and who we desire to become. But how does one measure “success?” Numerical growth is clearly one yardstick commonly used. As the identified number of UUs remains static population while the population of the US grows, this signals a genuine decline.

One reality to bear in mind is that UUs are now, and have always been, a tiny denomination – one UU minister, the Rev. Ruppert Lovely once declared that there weren't enough UUs in the world to elect a dog catcher in Chicago.

Of course, other denominations are wrestling with similar issues. It may well be that the younger generations are less drawn to connect with religious institutions. Cosmetic changes in liturgy may not be the answer. Perhaps the answer is that a growing percentage of the general population finds religion irrelevant. Indeed, recent Pew Studies have indicated that this is a measurable trend.

In response to the second question, some assert that our forms of liturgy, our language, etc., are barriers to growth. Might our rituals, our musical selections, our sacraments (or lack thereof), or even our core theology be responsible? If some or all of these are the “culprits,” what might we change – and are there things which we dare not change?

A different approach might be to ask, what do we offer that is unique among the many religious traditions? We might even ask – is Unitarian Universalism truly a religion per se – or is it something else, namely a way to be religious?

Why is this attractive to those who presently belong? Perhaps we should begin by asking whether our emphasis on inclusivity truly possesses a universal appeal, or might it actually repel a significant percentage of those not presently affiliated with us? Our conversation could include the question, to what extent do non UUs even know that we exist? If they do know, are there other types of barriers – e.g., location, time of service, etc., that prevent them from attending, assuming that they were interested?

These are fascinating questions, and I doubt that there will be a universal consensus within the larger UU circle any time soon. I do look forward to exploring these, and other questions, at General Assembly and in the seasons to follow. In the meanwhile, we can work at promoting growth – and diversity – the old fashioned way: by inviting our friends, family members, and coworkers to a service.



- Martin

## *From the Board President...*

It's almost time for the Annual Meeting on June 6th--- and it is a busy time for the church leadership. We are trying to tie up loose ends from this fiscal year and prepare the way for the new leadership in the next fiscal year. The fifth principle keeps repeating in my head:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote...the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

I realize that the Annual Meeting is not high on anyone's list of favorite pastimes, but it is an important part of our religious heritage. We do not have a system where a strong minister controls our programming and governance. We do these things for ourselves. We advocate, listen, discern and vote in the various committee, Board or congregational meetings that shape our religious community. We participate individually in various areas of interest, and we trust each other collectively to make thoughtful and beneficial decisions in other areas. We can take an active role, or we can opt for a more passive presence.

However, once a year, we need to come together and vote on the major business items: The Officers and Board of Directors; the Committees of the Congregation; the budget for the upcoming year; any amendments to our By-Laws; and any other matters that require congregational approval. We also have a few reports that briefly summarize the state of the church and the progress we have made in the past year.

It is very important for everyone to participate in this yearly rite of democracy! We are fortunate that we all have a say in what happens here. I like to think that our house of worship fits this description by the late Kenneth Patton, a UU minister and a poetic voice for liberal religion:

This house is a cradle for our dreams, the workshop of our common endeavor.



I hope that everyone will come on June 6th to celebrate this tradition of keeping our house in order.

*~ Gwen Childs*

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Vinnie Gupta asks that we keep the family of Vittal Chapa in our thoughts and prayers, following the death of his mother-in-law.

## *From the Board Treasurer...*

### **Treasurer's Report April 2010**

#### **Per our financial statements for the month of April 2010:**

Operating revenue for April 2010: \$ 10,506  
Operating expenses for April 2010: \$ 11,198  
Mortgage liability paid in April 2010: \$ 1,943  
**Total OUTflow for April 2010: \$ 2,635**



#### **Year-to-date (YTD) results, July 2009-April 2010:**

Operating revenue YTD: \$ 152,235  
Operating expenses YTD: \$ 120,971  
Mortgage liability paid YTD: \$ 19,140  
**Total INflow YTD: \$ 12,124**

Our final year-end result on June 30 will depend in large part on the timely receipt of the remainder of our 2009-2010 pledges. Pledge status letters were mailed in early May.

If you have any questions about the letter, please contact our office manager, Cheryl Wycoff. She is usually in the office Tuesday through Thursday and will be glad to hear from you.

**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PLEDGING:** If you pledged during the recent pledge drive, please note that your new pledge applies to the NEW fiscal year starting July 1, 2010. It is easiest if you wait to begin paying this pledge until after July 1, however if you do prefer to pay early, please be sure to write "2010-2011 pledge" in the memo line of your check so that we know to allocate it properly!

Copies of the most recent financial statements are always posted on the Board's bulletin board in the hallway. If you have any questions about financial issues, please feel free to ask me.

*~ Megan Renner*

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Vinnie Gupta asks that we keep the family of Vittal Chapa in our thoughts and prayers, following the death of his mother-in-law.

Megan Renner & David Bonilla have closed on a residence in Chicago and will begin settling in there presently.

Dan Schull thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers regarding his doctor's appointment. The news was better than expected.

Mattilou Catchpole is most appreciative for all the concern showered upon her following her recent seizure.

On Friday, May 28th, Ed Schultz will be having open-heart surgery to remove an aneurysm on the ascending part of his aorta. He will be at Memorial Medical Hospital. Thoughts of support are appreciated. His recovery of this major operation will be a difficult month or so. Please let our members know as both of us need the support.

## Contact Information

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

## Groups and Other Events

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us at Barbara Moore's, at 7:30 p.m. on June 22nd to discuss "Homer and Langley", by E. L. Doctorow. The publisher says, "Brilliantly conceived, gorgeously written, this mesmerizing narrative, a free imaginative rendering of the lives of New York's fabled Collyer brothers, is a family story with the resonance of myth, an astonishing masterwork unlike any that have come before from this great writer."

Everyone is welcome. Future books include "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett, and "Remarkable Creatures" by Tracy Chavalier. You may bring suggestions for future books for discussion to the meeting. Call Barbara Moore if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome.

### BRIDGE GROUP

The June meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, June 4th at 7:00, is scheduled to be at the home of Barbara Moore. Call Chris Romaine to confirm that we will meet or talk to Barbara Moore.

### DREAM GROUP

The Dream Group will meet on Monday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room at church. This is an opportunity for folks to discuss their recent dreams in a relaxed and informal setting. For more information about this group, 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.

### NEW TO UU

The next session will be held on Tuesday, June 8, at 7 pm. Sign up now!

### HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us on Monday June 28 at 7:00 pm at the ALUUC. Mike Haynes will show the 30 minute video "Brief History of Disbelief: Arthur Miller" and then serve as discussion leader. In the video, moderator Jonathan Miller talks with playwright Arthur Miller about disbelief and both their experiences of anti-Semitism.

If you have questions about the June meeting please contact Mike Haynes.

### KIDS' CLUB

The Kid's Club will be on break through the summer and will resume in September.



### NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group will not meet in June. Many of our group are going to the opening governors' panel of the 10th annual State Politics and Policy Conference (SPPC) on June 3rd instead. (If you want more information on this conference which is free and open to the public, see <http://events.uis.edu/2010/05/uis-to-host-national-state-politics-and.html>); We will resume the News Group meetings on Thursday July 8 (not July 1) with a potluck at 6:00 p.m., boat rides and discussion at Frank and Linda Kopeckys. More information on this July meeting will come later.

### SPANISH CLUB

The next gathering will be a pot luck at the home of Rev. Woulfe & Angela Aznarte on Sunday, June 13, at 5 pm.

### YOUNG ADULT GROUP BRUNCH

Will be held on June 13, 2010, the location will be determined after the church service. All young adult members, friends, and visitors are welcome. Anyone interested should find Amanda Clark after the service.

## Groups and Other Events

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Linda and Frank Kopecky have agreed to help Rev. Wolfe coordinate and plan adult religious education activities. The first step in the process will be to review existing and recent adult religious education activities and to ascertain interest in future programming. If you are interested in help plan adult education activities or have ideas for future activities, please contact Frank or Linda.

The scope of programming is very broad. It ranges from traditional courses on religion to workshop on self defense, meditation or skill building. In the coming months a method of surveying the congregation to determine interests will be developed.

### LABYRINTH WALK

Looking for a “kinder & gentler” – but no less profound -- spiritual practice? Labyrinth Walks are held indoors at ALUUC on the third Friday of each month. Participants are encouraged to journal afterwards. Mark your calendar & please join us on Friday, Friday, June 18, 7 – 9:30 pm

Please note that this is the final labyrinth walk for the 2009-2010 liturgical year. Walks will resume in September.



### Does “The UU World” Come to Your Door?

As a benefit of membership, all members of ALUUC are supposed to receive the UUA magazine “The UU World,” which is published four times a year. If you have not received your copy, please notify Cheryl Wycoff, the Office Manager.

This Issue’s Features:

**The welcome table** By John Buehrens

How the hospitality of progressive churches cultivates forgiveness and justice.

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/162466.shtml>

**What is UU culture?** By Christopher L. Walton in Life  
Is Unitarian Universalist congregational culture a barrier to a more diverse faith?

<http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/162478.shtml>

**‘Radiant genius and fiery heart’**

By Kimberly French in Ideas

Reclaiming the legacy of Margaret Fuller, the forgotten intellectual at the heart of the Transcendentalist movement and the first American theorist of women’s equality.

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/162469.shtml>



## CRE NEWS

The Kid's Club will be on break through the summer and will resume in September. As a reminder, the new summer programming is starting June 6, 2010.

The curriculum I will be using is called Gods and Goddesses. I am looking forward to working with our young people through this summer!



I could use volunteers to lend a second set of hands on a particular Sunday. I am asking that you only commit to one Sunday and I still have several Sundays unclaimed. Thank you.

- Marla Johnson, CRE

## UAA General Assembly

Join thousands of fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the country as we gather this **June 23-27, 2010**

Every year, the Unitarian Universalist Association hosts a major gathering of UUs. This June, thousands of UUs will flock to Minneapolis, MN for workshops, worship, celebrating, connecting with friends and lots of fun. If you are interested in learning more, please visit [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and select "General Assembly" in the Events box.

You'll experience wonderful and uplifting worship services—morning and night—led by some of our best worship leaders, with glorious music and inspiring messages. Worshipping together with thousands of fellow UUs at our Sunday Worship Service is an experience that should not be missed.

General Assembly is the way that our faith does business. Actions of social witness are passed at GA, elements that make up future policies are discussed...and YOU have a voice in the discussion.

You'll hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of entertaining programs and informative workshops, offering excellent support and learning for leaders in our congregations. You'll be able to join the witness for our faith and values, in moving and exciting ways.

Enjoy the major events of General Assembly via live-streaming video! See our Live Streaming Schedule to plan your GA at home.

### Social Media

UUA has initiated a new media campaign to use a variety of tools to reach out to UU friends, to disseminate information, and to get people excited about GA!

\* **Subscribe to our GA Blog** - <http://generalassembly.blogs.uua.org/>

\* **Listen to our Audio Podcast** - <http://uuageneralassembly.podbean.com/feed/>

\* **Follow us on Twitter** - [http://twitter.com/uua\\_ga](http://twitter.com/uua_ga)

\* **Become our fan on Facebook** -

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Boston-MA/General-Assembly-Unitarian-Universalist-Association/195706743264?ref=search&sid=737529877.2353229740..1>

## *ALUUC Social Action Committee and Unitarian Universalist Committee (UUSC) Updates*

### **Fair Trade Products**

The ALUUC Social Action Committee (SAC) sponsored a special sale on Valentine's Day. Thanks to everyone who purchased chocolate bars and the other Fair Trade products (coffee, teas, and cocoa). The purchase of fair trade goods through the UUSC Coffee Project benefits agricultural cooperatives through UUSC's Small Farmer Fund. The UUSC Coffee Project is collaboration between the UUSC and Equal Exchange, a worker-owned, fair trade company based in West Bridgewater, MA. Sale days will be June 13, July 11 and August 8

### **Change for Change**

The Social Action Committee has selected these organizations for our summer Change for Change program - June-Mercy Community; July - Illinois Coalition against Sexual Assault; and August -Jacksonville Prison Project. The support of ALUUC members and friends is much needed and appreciated.

**Social Action Committee Members** include David Brunson, Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Vinnie Gupta, Teresa Liberati, John Malan, Sally Millichamp, Kim Nair, Brian Otwell, Susan Solan, Delinda Chapman (ALUUC Vice-President/Committee Coordinator) and Doug Liberati (Board Committee Liaison). If you are interested in becoming a member of the ALUUC Social Action Committee, contact Deborah.

### **Advocacy Updates from UUSC's Washington, D.C., Office**

- Congress is in session and will be trying to finish as much business as possible before Memorial Day recess.
- The House will soon take up a bill that addresses emergency funding for Haiti. UUSC is working with key Congressional offices to make sure that the priorities identified by our partners on the ground are included.
- Thanks to grassroots efforts, the Haiti Debt Relief and Earthquake Recovery Act (H.R.4573/S.2961) passed the House and Senate and was signed into law last week by President Obama.
- Spring is when many corporations hold their annual shareholder meetings. Take action on the socially responsible shareholder resolutions we are promoting. We are trying out a new web-based tool called MoxyVote [hyperlink this url - <http://www.moxyvote.com/advocates/unitarian-universalists>] to help our members cast their proxy ballots online — sign up today and let us know how it works.
- June is Torture Awareness Month. The National Religious Campaign Against Torture has excellent materials to use in your congregation.

### Become a UUSC Member

On the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, UUSC is realizing successes in building awareness of environmental justice, thanks to your support. UUSC recently signed on to a letter by faith-based and humanitarian groups to urge Secretary Clinton to support a visit from the U.N. Human Rights Council's Independent Expert on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation. On April 13, the Paul Simon Water for the World Act (S. 624) was unanimously approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The bill, which has significant bipartisan support, was introduced by Senate Assistant Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL). This legislation — with its companion bill H.R. 2030 in the House of Representatives — places clean water at the top of the United States' development priorities and aims to provide access to clean water and sanitation for 100 million people throughout the world by 2015.

Public awareness about the vital importance of clean water, and the ability of all people to access this precious resource, is growing. National Geographic recently devoted an entire issue to water. In February, NPR's Diane Rehm Show featured a panel discussion on global water security. Growing awareness and action are steps in the right direction. There is much to be hopeful about — and much more to do.

Each UUSC membership strengthens UUSC's ability to promote and defend the human right to water. When UUSC staff meet with elected officials, they make it known that they represent more than 40,000 members and supporters around the country who are committed to positive social change. Imagine if that number was 150,000 — it starts with you.

Now it is even more important to reaffirm your commitment to human rights through UUSC membership. Help UUSC meet its Annual Fund goal of \$450,000 by June 30, 2010. Every gift of \$100 or more helps us fulfill eligibility for our matching grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York.

As your UUSC local representative, I urge you to renew your membership online today at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) — or give a gift of membership in honor of a friend or loved one!

UUSC is a membership-based organization, separate from and independent of the UUA. It receives no funding from the UUA. For more information contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Local Rep.



### Wedding Officiants

At present, ALUUC is fortunate to have the services of three lay wedding officiants: Buffy Lael, John Malan and Jack Kriel. These three individuals were approved by the Board of Directors to conduct weddings and same sex unions for non-members on behalf of our congregation, when the Minister was not available. Officiants serve for a two year term. Rev. Woulfe is interested in hearing from those members who desire to become a wedding officiant. The first step is to contact Rev. Woulfe and express your interest; following that, you will have a conversation with the Committee on Ministry; once you receive their recommendation, you will be considered by the board. All successful candidates must complete a training session led by Rev. Woulfe.

# June 2010

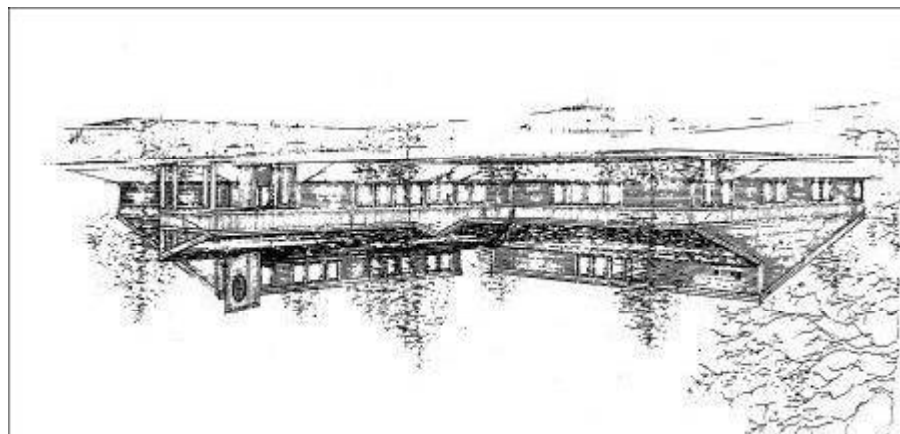
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>Board Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	2	3 <b>Meditation</b> 7:00 pm	4 <b>Kids Club</b> 6 - 8:00 pm  * <b>Bridge Group</b> 7:00 pm	5 <b>Zen Meditation</b> 9:30 - 2:00 pm
6 <b>Worship Service</b> 10:30 am  <b>Change for Change Sunday</b>  <b>Annual Meeting</b> Noon	7 <b>Dream Group</b> 7 - 9:00 pm	8 <b>New to UU</b> 7:00 pm	9 * <b>Sangamon Valley Flute Circle</b> 7 - 9:00 pm	10 <b>Meditation</b> 7:00 pm	11	12 <b>Zen Meditation</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am
13 <b>Worship Service</b> 10:30 am  * <b>Young Adult Group Brunch</b> Noon  * <b>Spanish Club</b> 5:00 pm	14 <b>Artist's Way</b> 7:00 pm	15	16	17 <b>Meditation</b> 7:00 pm	18 <b>Labyrinth Walk</b> 7:00 pm	19 <b>Zen Meditation</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am
20 <b>Worship Service</b> 10:30 am  <b>Church Potluck and Volunteer Appreciation Event</b> Noon  <b>Commitee Mtgs</b> 12:00	21	22 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 9:00 pm  * <b>Book Discussion Group</b> 7:30 pm	23	24 <b>Meditation</b> 7:00 pm	25	26 <b>Zen Meditation</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am
				Senior Youth Lock-In 5:00pm - 8:00am		
<b>UUA General Assembly June 23 - 27 Minneapolis, MN</b>						
27 <b>Worship Service</b> 10:30 am	28 <b>Humanist Discussion Group</b> 7:00 pm	29	30			

*Sunday Potluck - ALUUC will hold a special Pot Luck & Volunteer Appreciation Event after the service on Sunday June 20th.*

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](http://www.aluuc.org)