



ALUUC Focus

Newsletter for the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation

www.aluuc.org



MARCH 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.

March 7 ~ Seeds for the Sowing

Rev. Jackie Clement

Throughout history there have been prophets. Generally we think of them as having received some divine message not available to the rest of us, but are we not all prophets when we engage in acts of hope, when we share our vision of a better world?

March 14 ~ The Gospel of Universalism

Rev. Jennifer Owen-O'Quill

In times when so many feel so separated from the life of the Spirit, Universalism offers a redemptive message of love, grace and inclusion. What happens in our lives once we begin to understand the Gospel of Inclusion means grace is for us, too? Please note that a modified form of Milestones will be introduced during this service.

March 21 ~ "Where Do you Get your Churchin'?"

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, this all-important question, once posed to the late Louise Giesecke, will be answered. What is our "church," and how is it different from other religious communities? Why is this important? How can we help religious liberalism flourish?

This service will include a special recognition ceremony for our UU scouts who recently completed the "Religion in Life" session. UU Scouts to Receive Awards. The following youth will be recognized in a special ceremony during the March 21st service: Royce Hill, Allie Liberati, Angela Solon, Rene Croteau, Ryan Croteau and Nate Quivey. All six youth completed a special series of sessions to fulfill the requirements of the Scouting "Religion in Life" award in the fall.

March 28 ~ Carrying Another's Burden(s)

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, Rev. Woulfe will consider the joys, sorrows and perils of carrying another's burdens. When is it appropriate? Can we take on too much? How might we transfer the load back to where it belongs, once those burdens are assumed? This is a Fantasy Auction sermon topic.

April 04 ~ Easter and Ostara: A UU Perspective

Jim Parrish

UU's understand that revelation is not sealed and, at our best, we learn from many religious traditions. In this service, we will look at various religious meanings Easter and its historical counterparts can hold for Unitarian Universalists.

Spring Forward on the evening of Saturday, March 13 ~ Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour when you return home from the Fantasy Auction.

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



Liturgical Changes at ALUUC

Our tradition of worship is one that welcomes innovation as well as tradition. As such, it consists of a liturgy which has evolved to enrich our time together. During the past few decades, the Program Committee has introduced various changes in the words, rituals and sequence of elements associated with our worship time. Those with long memories may recall when the lighting of the chalice was introduced. There was a time when the participation of service leaders was uncommon. The development of regular summer services is another example of a change that met a growing need. More recently, we have added an opportunity for visitors to introduce themselves as well as revising the statement of “Welcome” which is shared at the beginning of the service.

In the interest of improving our liturgy, the Program Committee is announcing several changes, the most significant of which is connected with how we will celebrate Milestones during our worship time together. The main impetus for this revision is the simple fact that the number of people who participate in worship has increased, and the number of Milestones and Announcements has increased correspondingly. Because these begin towards the first half of the service, one result is that the time allotted to teachers to lead their Religious Education classes is diminished.

We recognize that Milestones are a cherished part of our time together, both in terms of affirming our particular religious culture and also because this ritual helps fulfill one of the missions of this congregation: to further our nurture and support of each other both in our human needs and in our search for spiritual fulfillment. On the other hand, we recognize that given the growth which we have experienced thus far, it would be prudent to modify our practice of this ritual.

On Sunday, March 14, a modified form for Milestones will be introduced by Rev. Woulfe. In particular, Members & Friends will be asked to write down their joys & concerns on cards which will be collected and then read aloud either by the minister or service leader during the service. On those same cards, people will be asked to indicate whether they wish to remain anonymous or have their name mentioned in connection with their milestone; they will also indicate whether they would want to have that milestone included in a special new “Milestones” section in the monthly newsletter. These cards will be collected and then shared with the congregation, not unlike the litany which we include each service before Thanksgiving. After these joys and concerns have been shared, the congregation will sing “Spirit of Life” or a similar hymn. When the service is concluded, the cards can be shared with the Pastoral Care Committee to follow up with those who desire such contact.

The candles for silent joys and concerns, located in the back of the sanctuary, will remain available to those who desire them. In addition, a bowl filled with stones will be placed on that table. Those stones replace the use of candles at the front of the sanctuary; people may select a stone from that bowl, move in line to the front of the sanctuary, and deposit the stone in a basin which will be at the front.

It is envisioned that this ritual will be similar in some respects to the “Water and Stone Communion” which is used at during the Ingathering Service, held each September. We will add those stones to the memorial garden – either after each service or at various times during the calendar year.

Recognizing the importance of including children in the liturgy, once a month, the Children’s Focus will be devoted to their Milestones. The minister or service leader will invite children to come forward to publically share their joys and concerns. Children will also use stones but they will speak for themselves, without having to write their particular joys or concerns out in advance. Parents are encouraged to accompany them. We believe that this will continue to afford children an opportunity to develop their public speaking skills & confidence. At the same time, it will help us get to know them and fulfill another key purpose of ALUUC: to provide a place for learning and the sharing of values and memories within and between generations and to guide the next generation in its search for meaning.

We are confident that this new style of Milestones will enhance the quality of worship without detracting from the friendliness and intimacy which is so important to all of us.

Here are several more changes in our liturgy which we hope to implement soon:

- Someone who has a significant joy or concern will be invited to light the chalice.
- New members will be invited to extinguish the chalice at the end of the regular service
- One member will be invited to share a short statement about how he/she has found a religious home here.

Those members and friends who have musical gifts are encouraged to contribute some additional music to a Sunday service.

Those who desire to either share a personal statement or some music, are asked to contact either Rev. Martin Woulfe or Penny Wollan-Kriel, Chair of the Program Committee.

From the Minister...

The days are awash with reports of the imminent arrival Spring: several people have reported seeing robins, although I myself have not noticed any. The sun seems brighter, but lumps of snow and ice linger yet. On the other hand, I've noticed that some potholes have been filled. More compelling are the small mysterious holes which have appeared in my yard – evidently the entrances to burrows of small animals.

Nature is stirring. The pace of life will doubtless accelerate. I ask myself, what signs indicate that life is stirring within our religious community?

There number and diversity of programs currently meeting at ALUUC is remarkable. The Fantasy Auction and the Pledge Drive will soon be in full swing. We will welcome more guests and new members who will continue to fill chairs during Sunday worship.

One of the significant changes coming this season will involve Milestones. As many people are aware, our congregation has grown during the past few years and that fact has called for the Program Committee to periodically re-examine elements of the liturgy. During the past seven years, we have added some elements, moved others, revised still more. It's all part of the growing process. The Program Committee and I are well aware that Milestones is a very important part of the Sunday service. I and others cannot imagine our congregation without Joys and Concerns in some form. We hope that all those who cherish this ceremony will be energized by the changes which will be unveiled during the March 14th Service.



Ray Kroc, the man most associated with McDonald's, once declared: "When you're green, you're growing; when you're ripe, you rot" (I happen to know that quote because many, many years ago, I worked at a McDonald's). While we are nothing like a fast-food enterprise, I think that his observation can apply to our situation. We are green, and we are growing. I am encouraged by that. May the coming spring, with all its bursts of energy and excitement, provide further incontrovertible evidence that life continues

- Martin

Sabbatical Reminder ~ Rev. Woulfe will complete his sabbatical during April and May. Pastoral care concerns during that time should be directed to Michael Plog, Delinda Chapman or Jodi Perko.

NEW TO UU SESSION

If you are interested in becoming a member of this congregation, or desire more information on UUism, an orientation will be offered Tuesday, March 9 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 schedule a different one. Please indicate if childcare is needed.

From the Board President...

Hurray for March---the end of winter is finally in sight! Even though I love the pristine beauty of new-fallen snow, my restless soul is anxious to see a few flowers push up through the ground. We have had a lot of dreary weather lately, and I'm hoping that the return of the sun will lift our weary spirits.

Of course, there are other ways to do that, such as pitching in to create and enjoy our biggest party/fundraiser of the year, the Fantasy Auction. I need to search my closets and garage for some nice things to contribute, and I need to ask a few businesses to donate something. Time is getting short, so I need to get going right away! I hope everyone will do the same, and that everyone will come and bring friends. I love the way that we transform our versatile building into a place to have fun with each other!

When the gala evening ends, we quickly return our space into a place for contemplation, learning, and service, which is wonderful, also. Our leadership will return to our March assignments and start preparing for next year. Recently, we enjoyed a sermon by Anne Griffiths, a ministerial student, who talked about the value of saying "no" to more things. As the service ended, Kent said to me, "Too bad she was scheduled to speak right before the Pledge Drive!" I must admit, I was thinking exactly the same thing!

There is a big distinction, however. I believe that Anne was talking about prioritizing our time and energy for things that are important to us. Family comes first for most of us, but surely our faith community ranks pretty highly, as well. It seems to me that more of us will have time for our families if more of us are willing to take on just one or two responsibilities. We try to provide a variety of programming and service opportunities in order to meet everyone's needs, and perhaps we try to do too much at times. Nevertheless, I hope that many of us will joyfully say "yes" when asked to support the Fantasy Auction and the Pledge Drive—and I'm pretty sure that the Nominating Committee will second my emotion!

Being Board President requires a significant time commitment, and I am looking forward to setting new priorities next year and saying "no" to some things. However, this church is very important in the life of our family, so I will continue to say "yes" in several areas that are close to my heart.

As I write this column each month, there is usually a hymn that seems to sing itself in the background. This month it is #6:



*Just as long as I have breath, I must answer "yes" to life;
Though with pain I made my way, still with hope I meet each day.
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said "yes" to life.*

~ Gwen Childs

SAVE THE DATE: *"Let it Shine"* on March 21!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the service on Sunday, March 21, for a special celebration of our commitment to this caring community! Each year, our goals for the Pledge Drive are grounded in our commitments to ALUUC and our congregational mission, as well as to the wider UU community and the world. Our many congregational and individual commitments are truly amazing to behold...now is the time to celebrate our successes, even as we begin to plan for next year's. Watch for details on the 2010 pledge drive goals in the coming weeks...and be sure to come "Let it Shine" on March 21!

From the Board Treasurer...

Treasurer's Report December 2009

Per our financial statements for the month of December 2009:

Operating revenue for December 2009: \$ 15,692
Operating expenses for December 2009: \$ 10,212
Mortgage liability paid in December 2009: \$ 1,917

Total INflow for December 2009: \$3,563

Second quarter results (July-December 2009):

Operating revenue for Q2: \$ 96,339
Operating expenses for Q2: \$ 72,067
Mortgage liability paid in Q2: \$ 11,408

Total INflow for Q2: \$12,864



So far this year our pledge collections and contributions are tracking slightly ahead of our budget “schedule”, while expenses are tracking slightly behind. This will even out as we near the end of the year—we budgeted to break even at the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Many thanks to those making regular pledge payments: when members pay on their pledges monthly or quarterly instead of waiting until the end of the fiscal year, this really helps to maintain consistent cash flow. Churches depend on pledge income for the majority of our revenue. Our fundraisers are also very important for meeting annual revenue goals, so I hope to see everyone at the auction on March 13!

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

CLEANING FUND UPDATE: 2/22/2009

We're still creeping up—we're now at 83% of our goal for this year's Cleaning Fund—many thanks to all who've donated or pledged. We still need to raise about \$750 to cover the church's cleaning service for the remainder of the year (approximately \$50 per adult member per year).

Did we miss you on Cleaning Fund-raiser day? Contributions to the cleaning fund may be mailed or placed in the collection plate. Or if you'd prefer to pay a little later in the year, please e-mail treasurer@aluuc.org with your pledged amount so that we can include it in the tally for this Cleaning Fund update. ***Don't forget to write “Cleaning” in the memo line of your check!!***

News from the Nominating Committee

Have you thought about getting more involved in church activities? There are many opportunities for you to serve in a leadership role at ALUUC! Becoming involved in church leadership is a rewarding experience as you learn more about your community as well as our UU faith. One of the positions that will need to be filled is that of our Treasurer. Megan Renner has done an awesome job, filling in at the last minute however, she is moving from our community. If you have a skill or an affinity for this type of role, perhaps the treasurer position is a place to bring your talents! Our committees should be an accurate reflection of our congregation, which is why we need YOU! If you would like to become a part of our leadership, or know someone that may be interested please let one of the Nominating Committee members know!

Buffy Lael-Chair, Carley Mattimore-Malan, Frank Kopecky, Dianne Roberts-Hill

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 Marla Johnson 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 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
COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION			
Committee on Ministry Nominating Committee Endowment Trust	Rebecca Anderson Buffy Lael Frank Kopecky		CoM@aluuc.org nominating@aluuc.org endowment@aluuc.org
COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD:			
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

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting will be a joint gathering of the Theologies in Dialogue Group and the Humanist Discussion Group on Monday March 22 at 7:00 pm at the ALUUC.

Carol Floyd, Mike Haynes, and John Glosser will lead a discussion, "Perspectives on Gratitude," drawing from UU, secular humanist, and "positive psychology" sources. Some background:

Galen Guengerich addresses the discipline and ethic of gratitude
<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/11144.shtml>

Ronald Aronson provides a secular humanist perspective in "Thank who very much?"
http://www.philosophersnet.com/magazine/printer_friendly.php?id=1009

Positive psychology perspective
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gratitude>
 If you have any questions please contact John Glosser or Carol Floyd

THEOLOGIES IN DIALOGUE GROUP -

Please see the Humanist Discussion Group for joint description.

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.

NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Renata and Heiko Buchloh's. Call Renata or Heiko if you have any questions.

MOVIE NIGHT

The 2009 animated children's film, "The Fantastic Mr. Fox" will be shown at ALUUC on Sunday, March 28, beginning at 6 pm. Based on a story by Roald Dahl, the film depicts a series of clashes between Mr. Fox and his human neighbors. Free refreshments.

DREAM GROUP

The Dream Group meets on the first Monday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room at church. This meeting is an opportunity for folks to share and discuss their recent dreams in a relaxed and informal setting. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information on the Dream Group, contact John Glosser.

SPANISH CLUB

The Spanish Club will meet on Sunday, March 21, at 6 pm at the home of Rev. Woulfe, 1 Timber Hill Lane. Participants will practice conversational skills and then go out for a meal at a local Mexican restaurant. All interested persons are welcome to attend; please RSVP at 726-8281.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on March 23rd at Barbara Moore's, to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Everyone is welcome. Call Barbara if you have any questions.

SOS

The congregation came through once more for the Springfield Overflow Shelter by contributing via a special collection \$700.30 This should carry us through the end of the SOS season. I am so moved by everyone's generosity in time of need. Thank you, thank you, thank you. ~ *Delinda Chapman*

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, March 19, beginning at 7 p.m.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group, on Friday evening, March 12th at 7:00, is scheduled at the home of Barbara Moore. With winter weather, call Chris Romaine at 698-6071 or cromaine@ameritech.net to confirm that we will meet or talk to Barbara Moore.

Groups and Other Events

KIDS' CLUB

You Are Invited

What: Kid's Club Annual Pajama Party

Where: ALUUC

When: March 5, 2010

Time: 6-8 pm

Be sure to bring your pajamas and a pillow if you would like. Martha Plog will be sharing a special story time with us. A \$3 donation per child is requested to help with costs.

RSVP: Marla Johnson, CRE

Circle Dinners for February and March

A big thank you to everyone who hosted Circle Dinners: Tina and Jeff Bennett, Vinnie Gupta, Kim Nair, Jackie and Demi Jackson, Diana and Kurt DeWeese, Frank and Linda Kopecky, John Malan and Carley Mattimore Malan, Rod and Lisa Whelpley, Kent and Gwen Childs, Phillip and Tracy Anderson, Jodi Perko, Theresa Kanoza and Bill McCall.

FELLOWSHIP activities for March:

Wednesday, March 3	Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, March 17	Lunch Bunch
Friday, March 26	Game Night - FREE PIZZA!!
Sunday, March 28	Potluck after service

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. On-line registration, at a reduced rate, begins March 1st. If you are interested in learning more, please visit www.uua.org and select "General Assembly."

You are Encouraged to Attend!

Central Midwest District Assembly

APRIL 30 – May 2, 2010

Westin North Shore, Wheeling, IL

This years' theme is "*Becoming a Religion for Our Time.*" The Assembly brochure can be found on the CMwD web site <http://www.cmwd-uua.org/>

Treasure Island Fantasy Auction

will be held **Saturday, March 13**

The ALUUC Fantasy Auction will be held Saturday, March 13 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the church. The theme is TREASURE ISLAND. It will be a gala event. Come dressed to enjoy the festivities, food and fun. It is our annual, big fundraiser. Help support our community. *Delinda Chapman, Chair*

Bring auction items with you on Sunday, or call to arrange for drop off.

Set up will be Friday, March 12



CRE NEWS

On February 14, 2010 the children of our congregation put into practice the Unitarian Universalist's fifth Principle. The fifth Principle is about using the democratic process to promote an issue of conscience. They participated in the Standing on the Side of Love Day by creating Valentines to send to Governor Pat Quinn.



Glitter, glue, and lace helped the children voice their wishes for the Governor to affirm the worth and dignity of every person. One card proudly proclaimed, "Marriage should be for everybody. Another simply reminds that "Love is love." I think our children, this past Valentine's Day, displayed more understanding than have many adults in our world.

Pictures of the children and their Valentines will be displayed on the Religious Education bulletin board located in the hall near the RE commons area. Please, everyone take a minute to visit it.

- Marla Johnson, CRE

Sr. Youth Hosting Central Mid West District Con April 23 - 25th

Plans are underway for the district youth conference being held here at ALUUC! The teenagers have been hard at work developing a meaningful weekend for their teenage peers!

Our theme is CONstellations: A star on your own, a constellation together. We are celebrating who we are as individuals and marveling in what we can do together. We have had many folks step forward to volunteer their time hosting a workshop. Workshops are break-out sessions during the weekend where teens get to choose something that interests them and spend 60-90 minutes learning/doing/creating. Do you have something you could share with teenagers during a workshop? We like to offer a variety of workshops so that teens can have a vast as an experience as possible. We listed a few ideas in bulletins these past Sundays, but the sky's the limit! Perhaps there is something that you know about/teach/instruct/mentor that would fit into our theme of understanding your individuality. Maybe you have a contact that can assign us a project to do during a workshop. Please contact Buffy, Meg or Scott if you have an idea, we would love to hear it!

We'll be tapping many of you over the next few weeks to sign up for different aspects of the weekend. Overnight supervision, hosting

advisors in your home (for safe driving on Sunday morning), helping with food preparation, etc. Please let us know in advance if you would like to help out! It is always a positive experience for our youth to work alongside the adults in their congregation as they learn new leadership skills.

We'd like to extend a special thanks to Megan Renner and Cheryl Wycoff for assisting us with the financial and registration pieces of this event. Registrations are starting to pour in! It is a complex process and they have been extremely helpful getting things set up for us! Thank you!!

When you see a youth member, ask them about Con! They love to talk about the weekend and the special plans they are working on! Keep watching the Sunday bulletins for updates! As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

This is an important event for our youth, and they appreciate the support from their church community. If you have any questions about Con, or are willing to help in any way, please speak to one of the advisors. Thanks!

Buffy Lael, Scott Wade & Meg Schnake

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 a collaboration between the UUSC and Equal Exchange, a worker-owned, fair trade company based in West Bridgewater, MA. The next sale day will be Sunday, March 7.

Standing on the Side of Love

ALUUC participated in this national campaign on Sunday, February 14. Reverend Woulfe's service focused on the campaign and the Social Action Committee led the Children's Focus with a reading of the story *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*. The RE program made Valentine's for Governor Quinn. Check out the great photo of our Senior Youth Group (Together we are love! Image 6 of 9) http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/photos/?bwbps_page_1=5

Springfield Overflow Shelter (S.O.S.)

On the third Sunday of each month, several members and friends of ALUUC provide a meal to the Springfield Overflow Shelter. The shelter houses those homeless who do not have a bed in any of the other homeless shelters in Springfield. Arena Catering prepares a meal at the cost of \$5.50 per person (\$330 per month). Volunteers meet at the Hoogland Center to pick up the food before going to S.O.S. Thanks to all of the volunteers and to the generosity of our members, those at S.O.S. are able to have a delicious hot meal.

Justice Sunday

On Sunday, March 28, 2010, we will stand up with UU congregations nationwide to put our principles into practice. This year's Justice Sunday will advance economic justice. While there has been significant progress in securing recognition of workers' rights as human rights, these efforts are up against bigger challenges in the context of the global economic crisis. Our worship and social activities will spotlight issues affecting workers both close to home and around the world. With the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, we will offer meaningful advocacy actions, so together we can put our UU principles into action and move the world closer to justice.

Social Action Committee Members include David Brunson, Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Vinnie Gupta, Teresa Liberati, Kathy McGuire, John Malan, Sally Millichamp, Kim Nair, Brian Otwell, Ed Schultz, 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.

Strategic Response in Haiti Underway; UUs Can Get Involved in Recovery

UUSC is supporting Haitian organizations to swiftly and efficiently distribute aid to survivors, while large-scale relief remains logistically snarled. To date, we have supported the following organizations: the MPP (Papaye Peasant Movement) and the Lambi Fund of Haiti, to assist rural communities receiving survivors from the city (through grants of \$35,000 and \$30,000, respectively) and COZPAM (Platform of Community Organizations of the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Zone) and CROSE (Regional Coordination of Southeast Organizations) in Jacmel, to distribute aid to survivors in those areas (\$50,000 grant). UUSC sent an assessment mission to Haiti February 5-12 to develop mid- and long-term responses. This mission also carried \$35,790 worth of essential medical supplies to hospitals affiliated with our partners MPP and the Lambi Fund, at a cost of only \$1,373.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Update continued...

As recovery efforts continue, there are things you can do. UUSC is encouraging people to urge the U.S. government to ensure debt relief for Haiti. UUSC is planning more ways for UUs to help, including assisting Haitians in the United States apply for Temporary Protected Status and volunteering bereavement services. Also, UUSC is exploring the possibility of conducting a Rebuild Work Camp in Haiti, possibly as early as 2011.

Become a UUSC Member

Unitarian Universalists throughout the country have overwhelmingly supported the UUSC/UUA Joint Haiti Relief Fund. All gifts made to the Haiti Relief Fund will support essential recovery work. While responding to the critical need in Haiti, UUSC also maintains its ongoing human-rights work in other areas, such as advocating to secure workers' rights and a fair wage; and to ensure the human right to safe, accessible, and affordable water; and protect civil liberties.

To help us continue to offer assistance where it is needed most, please start or renew your UUSC membership today. You can join 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. For more information contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Local Representative.

Women's Weekend 2010 - April 17-18

The long tradition continues. The third weekend in April, Eliot Chapel sponsors a time to retreat, relax, and find community among other women.

Please join us at the Pallottine Renewal Center located in Florissant, MO

You have a choice to spend one night or just come for the day. Women's Weekend is a great time to relax, participate in exciting workshops, meet new people and more.

Check out the website at www.EliotWomensWeekend.com or contact Carolyn Burke at womensweekend@eliotchapel.org

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.

March 2010

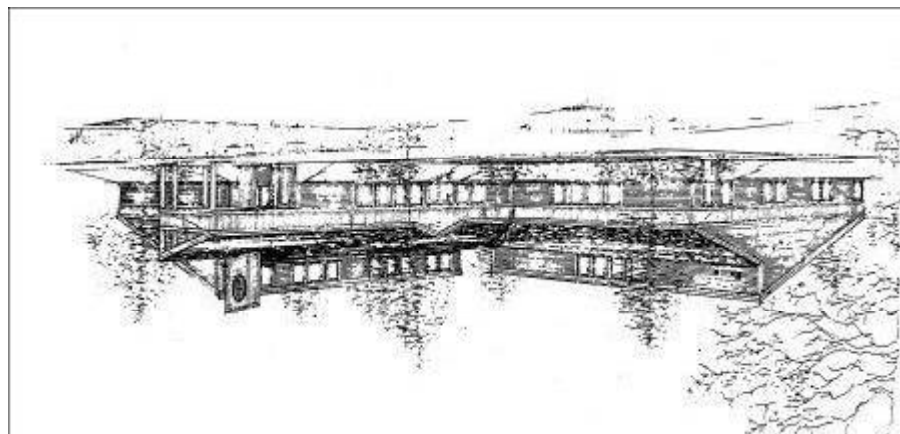
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Dream Group 7 - 9:00 pm	2 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	3 Lunch Bunch 10am - 2 pm Chalice Circle 7 - 9:00 pm	4 Meditation 7:00 pm *News Covenant Group 7:30 pm	5 Kids Club 6 - 8:00 pm	6 Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am Prairie Grapevine Concert 7:30pm
7 Worship Service 10:30 am Sr. Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm	8	9 New to UU Session 7 - 9:00 pm	10 * Sangamon Valley Flute Circle 7 - 9:00 pm	11 Meditation 7:00 pm	12 * Bridge Group 7:00 pm Fantasy Auction Set-up 9 am - 9 pm	13 Treasure Island Fantasy Auction 6:00 - 10:00 pm
14 Worship Service 10:30 am *Young Adult Group Brunch Noon Sr. Youth Group 4 - 6:00 pm	15 Artist's Way 7:00 pm	16	17 Lunch Bunch 10am - 2 pm	18 Meditation 7:00 pm	19 Labyrinth Walk 7:30 pm	20 Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am
21 RE Committee Meeting 9 - 10 am Worship Service 10:30 am Committee Mtgs 12:00 Sr. Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm *Spanish Club 7:00 pm	22 Humanist Discussion & Theologies in Dialogue Groups 7:00 pm Young Adult Group "Metaphysical Discussion" 7 - 9:00 pm Artist's Way 7:00 pm Newsletter Deadline 9:00 pm	23 * Book Discussion Group 7:30 pm	24	25 Meditation 7:00 pm	26 Game Night 6 - 11:00 pm	27 Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am
28 Worship Service & Church Potluck 10:30 am Sr. Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm Movie Night 6:00 pm	29 Artist's Way 7:00 pm	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>Sunday Potluck - March 28th is the Sunday Potluck. Please bring a dish to share or make a donation to cover expenses for the Potluck.</i></p> </div>		

* Events not held at the ALUUC Dates and Times are subject to change. Please check the web site calendar for any changes.

Abraham Lincoln
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