



ALUUC Focus

Volume I, Issue I

July 2011

Special points of interest:

- General Assembly 2011
- Alex Holt
- Marina V concert
- Harry Potter movie
- Coffee House
- Fun Fundraiser

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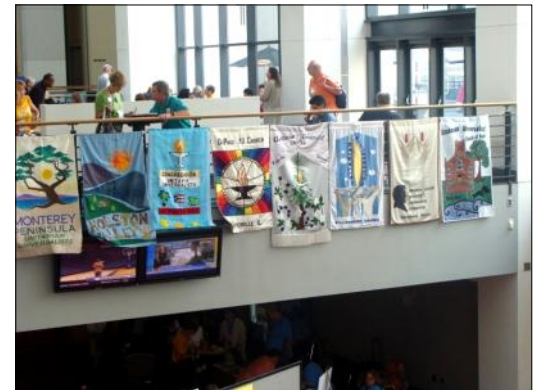
From the Minister

Several days ago, I returned from the UUA's General Assembly. This year, more than 4,000 UUs gathered in Charlotte, NC to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the merger between the Unitarians and the Universalists. Besides the plenary sessions, workshops and public witnesses, the GA experience invariably includes walking through a huge hall brimming with booths promoting every possible interest, as well as vendors selling their wares. Among those wares are, as one might expect, books. This year, I brought a few books from home with me, in a futile attempt to ward off any urge to buy more volumes. Alas, I wandered into the area featuring the latest morsels by Beacon Press, Skinner House Books, as well as other publishing companies. I could not resist bringing back several weighty sacks, filled with books whose topics range from "Missed Opportunities in UU History" to "Explaining the Seven Principles to Children." I may have increased my carbon footprint in the process of transporting them home. On the other hand, I'm happy to report that I've already begun to read some of these new acquisitions.

Fortunately for me, one of the expectations for a 21st Century UU minister is that she/he will continue to seek opportunities for self-enrichment via continuing education. Which means that I am supposed to read and reflect. Equally fortunate is that neither the denomination nor the UU ministers Association dictates the forms or substance that that continuing education should take.

Each year, I choose my own sermon topics, which is an opportunity to research in more detail something in which I already have some interest. What better topics exist than those? From time to time, there is a more formal paper to prepare: for example, this fall, I will be presenting a paper on the subject of the Apocalypse to the Prairie Group, an annual gathering

of UU ministers. (Rapture/End of World adherents, please take note that this paper is scheduled to be delivered after October 21st but before the arrival of 2012). The experience of writing such a paper and then delivering it to my colleagues has its own rewards, e.g., increasing my natural compassion for those pursuing a degree program -- as well as reminding me why I ought never to pursue a doc-



Various UU banners displayed, along with our own, at the 2011 General Assembly.

torate degree.

As the summer progresses, I will bite the bullet and begin that research, but I look forward to those hours when I will find a comfortable chair and delve into some of these new books. To make room for them, though, I have been clearing older books from the shelves in my office -- perhaps one or more of you could provide a good new home for them? Let me know. Unlike kittens, they will not require regular food or water; they will however require proper care & exercise on your part. Are there any takers?

- Martin



From the Board President

One of the 6 goals adopted by the 2010/2011 Board of Directors was to connect more significantly to the national Unitarian Universalist Association and the Central Mid-West District (CMWD) of the UUA. In addition to my attendance at the Annual CMWD Meeting, I have just participated in the 2011 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Charlotte, North Carolina. Below is a brief summary of that experience, which was also attended by Reverend Martin Woulfe, ALUUC Board Member Carol Floyd, and ALUUC Member Diana DeWeese, who were all official delegates. My daughter Marissa DeWeese helped staff the Women & Religion booth in the convention Exhibit Hall.

Delegates attended the Opening Session that included some “business” and a full worship service that included a new hymn “Together” specially-commissioned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1961 merger of the Unitarians and Universalists – a hymn that I recommend we soon learn and sing.

Workshops on my agenda included: a presentation by the UUA Council on Cross Cultural Engagement “Beyond the Script: Lessons in Cross Cultural Engagement”; a lecture series by Rev. Dr. Galen Guengrich, “Church of the New Millennium: (Part-I) Formula For Failure and (Part-II) Scenario for Success”; presentation by the East Central Regional Group “Powerful Pathways to Membership: Mid-Sized Congregations” and an overview of the “UU Common Endowment Fund”. There was also a special showing of the first of a 6-part documentary “The Long Strange Trip – 2000 Years of UU History”. Mini-Assemblies were also conducted to enable attendees to learn about, comment and amend items that were on the Final Agenda of the UUA Plenary Business Meeting, including the one that I attended about the Amendment to the

Bylaws that will shrink the UUA Board of Directors from 26 to 14, and replace District Board Members with the 11 members elected at large selected by the UUA Nominating Committee, which must “endeavor” to include nominees who represent the full diversity of the UUA, “especially in regard to historically marginalized communities, but also balancing amongst size of congregation, lay and ordained, geography, age (including youth and young adults), and gender.” Although it may be well-intended, this change significantly dilutes regional representation on the UUA Board of Directors, and which I predict will fail to meet stated objectives.



Marissa, Diana & Kurt DeWeese at the UU General Assembly.

A major Statement of Conscience was approved, “Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice”. Four (4) Actions for Immediate Witness were also considered: “Toward Ending the U.S. Military Engagement in Afghanistan” (Failed), “Support Southern California Supermarket Workers’ Struggle for Decent Wages and Benefits” (Passed), “Protest Representative Peter King’s Hearings on Muslim ‘Radicalization’ ” (Passed), and “Oppose Citizens United –Support Free Speech for People” (Passed). Details about these and other elements of the 50th Annual General Assembly can be found at the UUA website.

The Annual Service of the Living Tradition was conducted Thursday evening to honor and celebrate Ministers Receiving Preliminary Fellowship, Credentialed Religious Educators-Masters Level, Credentialed Religious Educators, Credentialed Music Leaders, Ministers Receiving Final Fellowship and Ministers Completing Full-Time Services. Twelve deceased ministers were also recognized for their commitment and service to Unitarian Universalism. It was a very moving and emotional celebration of our denominational leadership. A special Offering for the Living Tradition Fund collected more than \$80,000 to provide additional support for UU ministers in all of their pursuits.

Dr. Karen Armstrong, “... one of the world’s leading commentators on religious affairs and a best-selling author ...” on related topics, provided the Ware Lecture: “The Challenge of Compassion” claiming that “... an ideology that does not restore compassion to the center of the spiritual, religious and ethical life fails the test of our time” Morning and evening services concluded the 5-day celebration.

In 2012 the UUA will sponsor a special Justice UUA General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona that intends to witness and advocate against the discriminatory immigration policies and practices of that state. This may be an important next step for ALUUC members who are now enjoying the special series of Conversation Cafes at the ALUUC on the subject “Immigration as a Moral Issue” which will continue on Monday evenings July 11, 18 and 25, 2011.

For more information on the GA go to:

<http://www.uua.org/ga/>

Sunday Morning Services

July 3

Civil War Era Music and Song
Jeffrey Bennett, MD

This Independence Day weekend service will be a presentation on the Civil War period in this country through the perspective of concurrent popular music, recitations and song, with Jeffrey Bennett, MD, as presenter.



July 10

**The Spirituality of Addiction and Recovery:
 A UU Response**
Rev. Alex Holt

Addictions to substances and behaviors are all around us in life. How can we as religious liberals go beyond pity or denial to a theological response based on our history and our holistic compassion for all life?

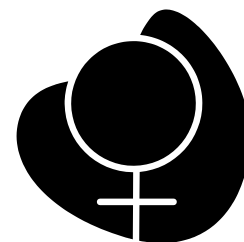
Rev. Alex Holt, former Interim Minister at ALUUC, is now Interim Minister at UU Fellowship of Clemson, SC. Potluck following service.



July 17

The Strange History of Early UU Women Ministers
Cathy McKamey

In the late 1800's a great number of women overcame incredible obstacles to become UU ministers in a denomination that later decided it had no use for them. Cathy McKamey, ALUUC congregant, will present.



July 24

Once upon a time ...
Amy Kluge

Looking for positive feminine role models? Amy Kluge, ALUUC member, will present a number of them from literature, not the Hollywood celebrity list.

July 31

The Labor Movement--Now More Than Ever
Ed Schultz & Kathy McGuire

Ed Schultz & Kathy McGuire will focus on why labor unions may be more important now than any time in U.S. history.



Worship services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Religious education & child care provided for children of all ages. Large print bulletins & hymnals, as well as hearing devices, are available upon request.



Fair Trade

The ALUUC Social Action Committee (SAC) will be selling Fair Trade products (coffee, teas, cocoa, and chocolate bars) the second Sunday of each month. 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. UUs have the highest participation rate of any denomination in Equal Exchange's Interfaith

Program! Coffee from the UUSC Coffee Project is now being served on Sundays, following the service.

Next sale date – July 10.

The Social Action Committee

Conversation Café - Immigration as a Moral Issue

Migration of people—driven by economic, social, political and environmental factors—is taking place around the world. Millions are currently in transit, in refugee camps, in detention centers, or living and working in places without full legal status and without access to social services or protection of civil rights.

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN selected

"Immigration" to be the 2010—2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA).

Join ALUUC members and friends to discuss this issue as part of a six week curriculum, intended to give a broad overview to this complex issue. We will meet on Monday evenings - July 11, 18, and 25 from 6:00-7:30 pm in the Darwin Room.

For more information and to register, contact: Neha Patel-Dunkirk

All are welcome to attend, but registrations are required in order that we can have the necessary handouts and snacks available.

Gaza: Repairing Homes and Restoring Dignity



Over the next few months, 25 families in Gaza will receive assistance in repairing their homes, which were badly damaged by Operation Cast Lead in 2008–9. UUSC is collaborating with two partner organizations, the American Friends Service Committee and Islamic Relief, to carry out the repairs. The repair team will incorporate community-identified recommendations

that respond to the specific needs of youth, women, and people with disabilities. UUSC's Gaza Humanitarian Relief Fund received just over \$37,000 in donations from UUs across the country; this third and final project closes out that fund. With this support, UUSC has been able to leverage an additional \$52,000 and has developed innovative home-repair strategies, repaired

over 50 homes, and provided psychosocial support to over 300 mothers, young adults, and children.

Change For Change

Thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members and friends, \$200.33 was collected for Peace Camp. The Social Action Committee has selected the **Central Illinois Food Bank** for the July Change for Change program. The purpose of Central Illinois Foodbank is to collect donated food and grocery items from grow-

ers, manufacturers, processors, distributors, and retailers for distribution to charitable agencies serving people in need. The Central Illinois Foodbank, established in 1982 by a coalition of churches, distributes nearly 8 million pounds of food annually to over 160 food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs

and after-school programs in a 21 county region. Central Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, and is a United Way certified agency.



UUSC Membership

Stay in touch with UUSC and its ongoing work all summer long. Even if your congregation schedules shift or you take a break from your usual routine, you can stay up to date with national and international human-rights efforts by becoming a member of UUSC!

Membership includes monthly electronic Values in Action newsletters; seasonal print issues of Rights Now, and e-mail action alerts

when news and response is particularly time sensitive. Wherever your summer plans take you, you can remain informed and engaged by renewing your membership with UUSC.

Also, every donation of \$100 or more is eligible to be matched, thanks to a matching grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. I invite you to speak with me

to renew your membership — or you can become a member online today at www.uusc.org/member.

UUSC is an independent membership-based human-rights organization and receives no funding from the UUA.

*“Advancing
human rights
is the
work of
many joining
hands”*

Social Action Committee Members

The ALUUC Social Action Committee members include:

David Brunson, Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Delinda Chapman, Vinnie Gupta, Doug Liberati, Teresa Liberati, John Malan, Sally Millichamp, Kim Nair, Brian Otwell, Neha Patel Dunkirk, & Susan Solon.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the ALUUC Social Action Committee, contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant



Groups & Events



BRIDGE GROUP

The July meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, July 8th 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.

NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group will meet on Thursday, July 14 (rather than our usual date) for an evening at Lake Springfield. Linda and Frank Kopecky will host the group at their home. Come at 6:00 p.m. to be there when the boat

ride is scheduled to start. We will eat around 6:30. The Kopecky's will provide a meat dish. Bring a dish to share if you can. After that we will enjoy our usual discussion of news events. Call Frank or Linda .



FLUTE CIRCLE

The Sangamon Valley Flute Circle meets in the Sanctuary on the second Wednesday of every month from 7 - 9 PM. Our next gathering is June 8. Anyone who has an interest is welcome to join us. No experience or flute ownership required.

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

Would you like to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, from 10-12 am to have coffee, maybe a treat, and pull a few weeds or dead-head a few flowers? The Landscaping Committee needs a little help to maintain our landscape areas. If it rains, the first Wednesday would be fine! If you have a couple hours to spend with other gardening enthusiasts in our congregation, please contact Debby Leahy or Gwen Childs for more information.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book group meets on the fourth Tuesday each month. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on July 26th . We will discuss "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven" a novel by Fannie Flagg. The lessons of "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven" are "simple but effective," The Miami Herald wrote. "Enjoy your time on earth. Be nice. Eat cake. Remember you don't have to be rich or famous to touch other lives in a profound way. And take care that you don't meet your Maker in a ratty old bathrobe, because wouldn't you just die of embarrassment if you weren't already dead?"

If you have any questions, call Barb Moore

Bring suggestions for future books. We will start selecting future books at this July meeting. Future books already selected include "Maisie Dobbs" by Jacqueline Winspear.

Want to see a movie?

Join your fellow mUUGgles for an evening of cinema magic the weekend of July 15th



Details to be announced soon!

Facilities Committee

We are very thankful for the great support we have received from our many volunteers in 2011.

Most of what we do is routine maintenance, but our duties are getting less routine and more challenging as our building starts to age. Earlier this year, committee members restained the lower portion of the building and the fence, and we have recently hired help to complete the upper portion. We made improvements to the septic field, which we hope will help our seasonal water table issues, and we repaired, re-stained and re-shingled the storage shed. We tackled many smaller projects throughout the year, and we recently coordinated repairs to our Chalice Tower, which was damaged by a wind-storm.

This spring, we undertook a courtyard landscaping project, which is nearing completion...at least for now. This was made possible by memorial gifts in honor of Bonnie Ettinger's parents, the remainder of a memorial gift in honor of Ernst and Louise Giesecke, and a few private donations. We did as much work as we felt capable of doing, then contracted with Harvest Moon Designs to build the patio, lay the sod and fix some drainage problems. They fit us into their busy schedule, and we are grateful for the beautiful job they did. Thanks to everyone who labored many hours in the hot sun to make this special place so lovely.

The Board approved money from our "Special Projects" fund to buy 12 new tables, which are now in use, and to

refurbish the street sign, which has deteriorated. This summer we will also be dividing the Darwin room into two classrooms at the request of the RE Committee, and we plan to add double doors into the Commons. This will help with noise reduction and energy efficiency. It's going to be a busy summer!

In the coming months we are going to list ideas for small projects that can be taken on by one or two persons---little tasks that need to be done weekly or periodically. Of course, help at our Work Days is always welcome, and it is a great way to make friends.

Thanks,
Kent Childs,
Facilities Chair



“We are very thankful for the great support we have received from our many volunteers in 2011”

One Night Only!

Marina V Live at ALUUC



Saturday, July 9 · 7:00pm - 10:00pm
Tickets are \$10 and all ages are welcome.

For children under 12, tickets are \$5



The Sale is Coming! The Sale is Coming!



About this time each year, we ask you to start saving things for our annual Trash and Treasure Sale. Here's the first list for this year:

*All your plastic and paper bags. We recycle!
Hangers for children's clothing!*

And, of course, clean out that basement, closet, garage, etc., and donate your cast-offs to our sale. Get your neighbors to donate! Pick ups are available.

*ALUUC's
biggest
and
most fun
fund raiser!*

Did you know that ALUUC's biggest and most fun fund raiser is coming soon? October 7-8 is the 15th Annual Trash and Treasure Sale. Committees are already forming so if you want a great experience with 92 of your friends, become a committee member.

Please talk to one of our 23 Captains to volunteer:

Accessories - Anna Pearson; **BOG** (Beauty, Office & Grooming) - Linda Haynes; **Books** - Theresa Kanoza and Bill McCall; **Cashiers** - Carol Kneedler; **Adult Clothing** - Diana DeWeese; **Children's Clothing** - Eugena Austin; **Clean up** - Kent Childs; **Electronics** - Tom Vaught; **Food** - Nancy Standen; **Furniture** - Vicki Lock; **Housewares** - Gwen Childs; **Linens** - Linda Kopecky; **Outside Stuff** - Phillip Anderson; **Pick ups** - Randy Pratt; **Pictures** - Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant; **Publicity** - Kathy Rem; **Recycling & Donations** - Michael Plog; **Seasonal** - Tina Bennett; **Set up** - Frank Kopecky; **Sports & Tools** - Dave Brunson; **Toys** - Dianne Roberts; **Treasure Room** - Renata Buchloh.



Fellowship Committee

July 8th Coffee House & Open Mic

with a more adult venue & themes. Calls go out to visual artists to display their work during the coffee house, musicians, singers, readers and co-

medians are all encourage to perform. Let's make July a sharing and celebration of the arts.

Contact Randy Pratt to display your art work or perform at the coffee house.

July 10th Potluck

Immediately following the Sunday Service. Take time to get to know others and make friends while enjoying delectable delights!



CRE News:

Needed: Volunteer teachers for the Religious Education program. Do you love to work with children? Are you willing to devote one Sunday a month to expand the minds of our younger congregation members? Then this job is for you!

To inquire further, contact the Coordinator of Religious Education, Marla Johnson-She is looking forward to hearing from you.

**Calling
all Artists,
bring your
art to the
Coffee House
Open Mic
Night!**

New to UU Orientation Sessions in July

Have you been attending ALUUC and feel that this should be your "spiritual home?" Would you like to learn more about UUism and this congregation? Please sign up for

this informal session, and meet other new people as well as Rev. Woulfe and our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon. The session will be held on Sunday July 10, after

the potluck and again on Wednesday July 13th, 7-9:30 pm. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain. Child care will be provided if requested.

FYI

Newsletter Option:

To stop receiving this newsletter by mail or to change to receive it by email, please email your request to Linda Haynes at: newsletter@aluuc.org

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.

Nametags:

If you need a replacement nametag, please email your request to our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon, at welcome@aluuc.org or print your name on a piece of paper and place it in the nametag slot found on the nametag rack.



Contact Information

Clergy:

Minister	Rev. Martin Woulfe	minister@aluuc.org
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Berkley Moore	minister-emeritus@aluuc.org



Staff:

Office Manager	Cheryl Wycoff	office@aluuc.org
RE Coordinator	Marla Johnson	CRE@aluuc.org
Membership Coordinator	Susan Solon	welcome@aluuc.org
Music/Pianist	Bonnie Ettinger	music@aluuc.org

Board of Directors:

President	Kurt DeWeese	president@aluuc.org
Vice President	Phillip Anderson	vicepresident@aluuc.org
Treasurer	George Metcalf	treasurer@aluuc.org
Secretary	Carol Bailey	secretary@aluuc.org

Board Members

David Brunson
Carol Floyd
Chelsea Fry
Brian Reynolds
Michael Plog
Kathy McGuire



Committees of the Congregation

Committee on Ministry	Debby Hagan	com@aluuc.org
Nominating Committee	Berkley Moore	nominating@aluuc.org
Endowment Trust	Jeff Bennett	endowment@aluuc.org

Committees of the Board

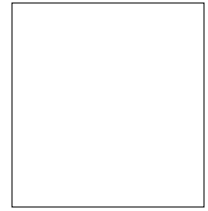
Electronics & Communication	Jason Kluge	ecc@aluuc.org
- Newsletter	Linda Haynes	newsletter@aluuc.org
- Webmaster	Carol Kneeder	webmaster@aluuc.org
Facilities	Kent Childs	facilities@aluuc.org
- Aesthetics	Renata Buchloh	aesthetics@aluuc.org
- Flower	Vi Lanum	flower@aluuc.org
Fellowship	Randy Pratt	fellowship@aluuc.org
Finance		finance@aluuc.org
Green Sanctuary	Meg Evans	greensanctuary@aluuc.org
Welcoming & Publicity		
Pastoral Care	Michael Plog	pastoralcare@aluuc.org
Program	Jeff Bennett	program@aluuc.org
Religious Education (RE)	Dianne Roberts-Hill	RE@aluuc.org
Social Action	Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant	SAC@aluuc.org



July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Zen meditation 9:30 am
3 Sunday Service 10:30 am	4	5 Landscaping Committee 10 to 12 noon Board meeting 7 pm	6	7 Meditation 7:00 pm	8 Bridge Group 7:00 pm at Barbara Moore's Coffee House Open Mic 6 to 10 pm	9 Zen meditation 9:30 am Marina V Concert 7 to 10 pm
10 Sunday Service 10:30 am Potluck	11 Conversation Café 6:00 pm	12	13 New to UU Class 7:00 pm. Flute Circle 7:00 pm	14 News Covenant Group 6:00 pm Meditation 7:00 pm	15 Harry Potter Movie Contact Rev. Martin for details	16 Zen meditation 9:30 am
17 Sunday Service 10:30 am Committee Meetings 12pm	18 Conversation Café 6:00 pm	19	20	21 Meditation 7:00 pm	22	23 Zen meditation 9:30 am
24 Sunday Service 10:30 am	25 Conversation Café 6:00 pm	26 Book Discussion Group 7:30 pm	27	28 Meditation 7:00 pm	29	30 Zen meditation 9:30 am
31 Sunday Service 10:30 am						

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



ALUUC - Since 1953 Celebrating over 50 years of liberal religion in the Springfield area.

The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Springfield, IL is a religious community of individuals coming together for spiritual growth and fellowship. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our congregation and the people who make it so special.

Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org