



ALUUC Focus

Volume 1 Issue 4

October 2011

Special points of interest:

- Day of Compassion
- Labyrinth Walk
- New Intern
- TNT SALE!
- Movie Night
- Reverse Trick or Treat

Inside this issue:

From the Board President	2
Sunday Services	3
Religious Education & Intern News	4-5
Social Action & UUSC	6-7
T&T Sale & Facilities	8-9
Groups & Events	10 11
Fellowship & Choir	12 13
Contact Info	14
Calendar	15
Cover	16



From the Minister

During the past few months, a controversy has been simmering between the State of Illinois and Catholic Charities. At the heart of the issue is whether Catholic Charities may receive state funds yet continue to deny to work with same-sex couples that have had a civil union and want to adopt. A number of prominent Catholic leaders have weighed in on the issue, both on the radio and in the newspaper. I wrote the following letter as a response to several letters to the editor. As my letter was not printed, I am submitting it here.

- Martin

Before becoming a parish minister, I worked for an affiliate of Catholic Charities for more than seven years and am acquainted with its mission and parameters. It is a fine organization overall, and it provides many valuable services on behalf of the poor, victims of abuse, immigrants, etc., as well as on behalf of children.

That said, I was surprised by the rhetoric employed by several religious leaders in recent articles and radio interviews, assertions that recent changes constitute a "war against the Catholic community." Likewise, their appeal to "toleration" is quite curious; they suggest that any religious group is entitled to receive public funds while reserving the right to discriminate against certain citizens. We are not talking about criminals. The crux of the matter is that they regard some citizens as inherently sinful because of their sexual orientation. Such is unequivocally a religious designation,

which incidentally is not shared by every faith tradition.

I would contend that a proper proponent of toleration would agitate for the rights and dignity of those neighbors who have been historically marginalized, in this case, on behalf of eligible gay & lesbian couples who wish to adopt.

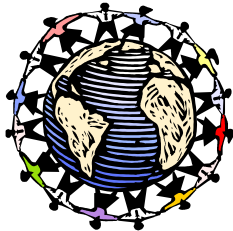
No serious person has, to the best of my knowledge, suggested that Catholic Charities or its parent organization must adopt dictums that contravene their particular traditions. The issue is, rather, whether any religious organization may use public funds to subsidize a mission whose actions in effect marginalize fellow citizens of this Republic. Spokesmen for Catholic Charities and the Catholic community have asserted that they should have that right. It must not be so, not when the public is footing the bill.

If the dictates of tradition prevent Catholic Charities from adopting more inclusive practices, may its leaders choose a new course for their energies without any state interference. That is their protected right.

I would expect that other agencies will fill the temporary vacuum and that the interests of the children will be well looked after. Catholic Charities will certainly continue, albeit redirecting its resources towards other goals. Based on my past association with Catholic Charities, I sincerely wish them well in those endeavors.



From the Board President



**Compassion
lies at the
heart of all
religious,
ethical and
spiritual
traditions.**



Welcome Lynnda White, Ministerial Intern who began her 2-year assignment with the ALUUC this month. She is a great addition to our congregation community.

By the time this Newsletter hits the waves, we should all be engrossed in the Trash 'N' Treasure Sale. I am always amazed at the production and operation of this event, especially the commitment and active involvement of so many ALUUC members and friends. The Captain of this endeavor, Victoria Vincent, is a Treasure unto herself – not to be sold or traded by any means in the course of this adventure.

I'm taking this opportunity to highlight an element of the message delivered by Reverend Martin Woulfe September 18, 2011, in which he examined the 2nd UU Principle "Justice, Equity and Compassion" [The video recording of this sermon should soon be available through the ALUUC website.]. He referenced the fact that the ALUUC Board of Directors recently endorsed the **Charter of Compassion**, at the urging of the Prairie-land Compassion Network, which is also leading an effort to have the City of Springfield make a similar endorsement. Related activities were highlighted by the Social Action Committee in the September Newsletter.

(Extracting from the Charter website www.charterofcompassion.org) The Charter was inspired by religious theologian and author Karen Armstrong, together with religious leaders from around the world, "... (It) is a single document crafted by people from all walks of life, nationalities, beliefs and backgrounds with the intent to unify, inspire and bring compassion back into the heart of society. The **Charter of Compassion** is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but, more importantly, compassionate action to the center of religious, moral and political life. Compassion is the principled determination to put ourselves in the shoes of the other, and lies at the heart of all religious and ethical systems. One of the most urgent tasks of our generation is to build a global community where men and women of all races, nations and ideologies can live together in peace. In our globalized world, everybody has become our neighbor, and the Golden Rule has become an urgent necessity.

The **Charter** seeks to change the conversation so that compassion becomes a key word in public and private discourse, making it clear that any ideology that breeds hatred or contempt ~ be it

religious or secular ~ has failed the test of our time. It is not simply a statement of principle; it is above all a summons to creative, practical and sustained action to meet the political, moral, religious, social and cultural problems of our time."

Charter for Compassion

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

- Kurt DeWeese

Sunday Morning Services

October 2, 2011

A Free & Responsible Search for Truth

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, we will explore the fourth Principle. What do we mean by a free search for Truth? What do we mean by responsible? If we assume that Truth exists, what is it? This is a Change for Change Sunday.



October 9, 2011

Raising Our Girls

Buffy Lael

Young girls today receive a variety of messages from media, pop-stars and peers. Where we can never truly "protect" our girls from these messages, can we "arm" them with the right messages?

October 16, 2011

The Right of Conscience

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, we will examine the fifth Principle typically celebrated by UUs. How do we promote this ideal, as individuals and as a denomination? Does an individual's conscience ultimately trump all other concerns?



October 23, 2011

The Goal of World Community

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, Rev. Woulfe will consider the sixth Principle. Does this principle conflict with nationalism? What is a realistic goal for this generation?

October 30, 2011

Respect for the Interconnected Web

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, we will consider the seventh and final Principle. Why does this one come last? Is this a theological statement? What are its implications?



November 6, 2011

Religious Humanism as a Way of Life

Carol Floyd

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.



Religious Education

The beginning of the RE year has been a busy one! I am pleased with how things have been going, except for a few glitches. There are almost always going to be those. I had a great time at the RE Open House and I hope everyone else did also. The RE Committee and I would like to thank everyone for attending and being patient with us altering the coffee hour.

The RE committee and I would also like to extend an invitation for all parents to make a commitment to having their children attend the opening of Sunday services. This is such a great opportunity for the children to know what it is like to be involved with services and for the adults to enjoy the children. I must also add that this twenty minutes or so is time needed for the CRE

and the RE teachers to make preparations for class time. When this team has to be preoccupied with unsupervised children it finds it difficult to accomplish such preparations.

Thank you as always for your support of the RE Program.

Marla Johnson
Coordinator of
Religious Education

**Children have
great
opportunity to
learn from
Sunday
Services!**

Coming this Winter: Religion in Life Class for Youth

Do you have a child aged 10 or older who is interested in gaining a deeper level of understanding about UUism? If the answer is "yes," consider signing them to participate in the Religion in Life Class at ALUUC this winter. Typically, your child

will be either a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, but that is not a requirement. At the end of the series, each youth will receive a certificate of accomplishment and they will be awarded a Religion in Life award by their parents during a Sunday service. (Please note

that the BSA and the UUA disagree over some issues and, as a result, the BSA currently does not officially award the UU Religion in Life emblem.) Please see Rev. Wolfe for more details.

No Tricks, Just Truth: Fifth Annual Reverse Trick-or-Treating



This Halloween, join UUSC for the Fifth Annual Reverse Trick-or-Treating program! Reverse Trick-or-Treating is a great learning and advocacy activity for congregations, youth organizations, and classrooms. Through this program, participants hand out samples of fair-trade chocolate to candy givers while visiting houses on Halloween. Each piece of chocolate comes with a

card that describes the social and environmental costs of the corporate cocoa industry and how buying fair-trade chocolate is a meaningful alternative.

This year Global Exchange is offering 1,000 Reverse Trick-or-Treating free kits to individuals on a first-come, first-served basis — so get your order in quickly at reversetrickor-treating.org! If there are

any left, the deadline to order is October 7.

Each kit contains 15 mini chocolates, informational cards, and an instruction leaflet. The kits are free; you only pay \$7.50 for shipping and handling. A specific delivery date cannot be guaranteed, but kits will be mailed in mid-October and arrive in time for Halloween.

From the Intern . . .

As I was driving to Springfield for the Water and Stone Service, I reminisced about the water services that I had attended at the Peoria UU Church for so many years and about the significance of this tenth anniversary of September 11th. I can tell you that more than a few tears slid down my cheeks as I moved farther and farther from my home church and nearer to the ceremonies of the day. Somewhere along the way, I started thinking about the symbolism of the two water services occurring at the same time and how my life would now be flowing into this new current. By the time I caught sight of the distinctive ALUUC silhouette, on that Sunday morning, I knew that I was coming into a new home, a wider circle.

The next Friday (Sept. 16) I walked the labyrinth—a first for me—and a fitting metaphor for this new path: Walk into the circle

and wander its wondrous journey; see the destination and wonder how to get there.



I know that this internship will lead me into unfamiliar circumstances, and that there are people here who will help me, even if I make a misstep, take a wrong turn or am just learning the way. In fact, just last week at the Lincoln Land Multicultural Fair, I had an opportunity to watch, learn and practice something that has been a learning edge for me. While at our booth, countless people stopped by and wanted

to know more about Unitarian Universalism. I don't have a succinct answer that feels comfortable to me, but I got a feel for what people want to know and the level of detail they desire. Of course, there is not one answer, so no single 'elevator speech' works, but now I have more ideas how to get off the ground floor.

Even though ALUUC formally accepted me as its ministerial intern almost a year ago, and I have attended board meetings and several functions in the past six months, it feels much more official now. I am part of this congregation, this wider circle, and we walk this path together.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

Peace and Blessings,

Lynnda White



**Welcome,
Lynnda White,
our new
intern!**

LLCC Multi-Cultural Expo

Many thanks to Colin & Tara Crowley, Kurt DeWeese, Linda Haynes, Susan Solon, Chelsea Stead and Lynnda White who took turns representing ALUUC at LLCC's Multicultural

Expo on September 21. It was a picture perfect day in many respects; these stalwart souls cheerfully greeted faculty and students (not to mention, a number of UUs who were attending

the Expo) inside the Trutter Center, answered their questions about UUism and handed out promotional literature.





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 a 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 – October 9. Thanks so much to ALUUC SAC committee members Vinnie Gupta who coordinates the monthly sales and to John Malan who manages the ordering and inventory!

The Social Action Committee

Greater September Days of Compassion

Several ALUUC members and friends participated in the September Days of Compassion events organized by the Prairieland Compassion Network (PNC). PNC promotes the "[Charter for Compassion](#)" as a springboard for engaging the general public, community and business leaders, educational institutions and religious organizations in dialogue that will inspire specific actions to transform Springfield into a more compassionate community for all people.

On Sunday, September 17, Rev. Martin Wolfe presented a sermon on "Justice, Equality and Compassion" where he examined the second UU Principle - Justice, equity and compassion in



ALUUC Social Action Committee members, Vinnie Gupta and Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, participated in the September 21, International Day of Peace Interfaith Prayer Service that was held at Douglas Park.

human relations - and how do we promote these ideals, as individuals and as a denomination. Other activities included a Vigil on the Tenth Anniversary of September; presentation by Ra-

jmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi; and the International Day of Peace Interfaith Prayer Service that was held on September 21 at Douglas Park.



The outer harmony that we desire between our economy and the world depends finally upon an inward harmony between our own hearts and the originating spirit that is the life of all creatures, a spirit as near us as our flesh and yet forever beyond measures of this obsessively measuring age. We can grow good wheat and make good bread only if we understand that we do not live by bread alone.

~ Wendell Berry

Change For Change

Thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members and friends, \$150.41 was collected for the Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County. The Social Action Committee has selected Fifth Street Renaissance – SARA Center as the October Change for

Change program. This not-for-profit agency offers a multitude of services to individuals and families in crisis, including an array of homeless services, HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and support services, youth and family support services,

and a comprehensive case management program. Donations to Fifth Street Renaissance/SARA Center provide a wide variety of critical services to homeless individuals and families or to those in crises or on the verge of being homeless.



Advancing Human Rights from Field to Fork

Human Rights from Field to Fork is an effort to raise awareness and to mobilize UUSC members and supporters in support of the rights of workers in the food sector.

Food is an integral part of our lives. With each bite we consume, we are connected to food workers of all kinds on whom we depend daily

for our food. Yet five out of eight of the worst-paying jobs in the United States are in the food system, and food workers face some of the most difficult and dangerous working conditions.

UUSC's Economic Justice Program promotes the rights of food workers through efforts to improve the conditions of poultry-

processing workers, raise the wages of restaurant workers, strengthen a pecan-processing cooperative run by African-American women in Georgia, and engage UU congregations in fair trade. For more information, <http://www.uusc.org/fieldtofork>

**UUSC's
Economic
Justice
Program
promotes
the rights
of food
workers**

Social Action Planning Meeting

Members of the Social Action Committee met on Sunday, September 18 to discuss plans for 2011-2012. A detailed report will be provided in the November ALUUC Focus.

Food Day

Food Day will be held on October 24 in 2011 and in years to come. Food Day seeks to bring together Americans from all walks of life—parents, teachers, and

students; health professionals, community organizers, and local officials; chefs, school lunch providers, and eaters of all stripes—to push for healthy, affordable food

produced in a sustainable, humane way. For more information, <http://foodday.org>

Social Action Committee Members

Members include Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Delinda Chapman, Peggy Finley, Pat Fletcher, Vinnie Gupta, Linda Haynes,

Doug Liberati, Teresa Liberati, Vicki Lock, John Malan, Sally Millichamp, Neha Patel-Dunkirk, and Susan Solon. If you are interested in becoming

a member of the ALUUC Social Action Committee, contact Deborah at: SAC@aluuc.org



Sale Week at ALUUC: The Schedule

BIG SALE

Here's a quick rundown of the activities during our sale week, leading up to the Trash & Treasure Sale. If you have somehow managed to avoid signing up to work, come on out anyway. We'd love to have you join the party!

Sunday, October 2nd: Set-up throughout the building after the service. Come to church with your car loaded and unload before you head home, OR come back later (up until 8 pm) and drop off your stuff.

Monday, October 3rd: ALUUC will be open from noon to 8 pm. Come help sort and price our merchandise.

Tuesday, October 4th: ALUUC will be open from noon to 8 pm. Come help sort and price our merchandise.

Wednesday, October 5th: ALUUC will be open from noon to 8 pm. Come help sort and price our merchandise. Things will be getting pretty interesting by this point. Lots of great stuff.

Setup

Starts

This Sunday

For the TNT

Sale!

Remember the TNT golden rule: She who works, shops!

Thursday, October 6th: ALUUC will be open from noon to 8 pm. Come help sort and price our merchandise.

Friday, October 7th: ALUUC will be open from noon to 5 pm. for pricing and finishing up. The sale starts at 5 pm. It's going to be crazy. Come help staff the sale! Wear your T-shirt!

Saturday, October 8th: The sale runs from 8 am – 1 pm. At 1 pm, we clear the building, drop the prices and readmit people with paper bags. "Fill-a-bag-for-\$3" Everything that won't fit in a bag is half price. Be sure to wear your t-shirt!

Clean up begins as the sale winds down. Our goal is to have everything on the truck by 3 pm and the building clean. Just enough time for everyone to go home, have a nap and come back at 6 pm for

The Party! All volunteers are invited to a party to celebrate our efforts. Drinks (wine, beer, pop) and the main dish will be provided. Please bring a salad/vegetable or a dessert to share. We will be announcing our total "take" at this time.

WARNING! WARNING!

The TNT Set up and Sale is happening October 2-8. If you have personal items in the building, please take them home. All of the Lost and Found box and miscellaneous stuff that gets left in the building gets sold in the sale. PLEASE! Take your stuff home!



Facilities Committee

Our committee has been working hard all summer to keep our facility in great shape, despite the terrible heat. Debbie Leahy, Frank Kopecky, Kent Childs and Gwen Childs managed to keep our new landscaping projects watered and our team of mowers put in a lot of sweat equity. Also, please say thank you to the following people who participated in our Work Day Meeting held on Saturday 9/17:

Phillip Anderson, Todd Babcock, Debbie Leahy, Debby Hagan, Mark Hanson, David Brunson, Kathy McGuire, Kurt DeWeese,

Gwen Childs, Kent Childs, Kim Nair, Stacey Shinkle, Martin Woulfe, Margaret Demaree and Jim Custer.

One of the items we discussed at our meeting was the recent situation where a member fell ill at church and an ambulance was called. As a result, we decided to publish this statement:

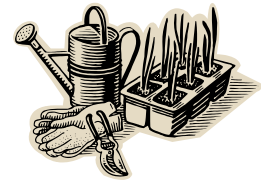
The Facilities Committee is asking for everyone's help with a safety issue. In order to comply with Fire Regulations, we must not block the fire lane in front of the church. If you park there,

you will be asked to move your vehicle. We also need to keep the hallways clear of obstructions. Tables may be set up in the Sanctuary or Commons after the service for sales and promotions. Thank you.

Our next Facilities Work Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 29th, at 8 AM.

Please plan on helping. It really is fun, and it's a great way to get to know fellow ALUUC Members and Friends.

Kent & Gwen Childs



*Please
Consider
Helping at the
Next Facilities
Work Day
October 29th
At 8:00 am.*

A Day of Mindfulness: A day of meditation

Saturday, November 5, 2011

9 am. - 4:30 pm

ALUUC

Lead by Eva C. Muller, Ph.D. & Juliet A. Slack, M.A.

No charge, but donations accepted.

RSVP by Monday, October 31st to:

Eva at Professional Counseling Offices at 744-3525 or aniccal@comcast.net
or Juliet at 891-3328 or julietslack@yahoo.com

This is a day to take a break/pause from the constant busyness, noise and demands of our lives. In this day of "being" vs "doing", you will be guided in the mindfulness meditation practices of : breath awareness/sitting, gentle yoga, walking, body scan and loving kindness. This is a "come as you are" retreat day for everybody-beginners and experienced practitioners. Please join Eva and Juliet for this extraordinary day.





**Newcomer's
are always
welcome
to all
ALUUC
Groups!**



Groups & Events

BRIDGE GROUP

The October meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, October 14th, is scheduled to be at the home of Barbara Moore. Those not on the calling list are also most welcome to attend, but need to contact Barbara in advance (see directory or contact ALUUC).

DREAM GROUP

The Dream Group will meet on Monday October 10th at 7:00 pm in the Fuller Room at church. (The group is deviating this month from its ordinary first Monday meeting pattern because of first week Trash and Treasures sale preparation). This meeting gives folks an opportunity to discuss their dreams in a relaxed and informal setting.

Newcomers are always welcome. For more information about this group, contact John Glosser (see directory or contact ALUUC).

NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group is making a one-time change from its regular meeting date because of the Trash and Treasure sale. We will meet Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Renata and Heiko Buchloh's, 7901 Hunt Road. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions call the Buchloh's (see directory or contact ALUUC).

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Monday October 24 at 7 pm at ALUUC (sanctuary).

Frank Kopecky will address "Separation of Church and State: What are the issues when faith based organizations become agents of governmental units to deliver social services?" Issues about maintaining the "wall of separation" are becoming both more complex and more intense—one current Springfield example relates to foster care services. Frank draws insights on this subject from his experience as legal studies faculty, state agency legal counsel, and advocate for youth service improvement.

If you have questions about the Humanist Group, please contact Carol Floyd or send email to Humanist-Group@aluuc.org

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 October 12th. Anyone who has an interest is welcome to join us. No experience or flute ownership required.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us on October 25th at 7:30 p.m. at Barbara Moore's, 1800 Hastings Road. We will discuss "Howard's End" by E. M. Forster. Goodreads.com says, "Edward Morgan Forster, E.M., was an English novelist, short story writer, and essayist. He is known best for his ironic and well-plotted novels examining class difference and hypocrisy in early 20th-century British society. Forster's humanistic impulse toward understanding and sympathy may be aptly summed up in the epigraph to his 1910 novel 'Howard's End': 'Only connect.'" Everyone is welcome. Call Barbara Moore (see directory or contact ALUUC).

Books we will read in the next few months include, "The Johnstown Flood" by David McCullough; "The Abstinence Teacher" by Tom Perrotta; and "My Name is Mary Sutter" by Robin Oliveira.

SPANISH CLUB

Please join us for fun, conversation, snacks & a foreign film -- a great opportunity to practice your Spanish! Sunday October 30, 5 pm at the home of Rev. Martin Woulfe & Angela Aznarte, 1 Timber Hill Lane. Please RSVP by contacting Rev. Martin Woulfe at minister@aluuc.org

Groups & Events – continued

LABYRINTH WALK & ONENESS BLESSING

Come, Friday, October 21, and experience the ALUUC Labyrinth! Walking the labyrinth is an ancient practice, older than most religions and is a wonderful way to center yourself as this new season continues to unfold. Labyrinth walks have grown in popularity not only among UUs but among other faith traditions -- our labyrinth has been in use longer than most in central Illinois -- come see why. Adding to the spiritual depth of the experience, Carley Mattimore-Malan will be offering a Oneness Blessing to participants.

UU COMMUNION

Those members who desire to share an informal UU communion are invited to join Rev. Woulfe at ALUUC following the Labyrinth Walk. Blessing to participants.

SIMPLE ELEGANCE SUPPER CLUB & DETECTIVE AGENCY

We will meet October 11th at 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at ALUUC.

This time the foodie group will host a "secret ingredient" ALUUC Kitchen Competition. Food in the competition must be prepared in the kitchen on the evening of October 11th. At 6:30-7:00 PM Judges and SESCDA members will taste all offerings prepared with a "spice, used in a non-conventional way." If you would like to be part of the competition or receive more information about participating at monthly meetings contact: Pat Goller: (see directory or contact ALUUC).

Thanks to covenant group members who under Nancy Standen's leadership will be providing meals and snacks for workers at the coming Trash and Treasures Rummage preparation and actual sale.

MOVIE NIGHT

This month our feature will be the 2008 film **Religulous** on Sunday October 23rd beginning at 6 pm, at ALUUC. In this movie, Bill Maher considers how some aspects of several religions can become dangerous and absurd. This is free to all; refreshments will be served.

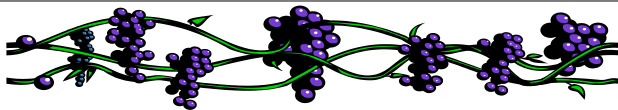


Group Photo

Save the date! Weather permitting, the date for the 2011 ALUUC Group Photo is October 23, immediately following the service. Please join us for this special occasion – the more the merrier! If you would like a copy of the 2009 or 2010 Group Photos, please e-mail Rev. Woulfe & he will send you a copy electronically.

New photos for directory being taken!

Group photo this month!



PRAIRIE GRAPEVINE CONCERT

Pete Sander

Singer/Songwriter

will perform

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

7:30 pm at ALUUC

Directory Update

If you need a new or updated photo for the directory, please see Rev. Woulfe after the service. If you have a photo already that you would like us to use, or if you have a change in your contact information, please send it to Cheryl at office@aluuc.org.





**Choir is fun,
rewarding and
spiritually
fulfilling!**

Fellowship Committee

As summer fades into autumn, the leaves begin to change and the weather becomes nippy, our hearts are warmed by the memories of a wonderful summer and the beginning of a new Church year. September was a good month. We want to thank everyone for helping out in the kitchen and on game night. Special thanks go out to Mark Hanson and Mindy Miller for their work on Sundays. Of course as usual we had a wonderful potluck. Thank you everyone who brought a dish and helped to clean up afterwards.

October promises to be just as busy. We will start to organize **Circle Dinners** after the Trash and Treasure Sale. We will have a signup sheet for people interested in hosting a Circle Dinner a week after the

sale. Please watch the announcements and e-mails for further information.

The first fellowship event will be **Game Night, October 14th, 6-9 PM** in the Commons. We invite all gamers to attend. Pizza and beverages will be served.

We will have a **UU World Conversation Café, October 25th, 6-8 PM** in the Darwin Room. The topics will include subjects from the current UU World Magazine.

The main event for October will be our annual **Halloween Party, October 28th, 6-10 PM**. Linda Haynes has graciously agreed to host and organize the Party.

We will have a, **Soup, Casserole and Stew Potluck, October 30th** after the

service. Please bring a favorite dish, side or dessert.

Also on **October 30th we have a special Walk and Talk**. We invite everyone to join fellowship to attend the UIS Theatre production of **I HATE HAMLET**, written by Paul Rudnick and directed by our very own Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson. Tickets are \$12, senior \$10. The play starts at 3:30 PM.

Finally, just a friendly appeal, **Fellowship needs volunteers for Sunday's Service**. We need people to help with Setup, Cleanup and to provide Snacks. The signup sheet is located in the hallway by the restrooms. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Randy Pratt and Pat Goller

Choir

Choir has been off to a great start! I'd like to share some of the comments spoken this past month about ALUUC Choir:

(from the congregation) "Oh good! The Choir's back!", "Your music is wonderful and inspiring", "Wonderfully & frequently, I am brought to tears by your selections" "(thumbs up)", "Great music today!"...and

(from choir members), "No matter what else is going on, the world feels right when I'm singing", "As a

member of the choir let me just chime in and explain that singing brings me joy, and that joy is expanded when I can hear the beautiful music that we create together. It truly fills my heart, and when we are so appreciated by our audience, the warmth continues on and on", "It's so rewarding to hear so many lovely voices singing together!", "I have always felt that music reaches a depth of spirituality that words, including the best of theology, cannot reach. All the better when we participate rather than

only listen!", "I thought there might be a place for another male voice. So I thought I'd give it a try, and so far it's been fun."

Choir IS fun, rewarding, and spiritually fulfilling. Consider joining! **We practice @ 9:30 a.m. Sundays**. For more information, please contact Kathy Schultz at choir@aluuc.org or Bonnie Ettinger at music@aluuc.org.



Benevolence Fund



Please consider making a contribution to ALUUC's Benevolence Fund. This fund is utilized by the minister and the Pastoral Care Committee to assist our members and friends who are experiencing financial distress. The fund is currently running low. Any contribution is appreciated. You can send a check to ALUUC or add it to the collection plate; please write "benevolence fund" in the memo line.
Thank you!

Milestones

Carol Kneedler's father, Francis A. Kneedler, 86, of Mason City passed away on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at his home.



Membership Certificates

If you were not able to attend a New Member Welcoming Ceremony in the past few years, you may not have received your membership certificate. If you would like to receive yours, please notify Rev. Woulfe.

**Learn
more about
UUism
at the
New to UU
Session**

New to UU Orientation Sessions in October

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 infor-

mal session, and meet other new people as well as Rev. Woulfe and our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon. The next session will be held on Monday, October 17th from 7-9 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 Barnes Schultz

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

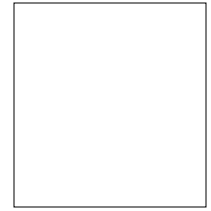


Electronics & Communication	Jason Kluge	ecc@aluuc.org
- Newsletter	Linda Haynes	newsletter@aluuc.org
- Webmaster	Carol Kneeder	webmaster@aluuc.org
Facilities	Kent & Gwen Childs	facilities@aluuc.org
- Aesthetics	Gwen Childs	aesthetics@aluuc.org
- Flower	Vi Lanum	flower@aluuc.org
Fellowship	Randy Pratt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

October 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Zen meditation 9:30 am
2 Choir 9:30am Sunday Service 10:30 am T&T Sale Set-up Begins	3 T&T Sale Set-up Noon-8pm	4 Landscaping Committee 10-12:00 am T&T Set-up Noon-8 pm	5 T&T Sale Set-up Noon-8 pm	6 T&T Sale Set-up Noon-8 pm	7 T&T Sale Set-up Noon-5pm T&T Sale 5 -8 pm	8 T&T Sale 8-1 pm Fill a bag 1-2 pm 2-3Clean-up
9 Choir 9:30am Sunday Service 10:30 am Fair Trade Sales	10 Dream Group 7:00 pm	11 Board meeting 7:00 pm Supper Club 6-8 pm	12 Flute Circle 7:00 pm	13 Meditation 7:00 pm	14 Bridge 7 pm Kids Club 6-8 pm Game Night 6-9 pm	15 Zen meditation 9:30 am
16 Choir 9:30am Sunday Service 10:30 am Committee Meetings	17 New to UU class 7-9 pm	18 Prairie Grapevine 7:30 pm	19	20 News Group 7:00 pm Buchloh's Meditation 7:00 pm	21 Labyrinth Walk 7 - 9pm	22 Zen meditation 9:30 am
23 Choir 9:30 Sunday Service 10:30 am Group Photo Movie Night 6:00 pm	24 Humanist Discussion Group 7:00 pm	25 Conversation Café 6-9 pm Book Group 7:30 pm Barbara Moore's	26	27 Meditation 7:00 pm	28 Halloween Party 6-10 pm	29 Work Day 8:00 am Zen meditation 9:30 am
30 Choir 9:30 Sunday Service 10:30 am Potluck Walk & Talk Spanish Group 5:00 pm	31					

**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