



# ALUUC Focus

Volume 1 Issue 2

August 2011

## Special points of interest:

- Board Retreat
- Rabbi Barry Marks
- Social Action Planning
- Change for Change
- Game Night
- Project Lemonade
- Fun Fundraiser

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## From the Board President

The ALUUC Board of Directors will participate in a retreat August 13, 2011. In addition to orienting new board members to congregation policies and procedures, the agenda includes a review of the goals and achievements of past years and establishment of future priorities. Goals for 2010-2011 included:

1. Initiate a Long Term Plan for Capital Development and Building Maintenance.
2. Initiate an assessment and support a Healthy Congregation ideal.
3. Assimilation of the new Membership Coordinator;
4. Support "Standing on the Side of Love" initiatives.
5. Establish a sustainable Adult RE program.
6. Identify and market the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Central Midwest District of the UUA.

Although more could be achieved in each area, there will be an opportunity for renewal or replacement of these goals and all members and friends of the ALUUC should feel free to submit comments either in advance of the retreat, or at any other time prior to the beginning of programming this fall.

Two (2) important Board Committees still need chairs and members: Finance; and Welcoming & Publicity. Please notify any member of the Board of your willingness to serve.

The work of the Facilities Committee deserves special praise for property maintenance and other initiatives conducted this spring and summer, under the inspired leadership of Co-Chairs Kent and Gwen Childs. Many individuals contributed time, energy and expertise to mowing and trimming the grass; completion of the exterior painting; relief of the septic system; repair of the roof; upgrading the main sign; comprehensive rehabilitation of the courtyard, special plantings; and the classroom subdivision. Without a doubt, everyone connected to the ALUUC appreciates these developments.



ALUUC building & sign from the south side.

Only a few short weeks remain of the Summer of 2011. The intense heat and world events often come to mind and can interrupt daily living. More often, I stop, take deep, cleansing breaths and focus on moving deliberately and positively forward. May it be so with you.

Kurt DeWeese



## From the Minister

In a few weeks, I will resume my preaching duties – I will offer a seven-part sermon series on the current UU Principles. The first will focus on the “inherent worth and dignity of every person.” I think that the importance of this for me is pressing, as I wrestle with the real life application of these principles, especially in the wake of another mass murder.

One of the stories that has emerged this week is that several people whose lives were scarred by the Oklahoma City bombing have reached out to the victims’ families in Oslo, Norway. I marvel at those whose lives have been touched by senseless violence, and yet find the strength to offer comfort to those now in pain.

Given the reports and images of the latest outrage, it is easy to feel anger. Such events rouse a strong sense of horror. Naturally, such events readily awakens one’s sense of compassion for the victims and their families and friends. Sometimes, not always, there is a desire for justice. At other moments, the desire I feel has more in common with a thirst for vengeance -- especially since so many of the victims in Oslo were teenagers, murdered in cold blood. How difficult it is to feel compassion for those who create carnage in the world, let alone to believe that they still have “inherent worth and dignity.”

Intellectually, I know that if we lived in a purely mechanistic universe, one solely of cause and consequence, and if the consequence was merely to return harm for harm, we would live in a desperate continuum of pain. Clearly, there are people who despite having endured terrible pain, have achieved a powerful level of compassion and forgiveness. I am humbled by such people.

There are other similar stories that come to mind. One of the most poignant stories told by the Dalai Lama involves his conversation with a monk who had been held and tortured for years by the Chinese. If I remember the story correctly, the Dalai Lama asked the monk what he was most afraid of during that ordeal. The monk told the Dalai Lama that his greatest fear was that he would lose his compassion for his tormentors. Similarly, I am reminded me of the response offered Amish families of the girls murdered by a deranged gunman in October, 2006. You may recall that they offered consolation to the parents of the gunman who had taken his own life after the rampage. I regard these as moving examples of a very deep spirituality.

During his ministry, Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about “soul force.” So too did Gandhi. Soul force is the deep spiritual well of

an individual that allows him or her to move beyond undeserved suffering and to strive for compassion and forgiveness. King and Gandhi staunchly believed that this was our greatest asset if we were to break the cycle of pain and suffering. They regarded it not just as a tactic to counter violence, but as a means to transform undeserved suffering into a higher spiritual response, which would move all humanity towards a better world. As I reflect on the principles heralded by our tradition, and as we approach the tenth anniversary of the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, I reckon that I, and perhaps others, could use a strong dose of such “soul force.” Maybe this will remind us of “the better angels of our nature,” and to act accordingly.

- Martin



## Sunday Morning Services

**August 7**

### Dealing With Fear

**John Glosser**

Fear is a basic human emotion. Fear has the power to paralyze and cripple people. In this sermon, Rev. John Glosser offers resources and strategies for managing and conquering fear.



**August 14**

### Song Sunday: Top Twelve Favorite Hymns

**Craig Bailey**

It's a Sunday to sing your heart out – no sermon, just songs. We'll sing the top 12 favorite songs as determined by a congregational survey. Craig Bailey, Kathy McGuire and Penny Wollan-Kriel will coordinate this songfest.

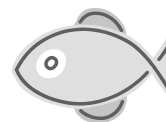


**August 21**

### Jew and Food

**Rabbi Barry Marks**

Rabbi Barry Marks of Temple Israel will provide insight and answers to these questions: What religious significance does food have in Judaism? What have been the unique contributions of Jews to American cuisine? What is gefilte fish? And why is traditional kosher wine so sweet and syrupy?



**August 28**

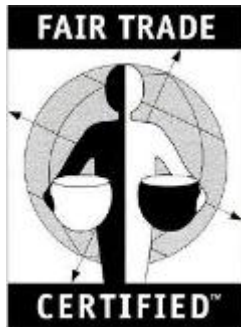
### The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person

**Rev. Martin Woulfe**

This service will mark the beginning of a seven-part Sermon Series, exploring the background and relevance of the Seven Principles. What does it mean, really? Is this particular principle unique to UUs, and why do we place it first?



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 Cof-

fee Project is now being served on Sundays, following the service.

**Next sale date  
August 14th**

Thanks so much to ALUUC SAC committee member Vinnie Gupta for coordinating the sales!

## The Social Action Committee

### Conversation Café - Immigration as a Moral Issue

Seventeen ALUCC members and friends participated in the six-week study program - Immigration as a Moral Issue that was held during June and July. As was mentioned in previous newsletter articles, 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). The ALUUC Social Action Committee will be discuss-

ing the next steps at the September 18 2011-2012 planning meeting. For more information: <http://www.aluuc.org/about-aluuc/governance/committees/social-action-committee/immigration-as-a-moral-issue>

### Social Action 2011-2012 Planning Committee Meeting

**Sunday, September 18  
Noon-2:00 pm  
Lunch provided**

The ALUUC Social Action Committee (SAC) will be meeting to discuss plans for the coming year and we need your help. Any interested ALUUC members and friends are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending please contact SAC Chair, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant at [SAC@ALUUC.org](mailto:SAC@ALUUC.org).



### International Day of Peace

Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, ALUUC SAC Chair, will be attending a planning meeting on August 8 with a committee of the Grassroots Inter-Faith Team to plan an interfaith service on September 21. Additional information will be included in the September *ALUUC Focus*.

## Change For Change

Thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members and friends, **\$175.50** was collected for the Central Illinois Food Bank. The Social Action Committee has selected the **First Day Fund** for the August Change for Change program. The "First Day Fund" is an organization of community volunteers pledged to help school-age children begin the first day of school with a chance to be successful. To this end they work to provide essential school supplies to as

many needy children as possible. An estimated 8,000 children in Springfield Schools meet the federal guidelines for free and reduced school lunch programs. A majority of these students enter school without the basic supplies necessary to complete the tasks before them. The First Day Fund's goal is to provide required school supplies to each eligible student by seeking funds for purchases in bulk and by securing sponsors to adopt individual

students. First Day Fund does not pay salaries or advertising costs, and is not completely dependent on community involvement to attain its goals. All products and/or funds are utilized for the sole purpose of providing school supplies. The number of applications honored is dependent entirely upon community support.



## 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](http://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

Social Action Committee Members include:

Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Delinda Chapman, Vinnie Gupta, Doug Liberati, Teresa Liberati, 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](mailto:SAC@ALUUC.org)





*“Church, State,  
and the Crisis in  
American  
Secularism”  
will be  
discussed in  
Humanist  
Discussion  
Group*



## Groups & Events

### BRIDGE GROUP

The August meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, August 19th 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.

### 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 August 10th. 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.

### NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us at 7:00 p.m. August 4th at Heiko and Renata Buchloh's. Call Renata if you have any questions.

### HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Monday August 22 at 7 pm in the ALUUC sanctuary. Carol Floyd will review the book “Church, State, and the Crisis in American Secularism” (by Bruce Ledewitz). Law professor Bruce Ledewitz thinks that humanists are tilting at windmills in efforts aimed at driving some “religious” language out of the public square. He seeks common ground for believers and nonbelievers regarding the law of church and state, arguing that allowing government to promote higher law values through the use of religious imagery would resolve the current impasse in the interpretation of the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

(Ledewitz's own two page summary) <http://www.acslaw.org/acsblog/overcoming-the-god-wars> Let's look at the specifics of his reasoning and come to our own conclusions.

If you have questions about the Humanist Group, please contact Carol Floyd or email [HumanistGroup@aluuc.org](mailto:HumanistGroup@aluuc.org)

### LABYRINTH WALK & ONENESS BLESSING

Will resume in September.

### MOVIE NIGHT

Will resume in September.

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us at 7:30 on August 23rd at Barbara Moore's. We will discuss "Maisie Dobbs" by Jacqueline Winspear. Maisie is a "psychologist and investigator" in post World War I London. A nurse during the war, Maisie returned to London to work with her mentor, accomplished detective Dr. Maurice Blanche. When Blanche retires, Maisie opens her own detective agency. "Maisie Dobbs" was chosen as one of "Publisher's Weekly's" Best Mysteries of 2003, a "New York Times" Notable Book of the Year 2003 and an Edgar Award nominee for Best Novel 2003. The novel was the Agatha Award winner for Best First Novel in 2003.

Everyone is welcome. Call Barbara if you have any questions.

### DREAM GROUP

The Dream Group will meet on August 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room at church. 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.

## Fellowship Committee

Thank you to everyone who made July a very enjoyable month Fellowship-wise. Thanks to Clara Lily White's Family for putting together a wonderful potluck for Clara Lily White's 88th birthday. Kudos to everyone who pitched in to make it a wonderful event, we had plenty of food and fun. It would take a whole newsletter to thank everyone so if you helped it was greatly appreciated.

The Coffee House and Art Show was a flash mob success. Thank you Meg Evans for arranging the energizing dance, it literally lifted people out of their seats, (Was that Fred Dietz I saw on the dance floor?) We had a good turnout all around, wonderful art work, good

performances and an enjoyable audience. A special thank you to Gwen Childs for her help in setting up the art work. And a final thank you to everyone who has helped in the kitchen before and after Sunday especially Susan Solan, Mindy Miller, Dianne, Kurt and Marissa Deweese.

Fellowship activities are very laid back for August. We will not have a potluck this month but we will have snacks as always after service. The sign-up sheet will be back up on the clipboard and we are looking for volunteers for Sunday Services. You can volunteer for setup and cleanup or you can bring a snack. We appreciate any help you can provide.

We will have **Game Night** with a special twist. We will meet at the **Washington Park playground August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. We will provide snacks and drinks, bring the whole family.

There will also be two **Walk and Talks**, join us for a evening of **Frisbee Golf at Douglas Park, Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** and a **Lincoln Memorial Garden Summer Sunset walk, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm**.

We are planning many events for the new season, including a coffeehouse on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the rest of the summer and join us for some fun and fellowship!



**Game Night**  
at  
**Washington Park**  
**August 12th**  
**6:00 pm**



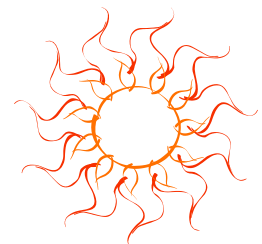
### MARINA V CONCERT

On Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, about 70 fans of all ages attended a special concert by Marina V and Nick Baker, hosted by ALUUC. Marina V performed for an hour and a half, in both English and Russian, and included songs from her latest CD, "Small Collection of Interesting Songs." This event raised \$361.25 for ALUUC.



## Flannery Wheeler

**as our newest member!**





**ALUUC  
Annual**



**Trash 'n  
Treasure  
Sale**



## It's a TNT Party!



By the time you read this, 92 people will be lined up to run our biggest fund raiser of the year: The Trash & Treasure Sale! This year promises to be our biggest ever...and the most fun! The week will be capped off with a great party on Saturday night.

**Please save the following for the TNT sale:**

- Children's clothing hangers
- Newspapers (for wrapping our sold items)
- Plastic and paper bags

**Bring them to church on Oct 2**

**The Neon Donation Cards are Back!**

**We need donations! The TNT sale doesn't happen without your contributions and those of your friends, neighbors and co-workers outside of ALUUC. To encourage your friends to donate, we have cards with all the relevant information. See the basket in the foyer! You can't miss them. Please take a few and hand them out.**

If you would like to work the sale and weren't asked to join a committee, please see Victoria on any Sunday, after church. We are always happy to welcome more of our members and friends to the group.

## Project Lemonade

In cooperation with other local groups, Rev. Martin Woulfe has invited ALUUC to contribute to "Project Lemonade" in response to the protests staged in Springfield by members of the Westboro Baptist Church on June 18<sup>th</sup>. To date, \$215.00 has been donated by members and friends of ALUUC to this

effort, whose name is inspired by the old saying, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." If you have not made a donation yet but would like to do so, please drop off a check at ALUUC made out to Project Lemonade. According to the organizers, 100% of all donations will be given to three recipient organiza-

tions: (1) the United Service Organization (USO), (2) the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) or (3) the National Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Task Force Foundation (NGLTF Foundation). Money donated to any of these three organizations is tax deductible.



## CRE News:

The RE Program has a lot of new and exciting things to look forward to this fall. RE Classes will resume on August 28, 2011 and the children will find a lot of new faces when they arrive in their classrooms. There are a few new volunteer teachers ready and willing to give of their talents. The children will also welcome back a few of the same teachers from last year

and of course their CRE.

I will be presenting some new material at the Children's Worship that happen once a month. There will also be new curriculum being used in the 7th and 8th grade classroom. In fact, ALUUC has been one of a few churches chosen to field test this new curriculum titled "Building Bridges".

Also, we have two new classrooms. The Darwin room has been divided to give us more space for our expanding RE program. I am so excited about all this new stuff and I know the congregation will be too. So, come join us at the RE Open House (date to be announced soon) to check it all out.

***"When life gives  
you lemons,  
make  
lemonade."***

## New to UU Orientation Sessions in August

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 Sunday, August 14, noon, and again on Mon-

day August 15, 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](mailto:newsletter@aluuc.org)

### Change of Address or Email:

Changes can be submitted by email to [Updates@aluuc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

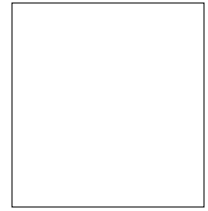
Electronics & Communication	Jason Kluge	ecc@aluuc.org
- Newsletter	Linda Haynes	newsletter@aluuc.org
- Webmaster	Carol Kneeder	webmaster@aluuc.org
Facilities	Kent Childs	facilities@aluuc.org
- Aesthetics	Renata Buchloh	aesthetics@aluuc.org
- Flower	Vi Lanum	flower@aluuc.org
Fellowship	Randy Pratt	fellowship@aluuc.org
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



# August 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Dream Group 7:00 pm	2 Board meeting 7 pm	3	4 News Group 7:00 pm The Buchloh's Home Meditation 7:00 pm	5	6 Zen meditation 9:30 am
7 Sunday Service 10:30 am	8	9 Landscaping Committee 10 to 12 noon	10 Flute Circle 7:00 pm	11 Meditation 7:00 pm	12 Game Night 6:00 pm Washington Park	13 Zen meditation 9:30 am Board Retreat
14 Sunday Service 10:30 am Fair Trade Sales New to UU Class 12, noon	15 New to UU Class 7:00 pm.	16	17	18 Walk & Talk Douglas Park 6:00 pm Meditation 7:00 pm	19 Bridge Group 7:00 pm Barbara Moore's Home	20 Zen meditation 9:30 am
21 Sunday Service 10:30 am Committee Meetings & RE Teacher Orientation 12, noon	22 Humanist Discussion Group 7:00 pm	23 Book Group 7:00 pm Barbara Moore's Home	24	25 Meditation 7:00 pm	26	27 Zen meditation 9:30 am
28 Sunday Service 10:30 am RE Class Begins	29	30	31 Lincoln Memorial Gardens Sunset Walk 7:00 pm			

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