



ALUUC Focus

Newsletter for the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation
www.aluuc.com



FEBRUARY 2011

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.

February 6 ~ Beauty in A Spot of Danger

Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk

It is often easy to feel grateful when times are easy-but how do we live in gratitude in challenging times? This is a "Change for Change Sunday."

February 13 ~ In Praise of Spiritual Mentors

Rev. Martin Woulfe

I have benefitted from many mentors, ranging from family members, friends, classmates and ministers. In this service, I will share some of the religious insights that have been impressed upon me through the seasons. This service will include a new Member recognition ceremony.

February 20 ~ On Covenants and Common Sense

Rev. Martin Woulfe

It is sometimes claimed that being a leader among UUs is akin to herding cats. In this service, we will reflect on the covenants which have been forged through the decades and we will honor those individuals who have served as Board Presidents of ALUUC. A pot luck will be held this morning following the service.

February 27 ~ Creationism's Second Wind

Rev. Martin Woulfe

Many UUs are familiar with the battles between advocates of Evolutionary Science and proponents of Creationism & Intelligent Design. Many may not be aware that these skirmishes are still quite current; I will share some of the recent developments.

March 06 ~ Acting in Good Faith: The Life and Legacy of Henri Nouwen

Ed Wojcicki

Author, journalist and UIS administrator Ed Wojcicki will discuss the life's work of Father Henri Nouwen (1932-1996). Despite his well-studied and deep faith, Nouwen, a Dutch-born Catholic priest discovered he was not immune from spiritual conflict and bouts of depression. Mr. Wojcicki corresponded with Nouwen for 10 years, and serves on the board of the Henri Nouwen Society. This is a "Change for Change Sunday."

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

From the Minister...

In seminary, I was introduced to the concept of “paradigm shifts,” a term first used by Thomas Kuhn in his book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, to describe distinct breaks with past world-views. One famous example was the Copernican Revolution, which supplanted the Ptolemaic view of the cosmos. Of course, there have been many more such paradigm shifts over the centuries, in science, art, politics and religion – to name but a few.



Quite recently, I saw two lists that reflect a seemingly ever accelerating rate of change: professions that are becoming quickly outmoded and technologies that are becoming rapidly obsolete. Others advise that native English speakers should learn Spanish for the present decade and Chinese for the coming decades. These suggestions, coupled with my review of Beloit’s College annual “Mindset List” (which details the oh-so-different life experiences of incoming freshmen) creates the strong impression that the world in which I was born has undergone a remarkable transformation. As one who was born in the final years of the post WWII baby boom, I often feel that I share much more in common with those who preceded me than those born later.

Closer to home, I am startled by the level and breadth of Celeste’s homework. Here is concrete evidence of the paradigm shift I was referring to! This very week, Celeste has been wrestling with Newton’s Laws of Motion, the early dynastic history of China and algebra. A pretty tall order for a Sixth Grader, not to mention her parents! Such things were not part of my education until well into high school (if then), and I must confess that many lessons were not carried very far from the doors of academia. Last year, we both watched a few episodes of “Are You Smarter than A Fifth Grader?” until it became evident that many “facts” that I had memorized decades ago have been superseded by newer discoveries and reclassifications. I must confess that I have a hard time letting go of Pluto as a planet – and that is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. What next – a change in my zodiac sign?

I also hear some people bemoan the glut of information that confronts our generation, only a few strokes away on the keyboard. Information overload! Most importantly, we must remind ourselves that not everything one reads on-line (or in journals, newspapers, etc.) is correct – in fact, I do caution Celeste (and remind myself) of this frequently. I do not go as far as a stranger whom I once met in Ireland thirty years ago who opined, “Believe half of what you hear and nothing that you read.” Still, we are left with the difficult task of sifting through the dross for “the truth.”

If we are indeed growing into a new paradigm, perhaps the past may yet offer some guidance. I am reminded my first lecture in college, by Dr. Pasquale Di Pasquale, who had recently been named the new President of Loras College. Dr. Pasquale welcomed us and our parents and defended the value of a liberal arts education, stating that the main purpose therein was to teach us how to think critically. I suspect that he anticipated that “facts” and their interpretations would change in our lifetime. It was a lesson I took to heart, and one I hope to encourage in my own household and this congregation. If we can think critically, we will, I trust, be able to navigate through the ever challenging and changing paradigms of information, knowledge and relationships. I will likewise continue to commit myself to this religious movement, which encourages us to guide ourselves via constellations of values rather than creeds. In the meanwhile, though, does anyone reading this know much about Newton’s Laws?

- Martin

A few UUs who attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast hosted by Frontiers International on January 17: Penny, Pamela, Jack, Tina, Kurt, Tabitha, Delinda & Kathy



From the Board President...

The position of ALUUC Secretary of the Board of Directors is still vacant. Anyone wishing to take on a more active role in church governance to complete the term of this vacancy should contact Berkley Moore, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

With the approval of the Board of Directors, the existing INB mortgage has been extended. Assuming all goes according to schedule with the pay out and roll overs of the payments for our other loan with the Unitarian Universalist Association; this should result in full payment of our existing capital debt by 2017. I will soon be proposing a new long-term planning process to guide future capital developments.

The next few weeks present challenges for many members and friends of the ALUUC. I will be especially focused on post-surgical rehabilitation, so I don't expect to relate well to my regular roles as husband, father, son, legislative research analyst, and President of the ALUUC. I am especially grateful that so many duties have been and will be taken on by others. I hope to return to active duty in a few weeks. To somewhat paraphrase Rev. Martin Woulfe, "This is not a season of darkness and depression. It is one in which we are reserving energy that will enable us to spring forward with strength and purpose." I lean forward into the cold harsh wind of the coming days, expecting warmth and renewal in short order.



~ Kurt DeWeese

New Member Recognition Ceremony

A New Member Welcoming Ceremony will be held during the service on Sunday, February 13. The following persons have joined since the previous such ceremony and are invited to participate:

Julio Barrenzuela	Larry Dunkirk	Neha Patel-Dunkirk	Peggy Patty
C. Bryant Flatt	Rozanne Flatt	Deborah Leahy	Gloria Simo

New to UU Orientation

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. We will meet on Wednesday, February 9, 7 – 9 pm. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain. Child care will be provided if requested.

2011 ALUUC Directory

We are looking for a person or persons interested in serving as the editor for this year's Member & Friend directory. The majority of this volunteer opportunity involves organizing and checking the photos and contact information which have been gathered. If you would like to explore this opportunity, please speak with Rev. Martin Woulfe.

Member & Friend Directory

If you would like to have a new or updated photo included in the next Directory, please see or contact Rev. Martin Woulfe.



From the Board Treasurer

January 25, 2011

Per our financial statements for December 2010:

Operating revenue for December 2010: \$21,843.
Operating expenses for December 2010: \$12,185.
Mortgage liability paid for Dec. 2010: \$ 2,028.
Net in-flow: \$ 7,630.

Cheryl and I will be sending out annual statements in the next few days so that by the time you read this, you should have your statement. This is your tax statement for 2010. Note that a calendar year statement overlaps two church or pledge years. What you can deduct from your 2010 taxes are the amounts you gave between Jan 1, 2010 and Dec 31, 2010. Our pledge year runs from July 1 through June 30.

If you have any questions about how this or other financial issues, please feel free to ask me. I would be happy to show you the process. A copy of the current financial statement is posted on the Board's bulletin board in the hallway.

Victoria Vincent, ALUUC Treasurer

Welcome New Members

ALUUC is pleased to share that four individuals have signed the membership book during the month of January:

C. Bryant Flatt "Bim" and Rozanne Flatt "Posy," 1/1/11
Peggy Patty, 1/16/11
Gloria Simo, 1/19/11

Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newest members!

JOIN THE FUN!

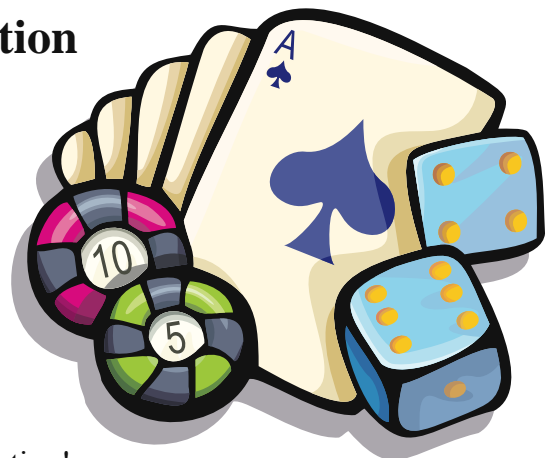
ALUUC's 2011 Fantasy Auction
will be held
Saturday, March 5th
6:00 - 11:00 pm

ALUUC, 745 Woodside Rd., Springfield, IL

Tickets are \$15.00 in advance
\$20.00 at the door

The price of admission includes:

- The ever popular Silent Auction & Live Auction!
- A scrumptious buffet of hors d'oeuvres & drinks!
- Live entertainment: **Elvis Himself & a Drag Show**
- Plus there will be games to play & prizes!



Contact Information

CLERGY:			
Minister Minister Emeritus	Rev. Martin Woulfe Rev. Berkley Moore		minister@aluuc.org minister-emeritus@aluuc.org
STAFF:			
Office Manager RE Coordinator Membership Coordinator Music/Pianist	Cheryl Wycoff Marla Johnson Susan Solon Bonnie Ettinger		office@aluuc.org CRE@aluuc.org welcome@aluuc.org music@aluuc.org
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:			
President Vice President Treasurer Secretary Board Members	Kurt DeWeese Doug Liberati Victoria Vincent Phillip Anderson Carol Floyd Chelsea Fry Brian Reynolds Roger Powers Cathy Talano		president@aluuc.org vicepresident@aluuc.org treasurer@aluuc.org secretary@aluuc.org
COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION			
Committee on Ministry Nominating Committee Endowment Trust	Pending Appointment* Berkley Moore Jeffrey Bennett		CoM@aluuc.org nominating@aluuc.org endowment@aluuc.org
COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD:			
Electronics & Communications - Newsletter - Webmaster Facilities - Aesthetics - Flower Fellowship Finance Green Sanctuary Welcoming & Publicity Pastoral Care Program Religious Education (RE) Social Action	Jason Kluge Pam Daniel Carol Kneedler Kent Childs Renata Buchloh Vi Lanum Randy Pratt Meg Evans Michael Plog Jeff Bennett 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 pastoralcare@aluuc.org program@aluuc.org RE@@aluuc.org SAC@aluuc.org

*Contact Office Manager for further information.

ALERT: All of the main locks for the ALUUC building have been re-set, so that those persons requiring access must determine if they need a new key, or arrange to gain access for occasional uses or special event purposes. Procedures have been established to formally authorize the issuance of keys. Please check with Rev. Martin Woulfe or President Kurt DeWeese regarding such authorization.

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 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.

Groups and Other Events

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us at Barbara Moore's on February 22nd at 7:30 p.m. to discuss "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. When releasing the 50th anniversary edition of the book last year, the publisher's blurb starts with a quote from the book: "'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird'

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel—a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with rich humor and unswerving honesty the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for justice—but the weight of history will only tolerate so much."

Future books we will read include, "A Thousand Splendid Suns", by Khaled Hosseini. If you have any questions call Barbara Moore.

BRIDGE GROUP

The February meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, February 11th at 7:00, is scheduled to be at the home of Barbara Moore. Call Chris Romaine to confirm that we will meet or talk to Barbara Moore.

DREAM GROUP

The Dream Group will meet in the Emerson Room at the church on Monday, February 7th, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is an opportunity for folks to share and discuss their recent dreams in a relaxed and informal setting. Newcomers are most welcome. For more information about this group, please contact John Glosser.

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 will be February 9. Anyone who has an interest is welcome to join us. No experience or flute ownership required.

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet Monday February 28 at 7:00 pm in the ALUUC sanctuary: Mike Haynes will present the 30 minute video Brief History of Disbelief: Colin McGinn followed by discussion. In the video, English philosopher McGinn speaks about the various reasons for not believing in God, and some of the reasons for. He draws a distinction between nontheism (lack of belief in a deity) and antitheism (active opposition to theism). He also speculates about a post-theistic society.

If you have questions about the February meeting please contact Mike Haynes. Please direct any other questions you have about the group to Carol Floyd.

LABYRINTH WALK

The regular Labyrinth Walk will be held here on Friday, February 18, 7 – 9 pm. All are welcome to join us in this ancient spiritual practice. Participants will have the opportunity to receive a "Oneness Blessing" during this event. The public is invited to attend; admission is free.

MOVIE NIGHT

Please join us on Sunday, February 20 at 6 pm for a special film, "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North," which explores the legacy of slavery as it relates to one New England family, the De Wolfs of Bristol, RI. Filmmaker Katrina Browne, herself a De Wolf relative, un-masks how the slave trade enriched the fortunes of her ancestors and how it continues to affect the current generation. A discussion will follow.



Groups and Other Events

NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us on February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at Frank and Linda Kopecky's. Everyone is welcome. Call Frank or Linda if you have any questions.

SPANISH INTEREST GROUP

The Spanish Interest Group will meet at the home of Rev. Woulfe on Sunday, February 27, at 5 pm for fun & conversation; the group will then go out to a local Mexican restaurant. All are welcome, beginners as well as native speakers. Please RSVP.

THEOLOGIES IN DIALOGUE

The Theologies in Dialogue group has decided to take a hiatus for the 2010-2011 church year. We plan to meet again in September, 2011. Please contact John Glosser or Craig Bailey with questions or comments.

The Coalition to Promote Human Dignity Needs You

The Coalition for the Common Good is a Springfield-based organization that discusses and addresses pressing local issues. This group meets on the first Monday of the month at 5 pm at the Lincoln Library; if you are interested in learning more about this group and would like to participate, please speak with either Cathy McKamey, Vinnie Gupta or Rev. Martin Woulfe.

GSIA

The Greater Springfield Interfaith Association invites you to attend its next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 1st from 11:45 am-1:30 pm. The meeting will be hosted by the Unity Church of Practical Christianity (417 East Cordelia Street, Southern View) and will feature various members sharing their faith journey. Bring your own lunch.

Do you have a musical gift to share?

One of the treasures of worship at ALUUC is music. Over the years, many individuals have shared their gifts, using a variety of styles, during Sunday worship. Children as well as adults have participated over the years, from singing soloists to those who played a musical instrument. Worship, while it is not a performance per se, is an opportunity to express yourself amongst the most supportive, and appreciative, group of your fellow UUs! If you would like to share your talent during a Sunday service, please contact Craig Bailey.

PRAIRIE GRAPEVINE FOLKLORE SOCIETY

Tom Irwin & Ken Carlyle – Singer/Songwriter/Folk Music

Tuesday, 8 February 2011 - 7:30pm

Abraham Lincoln Universalist Unitarian Church

Donation: \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for members, \$5 for students, \$25 for family

The Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society presents an evening with two fine singer/song writers from Springfield, Tom Irwin and Ken Carlyle. For over thirty years Tom Irwin has been taking life experiences, turning them into songs, and giving those songs life through performances and recordings. The 51 year-old singer-songwriter opened for Willie Nelson & Family at the 2001 Illinois State Fair Grandstand and has performed with many other popular artists. Readers of Illinois Times voted him Best of Springfield for musician (2007), solo musician (2004), male musician (2002), male vocalist (2001), and folk band (1994 & 1999). Ken Carlyle has been well-known in the Springfield area for his band, Ken Carlyle and the Cadillac Cowboys, and tonight he will entertain us with a solo performance.

For more information log onto the Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society Website at:
<http://www.prairiegrapevine.org>

Adult Religious Education

There are many opportunities for adult religious education at the ALUUC. Loosely defined, adult religious education ranges from traditional course offerings with a religious focus, to discussion groups, and to sharing of information and skills between members and friends. Reverend Woulfe offers Introduction to UU Courses on a regular basis and additional courses with a religious subject periodically. Diana DeWeese has organized a Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Workshop. This is an adult education curriculum for women. As defined on the Cakes webpage “this workshop series examines important elements of today’s women’s lives; personal, interpersonal and societal. It examines how our culture has been influenced by Judeo Christian values. The primary question raised is: How would your life have been different if, when growing up, the divine image had been female?”

A new course offering on cooking vegetarian meals is being offered by Margaret Demaree, one of our newer members. This course will be offered on four Tuesday evenings – Feb. 8 & 15 and March 15 & 22 at the home of Linda and Frank Kopecky. There will be a \$10 cost for food that will be prepared. Enrollment is limited to eight. Attendance at all four sessions is not necessary. For registration and additional information check the church bulletin board or email Margaret.

Also, there are several groups, each with an different focus, that meet on a regular basis. For example, there is a News Covenant Group that meets monthly to discuss items in the news and a Spanish language group that meets monthly to engage in ordinary Spanish conversation and popular culture. There is also a Humanist group that also meets monthly to discuss topics about humanistic reasoning, values and morality.

A Theologies in Dialogue group is on hiatus for the current church year and welcomes suggestions for possible future focus and programs that would justify reconvening it.” Additionally, the Fellowship Committee is developing a Conversation Café that will provide the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics following the Sunday Service and at additional times.

If you have an idea for an educational program our would like more information about any of the existing groups, contact Rev. Woulfe, Frank Kopecky or Linda Kopecky. Take the opportunity to participate in the many activities offered by the Congregation.

Conversation Cafe

Conversation Cafés are open, hosted conversations in a café-like environment. It could be at church, a café or someone’s house—anywhere people gather to make sense of our world. At a Conversation Cafe there is nothing to join, no homework, no agenda, just a simple process that helps to shift us from small talk to BIG talk, conversations that matter.

Conversation Café Schedule for February 2011.

Feb 6th - Conversation Café: “What Does Fellowship mean to you?”

Emerson Room: 12 - 1 pm Host: Randy Pratt

Feb 13th - Conversation Café: “Food for the Soul”

Emerson Room 12 - 1 pm Host: Michael Plog and Nancy Standon

Feb 20th - Conversation Café: “Defining Wellness”

Emerson Room 6 - 8 pm Host: John Malan

Feb 27th -Conversation Café: “Church Cookbook”

Emerson Room 12 - 1 pm Host: Rob Ewart

Children's Religious Education

Kid's Club

All Mad Scientists are invited to the "Mad Lab" at the UU on February 4, 2011 from 6pm til 8 pm. for a Kid's Club event. Parents, remember that the lab is meant for children in grades K-5th and to r.s.v.p. to the mad scientist in charge, Marla Johnson your CRE at cre@aluuc.org.

RE News

Here we grow again! I know that phrase is a little corny but it really expresses the excitement I feel about the great things going on with the Religious Education program this year. We are averaging over 35 children in attendance every Sunday. This number doesn't include the Senior Youth who informally meet on Sunday mornings and then formally meet Sunday afternoons. The classrooms are so full the RE committee has had to decide to move a classroom to the RE Commons. (As a side note, please remember that there are children and volunteer teachers trying to have a meaningful classtime in that area as you are leaving services.)

The RE program has a great paid staff and volunteers on the job every Sunday to meet the children's religious education needs. This staff includes experienced child care workers, led by Amanda Clark, that operate our nursery. Kelly Anderson, a volunteer, has helped our Senior Youth Group to transition from their former advisors to their new ones and kept them a thriving functional group. (I hope everyone enjoyed their pancakes last Sunday.)

Also, the new curriculum, Tapestry of Faith, chosen for this year has been well received. The OWL curriculum is being competently presented to eight children this RE year. I know there has to be so much I am failing to mention. Excuse me for "tooting our horn" but I couldn't resist.

Why This Congregation Recycles All It Can Recycle

Recycling is often praised for keeping waste out of Illinois landfills, for these eventually leak toxic substances into surrounding land and water and emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas that adds to the global climate crisis. While this is the immediate benefit of recycling, the most important benefits are the contribution it makes to saving energy and mitigating the depletion of natural resources. Recycling is a contribution all of us can easily make to slowing the atmospheric buildup of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide. Greenhouse gases are emitted primarily by burning fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum, natural gas and wood. It is the buildup of these gases that is the major cause of gradually rising temperatures, melting icebergs and glaciers, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and the increasing pattern of extremely volatile weather patterns around the world.

How does recycling conserve energy? Recycled paper, glass, plastic, aluminum and steel cans all can be processed and made into new products using minimal amounts of energy (think coal and petroleum) and water compared to that required to mine metal ores, harvest trees, dig for coal and extract petroleum, transport all raw materials, and then manufacture the product. A few examples: +making new cans from recycled aluminum saves 96% of the energy including non-renewable bauxite ore that would be needed to manufacture cans starting with mining the ore; +glass is 100% recyclable into new glass bottles and doing so saves about 70% of the energy required when not starting with recycled bottles; +recycling plastic items that all bear the same plastic number (1-5 and no. 7) can save at least 70% of the petroleum or natural gas used to make virgin plastic; +manufacturing new paper from recycled (especially white) paper can conserve 60-70% of the total energy need to make virgin paper.

In today's economy it's also useful to note that the recycling industry provides jobs for thousands of persons who might otherwise be unemployed.

This is the first of a series of articles presented by your Green Sanctuary Committee.

ALUUC Social Action Committee and Unitarian Service Committee (UUSC) Update

Fair Trade Products

The ALUUC Social Action Committee (SAC) will be selling Fair Trade products (coffee, teas, cocoa, and chocolate bars) the third 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. Coffee from the UUSC Coffee Project is now being served on Sundays, following the service. Next sale date— February 13. Be sure to buy your Valentine a chocolate bar!



Change for Change

Thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members and friends, \$165.47 was collected for the January Change for Change recipient - Young Parent Support Services Program of Family Service Center of Sangamon County. The Social Action Committee has selected Equality Illinois for the February Change for Change program. The Mission of Equality Illinois is to secure, protect and defend equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Illinois. Equality Illinois envisions a fair and unified Illinois where everyone is treated equally with dignity and respect and where all people live freely regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Springfield Overflow Shelter Update

On the first 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. On December 19, \$588.75 was collected to support the monthly meal. 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. If you are interested in volunteering (February 6 and March 6), contact Delinda Chapman, delindac@gmail.com. The volunteers for January 2 were Delinda Chapman, Debby Hagan, Mark Hanson, Pete Lazare, Tom Vaught, Kitty Wrigley. Next meal will be served on February 6.

Giving Back Some More

One of the reasons we all joined ALUUC was to find a way to give back to our community. Right now, once a month, ALUUC does dinner at the SOS shelter and collects change for a charity. We'd like to go a bit further.

Victoria Vincent and Marla Johnson, with the Social Action Committee's blessing, would like to start Donation and Recycling Sundays. The plan is that each month, there will be a Change for Change Sunday, a Recycling Sunday and a Donation Sunday. On Recycling Sunday, congregants will be asked to bring something that can be recycled and that benefits a charity. Contributing our used computer equipment on January 2 to Computer Banc was our first Recycling Sunday. On Donation Sunday, congregants will be asked to bring something to donate. It might be diapers for the Mini O'Byrne Center or peanut butter for the food bank.

These two programs are just getting organized. We need your help. Do you have a favorite charity that could use some help? Do you have recycling ideas that we can collect for? We'd like to get everyone's ideas before we set up the next year's schedule. Please email any ideas to CRE@aluuc.org. We hope to be up and running soon.

ALUUC Social Action Committee and Unitarian Service Committee (UUSC) Update

Report from Partner Visit to Pakistan

Although the Pakistan flooding hasn't made news lately, the situation still dominates the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of people. UUSC staff traveled to Pakistan in December to meet two local partner organizations and communities struggling to rebuild their lives, homes, and livelihoods following the devastating floods. Through our partners, UUSC is helping women get the support they deserve and make their concerns and suggestions known to the aid community and government officials. We are also helping Afghan refugees, forced out of camps in Pakistan by the floods, to resettle, recover their livelihoods, and send their children to school. UUSC is currently planning initiatives with new partners, including researching how flooding has increased bonded labor and what can be done about it, and working with women's groups to introduce creative income-generation activities like owning and leasing flour grinders, threshers, and carts.

Check out UUSC's website (<http://www.uusc.org/Pakistan>) regularly for more information.

Become a UUSC Member

During Guest at Your Table, you gained a unique opportunity to become personally connected with real people impacted by human rights work through UUSC. Stories of Hope presents genuine and uplifting successes over the past year from each of UUSC's core focus areas: Civil Liberties, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, and Rights in Humanitarian Crises. By becoming a member of UUSC, you help to build this reality for those in need. Each new member makes our voice louder, our calls and actions for justice more powerful and our cause more credible. If you have not yet become a member of UUSC, please consider joining hands with us now—by doing so you also join hands with our guests, Maral, Carmen, Carolina and Opoka.

As your UUSC local representative, I invite you to speak with me to renew your membership — or you can renew online today at www.uusc.org. UUSC is a membership-based organization, separate from and independent of the UUA. It receives no funding from the UUA. For more information contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Local Rep.

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

From the Green Sanctuary Committee:

The 2011 Central Illinois Composting Symposium, "Where Do I Fit In?" will be held on Monday, February 14, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Trutter Center at Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield. Keynote Speaker is Dr. Paul Walker, Illinois State University. Find out about composting for homeowners, farms, schools, businesses, and communities. Meet compost pros from throughout the midwest. Learn about the future of composting in Illinois. Attend a Build your Own Bin workshop.

Register online and learn more at www.llcc.edu/greencenter or by calling 217-786-2434

Fellowship Committee

Whoever said...

... "help out in the kitchen because it is a good way to get to know us," is on to something. There are so many new faces and helping hands showing up in the kitchen to bring snacks, set up coffee and clean up afterward, it is hard to keep track. Still the new sign-up sheets remain amazingly empty after February 6th. Won't you consider signing up to bring snacks or help out for our hospitality time together. The sign-up sheets are on a clip board by the water fountain.

We have begun to make 100 cups of coffee to serve during our time of fellowship after each service. Many people feel at home enough to grab a cup before moving into the service. Please remember to guard against spills in the sanctuary and bring your cup back to the kitchen.

We are planning some Cajun or Creole food challenges this month so check with us if you think your King Cake is the tastiest or your gumbo, the grooviest. Third Sunday Pot Luck will give all of us the opportunity to sample these tasty cuisines. What is your speciality?

We are grateful this past month to kitchen newcomers like Margaret Demaree, Jim Custer, Jeff Bennet, Stacey Van Bogart, Kitty Wrigley, Mary Reed, Victoria Vincent and regulars like Susan Solan, Kathy Talano, Frank and Linda Kopecky, Mindy Miller, Delinda Chapman, Kurt and Diana DeWeese, Rob Ewart, Penny Wollan, Jack Kriel and Mike Haynes. Tip of the hat to others who helped out and we didn't remember or mention. We also would like to acknowledge the hospitable leadership provided by Fred Dietz. A problem solver, Fred is responsible for our new snack arrangement and coffee set up. Also thanks to Fred who is always willing to take leadership when Randy and Pat aren't here.

February Fellowship Activities

February 12th Abraham Lincoln's birthday. In honor of ALUUC's 58th birthday, we present the first annual Mexican Train Tournament. This is your chance to make congregational history by becoming the first winner of the Founders Day traveling trophy. Everyone is invited to participate. The usual game night fare will be provided along with a birthday cake. The game is easy to learn and master. We will play 6-7 rounds in groups of four and the person with the lowest score will win the trophy. Other games will be available for those who are not ready to compete. Founder's Day Mexican Train Tournament (Game Night) will be held at 6-10 pm, Commons



Feb 19th 6-10:30 pm Open MIC Coffeehouse

We invite all performers a chance to share your talents with the rest of the congregation. Here is your chance to play music, sing, recite poetry, tell a story, to perform. If you don't feel like performing then come out and be entertained. Food and drink will be provided. If interested in participating contact Pat Goller or Randy Pratt. Courage, we are a gentle crowd.

Feb 20th President's Day Potluck (After Sunday's Service)

We have invited past and present ALUUC presidents to join us Sunday as we honor their service with a special Cajun and Creole Potluck.

Feb 23rd 4:30 pm - Walk and Talk-Winter Sunset, Lincoln Memorial Gardens

The second visit to Lincoln Memorial Gardens in our series of seasonal sunsets. Meet at the entrance.

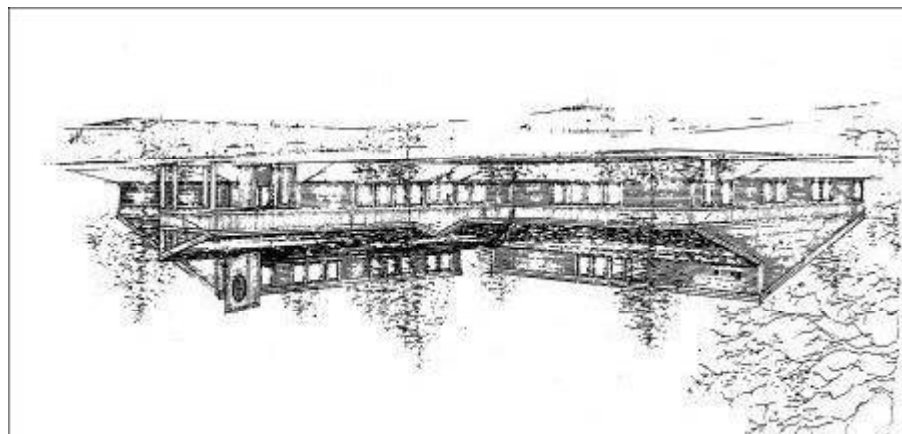
February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	2	3 * News Covenant Group 7:00 pm Meditation 7:00 pm	4 Kid's Club 6 - 8:00 pm	5 Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am
6 Worship Service 10:30 am Change for Change Sunday Conversation Cafe - 12:00 pm Sisters Crafting 1:00 pm Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm	7 Dream Group 7 - 9:00 pm	8 Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society 7:30 pm	9 Sangamon Valley Flute Circle 7 - 9:00 pm New to UU 7 - 9:00 pm	10 Meditation 7:00 pm	11 * Bridge Group 7:00 pm	12 Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am Founder's Day Mexican Train Tournament 10:00 pm
13 Worship Service & New Member Ceremony 10:30 am Young Adult Brunch - 12:00 Conversation Cafe - 12:00 pm Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm	14	15	16	17 Meditation 7:00 pm	18 Labyrinth Walk 7:00 pm	19 Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am Open Mic Coffeeshouse 6:00 pm
20 Worship Service 10:30 am Commitee Mtgs 12:00 Potluck 12:00 pm Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm Movie Night 6:00 pm	21 Conversation Cafe - 6:00 pm Newsletter Submissions Due 9:00 pm	22 *Book Discussion Group 7:30 pm	23 *Walk and Talk Winter 4:30 pm	24 Meditation 7:00 pm	25	26 Zen Meditation 9:00 - 12:00 pm
27 Worship Service 10:30 am Conversation Cafe - 12:00 pm Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm *Spanish Interest Group 5:00 pm	28 Humanist Group 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 Springfield



Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org