



ALUUC Focus

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



JANUARY 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.

January 2 ~ Fast Away the Old Year Passes

Rodd Whelpley

At the start of each new year, many of us resolve to put to rest our bad old habits and resolve to make ourselves better. But can we really pinpoint the endings of our bad old selves and the beginnings of our new better natures? This first Sunday of 2011, we will touch on ideas from such writers as Fitzgerald, Elliot and Faulkner as we think about the concepts of beginnings, endings and the passage of time.

January 9 ~ A Time to Govern

Mike Lawrence

Mike Lawrence, former director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, will give us insight on why "Illinois" leaders need to stop playing political games -- or our state will continue its drift toward mediocrity.

January 16 ~ Social Justice as a Spiritual Discipline

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, Rev. Woulfe will explore Social Justice as an expression of spirituality; what does it look like, and how does one incorporate it into one's daily life?

January 23 ~ Spiritual Lessons of Winter

Rev. Martin Woulfe

Each season has its unique lessons – what might Winter teach?

January 30 ~ Compassion as a Spiritual Asset

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, Rev. Woulfe will consider the fundamental role that Compassion plays in the development of one's spiritual life.

February 6 ~ 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. Wojcicki corresponded with Nouwen for 10 years, and serves on the board of the Henri Nouwen Society.

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

From the Minister...

As I write, the year – and a decade – come to a close. I expect that there will be a flood of articles and books that will relate all the changes that our culture has witnessed during this first decade of the Twenty-first century, CE.

When I look back to where I was on January first, 2001 I must marvel at the many changes that I have witnessed, both in the culture at large and in my own life. I think that one of the biggest changes in the US has been the consciousness of our society as being truly diverse in terms of faith – in particular, with respect to Islam. Given the events of the past decade, stemming from 9/11/01, this issue has been frequently pushed to the fore. How we continue to discuss, and resolve, this issue will no doubt be a significant part of our story during the coming decade.

In terms of my own life, ten years ago I was leaving the relative comfort of a job at the group home for abused and neglected youth – I call it “relative comfort” because it was a job that I had mastered, to a certain degree. My career destination was ministry: a great unknown at the time, in many respects. I did not know whether I would fall on my face or thrive. Come the summer, I will have completed ten full years of ministry, eight of which have been here in Springfield. Each new day brings new challenges and surprises. This of course is a good thing.

The past ten years have seen some losses, much growth. Overall, they have been marked by a sense of adventure, tinged with joy. I wonder at times why I have been so lucky in so many ways. Other decades in my life have been quite different. I attribute much of my joy to the privilege of being a parish minister in this community; I hope and trust that in another ten years, I will be able to look back with an equal measure of fondness.

May the new decade which begins this month bring you all a similar sense of joy and accomplishment. Let us welcome the future “with an expectant heart,” to use Tagore’s phrase.



- Martin

New Phone Number

Rev. Woulfe has a new cell phone; please see the online directory.

Pastoral Care

Until January 8th, please direct any pastoral care concerns to Delinda Chapman, Jodi Perko or Michael Plog.

New Members

ALUUC is pleased to welcome Julio Barenzuela, Neha Patel-Dunkirk and Larry Dunkirk as our newest members. They signed the membership book in December.

Please be sure to welcome them.

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, January 19, 7 – 9 pm. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain.

From the Board President...

The holiday season is contributing to my sense that the health of the ALUUC is good and its vitality strong. Sunday attendance is high as is participation in the many activities associated with the congregation. I especially congratulate the Membership Coordinator and the Fellowship Committee for their efforts in building and binding our religious community. Additional events are planned for 2011, so everyone should check the church calendar to share in the fun.

Preliminary discussions have been held with members of other Illinois UU congregations regarding the development of a statewide Legislative Advocacy program. One concept is for the ALUUC to serve as the primary coordinator of advocacy given our proximity to the seat of State government. Further review is planned in April during the annual meeting of the UU Central Midwest District.

The Board of Directors recently approved a proposal by Reverend Martin Woulfe for the ALUUC to become a Teaching Congregation and for Martin to become a Teaching Minister. Martin will mentor Meadville-Lombard UU Seminary Student Lynnda White for a 3-year period beginning the Fall of 2011. Lynnda lives in Peoria, IL and has been an active member of the UU Church in that city. She is a past Board Member and President of the Board of Directors of UU Church of Peoria. Lynnda received the Outstanding Service Award in 2006 given to the church member who exhibits UU values and leadership within the church and in the greater community. The first year of this internship will involve periodic conferences with Rev. Martin Woulfe, then spending 20-hours/week in active service to the ALUUC for the next 2 years. ALUUC will establish a special committee to oversee Lynnda's learning experience. The ALUUC assumes no financial responsibility under this arrangement. Lynnda will pay her own transportation expenses between Peoria and Springfield, and can stay with friends in Springfield in the event of bad weather.

Reminder, mark your calendars for the annual meetings of the UU Central Midwest District April 29-30, 2011 in Bloomington, and the General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Association June 22-26 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

~ Kurt DeWeese



SPECIAL NOTICE: With regret, the ALUUC Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Board Secretary Kelly Anderson, who decided to devote more time to her primary interest serving as the primary Advisor to the Senior Youth Group. There is now a Vacancy in the position of Secretary of the ALUUC Board of Directors, to be filled by the Board as soon as possible. Any ALUUC Member interested in filling the vacancy should immediately contact Kurt DeWeese, President of the ALUUC Board or Directors.

Membership Update

This month, ALUUC must certify its membership with the UUA. This means that we will seek to confirm the status of each member, especially those whom we have not seen in a while. If you have not been active and would prefer to have your status changed from "member" to "friend," please send an email to Cheryl Wycoff or Susan Solon.

ALUUC CHOIR

Members and friends,

If you have a song in your heart and would like to join the choir, you are most welcome! The choir has grown to about 20 members and their music has been a wonderful addition to the Sunday services. Kathy McGuire has volunteered to coordinate activities, along with Bonnie Ettinger playing as accompanist. Both have selected the music, and if members wish to suggest a piece for the choir, please let either know.

Martin asked the choir to sing "Let There Be Peace On Earth" at the Interfaith Thanksgiving service at St. Patrick's and they did a great job. So sometimes the choir goes "on tour"! Additionally, instrumentalists have been joining the choir for special numbers. For the performance of "Ancient Mother", Diana DeWeese played the drum and Michael Haynes played his Native American flute. Scott Marlow, guitarist, joined vocal soloists Bob Croteau and Kelly Anderson, along with the choir on "Light One Candle". Becky and Bob Croteau and Kelly Anderson sang a capella one Sunday, and other soloists from the choir have included Holly van Lyssel and Ally Perko. For the Christmas Eve service, Ally and Holly each had vocal solos, and Rebecca McGuire played the oboe for the choral song, "Peace, Peace", and joined Bonnie for the postlude, "O Holy Night." More instrumentalists will be helping out in the future.

Choir practices are at 9:30am on Sundays and may include a weekday if necessary. If you are interested in singing in the choir or playing an instrument with the choir, please contact Kathy McGuire.



Meet our new Intern

Hello, Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Church members and friends. By now, many of you have heard that a Meadville Lombard Theological student is associated with your church. My name is Lynnnda White, Martin is my 'teaching pastor' (mentor), and for two years beginning September 2011, you will be my 'teaching congregation'. With your help, in those two years I will be working, learning, playing, and growing spiritually. So, we will have plenty of time to get to know each other, but for now let me tell you a little bit about me.

I have one wonderful son, Chase, who is married to my awesome daughter-in-law, Sue Ellen, who is expecting child number four, who will (I pray) be as beautiful, intelligent, creative, and charming as its three siblings. I am a 15year member of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria and was a two-term board president. For thirty-five years that seemed like forty-five, I worked at Caterpillar Inc, and my last position was as a 6 Sigma Black Belt (project manager) leading engineering projects. I graduated from Illinois College in Jacksonville, and many of my friends are in the Springfield area. I've attended two Parliaments of the World's Religions, and after you hear me raving about those experiences, I hope that some of us will be on the same planes, coming and going, in 2014.

You are probably wondering why a retiree has decided to go to seminary, and sometimes I ask myself the same question, but what it comes down to is my desire to be part of a wave furthering interfaith understanding. My desire is to work with people of different cultures and religions and to help them begin the dialogue that leads to less fear and more cooperation with each other. In a recent career assessment required by the UUA's credentialing body, we were asked to choose a metaphor describing our calling or commitment to our path. Some people have an epiphany; my experience and my path have been different, yet I want to pursue ministry. I wrote:

Snowfall. Snowflakes have no power as individuals, but as they gather softly, they transform the landscape. Not a bolt of lightning, but a powerful presence, nonetheless.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you, and in years to come, I suspect that I will look back to our time together and marvel. Peace and Courage along the Way,

Lynnnda

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 Kneeder 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 on January 25th at 7:30 p.m. at Barbara Moore's home.

We will discuss "The Book of Ruth" by Jane Hamilton. The New York Times says, "Ms. Hamilton gives Ruth a humble dignity and allows her hope--but it's not a heavenly hope. It's a common one, caked with mud and held with gritted teeth. And it's probably the only kind that's worth reading about."

Call Barbara if you have any questions. Future books we will read include "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, and "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini

BRIDGE GROUP

The January meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, January 14th 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, January 3, 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.

HUMANIST DISCUSSION GROUP

The Humanist Group emphasizes core values such as dignity of the individual, equality, and social justice. This area involves a variety of topics including separation of church and state, morality/ethical values, behavioral economics, and evolution. On winter break in December and January, the Humanist Discussion Group will meet Monday February 28 at 7:00 pm at the ALUUC. If you have questions about the Group, please contact Carol Floyd at HumanistGroup@aluuc.org.

FLUTE CIRCLE

This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the ALUUC. Flutes will be made available for others to try. The focus of this circle will be the care and playing of the Native American Style Flute, but other types of flutes are welcome. Any questions can be directed to Mike Haynes.

KIDS' CLUB

Kids Club will meet January 7, 2010 at the church from 6 pm until 8 pm. A red carpet event for starlets and action heroes will be held. Please RSVP to Marla Johnson, CRE at cre@aluuc.org by January 6 at noon to ensure enough supervision and food is provided. *Just a reminder: Kid's Club is intended for children in K-5th grades.*

LABYRINTH WALK + Oneness Blessing + UU communion

The regular Labyrinth Walk will be held here on Friday, Jan 21, 7 - 9 pm. All are welcome to join us in this ancient spiritual practice. Free. Participants will have the opportunity to receive a "Oneness Blessing" during this event. The public is invited to attend; admission is free.

NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us on January 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Renata and Heiko Buchloh's home. Call the Buchlohs if you have any questions.

Everyone is welcome.

SOS

The next gathering is on January 2nd at 6 p.m. at 1015 E. Madison. Call or email Delinda Chapman to be added to her email list.

SPANISH INTEREST GROUP

The Spanish Interest Group will meet at the home of Rev. Woulfe on Sunday, Jan 23, 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.

Groups and Other Events

THEOLOGIES IN DIALOGUE

The Theologies in Dialogue group has decided to take a hiatus for the 2010-2011 church year. We will not be meeting from September, 2010 through the following August. Before the 2011-2012 church year we will re-examine the purposes of the monthly meeting and decide if new and challenging ideas or purposes will lead us to reconvene. Please contact John Glosser or Craig Bailey with questions or comments.

Online Class: Humanism Today

The current issue of CLF's journal "Quest" has a notice that Revs. Kendyl Gibbons and Bill Murry will lead an on-line class entitled "Humanism Today: Issues & Origins." Registration is \$40. It will run from Jan 17 to March 14. To learn more, go to www.clfuu.org/learn

MOVIE NIGHT

The film Amadeus (The Special Director's Cut) will be shown at ALUUC on Sunday, January 30th, beginning at 6pm. Extra footage adds to the experience -- come and enjoy this favorite film anew! No charge; refreshments will be served.

Robert Burns Night

Saturday, January 29, 6 – 10 pm

Mark your calendar now for this celebration of Scottish cuisine, culture and music! Did you know that Robert Burns, in addition to being a Unitarian, was a favorite of Abraham Lincoln and Robert Ingersoll? Don your kilt and be prepared for an evening of food and fun. Dinner will be served; admission will be open to the public. Admission is \$30 at the door; \$25 in advance.

Contact Rev. Woulfe for more details.

PRAIRIE GRAPEVINE FOLKLORE SOCIETY



Mountain Dulcimer and Story Telling with Mike Anderson

<http://www.prairiegrapevine.org/node/28> Mike Anderson

Saturday, 22 January 2011 - 7:30pm

Abraham Lincoln Universalist Unitarian Church

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

Join the Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society for an evening of stories and great dulcimer playing with Mike Anderson, Saturday, January 22 at the Abraham Lincoln Universalist Unitarian Church, 7:30pm.

The combination of music, storytelling and humor has made Mike Anderson one of the most sought-after performers from the Atlantic coast to Canada to the Gulf and all points in between. His latest recordings writing entitled *The Great Sled Race* and *Anna's Old Boot* both won Parents' Choice awards. *Anna's Old Boot* also won a Children's Music Web award for best children's song 2003.

Under the auspices of the Illinois State Board of Education, Mike has conducted many teacher workshops for developing literacy through the art of storytelling. His *Early Childhood* shows are legendary. As an author and an elementary school teacher, Mike earned accolades from his current principal who said, "Mr. Anderson works well in structure and he excels in unstructured situations where he can utilize his creativity and problem-solving skills. He is a superb communicator, master teacher and an exceptional leader in any setting."

While the Mountain Dulcimer, Guitar, Banjo, Jaw Harp, and Nose Flute are a part of his musical storytelling trade, his power to guide teachers to help students is among his greatest strengths. His workshops on "Promoting Higher Level Thinking Through Classroom Activities" and "Storytelling for Literacy for Early Childhood Teachers and Parents" have been nationally recognized.

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

Third Annual Slow Food® Film Festival January 28

“Floods, drought, climate change, even war are all directly related to the way we are treating dirt.”
– DIRT! The Movie

Slow Food Springfield, Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation and the University of Illinois Extension will present “DIRT! The Movie” on Friday, January 28, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 745 Woodside Road, Springfield. A panel discussion on “The Dirt On Dirt” will follow the movie. The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$3.00 for Slow Food® Springfield members. Students are free with ID. Refreshments and beverages by 5Flavors of Springfield will be available for purchase.

“DIRT! The Movie” tells the amazing and little known story of the relationship between humans and living dirt. Narrated by Jaime Lee Curtis, the movie brings to life the environmental, economic, social, and political impact of the unappreciated material beneath our feet. One teaspoon of dirt contains a billion organisms working in remarkable balance to maintain and sustain a series of complex, thriving communities that impact our daily lives.

Refreshments and beverages will be available for purchase at the film festival from 5Flavors on 2621 West White Oaks Dr. in Springfield. 5Flavors takes pride in sustainability that extends beyond using organic, sustainable food from local vendors. Whether using biodegradable cutlery or zero environment impact packaging, 5Flavors goes the extra mile in reducing our carbon footprint while creating dishes that are both delicious and beautiful.

For more information, contact Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant.

Fair Trade Products

The ALUUC Social Action Committee (SAC) will be selling Fair Trade products (coffee, teas, cocoa, and chocolate bars) on 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. Next sale date– January 16. Coffee and assorted teas from the UUSC Coffee Project will now be served on Sundays, following the service.

Change for Change

The Social Action Committee has selected the Young Parent Support Services Program of Family Service Center of Sangamon County for the January Change for Change program. Since 1983, they have been providing services to teen parents expecting a first child and/or teen parents that have a newborn (2 weeks old or younger). The teen parent must live in Sangamon County. Program services are free, confidential, and voluntary. The Young Parent Support Services Program offers teen parents ways to: (1) Learn about Your Baby; (2) Meet Other Teen Moms; (3) Access Community Resources; and (4) Work Toward Self-Sufficiency. The Young Parent Support Services program of Family Service Center of Sangamon County provides support to teen parents so they are not alone as they face the joys and challenges of parenting.

Mitten Tree

Thanks so much to everyone who donated items to Contact Ministries for their Christmas Assistance Giveaway Program. Our congregation donated 36 gloves and mittens, 22 hats and 2 scarves. Your generosity was much appreciated!



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

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 18, \$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 (January 2, February 6 and March 6), contact Delinda Chapman, delindac@gmail.com The volunteers for December 5 were Bernie Carver, Meg Evans, Vinnie Gupta, Debby Hagan, Mark Hanson, Pete Lazare, Sally Millichamp, Randy Pratt, Angela Solan, Susan Solon, Eric Thibedeaux-Thompson, Missy Thibedeaux-Thompson, Tom Vaught, Celeste Woulfe, Rev. Martin Woulfe, and Kitty Wrigley.

Time to collect for Guest at Your Table!

During the January 16 worship service, we will gather up the Guest at Your Table boxes. In recent weeks, our Guest at Your Table boxes and Stories of Hope have taught us about real people engaged in the struggle for justice in the United States and around the world. It has also taught us about our power to change the world when we support our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the many amazing people they partner with. Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, be sure to complete the form on the box. And please convert your cash and coins to a check made out to "UUSC". We'll announce the results of our Guest at Your Table program as soon as we are able. On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings through Guest at Your Table. If you miss bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, you can pass it to Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, our UUSC local representative, at any time.

Haiti One Year Later: Cultivating Creative Solutions for Recovery

As we approach the one-year commemoration of the devastating magnitude-7.0 earthquake (January 12, 2010), Haiti remains in crisis — over 1.5 million people are still homeless and living in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), increasing their vulnerability to new challenges such as the recent cholera outbreak, flooding from a hurricane in early November, and further instability following contested elections in the end of November.

As we mourn for those who lost their lives in the earthquake one year ago and empathize with the survivors who face what seem like insurmountable obstacles, we also celebrate the resiliency of Haitian people and reaffirm our commitment to standing with them in solidarity. For more information - <http://www.uusc.org/haiti>

Pakistan Flood Relief Update

Rights in Humanitarian Crises staff will be travelling to Pakistan in mid-December. During this assessment visit, staff will support UUSC partners' flood relief and recovery projects and determine ongoing support for flood survivors who are most at risk of being left out in the mainstream aid response. To date, thanks to extremely generous members, UUSC has received more than \$267,300 for the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Relief Fund.

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.

Fellowship Committee

What a wonderful month this has been. We gathered after service to enjoy a cup of coffee with friends, deciding what treat to try next or whose tangerine dessert was the best. We spent a cold winter night listening to Christmas music as we exchanged cookies and learned how to make unique holiday crafts. We celebrated Winter Solstice with a joyous ritual (Thank you UPIC) and enjoyed a bowl of homemade soup with bread fresh from the oven. Wonderful indeed!

Of course all of this did not happen magically. (Well there might have been a little bit of magic!) It involved planning, organizing, cooking and everyone's favorite, cleaning up the mess afterwards. Fortunately this was no problem because our congregation is blessed with so many individuals willing to share the load. It makes my role in all of this very enjoyable. As I write this I have about twenty names listed on various slips of paper, not to mention more in my head. Some people sign up to bring goodies or make coffee and sometimes desserts mysteriously show up. So I don't know everyone's name to thank to start with, and at the risk of missing someone I will not list names...you know who you are. Everyone's contribution is important--the ones noticed and the ones not noticed. So, from the bottom of my heart, and speaking for fellowship and the congregation, thank you to everyone who helped in making December truly a "Season of Love." The season is complete with the First Day Breakfast at the church, January 1, 8-11 am. We encourage people to bring a favorite breakfast dish to share or prepare. Vegetarian and vegan dishes will be provided.

We will have a new sign-up sheet in the Hallway starting Sunday, January 2nd. We encourage people not only to sign up to bring treats on Sunday, but also to help clean up afterwards. Fellowship's theme for January will be "Health and Wellness." We challenge those providing goodies to think about bringing healthy foods for after service coffee time and for the potluck on January 16th. We have one Walk and Talk planned for January 17th, Martin Luther King's birthday. We will take a brisk walk through White Oaks Mall; meet on the first floor in front of Sears at 3:00 PM.

Join us on Friday, January 14th for a Mystery Dinner Game (including dinner) at the church, 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm. Get into character and put on your thinking cap.

I encourage people to share ideas, big and small for fellowship activities. We want to try some new things in the months to come and will need the congregation's participation and feedback.

Would anyone like to host a Circle Dinner or a Super Bowl gathering similar to the concept of the circle dinner? If you are interested in hosting a Walk and Talk or a Conversation Café, let us know. You may e-mail fellowship at Fellowship@aluuc.org or call me (Randy Pratt), Stay healthy!

The Fellowship Committee: Pat Goller, Diana DeWeese, Linda Haynes, Susan Solon, Cathy Talano, Kim Nair and Randy Pratt.

CRE NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone! I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the regular Religious Education schedule will resume January 9, 2010. The teachers and I are anxious to see the children return to their classrooms.

Kid's Club Goes Hollywood!

On January 7, 2010 at the church from 6 pm til 8 pm. A red carpet event for starlets and action heroes will be held. Please RSVP to Marla Johnson, CRE at cre@aluuc.org by January 6 at noon to ensure enough supervision and food is provided. Thank you.

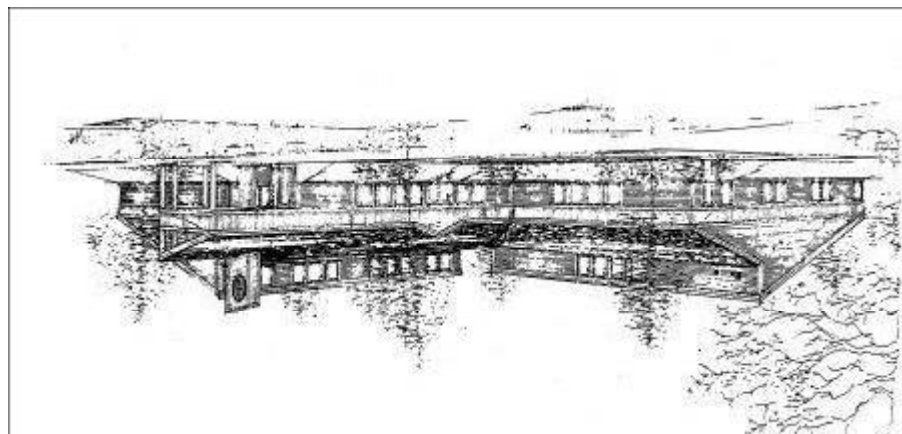
Just a reminder: Kid's Club is intended for children in K-5th grades.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>January 2011</i>						<p>1</p> <p>First Day Breakfast 8:00 - 11:00 am</p> <p>Zen Meditation 12 - 4:00 pm</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Change for Change Sunday</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> <p>SOS 6:00 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Dream Group 7 - 9:00 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Board Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>* News Covenant Group 7:00 pm</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Kid's Club 6 - 8:00 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Young Adult Brunch 12:00</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Sangamon Valley Flute Circle 7 - 9:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>* Bridge Group 7:00 pm</p> <p>Mystery Dinner Game 6:30 - 10:30 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Healthy Potluck 12:00</p> <p>Commitee Mtgs 12:00</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>*Mall Walk 3:00 pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>New to UU 7 - 9:00 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Labyrinth Walk 7:00 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am</p> <p>Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society 7:30 pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> <p>*Spanish Interest Group 5:00 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Newsletter Submissions Due 9:00 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>*Book Discussion Group 7:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Third Annual Slow Food@ Springfield Film Festival 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am</p> <p>Robert Burns Night Saturday 6:00 - 10:00 pm</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> <p>Movie Night 6:00 pm</p>	<p>31</p>					

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