



ALUUC Focus

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



MAY 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.

May 1 ~ Social Action Sunday: “Welcoming the Newcomer”

There are almost 200 million migrants worldwide. This is a human phenomenon with a long historical narrative. As a Nation of Immigrants, a title Americans claim with pride, let us begin to see the humanity we all share and work toward dispelling the fears that keep us separate from The Other.

May 8 ~ Other Thoughts About Diversity

Rev. Martin Woulfe

Much attention and energy has been devoted during the past several decades towards increasing the diversity within our movement; this topic is the focus of Mark Morrison-Reed’s recent addresses in Bloomington. What has been learned and accomplished thus far?

May 15 ~ Happy Birthday to UU

Rev. Martin Woulfe

Half a century ago, a novel religious tradition was born – what have been some of its “first fruits” and what may we expect during the next fifty years?

A Pot Luck will follow this service.

May 22 ~ What the Heck is up with Hell?

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In recent months, there has been a flurry of talk about hell -- what is being said, and by whom? Are we on the verge of a new Universalist era? What role and impact might UUs have on this?

May 29 ~ Crossing Bridges, Building Bridges

Rev. Martin Woulfe

Rev. Woulfe will offer a reflection on the unique role and value of Religious Education in the liberal religious tradition. *This Service will include a Recognition Ceremony for our graduating Senior Youth and a Recognition of our RE Teachers.*

June 5 ~ Question & Answer Service

Rev. Martin Woulfe

So many questions, so little time! Have you ever wondered what UU ministers do during the summer when they’re not preaching? Or are you curious about what exactly is General Assembly? Come to this service and share a question and Rev. Woulfe will offer his responses.

This Service will include an OWL Recognition Ceremony

*** The Annual Meeting will follow this service.*

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

From the Minister...

The liturgical year is winding down fast. As years go, it's a brief cycle, beginning in late August and wrapping up in the middle of June. Still, it has been a full one. In a short while, I will begin composing my end-of-year report to the congregation, which will be delivered at the annual meeting. This leads me to think about some of our shared milestones.

I am mindful that there have been significant losses during this year, including Katie, Demi and Ginger. We have had two charming dedication ceremonies, for Antonea and Talia, respectively. There have been several weddings (congratulations Amy & Jason, Amanda & George) and more are on the horizon (congratulations, Chelsea & Ricky); soon, we will be able to celebrate legal union ceremonies in our sanctuary -- a noteworthy milestone not only for this congregation but also in our religious movement.

I have attended various UU minister gatherings, both in Bloomington and in the St. Louis area, as well as the Prairie Group and District Assembly. I attended the General Assembly last year in Minneapolis and am registered for the next one in Charlotte. I don't believe that I've ever before attended two GA's in a row -- last year, I missed many events since I was selling posters and CDs; this year I hope to go and immerse myself in workshops.

Speaking of growth, this year we saw Susan Solon begin her service as our Membership Coordinator. I am so impressed with her gifts and I think that our corresponding growth in actual numbers during this past year -- we are above 200 (something that long ago the UUA doubted we would accomplish) -- is due in no small part to her work. We should also thank Megan Renner for her role in making this happen. The choir truly blossomed under Kathy McGuire's leadership. Anyone who has had a role in fundraising will appreciate the commitment made by Delinda and the Kluges who led the Trash & Treasure Sale and the Fantasy Auction, respectively. We should likewise be grateful towards Randy Pratt and Pat Goller, who created and coordinated so many fabulous fellowship activities -- ranging from circle suppers to pot lucks -- not to mention, cleaning up after many activities (more of us really do need to pitch in more with cleaning). And words cannot fully express how much we all owe Bonnie.

Another milestone has been the unexpected opportunity to begin a teaching pastor/student minister relationship with a Meadville/Lombard student. It has been an honor and a gift to have Lynnda White join with us. Many of you have already met her; you will see much more of her once she finishes her unit of Clinical Pastoral Education this summer. This congregation will play a significant role in her ministerial formation. She does not yet know how lucky she is -- and we do not yet know how lucky we are!

There is much more that could be said; I will save that for my report. I look forward to the summer, knowing that many seeds have been planted this year and that there are many wonderful gardeners of the spirit close at hand.

- Martin



TWO New to UU Orientation Sessions in May

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 one or the other informal session, and meet other new people as well as Rev. Woulfe and our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon. The first session will be held on Sunday May 15 (immediately following the potluck) and the second will be on Monday, May 16, 7-9:30 pm. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain. Child care will be provided if requested.

From the Board President...

We are entering the homestretch for this liturgical church year 2010-2011. The energy and enthusiasm of members and friends who have volunteered to organize and participate in community activities and worship has been terrific. The success of the 2011/2012 Stewardship Campaign means that we are in a good position to sustain congregational growth and vitality. That will surely continue with the nomination and election of officers, as well as the enrollment of committee members to guide us through next year, including the summer months when so many people plan vacations or other events that conflict with church. I invite and encourage everyone to keep track of and become involved in the programs and activities scheduled for June, July, and August.

The ALUUC has benefited greatly from the work of dedicated volunteers, paid staff and professionals providing financial services through the years. These functions will soon be enhanced with the hiring of Nancy Kraus who will continue to provide accounting services and perform additional duties that have previously been the responsibility of the elected ALUUC Treasurer. The enhancement of Nancy's duties was recommended by outgoing Treasurer Victoria Vincent as someone with the skills necessary to meet more sophisticated financial management needs of a non-profit organization of our size and type. The incoming Treasurer will provide oversight of all financial operations and continue to be accountable to the Board of Directors and the Congregation.

Your comments and recommendations are always welcome as we transition to next year.

~ Kurt DeWeese



New Lock for Office Door

The Office Door has been re-keyed in an effort to improve security. Only a very limited number of people have been given new keys. If you have an old key to the office, remember that it will still work for classroom doors. If you have no need for the old key, you may return it to the office. If you have questions, contact Board President, Kurt DeWeese.

Thank you to everyone at ALUUC for a fabulous pledge drive

As the newsletter goes to press, we are over \$170,000! This is our largest pledge drive ever. This will make paying our staff and keeping the building going possible. It will also fund our programs, RE and all the other activities that go on around ALUUC.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the canvassers party, everyone who was a canvasser and everyone who pledged. ALUUC is truly a home for all of us. It is gratifying that so many of you feel the same.

There are still some cards out there. Canvassers, you know who you are! Please finish up and turn your cards in quickly. We need to get everything done and ready for the annual meeting.

Thank you, Carol Kneedler and Victoria Vincent

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2011 beginning at 12:00 p.m. at the ALUUC, 745 Woodside Road. The Agenda includes:

- 1) Election of Officers
 - 2) Adoption of the 2011-2012 Budget
 - 3) Amendment to the Bylaws:
 - Proposes that the Green Sanctuary Committee become a Standing Committee of the Board
- * Current Standing Committees of the Board include: Finance, Religious Education, Program, Facilities, Fellowship, Social Action, Electronics & Communication, Audit, Personnel, and Welcoming & Publicity.*

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 Carol Bailey 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.

ALUUC Focus

The ALUUC Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the following individuals have agreed to be candidates for election at the congregation's June 5, 2011 Annual Meeting:

President, one-year term: Kurt DeWeese;
Vice President, one-year term: Phillip Anderson;
Secretary, one-year term: Carol Bailey;
Treasurer, one-year term: George Metcalf;

Board member, to fill remainder of term expiring in 2012: Michael Plog;
Board members, two-year terms: David Brunson, Carol Floyd, Kathy McGuire;

Nominating Committee, two-year terms:
Frank Kopecky, Kitty Wrigley.

Chelsea Fry & Brian Reynolds, elected in 2010,
will continue as Board members until 2012.

Buffy Lael & Berkley Moore, elected in 2010,
will continue on the Nominating Committee until 2012.

ALUUC's Trash and Treasure Sale is October 8th

**As you do your spring cleaning, please save your stuff
and donate it to us!**

We are looking for storage space. Does anyone have any they
could loan until October?

We are already forming teams for the sale. If you are interested in
being a part of this great FUNd Raiser,
contact Victoria.



Groups and Other Events

ALUUC CHOIR

“Come Sing a Song With Me” and the choir! Every Sunday at 9:30am. Last month we had some special guest artists join the choir for the intergenerational song, “The Garden Song” by Dave Mallett. They included Beverly Holmes--flute, Scott Marlow--guitar, Elizabeth Jones--descant soprano, and youth singers--Angela Solon, Celeste Wolfe, Sophie Flick, Cordelia Marlow, and Meghan Anderson. Thank you again soloists, choir, and youth for such an awesome performance! Stay tuned for upcoming favorites this month.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Barbara Moore's home. We will discuss “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak. Carol Memmott in USA Today says, “The Book Thief is unsettling and un-sentimental, yet ultimately poetic. Its grimness and tragedy run through the reader's mind like a black-and-white movie, bereft of the colors of life. Zusak may not have lived under Nazi domination, but The Book Thief deserves a place on the same shelf with The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank and Elie Wiesel's Night. It seems poised to become a classic.”

Future Books we will discuss include: “Dreams from My Father” by Barack Obama; “Can't Wait to Get to Heaven: a novel” by Fannie Flagg; and “Maisie Dobbs” by Jacqueline Winspear.

Call Barbara Moore if you have any questions.

BRIDGE GROUP

The April meeting of the Bridge Group, on Friday evening, May 6th 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 on Monday, May 2, 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 at 416-3398.

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 May 11. Anyone who has an interest is welcome to join us. No experience or flute ownership required.

KIDS' CLUB

May Kids Club will be a kids choice night! Kids in K-5th grades come join us and see what it is all about! Friday, May 6, 2011 at ALUUC 6pm til 8 pm.

Please, RSVP to Marla at cre@aluuc.org

MOVIE NIGHT

The recent Academy Award winning film, The King's Speech, featuring best actor winner Colin Firth, will be shown at ALUUC on Sunday, May 1st at 6 pm. Refreshments will be provided. This is a free event.

HUMANIST GROUP

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet on Monday May 23 at 7 pm in the ALUUC sanctuary. Janet Factor will review the book *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values* (by Sam Harris). Harris takes the position that moral questions will have objectively right and wrong answers which are grounded in empirical facts about what causes people to flourish. Background: (summary of book and Harris' response to critics) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Moral_Landscape: (NY Review of Books review) <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/may/12/science-right-and-wrong/>: (April 11, 2011 interview) <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/cultural-capital/2011/04/science-moral-torture-human>

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

Groups and Other Events

FOODIE COVENANT GROUP

Foodie or Epicure? The first meeting of the newly forming Food interest Covenant Group will meet at the home of Pat Goller and Randy Pratt on May 12th at 6 p.m. The group will take up the topic of new or inherited food preparation gadgets as well as find a name that pleases all its founding members. We will meet monthly in members homes to pursue food related topics and will covenant to at least one quarterly service project to benefit the congregation or community. Interested? Pat and Randy live at 1331 W. Glenn Avenue in Springfield. Please RSVP if you would like to attend.

NEWS COVENANT GROUP

The News Group will not meet in May. The next meeting is Thursday, June 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. at Renata and Heiko Bucholoh's.

SPANISH INTEREST GROUP

The Spanish Club will not meet in May.

LABYRINTH WALK - May 20th, 7 - 9 pm

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

A UU Communion - Those members who desire to share an informal UU communion are invited to join Rev. Woulfe at ALUUC on the evening of Friday, May 20th, following the Labyrinth Walk.

THEOLOGIES IN DIALOGUE

The Theologies in Dialogue group has decided to take a hiatus for the 2010-2011 church year. We are interested in determining whether there is sufficient interest by a variety of members and friends of the congregation for the group to begin meeting again next September. Please contact John Glosser or Craig Bailey with questions or comments.

CRE NEWS

Plans are under way for the children's religious education summer program. I am looking forward to introducing the children to "What If Nobody Forgave". This collection of stories and activities is a fun way to learn that the Unitarian Universalist principles are common "to live by" rules in most of the major religions.

This program will also make for a nice transition into our up coming year of World Religions. I know everyone is going to become as excited as I am.

Marla Johnson, CRE

Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society

Trillium

Saturday, 21 May 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 quartet Trillium will be performing an energetic array of Celtic, folk, ragtime, bluegrass & Dixieland music, guaranteed to make you smile!

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

ALUUC Video Sermons

Did you miss a sermon? Do you want to see, and hear, a sermon one or two more times? Looking for a particular sermon or presentation? You can see archived video sermons at <http://aluuc.blip.tv/>

1-16-2011

Social Justice as a Spiritual Discipline

Rev. 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?

11-28-2010

The Spirituality of Mark Twain

This week marked the 175th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain. In addition to his familiar literary works, Mr. Clemens was an ardent writer about religion. What did his pen warmed up in hell reveal?

8-22-2010

The Walrus and The Carpenter

Amy Mullins presents Lewis Carroll's well known poem in terms of similarities found in the world's religions.

8-15-2010

Edvard Grieg and Bela Bartok: What ties them together?

Karen Lynn Deal, Illinois Symphony Orchestra Conductor, will introduce us to the lives of these two (Unitarian Universalist) composers who often blended the folk tunes of their countries into their music

5-30-2010

The Ins & Outs of Spirituality

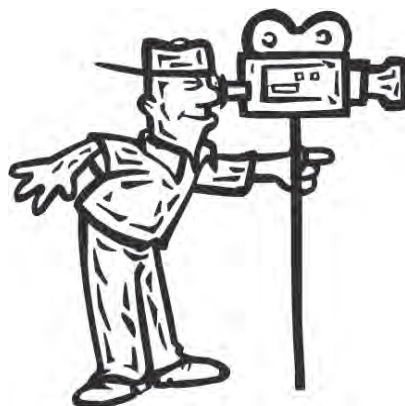
Rev. Woulfe

Consider where spirituality occurs - specifically, the differences between the sense of sacred connected which one may discover indoors v. outdoors.

12-6-2009

Unitarian Universalist Philosophical Science & Scientific Philosophy

Not a debate, but a conversation between Jeff Bennett and Berkley Moore regarding three great pioneers of the dialogue between science and philosophy from the perspective of free religion.

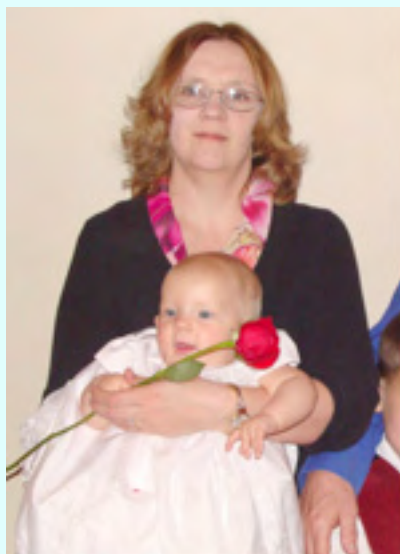


Welcome New Members

New Member Welcoming Ceremony on Sunday May 8th

A New Member Welcoming Ceremony will be held during the service on Sunday, May 8. The following persons have joined since the previous such ceremony and are invited to participate: Melissa Bernhardt, Tabitha Bernhardt, Keith Boaz, Greg Greeley, Chris Hull, Shanna Hull, Timothy Kelly, Patty Notch, Roger Ryan, Jane Tobias, Felicia Yates

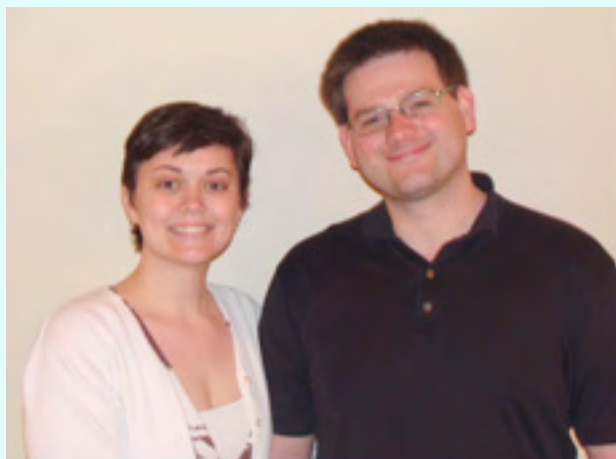
The following people signed the Membership Book in April: Jane Tobias, Chris & Shanna Hull, Melissa Bernhardt, and Tabitha Bernhardt. Please be sure to introduce yourself to these new members!



Tabitha Bernhardt and Talia



Melissa Bernhardt and Michael



Shanna Hull & Chris Hull

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. UUs have the highest participation rate of any denomination in Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program!

Coffee from the UUSC Coffee Project is now being served on Sundays, following the service. Next sale date – May 15.

Change for Change

Thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members and friends, \$223.15 was collected for the April Change for Change recipient – Senior Services of Central Illinois. The Social Action Committee has selected La Colectiva for the May Change for Change program. La Colectiva is a student organization at the University of Illinois that exists to address the challenges faced by the immigrant community within Champaign-Urbana. Their mission is to advocate social justice and change on behalf of all immigrants while simultaneously serving the community by fostering leadership and providing resources through grassroots initiatives.

Conversation Café - Immigration as a Moral Issue

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

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN selected “Immigration” to be the 2010—2014 Congressional Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA).

Join ALUUC members and friends to discuss this issue as part of a six week curriculum, intended to give a broad overview to this complex issue. We will meet on Monday evenings - June 6, 13, 20 and July 11, 18, and 25 from 6:00-7:30 pm in the Darwin Room. For more information, <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/immigration/index.shtml>

Ask Congress to Support Fair Wages and Working Families

It is time to make sure the nation's largest workforce — tipped workers — are paid fair wages for their hard work. Urge your representative to cosponsor the Working for Adequate Gains for Employment in Services (WAGES) Act. Visit www.uusc.org/actionalerts to take action on this and other important issues.

Got Water? Defending the Human Right to Water

UUSC's goal is to ensure sustainable access to safe, sufficient, affordable water to every person by enshrining the human right to water into law — internationally, nationally, statewide, and locally. We need your help to make this a reality — find out what you can do to get involved! Visit our website - http://www.uusc.org/content/what_you_can_do_58 to learn more, take action, and order “Got Water?” materials.

Support Human Rights Every Day!

April is the suggested month for culmination of Justice Sunday. Now is an ideal time to consider becoming a monthly sustainer, in keeping with the Justice Sunday goal to reflect, understand, and act — today and every day!

UUSC was founded over 70 years ago, when the flaming chalice was inspired by our work and created as the symbol of our organization to refugees across barriers of language or nationality. It later also became the symbol of Unitarian Universalism.

Today, help UUSC continue its work — become a Keeper of the Flame with monthly contributions. UUSC receives no government or denominational financial assistance.

We rely on the voluntary donations of our members and supporters to achieve our mission. Please consider supporting this vital, ongoing human-rights work with ongoing financial gifts. Giving as a Keeper of the Flame with monthly gifts helps UUSC to plan effectively and helps you to increase your personal investment in human rights with a manageable schedule and added convenience:

- It automatically renews your UUSC membership.
- You can cancel or update sustaining gifts at any time.
- You can become a major donor by dividing a larger gift into affordable monthly increments!

When making a donation online, select “Sustaining” and then choose monthly or quarterly. As always, all donations to UUSC are tax deductible. Gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched, thanks to a grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.

Social Action Committee Members include David Brunson, Bernie Carver, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Vinnie Gupta, Teresa Liberati, John Malan, Sally Millichamp, Kim Nair, Brian Otwell, Neha Patel-Dunkirk, 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.

A New Adult Religious Enrichment Series

Rev. Woulfe will conduct a four week Religious Enrichment class on four consecutive Wednesdays in May, beginning on May 4th: “Comedians & Spirituality in Cinema.” During each class, we will view one film that features a strong religious theme and stars a well known comedian; the film will begin at 7 pm in the Commons, with conversation to follow. Come see them all or as many as your schedule permits.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

- 05/04: Robin Williams, “The Fisher King” (1991)
- 05/11: Ricky Gervais, “The Invention of Lying” (2009)
- 05/18: Bill Maher, “Religulous” (2008)
- 05/25: Steve Carrell: “Evan Almighty” (2007)

Please sign up on the sheet posted near the drinking fountain.

A message from the Pastoral Care Committee:

The Pastoral Care Committee has added a new dimension to our activities: we have agreed to coordinate receptions at ALUUC following memorial services. We are now compiling a list of volunteer providers — people who are willing to bring in food, set up, and clean up on those occasions. When a memorial service is scheduled, we will contact people on the list and see who can provide something on that date. We will make every effort to avoid making multiple requests to the same individuals. If you provided something for one service, you should get a pass on the next one.

As we all no doubt know from experience, having food available following a memorial service provides an opportunity for family and friends of the deceased to share stories, laughs and tears.

Please consider adding your name to our list of volunteers. You may, of course, specify when you will be available, or in what capacity. If you can volunteer, please let Michael Plog know. You may contact him at 793-2509, at mbplog@comcast.net, or by letting him know in person after a Sunday service.

Thank you, on behalf of the Pastoral Care Committee, for your consideration of this request.

Springfield Pride Event Sunday May 22

Springfield will host its first Pride Event on Sunday, May 22, from noon – 6 pm. ALUUC will participate with an information table there -- any person who would like to volunteer that day, e.g., answering questions and distributing information, is asked to contact Rev. Woulfe.



Easter Egg Hunt

Many thanks to Lori Beth Huston, Elfi Metz & Allison Huston for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt which was held on April 24. The event was organized in honor of the late Ginger Huettemann, and the sight of children racing about, plucking colorful eggs from the lawn, was priceless!



Fellowship Committee

Pat and I were out of town the first two weeks in April and owe a debt of gratitude to Diana and Kurt DeWeese for covering, promoting, organizing and cleaning up the kitchen after the April Spring Potluck. Thanks also to Mike and Linda Haynes who facilitated April game night, pizza and popcorn.

CIRCLE DINNERS: Thank you to those who hosted Circle Dinners in April. And again to Diana who has facilitated the Circle Dinners organization after you signed up. There will be a final two dinners in May. So if you have signed up and haven't attended yet, you will be hearing about this soon.

SUNDAY COFFEE: We continue to be amazed at the amount and quality of the treats offered by so many in the congregation for after service coffee time. Even when no one signs up the table of treats is full every Sunday. Thank you all. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the two stand up men, whose constancy as kitchen helpers is a sight to behold: Fred Dietz and Kurt DeWeese. Now we ask that more of you "just automatically" show up to help wash dishes, take home tea towels and tablecloths for washing, vacuum and reset the sanctuary, recycle or take out the trash, check that doors and windows are closed and locked on Sundays or at other activities.

EARTH DAY COFFEE HOUSE/ OPEN MIC was a great success with 20 performers, who read, played music, sang or danced. We can't help but notice the number of parents and children who participated. We are thankful to them all: Jodi and Alley Perko, Ethan and Rod Whelpley, Scott, Lara and Cordelia Marlow, Phillip and Cordelia Anderson. Thanks also to the brave singles: Tim Garmen, Wes White, Jerrid Foiles, Tom Clark, Jackie Jackson, Amy Kluge, Marissa DeWeese, Mike Haynes and Kelly Anderson. A Special thanks to Scott Marlow who provided the sound system for the evening, as well as performing with his Lemming Pi band mate, Phil White.

ALUUC SUSTAINABILITY RETREAT was a successful experiment in sharing and learning together with around 30 members, friends, kids in attendance. Nine workshops were presented on Saturday afternoon by some of our congregation's experts. Thanks to Rev. Martin Woulfe who opened the retreat with words about sustainability in our congregation. Thanks to Jodi Perko, Susan Solan and Pat Goller. Each presented workshops with the intent to serve dinner to retreat participants at the end of the day. Thanks to Teri Freesmeyer, Meg Evans, Art Darken, Todd and Eugena Austin, Linda Kopecky and Peggy Patty who presented various workshops that had us thinking about sustainability... personal or planetary. Thanks to Lara Marlow who was on hand to share information about her newly forming Art and Garden Coop, and to John Malan who was on hand for the social action committee with free trade chocolate and coffee. Thanks also to Amanda Metcaff who provide childcare. Kids planted popcorn and made edible play dough. Finally I must mention the women in the cooking classes who helped keep the kitchen in shape all the live long day and left little to do in the kitchen at the end.

Fellowship heads outdoors into the a hopefully dry spring evening with a Tail Gate Game Night, May 13th. We will gather in the parking lot and setup our tailgate grill. Of course we will have Bean Bag toss, frisbee golf, red rover anyone? Everyone is invited to bring an outside game or idea. We may even have a small fire to welcome in the night. We will provide the goodies for the grill. The fun starts after 6 pm.

May 15th we have a "Comfort Food Potluck" after the service. Remember the dish your mother used to make, the special one, the one that instantly brings a smile to your face and a warm feeling to your body. Bring your favorite family casserole, salad, desert or snack. These may be kept warm in the oven during church on Pot Luck Day as needed or refrigerated.

Fellowship Committee Continued...

We will try and do a Sunset Walk and Talk at Lincoln Memorial Gardens. Watch the email for a sunset alert when a good day for a sunset presents itself.

There will be a UU World Conversation Café on Tuesday May 17th at 6:00 pm. The subject and host are yet to be determined. Please if anyone wants to host a conversation café or walk and talk please let me know email or phone works. Thank you to everyone who supports these events and makes doing this so much fun.

There will be a **UU World Conversation Café on Tuesday May 17th** at 6:00 pm. The subject will be “Volunteerism: Burnout and Balance” hosted by Randy. Refreshments will be served. Also watch for the Social Action Committee’s planned “Immigration as a Moral Issue” Conversation Café hosted by Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant.. If you would like to host a conversation café or Walk and Talk please let us know by email or phone.

Be safe, get some sun, but not too much. Peace – Randy Pratt and Pat Goller

Green Sanctuary Committee

The Grant for the Prairie Garden Restoration Project has been approved! Andrew Brunson and Becky Croteau drafted and submitted a grant request to the Illinois Native Plant Society which has been awarded. The Project can now move forward. For our next step, we must destroy life before new life can be sown. The foreign species of plants must be eradicated to make way for the rebirth of native plants which once covered these vast swathes of land. A trained and licensed herbicide applicator will be spraying the north east corner of ALUUC’s grounds to decrease competition from the invasive species currently covering the area. They will spray early in the week so that no children will get the chance to play in it. The area will be marked. This process is the most effective and widely used within the restoration community to clear an area for Native Plants. The herbicide application is done by a professional because there is some hazard involved. There will be another application later in the year and then we will be ready to sow the native seeds, some of which Becky has secured. There will be a few seed collecting excursions throughout the summer where we can get folks involved. We are looking forward to including everyone in the planting of the seeds. The sowing process is a great chance to get our hands dirty together. The seeds are considered very precious by those who understand how rare they become with every passing year. Thank you for supporting this meaningful symbol of our beliefs. We will keep everyone posted as the project develops.

Thanks, Green Sanctuary Committee

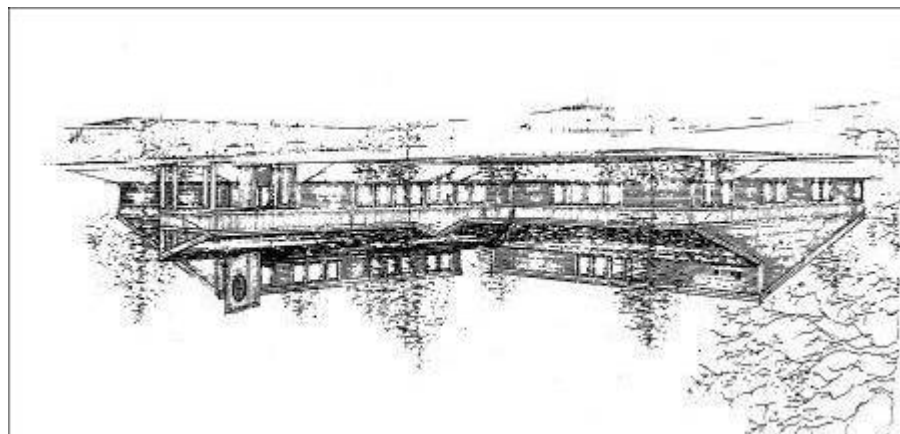
May 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Change for Change Sunday</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> <p>Movie Night 6:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Dream Group 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Board Meeting 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Adult RE 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Kid's Club 6 - 8:00 pm</p> <p>* Bridge Group 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Facilities Work Day 8 am - 4 pm</p> <p>Yoga 8 am</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Choir Practice 9:30 am</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Potluck 12:00 pm</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Sangamon Valley Flute Circle 7 - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Adult RE 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>Tail Gate Game Night 6 - 9:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>Yoga 8 am</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Choir Practice 9:30 am</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Commitee Mtgs 12:00</p> <p>Young Adult Brunch - 12:00</p> <p>New to UU 12:30 pm</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>New to UU 7 - 9:30 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>UU World Conversation Cafe 6 - 8:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Adult RE 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>Labyrinth Walk 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>Yoga 8 am</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 2:00 pm</p> <p>Prairie Grapevine Folklore Society 7:30 pm</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Choir Practice 9:30 am</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>Humanist Group 7:00 pm</p> <p>Newsletter Submissions Due 9:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>*Book Discussion Group 7:30 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Adult RE 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>Meditation 7:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">27</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>Zen Meditation 9:30 - 11:30 am</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Choir Practice 9:30 am</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Senior Youth Group 3 - 5:00 pm</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">30</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">31</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">June 1</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">June 2</p> <p>* News Covenent Group 7:00 pm</p> | | |

**Abraham Lincoln
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ALUUC ~ Since 1953 ~ Celebrating over 50 years of liberal religion in Springfield



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