



A·L·U·U·C NEWS ONLINE

The Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation
745 Woodside Road, Springfield, Illinois 62711

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www.aluuc.org

JUNE 2006

Minister:

Rev. Martin Woulfe
minister@aluuc.org

Office Administrator:

Stacy Tischkau
office@aluuc.org

Coordinator of Religious Education:

Marla Johnson
CRE@aluuc.org

Music Director/Pianist:

Bonnie Ettinger
MusicDirector@aluuc.org

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Berkley Moore
minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

Office hours

Minister:

Monday & Wednesday
11 am - 2:30 pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Available at other times by appointment.



The next Labyrinth walk is at ALUUC on Friday, June 16, from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, or earlier, by appointment. If you are interested in developing a contemplative practice, please join us and explore this method. There will be no Labyrinth walks in July or August.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Services are held Sunday morning at 10:30 am at the Congregation Building. Visitors are welcome. Religious education and child care are provided for children of all ages.

June 4

Rev. Martin Woulfe – *Bring A Friend Sunday: Why UUism Matters* - This service will offer some insights into the importance of liberal religion -- and why we are proud to be members of not only this congregation but this movement as well.

* Service will feature our annual RE Teacher Recognition ceremony.

June 11

Rev. Martin Woulfe - *Flower Communion*: This special service celebrates the diverse and colorful gifts of our religious community. Members and friends are asked to bring flowers from home to share; ALUUC will also have flowers available.

* Service will be followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting.

June 18

Bikkhu Mahinda is a long term resident of Springfield and an ordained Buddhist Monk. He will speak on “Orthodox Buddhism.”

June 25

John Glosser, one of the newest members of our Congregation, addresses us on “Wonder, Wonder”, the place of wonder and awe as authentic expressions of UU spirituality.

July 2

Ron Kanwischer, a friend of this Congregation for many years, shares his thoughts on “Unlearning Things Learned Irrationally”. How do we free ourselves of irrational but persistent thoughts and habits?

FROM THE MINISTER

On Friday, May 19, the film *The Da Vinci Code* opened in theaters across the globe. During the weeks preceding this celluloid event, many voices railed against the film's central premise, i.e., the alleged conjugal relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. I have visited various websites that unequivocally condemn the book and the film. On the eve of the film's opening, I read that it has been banned in at least one country and that in another, a group of devout Christians were threatening to commit suicide should it be shown there. I can only imagine that such publicity has benefited those who stand to gain financially from this movie.

You may recall that I preached on the themes raised in the book back in October, 2004 (see the minister section at www.aluuc.org for a transcript of my remarks). Interest in the book has not waned either before or since. On the day the film opened, a quick read of the local paper revealed that several pastors intended to denounce the author and the film. Wary of standing in long lines, I reserved tickets in advance and went early to pick them up. Three women, carrying professionally printed signs, formed a picket line near the theater. I chatted amiably with one. By that evening, they were gone.

Ten members & friends of ALUUC went as a group to see the film.

After viewing *The Da Vinci Code*, I reflected that it was more conciliatory towards traditional Christianity than the book -- the character of Robert Langdon himself deflects some of the barbs that church groups had come to fear. There are some ugly chapters of early church history referenced in the film; no doubt some alarmists would have preferred that these had been hidden from view. Such incidents are common knowledge to anyone who has studied the development of Western religious doctrines and institutions. But does anyone read those books any more? Have we become a post-literate civilization that gleans its insights mainly from TV and films?

The reaction to the film also prompted me to reflect on the meaning of the word "heresy" - it is a Greek word that means, simply, "to choose." It has become a pejorative, commonly used to denote someone who chooses to believe something other than orthodox creed. But in its early usage, there was little stigma if any. In today's world, it could, I suppose, also refer to the choice to do something that others roundly condemn. Like going to see a film.

In the Bible, Jesus said that it is not what goes into a person that harms -- it is what comes out of that person. In that spirit, I cannot believe that choosing to view such a film is either evil or subversive. Surely one can think of many other things in our world that are far more insidious.

It is sometimes claimed that there are two main pathways of faith. There are some who must believe first in order to understand the world; others must understand the world first that they may believe. This has been a fundamental opposing divide between people of good faith throughout history. What is sometimes overlooked is that both groups are people of faith -- it is appalling that one group would abuse or harm the other. And yet, tragically enough, such has often happened. I pray that we as a whole will learn to choose otherwise some day.

- Martin

CRE NEWS

The year has flown by so fast. I say that every year, but isn't it true that they each seem to go a little faster. We had a great year in which we saw growth in our RE program. The pre-K and early grades saw a big jump in numbers.

I want to thank my teachers, RE Committee, and the congregation. The support I have received has been tremendous.

- Marla

Groups

Book Discussion Group

The Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us at 7:30 pm on June 27 to discuss "Birds of a Feather" by Jacqueline Winspear. Contact Barb Moore at to find the location of the meeting which was not decided at the time of the newsletter deadline. Future books we will discuss include: "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson, "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" by Thornton Wilder, and "A Good Year" by Peter Mayle.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group meets at the church on the second Friday of every month at 7:00 pm. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, contact Chris Romaine.

Buddhist Meditation Groups

The ALUUC Buddhist Meditation Group meets every Thursday night. Meditation is from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Contact Deb Hagan with questions at Meditation@aluuc.org. The Sangamon Zen Group sits every Saturday morning at 9:30 am at ALUUC. Everyone is welcome to attend both groups.

Build Your Own Theology Group

Nothing submitted at time of newsletter deadline.

Christian Interest Group

The regularly scheduled meeting time for The Christian Interest Group is at 7:30 pm on the fourth Monday of the month. As the group will not be meeting during the summer this year, the next meeting will be on September 25.

CUUPS - Prairie Wind Chapter

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is an eclectic Earth-centered group, not following the path of any one specific Pagan belief system, but borrowing and pinching and tasting some things from many Pagan beliefs and interweaving them with UU beliefs to create our own unique spiritual feast.

We host several rituals throughout the year. Our rituals usually include meditation, singing, drumming and raising energy, but sometimes we gather simply to honor the season and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. Everyone is invited to celebrate the seasons with us! Watch the CUUPS bulletin board (located by the water fountain) for more details or visit us on the web at www.prairiewindcuups.org.

News Covenant Group

The News Covenant Group will meet at 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 1 at Lori and Henry Farrington's home. Contact Lori or Henry if you have any questions..

The Occasional Choir

Anyone who enjoys singing and has a basic ability to read music is welcome to join. The choir will sing 3-part or 4-part music, with songs ranging from classical to popular with spiritual meaning. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the sanctuary, ably led and accompanied by Bonnie Ettinger. For more information, contact Jim Redlich at choir@aluuc.org.

Retirees Brown Bag Luncheon

Nothing submitted at time of newsletter deadline.

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION - WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 - 7:00 PM

We will be combining several different traditions into one unique spiritual experience. We will be honoring the God Lugh in His height of glory, the Goddess in Her full Mother aspect, the Holly King and the Oak King, the stone circles of Carnac in Brittany and the blessing of our most beloved pets.

There will be drumming, chanting & dancing. After the ritual, we will have a Weenie Roast outside at the fire pit. (weather permitting).

This ritual will be held outside in the North field unless Mother Nature decides to play a trick on us and directs us indoors. You may want to put some bug spray on before we go outside and bring a blanket to sit on if you prefer not sitting in the grass. Bring your drums, rattles, noise makers or any instrument you would like to play. Also, if you want to bring a dish to share during the Weenie Roast, please feel free and bring it. Hot dogs and buns will be provided. Kids are more than welcome. This will be a fun and kid-friendly ritual. Child care is also provided. A \$3.00 ritual donation fee is suggested. See you there!

LAY OFFICIANTS

At our upcoming Annual Meeting, we will consider a resolution regarding a wedding officiant program here at ALUUC. If accepted, this resolution will charge the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors to devise and implement the particulars of such a program. Because I have advocated for such a program, I would like to share my reasons.

Throughout the year, I receive inquiries from non-members who are looking for a minister to officiate at their ceremony. Many of these people are what we call unchurched. This may be their first official encounter with a minister. It is not unusual that many people I meet in this way desire a minister rather than a Justice of the Peace because they consider themselves spiritual though perhaps not religious.

Part of being a wedding officiant is to meet with the couple and encourage them to talk about themselves and their relationship. Another part is being an soft spoken advocate for UUism. Yet another part is to help a couple craft their ceremony. When the happy day arrives, the officiant conducts that ceremony and signs the license.

In Canada, for many years, many UU congregations have authorized lay members to perform weddings. As a result of their success, similar ideas have been adopted by various US congregations, including the Unitarian Church in Bloomington. For those congregations that have adopted this idea, the minister always personally handles rites of passage involving members. Lay officiants only handle non-member ceremonies, as assigned by the minister.

In Illinois, one need not be an ordained minister to be a wedding officiant. But since one is representing the congregation and UUism, it is important that any such person be well trained, trustworthy and collegial.

Why am I keen on this program? Partly due to numbers. In my first 13 years of seminary/ministry, I officiated at 51 rites of passage. In the three years that I have been in Springfield, I have now conducted 50 rites of passage.

I have enjoyed these rites of passage. They are, as I mentioned above, an opportunity to promote UUism. In fact, several people who first approached me about doing their wedding have since joined ALUUC.

It also seems to me that here is an opportunity for some of our existing members to explore a different level of commitment to this congregation.

- *Martin*

**HERE IS THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED
AT THE JUNE 11 ANNUAL MEETING:**

WHEREAS, lay officiant programs have proven effective at other Unitarian Universalist congregations for providing additional trained and qualified individuals to officiate at weddings and other designated rites of passage; and

WHEREAS, a lay officiant program at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation would enable the congregation to better serve its mission by providing trained and qualified individuals to supplement the services of the minister by officiating as approved by the minister at specific weddings and in other limited roles; and

WHEREAS, a lay officiant program at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation would provide a means for interested members to further their interest and commitment to Unitarian Universalism through spiritual growth and service to the congregation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors designate a standing or special committee to draft written policies and procedures for a lay officiant program at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation with the understanding that such policies and procedures will, at a minimum, address qualifications, training, application and appointment process, scope of duties, supervision, and termination of appointment; and that such polices and procedures shall not be implemented until adopted by the Board.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ST. LOUIS

When: Wednesday, June 21 - Sunday, June 25

Where: America's Center in St. Louis

For more information, or to register, go to
www.uua.org and enter GA in search the site.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY offers a once-a-year opportunity to gather with thousands of other UUs from across the country. GA will have workshops on spirituality, church growth, covenant groups, etc., as well as many social events. Sit in on the Plenary Sessions as various questions and the UUA's policies are debated and voted upon. Have you ever wondered what it might be like to attend a worship service with several thousand UUs? Here's your chance: come to the "Service of the Living Tradition" and, incidentally, watch as our own Rev. Martin Woulfe is recognized for his completion of Final Ministerial Fellowship.

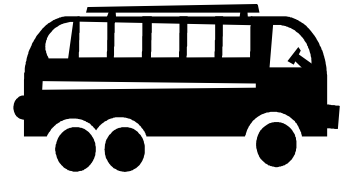
Did you know that each congregation is eligible to send voting delegates to GA -- would you like to be considered for this role? Would you want to be the representative from ALUUC who carries our congregational banner during the Opening Ceremony? Can you donate several hours to assist with ALUUC's fundraising efforts at GA? For these and other questions, please contact Brian Otwell, one of the members of the Board of Directors, or Rev. Martin Woulfe.

PLANNING ON GOING TO GA?

If you will be attending GA in St. Louis June 21 – 25, would you consider helping out at ALUUC's vendor table? We will be selling Bonnie Ettinger's CDs, the 100 Famous Unitarians/Universalists poster and other items. If you could volunteer an hour or more, please contact Rev. Martin.

NEED A RIDE TO GA?

The UU Church in Bloomington is chartering a bus to go to St. Louis, MO on **Saturday, June 24** and will return late that same night. If ALUUC members sign up, the bus will stop in Springfield, probably around 7 am. There is room for a maximum of forty seven passengers. If all seats are sold, the round-trip cost per person will be \$25.00. Interested? For more information or to reserve your place today visit:
www.uubn.org



SAVE THE DATE - UU WOMEN'S CONNECTION NOVEMBER 10 - 12, 2006

You will love the UU Women's Connection Lake Geneva Fall 2006 Conference. The women of ALUUC will be planning around the theme "My body: Live, Love, Laugh." We hope to design various workshops to help revitalize us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The conference will be held in beautiful Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. We are in need of more conference planning assistance. If you have never attended a conference do not worry. You will be guided with a team and our love and energy will result in a great event! Call or email Ceceilia at ceceilia_haasis@yahoo.com or Rhiannon rhi_connection@yahoo.com to join.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge commitment for this coming year. Your ongoing support of this congregation and its mission is very much appreciated. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Please see or contact Brian Otwell, who will cheerfully accept your pledge. Again, on behalf of all your friends here at the ALUUC, thank you.



NEW TO UU CLASS

"New to UU classes" will not be held in June or July. These sessions will resume in August.

June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Meditation 7:00 pm News Group 7:30 pm	2	3 Zen Meditation 9:30 am
4 Sunday Service 10:30 am RE Teacher Recognition during Service	5	6 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	7	8 Meditation 7:00 pm	9 Bridge Group 7:00 pm	10 Zen Meditation 9:30 am
11 Sunday Service 10:30 am Annual Meeting Immediately after Service	12	13	14	15 Meditation 7:00 pm	16 Labyrinth Walk 7:00 pm	17 Zen Meditation 9:30 am
18 Sunday Service 10:30 am Prairie Wind CUUPS Business Meeting 12Noon	19	20 Book Group 7:30 pm	21 Summer Solstice Celebration 7:00 pm UUA General Assembly	22 Meditation 7:00 pm UUA General Assembly	23 UUA General Assembly	24 Zen Meditation 9:30 am UUA General Assembly
25 Sunday Service 10:30 am UUA General Assembly	26	27	28	29 Meditation 7:00 pm	30	

LEADERSHIP LIST: CONTACT INFORMATION

Clergy:

Minister	Rev. Martin Woulfe	minister@aluuc.org
Minister-Emeritus	Berkley Moore	minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

Board:

President	Brian Otwell	president@aluuc.org
Vice President	Carol Floyd	vicepresident@aluuc.org
Treasurer	Tina Layer	treasurer@aluuc.org
Secretary	Will Burpee	secretary@aluuc.org
Board Members	Jeff Johnston Buffy Lael Carley Mattimore Stacey Larson Ceceilia Haasis Henry Farrington	jeff.johnson@aluuc.org buffy.lael@aluuc.org carley.mattimore@aluuc.org stacey.larson@aluuc.org ceceilia.haasis@aluuc.org henry.farrington@aluuc.org

Committees:

Committee on Ministry	Frank Kopecky, Chair Rachell Anderson Rob Ewart Michael Plog Jim Redlich Brenda Wade	CoM@aluuc.org
Facilities	Kurt DeWeese	facilities@aluuc.org
Fellowship	Carol Bailey (Sunday Services) Mary Salisbury (Special Events)	Fellowship@aluuc.org
Finance	Wes Duiker	finance@aluuc.org
Religious Education	Lisa Pauley	RE@aluuc.org
Program	Penny Wollan-Kriel Craig Bailey	program@aluuc.org
Social Action Chairs	John Malan Joe Coffey Jack Kriel	socialaction@aluuc.org
Electronics & Communication	Michael Naber	ECC@aluuc.org
Membership Coordinator	Scott Wade	membership@aluuc.org
Pastoral Care	Jodi Perko	pastoralcare@aluuc.org
2006 Trash N Treasures Sale	TBD	

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Newsletter submissions should be made electronically to newsletter@aluuc.org no later than the Thursday of the month that follows committee night.

Cecelia & Joe Hylak-Reinholtz
Newsletter Editors

NAME TAGS

Please notify Scott Wade for new or replacement name tags. Email Scott at membership@aluuc.org or leave a note at the designated spot by the name tag board.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of address notices and other subscription request should be sent to: webmaster@aluuc.org, or ALUUC Electronics & Communications Comm.

745 Woodside Road
Springfield, IL 62711-7346

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMING EVENTS

Submission for *Announcements and Coming Events* should be submitted electronically to office@aluuc.org by Thursday at 12:00 noon.

Additional Email Addresses:

Stacy Tischkau, Office Administrator
office@aluuc.org

Marla Johnson, Children's Religious Ed.
CRE@aluuc.org

Bonnie Ettinger, Music Director
musicdirector@aluuc.org

Jim Redlich, Choir
choir@aluuc.org



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation will be held on **Sunday, June 11, 2006**, immediately after the service, at the church.

Pursuant to the Bylaws of the Congregation, the Agenda for this meeting will include the election of the Officers and Directors of the Congregation, and election of members to the applicable Committees of the Congregation as set forth in the Bylaws. The proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 will be presented for approval.

The Agenda shall also include Considering the Lay Officiant Resolution, Annual reports, etc. The Board may include further items on the Agenda, which will be available to any member upon reasonable request.

