Our Words Are Far Reaching  (originally from April 2014, but still quite relevant!)

This past Sunday, I preached in Urbana on the theme “The Spirituality of Carl Sagan” – afterwards, I was greeted by a man who regularly attends there now but previously had been a member of the UU Congregation of Park Forest, where I served as an interim minister during 2001 - 2003. Some twelve years ago, he had asked me whether he should pursue an advanced degree in music, and I encouraged him. As a result of that conversation, he felt empowered to apply -- now, all those years later, he is poised to receive his Ph.D. this summer. He brought a copy of his dissertation to the service and showed it to me, as proud, I suppose, as a new parent might show his child. He then gave me the first part of the manuscript that included a dedication page, upon which he had typed: For the Rev. Martin Woulfe, who several years ago told me that, “There is no unrealistic goal ... take that first step.”

On another occasion – long, long ago - I was being interviewed by a member of the First Unitarian Society of Chicago, for a room to rent in her house. As I stood in her kitchen, I noticed a piece of paper held by a magnet to her refrigerator: it was a clipping from the local UU congregation’s newsletter. Upon closer examination, the quotation was by me, describing the difference between vocation and avocation, from a sermon I had given several years before. What were the odds of that happening?

Those encounters remind me of the power of our words – they can encourage or degrade, heal or harm – and their influence continues long after they are uttered, in ways that we perhaps can barely imagine. That fact reminds me of some advice I first heard from my parents when I was young: “Be careful of your thoughts because they influence your words; be careful of your words, because they influence your actions, be careful of your actions because they determine your character, and that in turn determines your destiny.” In my studies of various traditions, I have found that advice repeated often, across the ages and various hemispheres of the Earth. There must be something to it.

Another recent reminder of the power of words: this example was shared during the first episode of the new Cosmos series. Acclaimed astrophysicist Neil de Grasse-Tyson showed a page from Carl Sagan’s calendar book from several decades ago – upon one date, Sagan had written Neil’s name. It turns out that while in high school, de Grasse-Tyson had written to Dr. Sagan at Cornell and...
shared that he hoped that one day he himself would become an astrophysicist. Upon receiving that letter, Carl Sagan invited the young man to Cornell – the result of that encounter was not only to solidify de Grasse-Tyson’s desire, but it taught him what kind of person he wanted to be when he grew up. I shared that anecdote during my sermon. Afterwards, as I relate above, I met the man who had remembered my encouragement. I would call this a happy coincidence – nonetheless, it is a reminder that we should choose our words carefully and err on the side of kindness and compassion whenever possible, for they spread as wide in the seeds adrift on the wind and may eventually take root and bear fruit.

Sincerely, Rev. Martin Woulfe, minister@aluuc.org

### Membership Committee Update

The Membership Committee would like to say a great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in March’s New Member Ceremony. The congregation was introduced to 17 new members; it was wonderful to see all of you and join into covenant with you. March was a busy bee month, especially with the wrap up of the Fantasy Auction. Many thanks to everyone who placed a bid on the Membership Committee basket, and big congratulations to the winner. Thanks for supporting the vision of ALUUC.

Since March was so busy we took just a bit of a break from Pathways classes, but for April we’re right back at it. If you’re interested in becoming a member of ALUUC, please join us for Pathways to Membership session one on **Sunday, April 14, at 12:15pm.** Sessions two and three will take place on Monday, **April 15 at 6:30 pm.**

**Session Descriptions:**

**April 14:** Session #1 **Seeds: Sharing Our Stories.** This session focuses on sharing important themes and stories from our own life stories, with a special emphasis on our faith journeys.

**April 15:** Session #2 **Roots: An inside scoop on UUism and ALUUC.** This session is intended to present and discuss various themes and developments within UUism as a whole and ALUUC in particular. We will explore the Principles & Purposes, the Sources, and some important milestones.

Session #3 **Branches: Fostering Growth & Creating Connections.** This session is an opportunity for newer people to meet some of the leaders and mentors within the congregation, to discuss how one might become more active and engaged!

If you have any questions please contact Rev. Martin Woulfe at minister@aluuc.org or the Membership Coordinator Tracy Zieber at welcome@aluuc.org

Tracy Zieber, Membership Coordinator welcome@aluuc.org

### Milestones

The Program Committee is pleased to share that Milestones will be included during the following worship services during April.

- **April 14** - Sung Milestones
- **April 21** - Traditional Milestones
New Currents Within Liberal Religion, Rev. Martin Woulfe
Some religious traditions disdain “innovations” -- ours, on the other hand, welcomes and celebrates much that is new. What are some of the recent innovations within liberal religious theology, worship and practice?

Change for Change, Birthday Song

April 14, 2019

Meditations on Grace, Rev. Sarah Richards, Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
What is the relevance of Palm Sunday for liberal religious people whose concerns and hopes have to do with this life and this world rather than eternal salvation? Rev. Sarah traces Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist understandings of grace that can give us insight into our every day - and holy day - lives.

Sung Milestones, Potluck Sunday

April 21, 2019

The Jewish Jesus, Rev. Martin Woulfe
UUs would not take issue with the notion that Jesus was a first century rabbi. Some would regard him as a religious genius. What light do scholars like Rev. John Shelby Spong and Dr. Amy-Jill Levine shed on his native Jewish tradition and how that impacted his ministry and message?

Traditional Milestones

April 28, 2019 (Earth Day)

“Be Joyful Though You Have Considered All The Facts,” Dr. Amy McEuen
Amy McEuen has a PhD in Terrestrial Ecology from the University of Michigan and currently teaches ecology and conservation biology at University of Illinois Springfield. One of her “stretch goals” is to stop a 6th mass extinction; volunteers are welcome to join her on this quest. In addition to her work at the university, she is increasingly involved in science advocacy including emceeing Springfield’s March for Science in 2017. She also is a lover of poems and her talk for Earth Day will include stanzas from poems by Mary Oliver and Wendell Berry, including the stanza from Berry’s poem, "Manifesto", quoted in the talk title. She will reflect on the 7th UU principle, our role in nature, and nature’s role in our lives.

May 5, 2019

Does Channing Still Matter?, Rev. Martin Woulfe
Exactly two hundred years ago, the Rev. William Ellery Channing gave a sermon entitled “Unitarian Christianity” that heralded a new birth of liberal religion on this continent. During his lifetime, Channing was the most famous liberal Christian preacher and author – but he seems to have fallen out of favor with most current UU adherents. What may be still relevant of his spiritual insights and opinions?

Change for Change, Birthday Song

MINISTER’S OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Off
Tuesday - 10:30 - 3:00 pm
Wednesday - 10:30 - 2:00 pm
Thursday - 10:30 - 3:00 pm
Friday - 10:30 - 3:00 pm
Saturday - Sermon Preparation Day
Sunday - Available after coffee hour
Please call to schedule an appointment during evening hours.
As I write April’s newsletter article, I can’t help but remember Chaucer’s Prologue (I teach English in my day job, don’t forget). Those of you flirting about in my “certain age” bracket probably remember it from high school or college—Whan that Aprill, with his shoures soote, and all that—and the observation about April “soote”-ing us with showers is a good metaphor for April’s RE program. We are raining activities! In our classes, our pre-kindergarten through senior youth will be studying anger management and conflict resolution, as well as enjoying an outdoor lesson on observation in nature after our Easter intergenerational service.

The RE folks are also getting involved with UUA’s Guest at Your Table program, which we will kick off at the Easter service. For those of you who aren’t familiar with the program, Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the Unitarian Universalist Social Committee’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals—the “guests” in Guest at Your Table. We think the 2018-2019 Theme: Justice Across Borders, fits well with the lessons of empathy and compassion we have been learning in our RE classes. As the UUSC’s website points out, “From the Northern Triangle of Central America, to deserts of Mexico and Arizona, to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices”, and support of the GAYT program offers a way to help combat those injustices.

If you haven’t been back to the commons, you should take a moment to pop back and enjoy the collaborative art work done by the RE classes. They have created flowers of friendship, and invite you to add a petal or two, if you are so moved. We left plenty of space and plenty of petals for everyone in the congregation to add to the art. We also have a tree of thankfulness on display to which we would invite you to add your own leaves. If you cannot make it back to the commons area, we will have each one of these on rotating display through April as you enter the building.

Another project the RE Committee asks you to help with is our needs assessment survey. Please be watching your emails in the early part of April, as the RE program will be sending out a needs assessment survey. We invite everyone in the congregation to complete the survey, whether they have children or not, as it will help us make informed decisions about the direction the program.

We’ve added two new volunteers to the RE program: Sabrina Vining and Angela Solon. Please be sure to thank them for offering to serve in this capacity (and don’t forget, volunteers are ALWAYS welcome).

Finally, the rocking chair/glider in the nursery is on its last legs, and we would welcome a donation of a
replacement. We need something as safe as possible for children, so we’re hoping for something along the lines of the picture. We need a gliding rocker for maximum safety. If you can help us replace the one we have, which is just about to come apart, we would be most appreciative. We’ll even pick it up! Contact Pat Woods at dre@aluuc.org or by phone.

For my final thought, April reminds me that my winter hibernation (and I certainly pursued that with gusto) is at an end; it’s time to jump back into the warming world with joy. As William Cullen Bryant reminds us, “There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye; There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by.” The world is made magnificent by our interaction with it. Let’s go play!

Pat Woods, Director of Religious Education, dre@aluuc.org

Choir Retreat Update

W.O.W! An Incredible Choir Retreat and Service with Rev. Jason Shelton!

In August of 2017 at a white supremist rally in Charlottesville, our UUA president, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, and other religious leaders shouted, “LOVE HAS...LOVE HAS...LOVE HAS ALREADY WON!” We remember the national news and its horrors, but our guest musician/minister, Rev. Jason Shelton told that other side of love in the face of the hate and terror. On March 3, in his Sunday sermon, he explained that he took the words of the chant and wrote the song, “Love Has Already Won”, then the choir and congregation raised the roof in singing it as the closing hymn that day.

Rev. Shelton also gave history about our UU hymnals from the past to present and how they changed to reflect who “We” are as Unitarian Universalists. He reflected on the UU sources, found in the “Singing the Living Tradition” hymnal, and written under the twelve principles (page after “Preface” and title page). There it explains the many beliefs and traditions “We” accept, and what it means to be all-inclusive. Do we accept African-Americans without accepting and singing music written by African-Americans? Do we accept and support LGBTQ individuals and sing their music of justice, without accepting another's music of Christ? "We" is the large concept and must be reflected in our music ministry.

It was an honor to have Rev. Jason Shelton come to ALUUC on March 2 to give a choir retreat, as well as his sermon on March 3. We would not have been able to have him without the additional monetary donations from congregants. Thank you to the choir members and those who attended that Sunday. Like Pam Blevins-Hinkle before, and now Rev. Shelton, our visiting musicians give singing in a choir the boost in technique, with insight and inspiration. It may take a lot of work to organize such a retreat, but it is worth every minute. The music program at ALUUC is part of our Unitarian Universalist ministry, and we’re always looking for new understanding. In my last correspondence from Jason, he wrote, “Best to you in your (music) ministry - you've got a great thing going there. Keep it up!” Perhaps at some point, our goal can be to have an annual choir retreat with Sunday sermon.
The Earth around us reawakens through April having received the cue from the Spring Equinox on March 20\(^{th}\) when the sun rose straight east and set straight west. The Sun now stays in the northern hemisphere warming the soil to begin the new dance of life, until the Fall Equinox on September 22\(^{nd}\). We celebrate Earth Day on April 22\(^{nd}\).

However, our Blue Spaceship is under stress from our historical unaware burning of carbon-based fuels such that it is warming the average temperature and causing tremendous changes in our environment. More extreme weather events are occurring that are affecting millions of people displacing them from their ancestral homelands and seeking refuge in other places where they meet resistance to sharing of land resources. Not only is the Earth heating up, so is the social tension between cultures.

We must all make it our priority to do everything we can to reduce our impact and try to rewind the damage done for as the Earth will still be here, but we may not.

**Green Sanctuary April 2019 EARTH Report** by Bob Croteau

### Adopt A Prairie Plot and Learn About Native Plants

Last year the ALUUC prairie was a haven for many kinds of butterflies, native bees, dragonflies, birds and a variety of native plants. You can have a deeper experience of this prairie by adopting a small plot of the prairie to care for this coming year.

This spring the Green Committee will introduce new species of plants to the prairie to further increase its beauty and increase habitat for the many butterflies and other insects that pollinate plants. You can be a part of this effort by adopting one of a limited number of plots where new plants will be planted. (Funding is limited so the number of plants will be limited.) Or, if you don’t like to plant plants, plots are available for weeding so the native plants already established will flourish.

**What does adopting a prairie plot entail?**

- There are two highly qualified members of our congregation, UIS professor of ecology, Dr. Amy McEuen and Lincoln Land ecology professor Becky Croteau who will mentor you in plant identification and prairie ecology.
- Each plot will be 10 feet by 10 feet, although the plots can be smaller if that size is too large.
- Planting will begin May 11 and Green Committee members will be available to answer questions about planting.
- Care of the plots will end in September, or at times convenient for you.
- The committee recommends two people per plot - two people are more fun than one, and also the work can be shared.
- New plants will have to be watered once or twice a week until established unless there is sufficient rain. There is a spigot at the garage and a hose and buckets will be provided.
- Weeding - yes weeding. The Green Committee will provide straw for mulching to cut down on the weeding. Mentors will help identify native plants that are keepers and weeds that have to be removed.

Other ways to become involved with the prairie are to photograph blooming plants and/or insects and other wildlife through the season or simply record their presence in a prairie journal that we can start.

If you are interested, contact Virginia Forrer or Jim Curran of the Green Committee. A number of plots have been spoken for, so now is the time to sign up.
Eco Camp 2019 News

The preparation for Eco Camp 2019 is beginning! Our next planning meeting will be Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm at ALUUC. All are welcome to attend! If you have any questions, please contact ecocamp@aluuc.org.

Read more about Eco Camp at www.aluuc.org/eco-camp

*Mark Your Calendars: Eco Camp 2019 will be July 22-26, 2019.

PodCamp and Podcast Academy 2019

NPR Illinois is hosting two podcast programs in summer 2019. One aimed at middle school students and the other at high school students. These two programs are uniquely designed by NPR Illinois and Ann Strahle, associate professor in communication at UIS. Ann and NPR Illinois staff members will instruct the programs with support from college students and other public media professionals. For more information and to register follow the link: http://www.nprillinois.org/post/podcamp-and-podcast-academy-2019#stream/0

Program Committee News

The Program Committee will discuss the summer speaking schedule on Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 PM at ALUUC. So much goes on after each Sunday Service, that this can be an opportunity to bring your views and ideas to the table on a quieter night. Snacks provided.

Save the Date –

Friday, May 10, Roy Zimmerman Concert here at ALUUC

COFFEE HOUR

Join us every Sunday morning after service for coffee and conversation!

If you are interested in helping out with Coffee Hour on Sunday, go to aluuc.org/kitchen to sign up or contact email@aluuc.org.

FLOWERS

April 7 - available
April 14 - available
April 21 - Kitty Wrigley
April 28 - available

As always your tax-deductible $25 donation is payable the week before the Sunday requested. Thank you!

Vi Lanum, Flower Committee, flower@aluuc.org
ALUUC Social Justice Committee (SJC) Update

Sunday Service SJ Moment lets you know what you can do to promote social justice.

**RIGHT IN OUR BUILDING!!!! April 11 - 13, 2019, Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism**

ALUUC (Day 1: 6-9p, Day 2: 8:30a-6p, Day 3: 8:30a-4:30p) “Participants will build a common definition of racism and explore the historic development of institutional racism in the US. They will examine ongoing realities of racism including the identity-shaping power racism has on People of Color and White people; explore racism’s individual, institutional and cultural manifestations; and consider the link between racism and other forms of oppression. A strategic methodology to dismantle racism will be introduced, focusing specifically on applying principles of organizing and social/cultural change.” Please join us.

Only a few spaces left.

https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efoyrc4gf5ed85e2&oseq=&c=&ch=

Contact Nancy Derrig before registering to get the $305 rate.

**UU MidAmerica Regional Assembly, “Intersectionalities”, Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, April 5 -7.**

Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody, the challenges of social inequality and tools and skills we need to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general “nuts and bolts” of congregational life. Rev. Susan Frederick Gray will speak on Friday evening. $210

For information and to register: https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra

**UUANI Statewide Justice Gathering, Alton, Friday, April 5 (before the start of the above Regional Assembly in St Louis), Building Bridges, Friday, April 5, 1-5 pm, First Unitarian Church, 110 E. 3rd Street Alton, IL. Practicing intersectionality in our social justice work. Meet social justice UUs from all over the state. Connect our work for environmental justice, immigrant justice, economic justice and racial equity. Get prepped to meet with legislators locally and in Springfield. Learn about upcoming UUANI opportunities. Information and registration: https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efoyrc4gf5ed85e2&oseq=&c=&ch= Several of us are attending. Please join us. Contact Nancy Derrig to carpool.**

**Change 4 Change - Thank you for your most appreciated and needed generosity.**

**April: Springfield Immigration and Advocacy Network (SIAN).** SIAN is presently assisting Springfield area immigrants interned by ICE (U.S. Immigration & Custom Enforcement) and federal authorities. SIAN has an urgent need for resources (money, food, clothing, etc.) for these families. SIAN is people from diverse cultural backgrounds, faiths and organizations united to educate and work with leaders, community members and institutions to bring support to our immigrant communities facing crises due to present government policies & actions. SIAN supports immigrant & refugee advocacy and contributes to a Springfield in which ALL feel included, safe, valued, and welcome. Contact Larry Golden, or Meg Evans for more information or to help. Please make checks to ALUUC with SIAN noted in the memo line.

**March: ALUUC raised $280.41 to sponsor our own ALUUC members to attend CROSSROADS TRAINING. (see above).** http://crossroadsantaracism.org/mission. Donations still needed. Please make checks to ALUUC with Crossroads noted in the memo line.

For more information visit their website at http://crossroadsantaracism.org/mission.

Continued on page 9
Save the Date for Social Justice Actions and Meetings

- Friday, April 5, 1:00-5:00pm: UUANI Statewide Justice Gathering, Alton
- Friday, April 5-7: UU MidAmerica Regional Assembly, St. Louis
- Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 – 8 PM, Legislative Night with State Senator Andy Manar, 1st Presbyterian Church, 321 S 7th St, Springfield [https://www.facebook.com/ActionIllinois1](https://www.facebook.com/ActionIllinois1)
- Thursday April 11-13: Crossroads Understanding & Analyzing Systemic Racism, ALUUC
- Thursday, May 9: Environmental Advocacy Day in Springfield.

Serving Warm Meals on Cold Nights
The Winter Warming Center dinners concluded on March 24. We had five successful dinners from November - March, thanks to the volunteers from our congregation who came out to serve on Sunday evenings. A sincere thank you to the three generous sponsors who each paid the cost of an entire dinner - $325.00 – reducing the need to solicit donations. We had the funding we needed even before the first dinner was served. Homelessness is a priority issue for ALUUC and we invite members to get involved by volunteering and/or donating funds for the dinners. The new season begins on Sunday, December 1. The call will go out for assistance next fall. Until then, thank you! (Thanks to Michelle Green for this article and her leadership)

SJC Racial Justice Project (was Anti-Racism Sub-Committee)
We meet on the second Sunday of the month at noon, in the Berkley Moore room. We are open to all and need your input and ideas. Please join us at our next meeting April 14th.

SJC Regular Meetings
We usually meet the 3rd Sunday at 12 noon in the Berkley Moore room. Next meeting April 21st. All are welcome; we need You and welcome your concerns and ideas. Be the change you want to see. 
Nancy Derrig and Meg Evans, SJC Co-chairs

Springfield Immigration and Advocacy Network (SIAN)
SIAN is "Advocates from diverse cultural backgrounds, faiths and organizations who are taking action at the local level to educate leaders, community member and institutions to bring support to our immigrant communities and to promote positive change. SIAN is presently working to help immigrants in the Springfield area who have recently been picked up and interned by ICE (U.S. Immigration & Custom Enforcement). Larry Golden for information or to help. (Thanks to Larry Golden)

Community Opportunities for Helping Homelessness

**St. John’s Breadline** 430 N. 5th St., Springfield, IL 62702, (217) 528-6098
Volunteers provide and serve meals weekdays 8:00 - 10:00 am or 2:00 – 4:00 pm; 10:30 am –1:30 pm weekends and holidays. Groups welcome. [http://cc.dio.org/programs/st-johns-breadline](http://cc.dio.org/programs/st-johns-breadline)

**Helping Hands** 1023 E. Washington Springfield, IL 62703, (217) 522-0048
Or call 522-0048 ext 5; Brandy. 
(Thanks to Delinda Chapman)
Local Contacts For Social Justice

**UUANI (UU Advocacy Network of Illinois)**

Statewide gathering in Alton on April 5 (before the start of Regional Assembly in St Louis). uuani@uuani.org

Through Actions of the Week, over the past 2 years, nearly 1000 Illinois UUs have sent messages to elected officials to advocate for our UU values. UUANI is launching a program to create a Social Justice Leadership Corps, with teams from congregations participating in a 6 month program to develop our capacity for spiritually grounded and strategically effective action.

Please contact us at uuani@uuani.org if you are interested or would like to nominate someone.“

Our connection to this group is Deb Hagan.

More information and/or Email alerts www.uuani.org or www.facebook.com/UUANI.

**Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCCG)**

This is local association faith-based organizations (including ALUUC) and labor unions provides opportunities to work on Antiracism, Immigration, and Homelessness with people of different faith traditions. The work is done by 4 task forces: Education, Jobs and Economic Equity, Civic Engagement & Policy Involvement, and CUJO (Citizens United for Justice & Order). ALUUC members on these task forces would love to have you join them. www.faithcoalition-il.org or Shelley Heideman at 544-2297.

Go to http://faithcoalition-il.org/what-we-do/ for a meetings calendar under News and Events. There is strength in numbers and diversity folks. (Thanks Stu Jacobson)

ALUUC hosts our local PFLAG chapter (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) on the Third Monday of every month. The next meeting will be held at ALUUC on Monday, April 15 at 7 pm.

This is a safe and confidential gathering of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) people, their families, friends and allies to meet and share. This PFLAG group is open to all and welcomes your energy!

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2019, please write a check made out to PFLAG of Springfield for $3 per household and send to Rev. Martin Woulfe.

Visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/PFLAGSpringfieldIL. To contact the group by email: pflag-springfieldil_1@juno.com.

**GSIA Greater Springfield Interfaith Association Meetings**

April 9, 2019 at 11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Members & Friends of ALUUC are invited to join with the Interfaith Community on Tuesday, April 9 as GSIA hosts a conversation on "Our Faith Heroes." Participants will gather at the Chiara Center (4875 Laverna Rd, Springfield, IL 62707) from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm. Please bring your own lunch; some refreshments will be provided by our host.
Thank you for a wonderful Fantasy Auction!
Anna Sabin and Marissa DeWeese, our Fantasy Auction Co-Chairs, would like to thank the following people who helped put on our successful event:


Our Tireless Volunteers: Melissa Bernhardt, Heiko Buchloh, Christi McGinness, Jim Custer, Tom Green, Tabitha Bernhardt, Alison Stachera, Annie Stachera, Tracy Zieber, Elaine Orr, Kitty Wrigley, April Bracco, Carol Kneedler, Mary Ryan, Mark Hanson, Juliet Slack, Cheryle Pruitt, Kurt DeWeese, Diana DeWeese, David Cation, Larry Muir, Kent Childs, Sarah Iainnero, Trish Iainnero, Kevin Loop, and Sam Forness on the guitar.

All of those who donated items and services - special appreciation to Posy Robertson, who donated many items posthumously (Thank you Celeste Wiley, who manages Posy’s estate).

And of course, all of those who attended! We could not have such a fun event without people to enjoy it :)

UU Volunteer of the Year Award
Members and friends of ALUUC are invited to nominate their choices for the most deserving volunteer for special recognition.

Please submit your recommendations to either Rev. Woulfe or Jodi Perko, including your reasons for nominating them.
The News Group will meet Thursday April 4 at 7:00 pm but will not meet at the church. We will be attending the Great Decisions Discussion Program of the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI). The meeting will be in the Cook Lounge of the First Presbyterian Church 321 South Seventh across from the public library. Linda and Frank Kopecky will be facilitating a discussion on world migration. The Great Decisions Program consists of a series of discussions on foreign policy topics. It is held on 6 successive Thursday evenings beginning on March 21st. For more information on the Series you may go to the WACCI website http://mywacci.org. All are welcome to attend. For further information contact Kurt DeWeese, or Frank Kopecky, or email newsgroup@aluuc.org.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES RE CLASS

“A Course In Miracles is a self study system of spiritual awakening that teaches the way to inner peace and awakening through the power of love and forgiveness.” Alan Cohen

We meet each Tuesday at 6 pm to read and discuss A Course In Miracles. Most weeks, we meet in the Berkley Room but sometimes in Fuller.

Questions? Please email acim@aluuc.org.

HUMANIST GROUP

Please join the ALUUC Humanist Group at 7 PM, Monday, April 22, at ALUUC as we discuss the book Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World, facilitated by Carol Floyd. In Winners Take All, “former New York Times columnist Anand Giridharadas takes us into the inner sanctums of a new gilded age, where the rich and powerful fight for equality and justice any way they can -- except ways that threaten the social order and their position atop it. We see how they rebrand themselves as saviors of the poor; how they lavishly reward ‘thought leaders’ who redefine ‘change’ in winner-friendly ways; and how they constantly seek to do more good, but never less harm….Giridharadas asks hard questions: Why, for example, should our gravest problems be solved by the unelected upper crust instead of the public institutions it erodes by lobbying and dodging taxes? He also points toward an answer: Rather than rely on scraps from the winners, we must take on the grueling democratic work of building more robust, egalitarian institutions and truly changing the world.” ~ goodreads.com review

Questions? Please contact Sarah Iaiennaro at humanistgroup@aluuc.org.

NEWS GROUP

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All groups must reserve their meeting space in advance for meetings and/or events through Office Manager Cheryl Wycoff at office@aluuc.org.
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The ALUUC Book Group will meet on Tuesday, April 23 at 7 PM in the Channing Room.

Jackie Jackson will join us for her Stories from the Round Barn. In addition to discussing the book, Jackie will tell us stories from other of her Round Barn writings. We also will determine the selections for the next few months which may include A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole and Fantasyland, How America Went Haywire by Kurt Anderson.

We welcome anyone to join us whether you have read the book selection or not.
For questions, email Penny Wollan-Kriel at bookgroup@aluuc.org

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Young Adult Group will next meet on Sunday, April 14 after the Potluck in the Channing Room. Grab your plate before you go the meeting! This group is open to those who are ages 18-35.

COVENANT GROUPS

Covenant Groups are a great way to get to know other ALUUC members in a group that values listening and deep sharing on a variety of chosen topics. Participants commit to meet regularly: twice a month for about two hours each meeting.

The spring groups are currently running through the end of May; most will either not meet or meet a few times socially during summer. The groups will start again in fall, when new members will have an opportunity to join existing or new groups. To learn more, visit http://www.aluuc.org/aluuc-covenant-groups, contact Stu Jacobson, or email covenantgroups@aluuc.org.

ALUUC Annual Meeting June 9th After Service

In order to be eligible to vote at the ALUUC annual meeting, you must have signed the Membership Book prior to March 11.
Fellowship Events

**Movie Night: Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse**

Sunday, April 7, 5 pm

The 2019 Best Animated Feature Film! "Afro-latino-american teenager Miles Morales (Shameik Moore) becomes Spider-Man of his reality after being bitten by a radioactive spider. Soon, his path crosses with five counterparts from another dimensions: Spider-Man (Jake Johnson); Spider-Woman (Hailee Steinfeld); Spider-Ham (John Mulaney); Peni Parker / SP//dr (Kimiko Glenn); and Spider-Man Noir (Nicolas Cage, doing his best "Humphrey Bogart"). Together, they must stop a threat for all realities.

The CGI animation for the film was combined with "line work and painting and dots and all sorts of comic book techniques" to make it look like it was created by hand - every frame of the film looks like a comic panel!

117 minutes. Rated PG. Popcorn will be provided, along with subtitles for those who are hard of hearing.

**Labyrinth Walk**

Friday April 19 7 - 9 PM

Looking for a quiet yet invigorating spiritual exercise?

This unique and ancient pathway offers an opportunity to ground yourself in the present moment & explore the contours of your consciousness. Each walk starts at 7 pm. There will also be an opportunity to receive a Oneness Blessing before and after you walk; those who wish to stay after the walk may join in an informal Vespers service-UU Communion held in Rev. Woulfe’s office.

**Join us at the April Potluck!**

Sunday, April 14, 12pm (after the service)

Please bring a dish to share if you are able :)

Do you know what you'll be bringing? Let us know here: [https://www.aluuc.org/potluck](https://www.aluuc.org/potluck)
Want to know what other people are bringing? Find out at [https://www.aluuc.org/food](https://www.aluuc.org/food)

If you would like to volunteer to help with setup or cleanup, please sign up online at [https://www.aluuc.org/kitchen](https://www.aluuc.org/kitchen) or contact email@aluuc.org.
**Sign Up for Spring Circle Suppers!**
**Friday, April 26th & Saturday, April 27th**

What better way to meet new friends than over a splendid meal, provided by all? Please sign up if you would like to host a dinner at your house and/or attend a Supper. Once everyone has signed up, hosts and guests will be matched. Hosts generally provide the main course and their guests bring side dishes, but the real joy of the evening is found in the conversations. If you would like to participate in a Supper, please sign up, either: -- online at [https://www.aluuc.org/circle-suppers](https://www.aluuc.org/circle-suppers), -- the list circulated during Sunday services, OR -- on one of the clipboards posted near the drinking fountain!

**We still need Coordinators for these Spring Circle Suppers!**
Coordinators would match hosts and guests and send out one set of emails to the hosts and guests. Please let Martin Woulfe ([minister@aluuc.org](mailto:minister@aluuc.org)) or Marissa DeWeese ([email@aluuc.org](mailto:email@aluuc.org)) know if you are interested in helping coordinate - we will help you!

**Deadline to sign up is Saturday, April 20.**

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**Fundraise for ALUUC While You Shop!**

**Are you an Amazon customer? You can help ALUUC!**

When Amazon customers shop on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. For example, if you make a $100 purchase, Amazon will donate 50 cents to ALUUC. Every time you make a new purchase on Amazon, be sure to start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)! Learn more about how to set this up at [www.aluuc.org/amazon-smile](http://www.aluuc.org/amazon-smile).

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**Shop With Script**

Scrip is a cooperative that allows congregation members to buy gift cards to national retailers at face value, and a percentage of each card sold comes back to ALUUC. Gas stations, clothing stores, drugstores and restaurants are well-represented on the list of 400+ vendors. See the list of retailers here at [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com)

Physical scrip gift cards are sent to ALUUC; members then can pick them up and use them. Digital and Reloadable scrip gift cards are also an option. Go to [www.aluuc.org/about-aluuc/membersscrip-program](http://www.aluuc.org/about-aluuc/membersscrip-program) for step-by-step instructions on how to register for this program. Use the code provided by the Scrip Coordinator (see below) to join the ALUUC’s program.

Please contact Marissa DeWeese at [scrip@aluuc.org](mailto:scrip@aluuc.org) for more information, and to complete your registration. **Our next order deadline for physical cards is April 28th.**
# April 2019

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<td>6:30 pm Meditation Group 7 pm News Group</td>
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<td><em>1 pm UUANI Statewide Justice Gathering</em> 7 pm <em>UU MidAmerica Regional Assembly</em> St. Louis April 5 - 7</td>
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<td>6 pm <em>A Course in Miracles</em> 6 pm Covenant Facilitators Mtg.</td>
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* indicates event takes place off-site. **Bold** text indicates an ALUUC-sponsored event.

Check online at [www.aluuc.org/events](http://www.aluuc.org/events) for the most up-to-date calendar.
Contact Information

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Music Kathy Schultz choir@aluuc.org
Pianist Bonnie Ettinger music@aluuc.org

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Bonnie Ettinger
Larry Muir
Lara Quivey
Dennis Rumme
Marsh Wijetunge

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- Welcoming Congregations Meg Evans & Tracy Zieber wcc@aluuc.org

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ALUUC - Since 1953 Celebrating over 65 years of liberal religion in the Springfield area.

Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org

The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Springfield, IL is a religious community of individuals coming together for spiritual growth and fellowship. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our congregation and the people who make it so special.