ALUUC Focus

ALUUC is a Welcoming Congregation

The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a religious community of individuals coming together for spiritual growth and fellowship. We respect the diverse faiths and ethical traditions of every person and honor their cultural traditions, ages, abilities, economic status, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity, as well as their theologies, philosophies and political persuasions. We are formally recognized as a “Welcoming Congregation” by our national UU Association affirming and promoting the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender persons, and those individuals who self-identify their gender, in the life of the congregation and the community.

Special points of interest:

- EcoCamp 2016: Stewards of the Future
- Facilities Work Party
- The Artist’s Way
- Bikes N’ Roses

Inside this issue:

- From Your Minister:
- For the past sixty years, the UUA’s Principles and Purposes have expressed a constellation of values that were decidedly humanistic. But that may be about to change. At the annual General Assembly next month, members of the Unitarian Universalist Association will begin the process of altering the language of the “First Principle.” (The process to amend or revise the Principles and Sources take several years, and will be voted on by congregational delegates in Columbus and New Orleans.)
  - This of course is not the first time that the P&Ps have been discussed—the original six principles, adopted in 1961, were the culmination of the humanist era:
    1. To strengthen one another in a free and disciplined search for truth as the foundation of our religious fellowship;
    2. To cherish and spread the universal truths taught by the great prophets and teachers of humanity in every age and tradition, immemorially summarized in the Judeo-Christian heritage as love to God and love to man;
    3. To affirm, defend and promote the supreme worth of every human personality, the dignity of man, and the use of the democratic method in human relationships;
    4. To implement our vision of one world by striving for a world community founded on ideals of brotherhood, justice and peace;

- From Your ALUUC Board President:
  - This winter was mild, but does that make the spring any less sweet? Although we did not spend as much time hunkered down as we have in recent winters, we are still thrilled to see the great pastures of green grass with daffodils and crocus leading the charge towards new life. Many of us feel reborn when the outdoor temperature allows us to lounge on a picnic blanket in the new grass. The question becomes what to do with this fresh and exciting new opportunity to embrace life.
  - Sunday was a great day for flying kites. Several families, mine included, took the opportunity to stand in the grass in the sunlight waiting for a light gust with which to launch our kite. Once it is aloft, our seemingly simple job is to anchor it to the Earth. What is it about those kites? The kite is an imagination activator. Aren’t we really launching ourselves to great heights in the blue sky? Who flies a kite without imagining themselves up there looking down? There is a certain gaze from someone holding a kite that is dreamy and far away as they stand with feet squared off and eyes fixed on that lofty symbol of freedom.
  - In a similar way, many of us at ALUUC are gazing into the future as we seek to find our direction. Of course, once a direction is found, there is still the matter of finding the

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5. To serve the needs of member churches and fellowships, to organize new churches and fellowships, and to extend and strengthen liberal religion;
6. To encourage cooperation with men of good will in every land.

Not surprisingly, UUs in the 1980’s advocated for a very different compilation, which reflected our changing values and aspirations. The adoption of the Seven Principles represented a new and much more inclusive era, which in turn paved the way for a new Source, i.e., “Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature,” added in 1995.

The process continues. Just a few years ago, there was a serious effort to rewrite the Principles. I felt that the proposed revisions were prosaic, almost legalistic. Personally, I believe that poetry creates greater avenues for spiritual freedom.

The coming discussion will be fascinating, and reveal much about who we are and who we are becoming. The main discussion will focus on whether to change the language from “The inherent worth and dignity of every person” to “The inherent worth and dignity of every being.” That one word could make a tremendous difference!

I am looking forward to participating in this great debate: I sense that our liberal religious movement may be on the edge of a major paradigm shift with respect to our theology of relationships, especially as we connect the first Principle with “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

I hope that all of us will consider the relative merits and challenges of this proposal, and add our voices to the discussion.

Sincerely, Martin Woulfe

path to get there. This spring is a great time to get our goals lined up and begin to walk that path. It can be difficult, but it is often the case that the greatest views come at the highest cost. While our goals our lofty, we have a great community with which to share the journey.

Flying kites was a pleasant way to spend time with fellow UUs. I’m excited about doing other things with my ALUUC friends this spring and summer such as cookouts by the fire, fishing, kayaking, game night, open mic night and so on. Sometimes the modern world feels lonely. When we play together, we strengthen our community. I hope you find pleasure this time of year enjoying the company of UU friends and making new ones. This is my favorite way to enjoy the rebirth of spring.

Sincerely, Phillip Anderson

ALUUC Members and Friends, taken on April 10; this represents about half of our congregation!
Sunday Morning Services  
10:30 am

May 1, 2016  
In this service, Rev. Woulfe will share the distinctive message of John Haynes Holmes, who was instrumental in promoting Pacifism, the NAACP, Gandhi and Interfaith Relations during his lifetime.  
*This will be a “Change for Change” Sunday.*

May 8, 2016  
**The Face of Mental Illness**, by Tracy Zieber-Minks  
Most people are easily able to recognize faces: their own when they look in a mirror, the face of a loved one, the face of a dear friend, or a neighbor. But surprisingly, most people do not recognize the face of the mentally ill within our society. Those who are the most vulnerable are often the least seen or heard, and in the most need of compassion and understanding. This presentation is given in conjunction with the Welcoming Congregation Committee, in honor of National Mental Health Awareness month.  
*There will be an OWL recognition ceremony during the service.*

May 15, 2016  
**The Bathroom Issue**, by Rev. Martin Woulfe  
In recent months, various states and municipalities have passed so-called “Bathroom Safety Laws” that target the Transgender population. What are the deeper issues at stake, and what is a healthy religious response to such legislation?  
*There will be a Potluck after service—please bring a dish to share or a small donation.*

May 22, 2016  
**Further Reflections on Religious Enrichment**, by Rev. Martin Woulfe  
William Ellery Channing once famously claimed that the “great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own.” That philosophy is infused in our denomination’s approach to RE. Why is this relevant, and how successful are we?  
Also during the service, we invite parents, members, and friends to join us as we explore the highlights of this year’s religious education program. The students will present artwork and projects, sing songs, and say thank you to their wonderful teachers and instructors.  
*There will be a child dedication for Theodore Colbrook during the service.*

May 29, 2016  
**The end of civilization as we know it (and do we care?),** by Rev. Tom Burdett  
Rev. Burdett is an experienced UU minister who has served and spoken in many locations. In this sermon, Rev. Burdett will consider “The end of days” from the personal viewpoint as well as from a political perspective, and show how both are integrated (or not) using the Civil War as a frightening referent to how things are going now.

June 5, 2016  
**Death With Dignity**, by Rev. Martin Woulfe  
Assisted suicide is one of the significant ethical issues of our times – what are the objectives and hurdles of achieving “death with dignity?” Is there a uniquely UU religious response to this movement?  
*This will be a “Change for Change” Sunday.*

June 12, 2016  
The service will be the **Flower Communion** and the **Annual Meeting** will follow the service.
From Your Interim Coordinator of Religious Education:

The RE year is coming to a successful conclusion. This year we covered world religions, and teachers have presented fun and informative lessons on everything from the teachings of Jesus to the Dragon Boat Festival in China. Students have created art projects, read books and stories, played imaginative games, and even learned how to weave on a loom.

The summer session promises to be just as exciting and informative. Before we start the new phase of learning and playing, we must be sure to thank this past year’s teachers, facilitators, and other volunteers who have worked so hard to make such a positive impact on their students’ lives. Please be sure to join us on May 8 for the OWL recognition ceremony and on May 22 for the RE recognition service.

On May 8, OWL students will be recognized and celebrated with graduation certificates and special gifts for successfully completing the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexual education program. The May 22 RE service will focus on highlighting the big projects from the past year, displaying the students’ various works, and especially acknowledging the wonderful work from RE teachers, facilitators, and staff. Students will participate in both services, and parents, members, and friends are asked to attend so they can proudly share in all the students’ accomplishments.

Twelve of ALUUC’s Senior Youth attended spring CON in St. Louis over the April 8, through April 10 weekend. This conference had a theme of peace and examined the serious issue of Islamophobia. Participants in this spring’s CON were asked to bring items that could be used to help set up new households for refugees and immigrants to the St. Louis area, numerous workshops and team building exercises also took place.

The Senior Youth Group would like to thank parents and guardians for their support, The First Unitarian Church of St. Louis for hosting the conference, and Tom Vaught and Amanda Moriconi for providing transportation and adult supervision.

CALLING ALL GRADUATING SENIORS!

If you are a member of the Senior Youth Group and you are graduating this year, ALUUC would like to recognize your accomplishment. Over the next few weeks, we will be asking graduating seniors to give credo statements detailing to the congregation what ALUUC, your UU faith, and the RE program has meant to you along your journey.

Please contact Tracy Zieber Minks at cre@aluuc.org for more information, or speak to Tom Vaught or Laura Vaught, or contact Rev. Martin Woulfe.

— Tracy Zieber Minks, Interim CRE

*** Kids Club/District 12 will not take place until further notice. The RE committee is currently restructuring the Kids Club schedule and will have exciting information in the months to come.

On May 1, from 9:30 – 10:15 am, Fred Dietz will offer a special adult religious education session in the Barton classroom. His topic will be “New Thoughts on Spirituality”.
ALUUC Long Range Planning Update

The Long Range Planning Committee is working on the next step of our planning process. The board, committees, staff and congregation will soon be invited to provide feedback on provocative propositions (exciting, yet achievable strategic plans for the congregation) and suggest specific goals to implement them.

Long Range Planning Committee Members: Co-Chairs Debby Hagan and Carol Kneedler, Gwen Childs, Kurt DeWeese, Posy Robertson, Stu Jacobsen, and Dianne Roberts. Email plan@aluuc.org or call Carol at (leave a message) or Debby.

EcoCamp 2016 — Stewards of the Future!

Warmer weather is finally here, and that means Eco Camp will be upon us before you know it!

Our Harry Potter themed, ecology day camp is the perfect place for children to make new friends, gain leadership skills, have tons of fun, and learn all about the importance of being good stewards of the Earth. Mark your calendars, because we are proud to announce that registration for ALUUC members and friends, and for previous campers, will begin on May 15, 2016. Open registration to the public will begin on June 1, 2016. For registration information please contact: eco2016register@aluuc.org.

Of course, Eco Camp is sustained by its amazing volunteers. Our students cherish the time spent in classes and workshops, and they appreciate the food lovingly prepared for them each day. The adults of the camp laugh and learn, and develop lifelong friendships. For the opportunity to volunteer, please contact: eco2016volunteer@aluuc.org. If you would like to donate food, or help in the kitchen, contact: eco2016food@aluuc.org.

For general Eco Camp information, please see the website, www.aluuc.org/eco-camp, or contact Tracy Zieber Minks at cre@aluuc.org or by phone.

Our next planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 pm, in the Fuller room at ALUUC. Please join us!

Are you interested in a spiritual path to creativity?

The Artist’s Way, based on the book of the same name by Julia Cameron, is a 13-week course which helps us discover and recover our creative potential. Gwen Childs and Lori Leytem would like to lead a group on this journey, starting in mid-June. The group is limited to 12 persons, and it requires some time, work and a commitment to attend each session if at all possible, but most people find it to be a joyful and sometimes transformative experience. Please see Lori or Gwen after church for more information.

Greater Springfield Interfaith Association

On May 3, from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm, ALUUC member Vinnie Gupta will host the May gathering at his home. The program will feature a vegetarian potluck meal and the topic will be “Buddha’s Birthday Celebration.”
Aesthetics Committee News

We are experiencing major storage issues at ALUUC, so this month the Aesthetics Committee will be tackling the problem by cleaning out all cabinets and storage rooms. We will also be working on future plans for more permanent solutions. At present we have things stored in every nook and cranny, including valuable RE space. Many more things are stored at the homes of members, and it is sometimes challenging to find things that we need.

The Facilities Committee handles most of the big maintenance jobs, but we need help from the congregation with routine tasks. Our small office is used by four employees, and our kitchen is used by many groups. It is difficult to keep these areas tidy, clean and functional. We can all help by not leaving assorted items on the desks and counters, or in the refrigerators. If you need to store something, please ask a member of the Aesthetics Committee for suggestions. We also would like to ask that any items that are moved for activities be returned to the places where they were found, that tables and counters be cleaned, and that any food trash be placed in a trash bin with a securely closed lid. If you need signs made, or if you would like to donate furniture or other items, please ask in advance.

For new members, the Aesthetics Committee is an appointed, 5-member sub-committee of the Facilities Committee. It is charged with ensuring that the ALUUC building and grounds are aesthetically pleasing while maintaining their functionality for all of the groups who share our congregational home. The Board Policy and a list of issues that should be brought to this committee are posted on the bulletin board in the office. We are always happy to help.

— Gwen Childs (Chair), Linda Kopecky, Renata Buchloh, Anna Pearson and Lori Leytem

FACILITIES SPRING WORK PARTY!

The Facilities Committee is hosting a Work Party on Saturday, May 14th, starting at noon. We will be tackling a number of minor inside and outside clean-up tasks, and when we are done, we will head for the Childs’ house,15 Forest Ridge, to relax and enjoy each others company. Come dressed to work, and bring along a snack and beverage for the party afterward—no need to change clothes. This is a good way to get to know people while doing something important for ALUUC. New recruits will be warmly welcomed!

If you have questions, please contact Gwen Childs or Kurt DeWeese at Facilities-Com@aluuc.org.

Are you planning on attending UUA General Assembly?

If you will be attending, and you are interested in being a delegate, please contact Board President Phil Anderson (president@aluuc.org) or any other board member ASAP!

UUA General Assembly 2016, June 22-26, Columbus, OH. For more info, go to www.uua.org/ga.

Flowers for May

May 1 – Martin Woulfe & Angela Aznarte
May 8 – Art Darken
May 15 – Sandra Creasey
May 22 – Susan Solon
May 29 – Anna Pearson

Labyrinth Walk

Our next monthly meditative walk will be held on Friday, May 20 at 7 pm. This is a unique, ancient pathway to greater spirituality. 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 a UU Communion held in Rev. Woulfe’s office.
ALUUC Social Action Committee Updates

Sacred Conversations on Race (+ACTION)

This series will conclude on May 23 at 6 pm at Union Baptist Church. This spring this series, sponsored by the Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCFCG), took place in Springfield at ALUUC, Union Baptist Church, Cabrini Catholic Church and Calvary Baptist Church, as well as around the country. Originally begun by the United Church of Christ, this program was used in Ferguson, Missouri.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact: Rev. Woulfe at minister@aluuc.org.

UUANI (UU Advocacy Network of Illinois) Congregational Action Leaders

UUANI works “to build our collective power to act effectively for justice by building relationships within our congregations and with other congregations.” Their major issue areas for this year are Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, and Racial Justice. This is the group that organized UUs from across the state to come to Springfield for the Marriage Equality Rally (and we all know how that turned out!)

ALUUC needs a volunteer to be our liaison to this vibrant group. It involves wonderful, informative conversations with other socially active Illinois UUs by conference call 6-8 times/year. You would not have to join SAC (although you are most welcome), but would need to keep SAC informed about UUANI activities around the state. Looks like a doable job and I have a detailed job description if you are interested.

Change for Change

Change for Change in April provided Illinois Innocence Project with a grand total of $1183.64 to help them continue their advocacy for wrongfully imprisoned men and women. Thanks for your generosity.

Change for Change in May will go to the Committee for Children, an incorporated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that was organized in 1977 by a group of concerned citizens interested in reducing child abuse and neglect. For over 30 years the Committee has operated multiple programs aimed at reducing child abuse by easing stress on families and children.

Currently the major emphasis of the Committee for Children is operating the Someone Special Program which fulfills children’s wishes to participate in an extracurricular activity that their families would not otherwise be able to afford. Some of the activities sponsored include music lessons, gymnastics, summer camp, karate, football and other sports activities and camps.

Children are referred by local schools and social service agencies such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, The Parent Place and the YMCA, and all referrals are anonymous. The children must be school-aged and in the Springfield school district. The Committee for Children is an all-volunteer organization and 100% of all donations go directly to sponsoring children. Currently, our very own ALUUC member Alison Stachera is the Committee President.

Next SAC Meeting—May 22

SAC meets on the fourth Sunday of the month after services in the Fuller room. Everyone is most welcome! Together our actions can make changes. Please contact SAC@aluuc.org if you have an issue you would like SAC to consider.

— Nancy Derrig, SAC Chair
Green Sanctuary News

Vern LaGesse gives ALUUC Prairie an OK on development

Gardeners are used to near immediate results when they paint their yardly canvases with already potted plants or seedlings that burst into color even as they are going in. Even planting seeds directly in the soil yields quick results as they enter the annual race to beat the competition for sunlight. So it may not seem like the prairie is doing as well as it should from those expectations. However, according to Prairie Restoration Expert Vern LaGesse, the prairie is coming along very well. In a recent visit to check on its progress he pointed out numerous sproutings to the dedicated nurturers Becky, Virginia and Meg who braved the rain for the prognosis. The prairies were built over thousands of years so patience should be exercised when trying to reestablish one on depleted farmland, surrounded by modern agribusiness. Soon much of the persistent lawn grass will be completely displaced by the new carpet of prairie flowers and grasses. We get to watch it grow like our children into a full mature participant on planet Earth.

— Bob Croteau

The UU Women’s Connection Voices of Women is here!

In the latest edition of the VOW (found at www.uuwomensconnection.org/newsletters), check out articles all about our amazing Red Tent experience at the DeKoven Center in Racine, WI. We also recap the full fall experience with stories about workshops, our corning ritual, and we proudly introduce the newest members of our council.

But we’re moving into spring now, and with spring everyone’s thoughts turn to Pilgrim’s Park and our wonderful spring conference on June 3-5! Our theme for this spring is Air, and we will be “Honoring Our Sacred Stories” with keynote speaker Christine Organ christineorgan.com.

Register for the spring conference online at www.uuwomensconnection.org, beginning April 1, 2016. Paper registrations are available by contacting Diana DeWeese or Tracy Zieber Minks.

FABULOUS FUNDRAISING, no products you don’t want. Scrip is a cooperative that allows congregation members to buy gift cards to national retailers at face value. A percentage of each card sold comes back to ALUUC. Gas stations, grocery and clothing stores, drugstores and restaurants are well-represented on the list of 400+ vendors.

Go to www.aluuc.org/about-aluuc/members/scrip-program for step-by-step instructions on how to register for this program. Use the code provided by Kerri Skrudland to join the ALUUC’s program. Scrip gift cards are sent to ALUUC; members then can pick them up and use them. Many scrip cards are reloadable, and you can also buy scrip as a ScripNow eCard, which can be printed from your computer and used immediately.

Our next order deadline is May 15. Please contact Kerri Skrudland at scrip@aluuc.org or by phone for more information about this exciting program.
May Quote

“You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once but don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”

—Michelle Obama

Welcome New Members!

Diane Masters
Leslie “Les” Carlson
Cathy Brookshire
Annie Scarborough

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, May 16 at 7 pm. This is a safe and confidential gathering of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer) people, their families, friends and allies to meet and share. This PFLAG group is open to all and welcomes your energy!

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

Bikes N’ Roses at ALUUC May 23

Bikes N’ Roses is a not for profit group dedicated to raising awareness about the over use of prisons.

Seventeen motivated young people and five chaperones will ride bicycles from Chicago to Springfield to urge Illinois lawmakers to invest in youth, not prisons.

The group will ride their bikes to ALUUC May 23. Several members will host a potluck dinner and discuss some of the issues that they hope to raise.

They will spend the night at ALUUC before continuing their journey in the morning to speak to Illinois lawmakers. Please visit their website for more information: www.bikesnroses.org.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Phil Anderson at president@aluuc.org or by phone.

Lisa Kay Miller, Martin Woulfe & Jan Droegkamp were among the scores of UUs from all over Illinois who joined the Clean Job Rally at the Capitol on April 21.

We sold 260 tickets and had a full house at the April 9th Rev. John Shelby Spong event here at ALUUC! Pictured (left to right): Larry Muir, Kitty Wrigley, John Shelby Spong & Christine Spong.
May Fellowship News

**ALUUC Fellowship Events**

**Game Night — May 13 at 6 pm, ALUUC Commons**

Come out for a night of fun, food, and of course, games! Pizza will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own sides, snacks, drinks, and games!

**Sunday Potluck — May 15, after the service.**

Please bring a dish to share, or a small donation to help cover the cost of the potluck. **We need assistance in the kitchen** before the potluck, and assistance setting up the tables and food. **Click here** if you would like to sign up on a Sunday, or contact Marissa DeWeese, at email@aluuc.org.

**Movie Night at ALUUC — Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens — May 22 at 5 pm**

In the 7th film of the *Star Wars* saga, “30 years after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, the galaxy faces a new threat from the evil Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) and the First Order. A defector named Finn (John Boyega) crash-lands on a desert planet, where he meets Rey (Daisy Ridley), a tough scavenger whose droid contains a top-secret map. Together, the young duo joins forces with Han Solo (Harrison Ford) to make sure the Resistance receives the intelligence concerning the whereabouts of Luke Skywalker, the last of the Jedi Knights.” Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence. 136 minutes. Popcorn & light refreshments are provided, along with subtitles for those who are deaf or have a hearing impairment.

**Community Fellowship Events**

There’s a lot of **great events** throughout the area — here’s a few where you may see other UUs!

⇒ May 1

• 11:30AM-6:30 pm, Douglas Park. **Haymarket Festival.** Music, social justice workshops, speakers, art, informational tables. Free; bring money for refreshments.


• 2 pm, Congregational United Church of Christ, Jacksonville, IL. **Film showing of Dream On,** concerning the perilous state of the American Dream. Discussion and refreshments after film. Free.

⇒ May 2, 7 pm, First Christian Church. **LAF: Glorious Treble Voices.** Free, family-friendly.

⇒ May 3, 7 pm, Central Baptist Church. **LAF: Power from the Pipes.** Free, family-friendly.


⇒ May 6

• 5:30-7:30 pm, Robbie’s. **Uptown Friday Night (UFN): Julie Jules & Co.** (jazz, bossa nova, samba). No cover, family-friendly.

The **Liturgical Arts Festival** runs from Friday, **April 29** through Saturday, **May 7.** The exhibit is open to the public the entire week of the festival.

For more information, including the schedule, go to [www.lafspringfield.org](http://www.lafspringfield.org)
May Fellowship News — cont’d

⇒ May 6
• 9:15 pm, Brewhaus. **Mike Burnett & the Blue Suns.** No cover, excellent selection of beverages.

⇒ May 7
• 10 am, Downtown Springfield. **“Fat-Ass 5K” charity race.** A Springfield tradition that includes serious runners and those who take the “unnofficial” 1/10 of a mile “shortcut” to the Celtic Mist Pub, this street race is a street party (literally). There are prizes for the best costume, donuts at the aid stations, a “Hog Wing” eating contest, and live music after the race. If you don’t sign up early, there probably won’t be a space for you to run, but it’s always fun to watch. [www.fatass5k.com](http://www.fatass5k.com) for more information.
• 7 pm, Central Baptist Church (501 S. 4th St.). **LAF: Bach B-Minor Mass featuring the Springfield Choral Society**, directed by Marion van der Loo. $15.00 admission. ALUUC members Kathy Schultz, Becky Croteau, and Bob Croteau will be among the many singers at this event. For more info, contact 217-787-4868 or go to [www.springfieldchoralsociety.org](http://www.springfieldchoralsociety.org).

⇒ May 13
• 5:30-7:30PM, Robbie’s. **UFN: Gus Pflugmacher Trio (jazz, easy listening, variety).** No cover, family-friendly.
• 7 pm, Erin’s Pavilion/Southwind Park. **Movie in the Park: Inside Out.** Free. Bring lawn chairs or blanket.

⇒ May 14, 2-3 pm, Vachel Lindsey Home. **Poets in the Parlor: Jennifer Dotson.** Free. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/events/318993978224620/](http://www.facebook.com/events/318993978224620/).

⇒ May 15, 4:30 pm, Unity (417 Cordelia, Springfield, IL). **Special Invitation: Potluck, Art Show, Poetry & Song to Celebrate and Support Pride Fest.** Members of ALUUC are invited to attend and participate. If you wish to enter art into the art show or to share poetry or music, have them contact Rachel Lattimore [rachellattimore@rocketmail.com](mailto:rachellattimore@rocketmail.com). Have questions? Call the Unity at 217-523-5897. **Schedule:** 4:30 pm Affirmative Meditation; 5:30 pm Potluck; 6:00-7:00 pm Program; Art Show all evening

⇒ May 18, 6-8 pm, Robbie’s, **Springfield Poets & Writers Open Mic.** No cover, but bring money for food and drink. They have a great wine list, serve a good cup of coffee, and the pie is outstanding.

⇒ May 20, 5:30-7:30 pm, Robbie’s. UFN: Thornebyrds (bebop). No cover, family-friendly.

⇒ May 21, 11 am-3 pm, Lincoln Park. **City Recess: School’s Out.** Get the kids moving with old-school games for fun and exercise. Free. For more information, visit [www.genhkids.org](http://www.genhkids.org).

⇒ May 21, 12-10 pm, Downtown Springfield (on Capitol between 4th & 6th). **Springfield PrideFest.** Free, but bring money for food & drinks. ALUUC will have an informational booth there—we need volunteers! If you are interested in representing ALUUC for a shift or two, please contact [minister@aluuc.org](mailto:minister@aluuc.org). Go to [www.springfieldpride.org](http://www.springfieldpride.org) for more info.

⇒ May 21-22, 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday, Downtown Springfield (by Old State Capitol), **Springfield Old Capitol Art Fair.** Browsing and listening to the musical entertainment is free, but food, drinks, and amazing art will cost you! There is a special children’s tent where kids can purchase fine art at discounted prices. [www.socaf.org](http://www.socaf.org) for more information.

⇒ May 27, 5:30-7:30 pm, Robbie’s. **UFN: Soldiers of Swing (jazz).** No cover, family-friendly
**BOOK GROUP**

*** SPECIAL MEETING ***

Open to All


The discussion session will be held in the ALUUC Sanctuary on Tuesday, May 24 from 7:30-9:30 pm.

This book is the UUA 2015-16 Common Read selection. Each year’s Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

Following on the heels of our recent Sunday service on the work of the Illinois Innocence Project, this book speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on recent Common Reads, such as *The New Jim Crow* and *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness*, and responds to recent statements passed by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. “We will ultimately not be judged by our technology, we won’t be judged by our design, we won’t be judged by our intellect and reason. Ultimately, you judge the character of a society...by how they treat the poor, the condemned, the incarcerated.”

— Bryan Stevenson.

If you are interested in joining us, please sign the sheet available in the Foyer. Copies of the book may be available from a member of the book group, at the library, on Kindle or Nook, at Barnes & Noble as one of the many book selections for “Buy 2, Get One Free”, as a used book online or from the UUA Bookstore.

*Information regarding Common Read and “Just Mercy” is from the UUA website.*

**DREAM GROUP**

This is an opportunity for folks to discuss their dreams in a relaxed, friendly, informal setting. The Dream Group is using an online format for our conversations about participant’s dreams. Occasionally we’ll have informal gatherings. For more information, call or email Phil Gregg by phone or by email.

**HIKING GROUP**

Let’s explore the natural side of the New Salem State Historic Site, a reconstructed historic village where a twenty-something Abraham Lincoln lived for 6 years. The hiking trail goes through areas of hilly forest and bottomland near the Sangamon River. Afterwards, we can stroll through the historic village.

New Salem is about 30 minutes (20 miles) northwest of Springfield, outside of Petersburg. You can car pool from White Oaks Mall or meet us at the New Salem visitor center, where we’ll start hiking.

No RSVP necessary, contact Jim Curran with questions or to confirm if questionable weather.

**Just the facts:**

Date: *Sat, May 28th*

Meet time to car pool: **10 am at White Oaks Mall**, north end of parking lot, by Sears Auto.

*Continued on page 13*
**GROUPS at ALUUC (cont’d)**

Meet time at New Salem: 10:45 am, visitor center.  
Hike Distance: 3.3 miles (loop)  
Difficulty: easy to moderate (some hills)  
Hiking time: 3 hours (11:00 – 2:00 approx.)  
Kids and dogs on leash Ok  
Bathrooms, food/drink available at visitor center  
Address: 15588 History Ln, Petersburg, IL 62675  
GPS Coordinates - N39.58.550’ W89.50.511  
Phone: (217) 632–4000  
More Info: www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/sites/salem.htm; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln%27s_New_Salem

**HUMANIST GROUP**

The Humanist Group emphasizes core values such as dignity of the individual, equality, and social justice. We discuss a variety of topics including morality/ethical values, humanism as way of life, separation of church and state, science/evolution/neuroscience, behavioral economics and bipartisan politics.

On **Monday May 23 at 7 pm at ALUUC**, David Johnson will review *Franco ‘Bifo’ Berardi – Heroes: Mass Murder and Suicide*. For an *Inside Higher Education* review, go [here](#). For a *North Star* review, go [here](#). For an *Open Democracy* review, go [here](#).

Questions? Email Vi Lanum and/or Susan Solon at humanistgroup@hotmail.com.

**NEWS GROUP**

The News Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us at **7 pm on May 5 at Frank and Linda Kopecky’s, home**. Everyone is welcome.

Call Frank or Linda if you have any questions.

**PAGAN GROUP**

There will be a Pagan planning meeting on **Sunday, May 1, at 12:30 pm in the Fuller Room**. We will discuss the upcoming Litha, or Summer Solstice. Everyone is welcome to come share their ideas. For more information, please contact Tracy Zieber Minks by phone or by email at aluucpagans@gmail.com.

**WOMEN in the RED TENT**

We will not have Red Tent Saturday, April 30. Our next Red Tent will be **Saturday, May 28 at 1:30 pm**, in the ALUUC Commons. Meg Evans will teach sacred movement.

The ALUUC Red Tent is open to any individual who identifies as a woman and who is looking for a sacred space with other women. What is a Red Tent? A Red Tent is a red textile space where women gather to rest, renew, and often share deep and powerful stories about their lives. A Red Tent offers women a state of beingness rather than our continual doing mode.

Moms!—Your girls are welcome to join us in the red tent and become part of our sacred space for women. We leave it to each Mom because she knows her girl the best. Activities/topics will be posted well in advance of our gatherings so you can decide. Nursing babies are always welcome!

Interested in learning more about our Red Tent? Come join us! For more information, or if you would like to join our Facebook group, email redtent@aluuc.org.
# May 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother's Day</strong> 8</td>
<td><strong>9:20 am Choir</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 pm Board Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>11 am City Recess @ Lincoln Park</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 pm SAC Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:30 pm Uptown Friday Night: Soldiers of Swing</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30 am Zen Meditation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pentecost</strong> 15</td>
<td><strong>Scrip Deadline</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:20 am Choir</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday Service</strong></td>
<td><strong>Potluck Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:30 pm EcoCamp Planning Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:45 am Hiking Group: New Salem (carpool meets, 10 am at White Oaks Mall)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9:20 am Choir</strong> 22</td>
<td><strong>Sunday Service (RE Recognition Service)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Declaration 23 of the Báb</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:30 pm EcoCamp Planning Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:30 pm Special Book Group</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lag BaOmer</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30 am Zen Meditation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh</strong> 29</td>
<td><strong>9:20 am Choir</strong></td>
<td><strong>Memorial Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>June 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>June 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>June 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>June 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May Day / Beltane 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Twelfth day of Ridván 9:30 am Fred Dietz Adult RE talk Sunday Service Change for Change 11:30 am Haymarket Festival 12:30 pm Pagan Group Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 pm LAF: Glorious Treble Voices</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:30 pm Uptown Friday Night: Julie Jules &amp; Co.</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:15 Meditation Group</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30 am Zen Meditation</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30 am Zen Meditation</strong></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

#### Clergy:
- Minister: Rev. Martin Woulfe (minister@aluuc.org)
- Minister Emeritus: Rev. Berkley Moore (minister-emeritus@aluuc.org)

#### Staff:
- Office Manager: Cheryl Wycoff (office@aluuc.org)
- Accountant: Nancy Kraus (accountant@aluuc.org)
- Interim RE Coordinator: Tracy Zieber Minks (CRE@aluuc.org)
- Membership Coordinator: Susan Solon (welcome@aluuc.org)
- Music: Kathy Schultz (choir@aluuc.org)
- Pianist: Bonnie Ettinger (music@aluuc.org)

#### Board of Directors:
- President: Philip Anderson (president@aluuc.org)
- Vice President: Frank Kopecky (vicepresident@aluuc.org)
- Treasurer: Tina Bennett (treasurer@aluuc.org)
- Secretary: Marissa DeWeese (secretary@aluuc.org)

#### Committees of the Congregation:
- Committee on Ministry: Delinda Chapman (com@aluuc.org)
- Nominating Committee: Debby Hagan (nominating@aluuc.org)
- Endowment Trust: Roger Powers (endowment@aluuc.org)

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  - Webmaster: Carol Kneedler (webmaster@aluuc.org)
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- Social Action: Nancy Derrig (SAC@aluuc.org)
- Welcoming Congregations: Tracy Zieber Minks & Meg Evans (WCC@aluuc.org)
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ALUUC - Since 1953  Celebrating over 60 years of liberal religion in the Springfield area.

Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org

The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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