The Vietnam War is on my mind for several reasons. Growing up, news and images from that war frequently intruded upon my childhood consciousness, but those memories had receded until the number of deaths caused by the pandemic began to mount. A quick online check shows that 58,220 Americans died during the course of twenty years. In contrast, the number of 57,863 American lives have been lost during only the past few months from the COVID-19 virus. No doubt by the time you receive this newsletter, the number will be much higher.

A nearly equal death toll, but one spanning twenty years and the other only months. Already, there is widespread speculation that the current death toll has been grossly under-reported. Some suspect that elected officials deliberately downplay the deaths to limit collateral damage to their political fortunes, while others fear that it’s virtually impossible to prove that the pandemic was the root cause of death.

I am also reminded of various key anniversaries that are nearly upon us. This May 4th will mark the fiftieth anniversary of when the Ohio National Guard opened fire on student protesters at Kent State, killing four young adults. I had read the account of that awful day when I was a high school senior but the memory was stirred by my conversations with the Rev. Barbara Child, a UU minister and colleague who was a faculty member there on that day. The event was seared into her memory and changed her life, leading to a life devoted to creating social justice. Some of you may recall that she visited ALUUC a few years ago, leading a workshop on avoiding triangulation within congregations.

Given the social-distancing conditions imposed by governors due to the pandemic, I do not know what observances will be held. Perhaps they will be deferred. But for some, the names of the dead and wounded will never be forgotten.

Elsewhere, the names of those killed during the Vietnam War are inscribed upon an impressive memorial designed by Maya Lin. Many have visited that place for decades, searching for names of comrades or family, to weep or perhaps to make peace. The number of artifacts left behind has been legendary. The veterans of that war have aged, and are generally considered to be at risk from the COVID-19 virus.

Continued on page 2
I do not think that there will be a similar monument to remember, let alone honor, the dead from this pandemic. But I fear that the rolls of the dead will be much higher, and I am at a loss to predict how our society and its institutions will weather this particular crisis. But I remain hopeful of the outcome, placing my trust not only in the values of our democracy but especially in the decency and determination of the common people.

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

Ministers Office Hours - Rev. Woulfe’s office hours are currently by appointment only.

Reaching Out and Connecting - by Post

Some members of ALUUC are living in relative isolation and would be delighted to hear from you. Can you send a card to them? Also, some of our younger members are celebrating birthdays and graduations but of course their original plans have fallen through. Would you send them a card as well? Please contact Pastoral Care for a list of names.

ALUUC Members Host a Series of Zoom Events!

ALUUC is staying connected through a number of Zoom hosted events. Watch for weekly emails with the Zoom meeting details. You can also email the coordinators directly for credentials.

“Coffee Hour” on Sundays at 12 noon
Coordinated by Rev. Woulfe or another ALUUC member - contact him at minister@aluuc.org for details.

“Happy Hour” on Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30
Coordinated by Anna Sabin - contact her at zoom@aluuc.org for details.

“Brown Bag Discussion” on Wednesdays at 12 noon
Coordinated by Rev. Woulfe - contact him at minister@aluuc.org for details

Appeal for Masks

While we won’t be meeting physically in May, and we don’t know what June will be like, at some point we will be able to gather, but it needs to be in a safe fashion. Besides just having sanitizers and disposable gloves on hand, we would like to have a supply of hand-made masks available for people to use and take home with them. All of you quilters and seamstresses who’ve been making and donating masks, please consider making a few for ALUUC gatherings. You can drop them off at ALUUC Tuesday through Thursday mornings – just call ahead please. Having masks available will make our transition not only safer but more enjoyable too.
During the current COVID-19 pandemic, weekly sermons are being recorded, with chalice lighting and music by Bonnie Ettinger. (Thank you, Kurt and Marissa!) These are posted on our website, www.aluuc.org. Please view them from the comfort and safety of your own home. If you have a personal chalice, feel free to light it during this “virtual service.”

May 3, 2020

**The Illinois Innocence Project & The Pandemic** - Dr. Larry Golden

This sermon is in place of the expected presentation on May 3 had IIP held its originally scheduled fundraising event with guest Amanda Knox on May 2. The focus will be on the recent release of two of IIP's clients and the need for more compassionate releases during a time when our prisons are in danger of being consumed by the virus and innocent inmates are among those in danger. Compassion and restorative justice are especially important during these times. Larry Golden is the Founding Director of the Illinois Innocence Project at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

May 10, 2020

**Doing Ministry During The Pandemic** - Virtual Pulpit Exchange - Rev. Dave Clements, UU Church of Peoria

How has ministry changed since we all began to stay at home – and how has it continued as before? Will our mission change and priorities change? In this service, Rev. Clements will share his insights with ALUUC & IRev. Martin Woulfe will share his with the members of the Peoria UU Church.

May 17, 2020

**Coping with Trauma** - Rev. Martin Woulfe

Many have experiences of encountering trauma before – both personal and collective. What are some ways to address it without being consumed? How can we help not only ourselves, but others as well?

May 24, 2020

**Reflections on a Ministerial Career (Thus Far)** - Rev. Martin Woulfe

In late April, I marked a personal milestone – the seventeenth anniversary of my ordination. But my career also included a two-year interim ministry and nearly eight additional years at the shelter & group home. What have I learned thus far?

May 31, 2020

**The Wisdom of Ages, a Multi-generational Celebration** - Pat Woods and Rev. Martin Woulfe

The final Sunday of May is typically dedicated to celebrating the volunteers and students of the RE Program. This year, we will share anecdotes and insights gleaned from children and adults.

June 7, 2020

**On Rituals & Celebrations** - Rev. Martin Woulfe

Rituals are an essential aspect of being human, providing a framework for joy and grief. What happens when circumstances interrupt familiar rituals and milestones? Is it best to defer them, or to devise alternative methods? What comes next?

June 14, 2020

**God* is a Liberal*** - Rev. Martin Woulfe

On this Sunday, Rev. Woulfe will discuss several different models of God which dominate so many religious conversations, and how these in turn impact our lives and the community. What are the “Liberal” attributes of God and how is it more satisfying that the opposite?

*The Flower Communion originally scheduled for June 14th will be virtual.*

*Awards for the ALUUC Volunteer(s) of the Year will be announced on June 14.*

**Sunday Sermon videos are available on the ALUUC YouTube Channel**

[https://www.youtube.com/user/ALUUCVideo](https://www.youtube.com/user/ALUUCVideo)
ALUUC Expansion Update

Dear Members and Friends of ALUUC,

As you know, the pandemic disrupted much in our individual and collective lives. We hope that you are healthy as you shelter at home and have begun to create new patterns within your life and relationships. We do not know how long this situation will last but we recognize that while some things may resume as they were, others may never be the same.

In terms of our own UU community, one of the things disrupted by the pandemic has been the schedule for our building project. You will recall that on September 29, the congregation unanimously endorsed a plan to move forward with building a new sanctuary. Since then, there have been scores of meetings and conversations between the members of the building committee, the architect, and the contractor. For the volunteers who labored on behalf of ALUUC, this was truly a labor of love. After investing much time into the project, we had a detailed blueprint and a timeline. Unfortunately, there was a significant discrepancy between the estimates given by the architect and the contractor in terms of the cost of our sanctuary – a $400,000 discrepancy. Since one constant of our leadership has been to minimize the anticipated mortgage, our team returned several times to the negotiating table. Unfortunately, the contractor was not able to reduce the costs without radically scaling back our vision. This was how the matter stood when the effects of pandemic began to be felt and we made the decision to close the congregation facility and to cancel all events. The deliberations about the building project were also put on temporary hold.

During the past weeks, we have learned that many members and friends have suffered financial setbacks as a result of the pandemic. Some have lost their jobs. Some have shared that to honor the special pledges made last fall would now place a heavy burden on them for now. Thus, when the board met at its April meeting to consider our options, the consensus was to postpone the new sanctuary until our circumstances regain a semblance of normality. What this means, in practical terms, is that we will not be breaking ground for the sanctuary during the summer. We cannot predict when that day will come but we hope that will be next year. Since the donations already received are dedicated to the building project, they will be held by ALUUC for that purpose as congregants continue to pay on their building expansion pledges.

Like you, we look forward to the day when we will all be able to resume meeting in our current building. That day will be a time of joy and relief. In the meanwhile, please know that we have not suspended our mission nor our spirit. ALUUC remains a beacon of liberal religion on the prairie and that light is fueled by our dreams, individually and collectively.

Sincerely, Deb Hagan, President of the Board of Directors and Rev. Martin Woulfe, Minister

Annual Meeting Announcement – June 14, 2020

Please mark your calendars: The Congregational Annual Meeting will take place June 14, 2020, immediately following the morning service. We will vote on board officers and members, the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget, and any changes to our ALUUC bylaws. Details will be published within 15 days of the June 14 date, so be on the lookout for these important details.

*A person must be a member for at least ninety (90) days to be eligible to vote at a Congregation meeting or be counted towards a quorum.
**ALUUC 2020 Nominating Committee Slate**

**Committee on Ministry**—*Members are appointed by the Nominating Committee*

**New Appointments:**
- Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant 2020-2023
- Shatriya Smith 2020-2023

**Continuing:**
- Linda Kopecky 2019-2022
- Mary Ryan 2019-2022
- Yosh Golden 2018-2021
- Jodi Perko 2018-2021

**Board of Directors**

**Nominees for Board Officer positions, 1-year terms:**
- President: Deborah Hagan 2020-2021
- Vice President: Gwen Childs 2020-2021
- Secretary: Elaine Gambiani 2020-2021
- Treasurer: Tina Bennett 2020-2021

**Continuing:**
- Michelle Green 2019-2021 Term 1
- Alison Stachera 2019-2021 Term 1
- Larry Muir 2019-2021 Term 2

**Board Members:**
- Bob Croteau 2020-2022 Term 2
- Bonnie Ettinger 2020-2022 Term 2
- Dennis Rumme 2020-2022 Term 1

**Nominating Committee**

**Nominees:**
- Kim Villanueva 2020-2022 Term 1
- Anna Sabin 2020-2022 Term 1

**Continuing:**
- Elaine Orr 2019-2021 Term 1
- Dianne Roberts 2019-2021 Term 1

**Endowment Trust**

**Nominee**
- Richard Herndon 2020-2026
- Roger Powers *Complete 2017-2023

**Continuing:**
- Tony Florian 2019-2021
- Delinda Chapman 2017-2023
- Cathy Brookshire 2018-2024

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WISHES TO THANK OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE COMPLETING THEIR TERMS IN 2020:

**Committee on Ministry:**
- Ed Schultz 2017-2020
- Jim Curran 2017-2020

**Nominating Committee:**
- Michael Plog 2018-2020
- Sarah Iaiennaro 2018-2020

*We appreciate your willingness to serve our congregation!*
As you are all no doubt painfully aware, I am rarely at a loss for words, but I find myself beginning this month’s newsletter not sure what to say. We may be coming back to ALUUC in the near future; then again, I’ve just be told I will not be going back to my day job teaching, though I will continue to see my students online. So...what to plan for, and what to say?

I think I’ll begin with the things Religious Education finds itself wrestling at present. What to do if we do come back in May? Well, practicality does raise its head - we’ll need the folks who volunteered to help us make boxes for Spirit Play to do just that, even if we may not use some of the boxes until next liturgical year. We had thought about offering UUA-type lessons online, but the parents/guardians with whom we spoke said it was quite enough trying to do school work, let alone ALUUC work; Sunday sermon and stories are fine, thank you very much. Believe me, we get it, and spiritual development happens in moments like these, regardless of whether or not there’s a “lesson” to be had. So, when we get back to ALUUC, regardless of when that happens, we’ll meet the youth where they are, and be ready to re-engage them. We will not be scrambling to “make up” for lessons lost; instead, we will focus on moving forward, knowing we’ll need to center our youth, and ourselves, in the UU extended family once more.

We’re also talking about summer. Our vision, as it has been developing over the last few years, is to have an overarching thematic umbrella for the summer session, and solicit volunteers from our congregation to engage with the students for “one-off” Sundays. For example, if we should select the theme of “Wild and Wonderful” (and I am NOT saying we will--we haven’t had that meeting yet), then workshop Sundays might be things such as building a simple bat/bird nesting box, or learning to make/play a DIY instrument and have a parking lot parade, or making welcome baskets to give out to visitors/new members, or inviting fire fighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, or animal rescuers to a celebration brunch, or even taking a field trip to the zoo (once things open up again). We have funding to support summer activities, so please do not think this would be another cash outlay—it is absolutely NOT. So, please be thinking of the things that you find magical that you might like to share with our 2nd grade and up summer youth. Our nursery will serve those youth 1st grade and younger.

I hope you’ve been able to access our online Time for All Ages. It’s at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuoN4y6a00Raslrxmf89MSw if you haven’t had the pleasure. It’s been an interesting learning curve for me, especially in the Hinterland of Internet Outages (also known as “rural Petersburg”) where I live. However, I think we’ve managed to put together a decent catalog of “stay-at-home” stories. I’ve certainly enjoyed doing them, though I miss seeing the youth on Sundays. It’s also taken me an alarmingly long time to come to terms with seeing my image on a screen. I’m not unhappy with myself; I just have a slightly different vision of my voice and my appearance. Movie stardom is just not in the cards for this lifetime!

I hope what IS in the cards is a return to ALUUC, soon, but I also hope we do it wisely and thoughtfully. Like the Avengers, we will “assemble” in the near future; like a family, let us anticipate our reunion with joy (and maybe some really good potato salad!). Take care of yourselves and each other.

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

We have cancelled Eco Camp for 2020. See you in 2021!

Our top priority at Eco Camp has always been the health and safety of youth campers, teen counselors, and youth and adult volunteers. With that in mind, the Eco Camp Committee and the Board of Directors at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation have decided to cancel the planned 2020 Eco Camp – originally scheduled for July 27-31, 2020.

Based on past pandemics and supported by scientific research, the Coronavirus / COVID-19 is expected to recur in waves over the coming year. It is very possible that another wave will occur during the Summer.

A common tactic to “flatten the curve” during a pandemic is social distancing. During Eco Camp, classrooms are very, very full of youth campers, teen counselors, and adult volunteers – social distancing is just not feasible for the regular activities of Eco Camp.

Many people who are at Eco Camp are part of higher risk populations, either due to age or health conditions; many people who are at Eco Camp have close friends and family that are also high risk. We do not want anyone to get sick at camp, and we do not want anyone taking that illness home with them to infect others. We value people, and are unwilling to put others in danger.

This is not all sad news, however….This is also an announcement:

Eco Camp 2021 will take place July 26-30, 2021!
We have a whole (1, 2, 3, …) 15 (!) months to make Eco Camp 2021 the most fun, the most exciting, and the most MAGICAL Eco Camp yet! We on the Eco Camp Committee (and others who would like to be involved) will be working on new activities, new classes, getting new speakers, and of course, new t-shirt designs for next year’s Eco Camp. If you would like to be part of this planning, please email ecocamp@aluuc.org. You can also join our Facebook Group.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Join us every Sunday at 12 Noon for our “Virtual Coffee Hour”!

If you are interested in joining contact
Rev. Woulfe - contact him at minister@aluuc.org for details.

ALUUC Board Meeting Dates

ALUUC Board Meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

The next ALUUC Board of Directors meeting will be at 6 pm Wednesday May 13th via Zoom.
Warmest greetings from rural Rushville; I hope that wherever you are sheltering is a place of safety and wellness. This is a time of change for us all, a time of struggle for many. A full month now into the stay-at-home directive in Illinois, the reality of adjusting to life during a pandemic has hit everyone differently: some households are brought together while others find the extra time together to be challenging; many who live alone are finding the extensive isolation oppressive, but some are taking advantage of the time to pursue neglected interests; health and financial concerns have renewed weight; the learning curve is steep for students and teachers approaching education in a new way.

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed reminds us that “The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others...Together, our vision widens, and our strength is renewed.” We are fortunate to live in the digital age when we can reach across the miles and see and hear one another, even as we are somewhat disadvantaged in being able to identify who among our acquaintance may be struggling.

As we all eagerly anticipate the day when we may gather once again, however that will look, we have many opportunities to retain aspects of the community we enjoy. Those reading this newsletter already hold a great deal of information about what committees, groups, and congregational leadership are doing to keep us together in spirit. If you do not follow our YouTube and Facebook pages, they are an excellent way to see worship and pastoral messages. Likewise, the website contains a great deal of up-to-date information as well as links to communication and other resources.

Heather Vining, Membership Coordinator welcome@aluuc.org

Do you have extra puzzles or games that you’d like to donate for someone else to enjoy?

Drop them off at ALUUC Tuesday-Thursday mornings. Please make sure that puzzles and games are complete. If you’d like to pick up a game, please call 585-9550 first to see what’s available.

Have you visited the ALUUC website recently? Our video Library has expanded!

We have recently added special musical selections by the Croteau Family, Beth Emery, Bonnie Ettinger, Kevin Loop, plus Alison & Annie Stachera!
We have also added Stories for All Ages by Martha Plog, Shatriya Smith, and Pat Woods!

More will be coming soon - if you are interested in contributing music or a story, please contact Rev, Martin Woulfe to share your ideas!
Ever since Reverend Martin gave his sermon on St. Teresa of Avila, I have been thinking about my first experience in a UU church. What triggered this thinking was how St. Teresa viewed God—as a friend. Like many of you, I entered my first UU church wondering if there was a God and what that God was really like if that God existed. I knew the God I learned about could not possibly be God. It made no sense to me that God was supposed to be Love, but that same God would eternally condemn someone to hell. And what kind of God would even make a hell? I quickly learned that God was not a topic of conversation in that UU church. I learned that questions about God were not advised. Despite this, I loved that church and its people. And I am not saying my experience of this church was what the church was, only that is the way I experienced it. When I moved, I did not look for another UU church.

So after my move to this area, when I was invited to the UU church, I did not accept the invitation. I told my friend I had lots of questions. I wanted a place to ask those questions. She finally persuaded me that in a church that had atheists, theists, pagans, and Buddhists that my questions would be welcome. And she was right. Other people had the same questions and we explored them together. Did I get all my questions answered? Of course not. Do I still have questions? Of course. What I did get was a community that made our fourth principle come alive for me. I engaged in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. But I did not do it alone, I did it in community with a loving group of people.

I came to the conclusion that truth is hidden in community. It is hidden in a group that made meaning together even when the meaning was not the same for the individuals in the group. This is why the sermon on St. Teresa touched me so—maybe God is found in friends. No, that is not exactly what St. Teresa thought. But God as friend found in friends was triggered by the sermon. One of my favorite theologians, Kwok Pui-lan, wrote that Asians are not so concerned about defining God as westerners are. Rather the question asked is where is God. So, here we are in a pandemic. And where is God for me? Where is meaning in all this? Where is truth in all this? In the Zoom meetings with friends, in the Zoom meetings in class. In the Zoom Coffee hour with Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Sincerely, Dee Evans, intern minister intern@aluuc.org

Pastoral Care - The Benevolence Fund

During this extraordinary time, Pastoral Care has surged to the forefront of the mission of ALUUC. Many people are in financial distress. Fortunately, several people have made generous contributions to the Benevolence Fund with the understanding that these contributions would be used to assist those Members & Friends who are experiencing financial hardship during this time. Examples might include covering the costs of groceries or assisting with your rent. If you are in need of financial assistance, please reach out to Rev. Woulfe as soon as possible. We will try to be generous with as many people as possible.

If you are in a position to make a contribution to this fund, please send a check made out to ALUUC with the words “Benevolence Fund” written in the memo line or if you donate with a credit card using our NEW Online Collection Plate form www.aluuc.org/donation-form - where it says “My Donation is:” you can select “Other”, and type “Benevolence Fund”.

If you would like to join the Pastoral Care Team, let us know! pastoralcare@aluuc.org
UUA General Assembly - June 24 - 28, 2020

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution to make the 2020 General Assembly a 100% virtual event. This decision alleviates the anxiety and concern shared by many about how GA might proceed given the impact of COVID-19. It also gives the Association time to plan a more robust and rewarding virtual experience. Please go to www.uua.org/ga for more information.

Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

Rooted, Inspired, & Ready! is the theme for General Assembly in June 2020. We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

Please go to https://www.uua.org/ga for details about Registration.

All ALUUC members are welcome to attend; if you would like to represent ALUUC as one of our 6 credentialed delegates, please contact Deb Hagan at president@aluuc.org.

How to Pledge When We Can’t Physically Meet

As we are not meeting physically in the near future, we do not have an opportunity to pass the weekly collection plate. It would be greatly appreciated, if you are able, to make your pledge payments and contributions to ALUUC. We are still paying staff and utilities even though events have been cancelled.

You can make a donation to ALUUC or pay your pledge with the following ways:

- Checks made out to ALUUC and mailed to ALUUC (745 Woodside Road, Springfield, IL, 62711)
- Pay remotely through your Bank’s online bill pay. More information at https://www.aluuc.org/donation-form
- NEW! Online with a credit card via Pay Pal at https://www.aluuc.org/donation-form#paypal
Please complete your 2020 Census
The 2020 Census takes about 10 minutes to complete and provides vital data that impacts funding for SNAP benefits, school lunches, special education programs in our schools, improvements in our streets and highways, and much more! The census data is also used to determine the number of US congressional representatives for each state. **Illinois may lose 2 congressional seats!**


- From Faith Coalition for the Common Good (FCCG)

Add your voice to the UUs in Illinois
Since you’re home, and maybe at your computer, now is the time to get connected with the UU Advocacy Network of Illinois. For more information and/or to sign up for Email alerts: [www.uuani.org](http://www.uuani.org) or [www.facebook.com/UUANI](http://www.facebook.com/UUANI).
To receive information on weekly social justice activities: [https://uuani.salsalabs.org/actionoftheweek/index.html](https://uuani.salsalabs.org/actionoftheweek/index.html)

A Letter from the UU Prison Ministry of Illinois

Dear friends,

We at UUPMI wanted to update you on how your generosity is having an impact. At the beginning of April, we asked if you would donate to prisoner members of The Church of the Larger Fellowship Ambassador Program of Illinois so that they may purchase commissary items like soap, food, toiletries, or phone cards. Thanks to your commitment, our organization has given $1,043 to forty-three individual members through the CLF program. Moreover, our organization decided to commit an additional $200 to cover the processing and transaction fees that are required in order to put money into individuals' commissary accounts. We have received replies from various folks on the inside, with their expressions of gratitude to you. You have not only given commissary supplies, but a sense of hope. These small gifts are a way of saying, "We are thinking of you, and your life matters." These short-term acts of service are part of our long-term strategy of liberation, rooted in care and relationship.

Additionally, UUPMI volunteers from Third Unitarian, Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, and Unity Temple collected over 800 hygiene supplies for the women at Logan Correctional. Unity Temple also finished its collection for Logan’s Service Dog Program, donating nearly 100 items needed. All was faithfully delivered by my predecessor, the Rev. Karen Mooney. Thank you for all kinds of generosity and all your service, fellow faithful!

Please consider giving to our organization, and supporting advocacy opportunities we share with you like signing this petition from Restore Justice Illinois. **These days, we can get hope by giving it.** Thank you for being that much-needed hope while we work in partnership with other organizations on the long-haul changes that will create a new day with humans no longer in cages.

In faith and hope, **Rev. Allison Farnum (Director of UUPMI) uupmi.info@gmail.com**
ALUUC Social Justice Committee (SJC) Update

Continued from page 11

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

Social Justice Meetings

SJC Regular Meetings
We meet the 3rd Sunday at 12 noon.
The foci for this year are Election 2020, Environmental Justice and Homelessness.
We welcome you and your ideas. Be the change you want to see. For more information contact Nancy Derrig at socialjustice@aluuc.org

Racial Justice Project (RJP) now meets on the 4th Sunday of the month. This month’s meeting is May 24 at 12:30 pm via Zoom and is open to all. We can use your input and ideas. Please contact co-chairs John Record or Lisa Udel at rjp@aluuc.org for more information or if you would like to join us.

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 7:30 - 10:00 am or 1:30 – 4:00 pm; Shifts are also available Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm. Groups welcome.
http://cc.dio.org/programs/st-johns-breadline

Helping Hands 1023 E. Washington Springfield, IL 62703, (217) 522-0048
Provide a meal: http://www.helpinghandsofspringfield.org/, click the meal train picture, select and book a date. Or call 522-0048 ext. 5; Brandy. (Thanks to Delinda Chapman)

LOCAL CONTACTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

Immigrant Communities in Springfield Need Your Help
The Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN) is seeking monetary donations to purchase items for communities in need. We acknowledge the challenges of our immigrant, refugees and undocumented children and their families. We know these are very difficult times for everybody but imagine what it is to live in the shadows and fear to even go out to the grocery store or pharmacy. We need to see people in their humanity and understand that dignity, safety, and survival should be afforded to ALL our neighbors and friends. Our Immigrants, Refugees, and Undocumented communities need you. As of right now, if you donate monetary resources, SIAN will purchase the needed food and items. Rent assistance is also needed to keep people in their homes as many are no longer working. SIAN is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization; your donations are tax deductible. If you would like to write a check, please make it to the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network Charitable Fund and message me for the street address vesp1@uis.edu. If you prefer to use Paypal, the email associated with the account is andifica.delsur@gmail.com - paypal.me/VeronicaEAndifica.

From SIAN and Veronica Espinoza vesp1@uis.edu

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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 and Order). ALUUC members on these task forces would love to have you join them. [www.faithcoalition-il.org](http://www.faithcoalition-il.org) or Shelley Heideman at 544-2297.
Go to [http://faithcoalition-il.org/what-we-do/](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)

Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in Illinois
Moms Demand Action is a program of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention advocacy organization in the country. [momsdemandaction.org](http://momsdemandaction.org)

Action Illinois
Local group created to: build a better future for our kids and grandkids; spread positive change in a world of injustice and inequality; move forward with heads high & get our voices heard & rage onward for what is right.
[https://www.facebook.com/ActionIllinois1](https://www.facebook.com/ActionIllinois1)

GSIA Greater Springfield Interfaith Association Monthly Meeting

GSIA will gather by Zoom on Tuesday, May 5. The special guest will be Kemia Sarraf, M.D. Dr. Sarraf is the Founder and President of genHkids. Her Medical Degree is from the University of Utah School of Medicine, and Master’s of Public Health from the University of Utah Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Sarraf served for three years on the Executive Committee of the Association of American Medical Colleges, and was National Chairperson of the Organization of Student Representatives for the Association. During her tenure at the AAMC, she worked on topics ranging from NIH funding, to improving medical education and physician communication skills, to end-of-life training for physicians. If you are interested in attending this session, the Zoom invitation will be posted on the ALUUC FaceBook page.

ALUUC hosts our local PFLAG chapter (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) on the Third Monday of every month. The group is meeting by Zoom.
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!
Visit our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/PFLAGSpringfieldIL](http://www.facebook.com/PFLAGSpringfieldIL)
To contact the group by email: minister@aluuc.org
Groups, Classes and Committees at ALUUC
Tentative - Watch for updates

During the Covid-19 Pandemic many of our groups are on hold or are meeting via Zoom Conferencing. Please email the contact for the group you are interested in for more information.

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 have started a new study of A Course In Miracles from the beginning on November 5th. This would be the ideal time for the new student, veteran student, or simply curious to join with us and get an understanding of this philosophy.

Classes are on hold until further notice. For more information contact acim@aluuc.org.

Adult RE - The Sunflower Discussion Group

A Session on Forgiveness: Simon Wiesenthal’s The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness Discussion Group

Simon Wiesenthal was known internationally as a Holocaust survivor who devoted his life to finding and bringing former Nazis to justice and educating the world about the horrors of the Holocaust. He wrote several books including The Sunflower, which he first published in 1969. In the book, Wiesenthal narrates an experience he had while imprisoned in a concentration camp: he was taken to the bedside of a dying SS man who confessed his participation in atrocities against Jews and wanted Simon’s forgiveness. At the end of the narrative, Wiesenthal poses a question to the reader: what would you have done? Over time, people from around the world and from many different backgrounds and experiences have responded to his question. In the 1990s, over 50 of these short essays were collected in a “Symposium” and a new edition of the book that includes them was released.

In this five week discussion group, we will read and respond to the narrative and then discuss the possibilities and limits of forgiveness in our world, our communities, and our own lives. We will meet via Zoom on the following Friday evenings from 5-7pm: May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22 and May 29.

Please contact Cara if you are interested in participating. At our next meeting, we will discuss the first eleven responses to Wiesenthal’s question in the “Symposium”: Alkalaj, Améry, Babič, Bejski, Berger, Brown, Cargas, Coles, the Dalai Lama, Fisher, and Flannery. Which ones speak to you the most? Why?
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

During this time, we encourage you to make suggestions about books you have read that you especially liked and would like to share. This is not just for those who are in the Book Group but also for anyone who enjoys books. Please submit the book title, author and a brief description of the book.

We will have a posting on our ALUUC Facebook page where you can add your suggestion or you can email it to the address below. For questions, email Martha Plog at bookgroup@aluuc.org

COMPASSION & CHOICES GROUP

The Compassion & Choices Group meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month. Members and friends of this group are invited to join a meeting on Wednesday, May 6, at 7pm by Zoom. You can also join the Facebook group for Zoom meeting details.

Please notify Rev. Woulfe at minister@aluuc.org if your would like more information. Thank you!

NEWS GROUP

The News Group meets regularly on the 1st Thursday of the month for about two hours to discuss current national, state and local news events. The ALUUC News Group will meet virtually Thursday, May 7, 2020 via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss current events related to international, national, state and local events and issues. Participation is open to any and all members and friends of ALUUC.

Contact Kurt DeWeese if you are interested in participating or have any questions at newsgroup@aluuc.org A Zoom Meeting Invitation will be sent in advance with the link information

MEN’S GROUP

The Men’s Group is currently meeting via Zoom the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 pm. The Next Meeting if Monday May 11th.

Please contact David Cation at mensgroup@aluuc.org for information.

HUMANIST GROUP

The ALUUC Humanist Group will be on hiatus during the month of May and is transitioning to new leadership. If you would like to help coordinate topics and facilitators for future meetings, please contact Sarah Iaiennaro at humanistgroup@aluuc.org.
**MAY 2020**

All onsite events are cancelled. Please check with coordinator for virtual meeting information and updates.

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
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<td>Office Manager</td>
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<td>President</td>
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ALUUC - Since 1953 Celebrating over 67 years of liberal religion in the Springfield area.

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