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:

September 12th
Moral Declaration Day of Action!

Roy Zimmerman Concert

Listening Hearts

Senior Youth Group

Inside this issue:

From Your Minister:

From Your ALUUC Minister:

In 2015, Black Lives Matter activist Shaun King wrote, “If you ever wondered who you would be or what you would do if you lived during the Civil Rights Movement, stop. You are living in that time, right now.”

No one I’ve spoken with has doubted the disparities that exist in our society, in particular those that stem from Racism. And yet, a number of individuals from various faith traditions have continued to wrestle with how to stand against Racism. Some congregations have organized regular vigils; others have raised banners; others have launched programs to explore privilege, prejudice and racism. In our own congregation, members have participated in the Racial Taboo initiative, Conversations on Race and Sacred Conversations on Race + Action. We have begun to participate

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From Your ALUUC Board President:

As we begin to engage with ALUUC after summer break there are many exciting prospects for our future together. There are transitions afoot. These transitions may leave us feeling temporarily uncomfortable, but their overall end result will be amazing. This is the time of year traditionally when UU's get back to their workaday lives. Summer vacation has ended and with some melancholy we accept that fall has begun. The kids go back to school, the college professors and teachers go back to work and the church begins to feel full. The vacant chairs are suddenly filled and there are none stacked alongside.

The seasonal shift is a blessing for many as the sweltering heat subsides. They have been hunkered down for the summer waiting for some relief and that time has come. My hope is that we can embrace the changing seasons and the bad and good that comes with it. The disbursement of molecules as leaves and plants die is a sad feeling as we watch lives fade. Yet there is the knowledge that with death comes new growth as the seasons continue their forward March.

So it is that different groups of people come together for flurries of activity such as the Camden Spinner fundraiser many of us attended. I watched in awe the organization and effort of each member of the planning team as they put together an amazing event that then disappears as if it never happened. But it did happen, and many other amazing events are awaiting us in our future together. I think we must organize and simplify in order to engage our community more effectively. Please set your intentions to engage in our community. Instead of expecting the church to give to you, expect to give to the church. In so doing, you will assist in bringing to life new growth and magical energy by the time spring flowers show themselves once again.

Sincerely, Phillip Anderson
in Faith Coalition for the Common Good, a local chapter of the social justice network known as Gamaliel. In fact, Jan Droegkamp, Laura Thomas-Marlow and I recently participated in a weeklong training session hosted by Gamaliel.

For its part, the Unitarian Universalist Association has firmly endorsed the effort to address and eradicate racism; likewise, the UU Minister’s Association recently revised its mission statement to include the following declaration:

“The UUMA functions with an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural world-view and practice. UUMA members support each other and are engaged in the work of antiracism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism. In UUMA collegial gatherings, continuing education, and governance, dominant cultural assumptions no longer prevail; shared meaning is discovered rather than assumed.”

It seems that history is repeating itself for Unitarian Universalism. This movement, which was formed in 1961 through the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America, was immediately confronted with the role of this faith during the Civil Rights movement. In 1965, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr made a national call for clergy from every faith tradition to join him in Selma, approximately 50% of the UU ministers responded – along with many lay persons. Many of us know of the martyrdom of the Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo. During my years at Meadville/Lombard Theological School, these two individuals were lifted up as exemplars of people willing to put their faith on the line. Several of my professors in fact had been close friends of Jim Reeb, and when they spoke of his life and death, they were choked by emotion. Another minister told me that he had just begun to serve a suburban congregation when King issued his plea. He admitted that he debated whether or not to go – he had a young family, a new career, and he was anxious about taking a leave of absence from his new settlement. But then something extraordinary happened – when he showed up for the Sunday service, he was met by a delegation of members who gave him a bus ticket to Selma and they issued him a charge to go there and represent them and the larger UU community. He remembered how unexpected this was, and he was grateful to serve such a committed group of individuals, who understood that the role of the church is not to build ivory towers but to seek engagement in the real world.

Fast forward to 2016. Most of us would agree that we are not living in a post-racial, color-blind society. I have been in conversation with civic and faith leaders who hope to advance not only the conversations about race, but to create positive actions that will move us closer to a transformation of the larger culture. One upcoming event, scheduled for September 12, will be the “Higher Ground Day of Moral Action.” This event is directly related to the series of “Moral Mondays,” created by the Rev. William Barber, and promises to bring together people from diverse faith traditions in various state capitols, including Springfield. We are expecting Unitarian Universalists from various Illinois congregations to join in this event – there are details elsewhere in this month’s newsletter. I hope that you will join with us as well – this may be the defining social justice work of our lifetime. But as has become apparent to me, this is not the work of one individual or group or even of one generation – it is the work of the generations, to further the arc of the moral universe, as it bends towards justice.

Sincerely, Martin Woulfe

**Minister’s Office Hours**

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Please call to schedule an appointment during evening hours.
Sunday Morning Services
10:30 am

September 4, 2016
Are You a Closet Republican and Don’t Know It?
Posy Robertson & Mick Bray
This will not be a political speech. We’ll simply examine the way we, “use our powers to heal and not to harm, to help and not to hinder,” in service to the common good.
This will be a “Change for Change” Sunday collection for Springfield-based International Assist Medical Missions (IAMM).

September 11, 2016
Water & Stone Communion
Rev. Martin Woulfe
ALUUC will celebrate its annual ingathering service on Sunday, September 11th with a Water & Stone Communion. As in previous years, members and friends are invited to share spiritual in-sights gleaned during the summer. This service will include a remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001 which will be conducted by Rev. Woulfe and Maryam Mostoufi.

September 18, 2016
The Paths of Politics & Faith
Rev. Martin Woulfe
What are the paths of idealism? Some may journey into a life centered around politics, others into faith. When and do these paths intersect? How do they diverge? And what happens when a person moves from one to the other?
There will be a potluck after the Service—bring a dish to share!

September 25, 2016
Soft & Hard Blessings
Rev. Martin Woulfe
There’s a common adage that we should learn “to count our blessings.” What does this mean? Are all things of equal weight – or not? How does this practice relate to lessons within major Western traditions as well as zen? How do we differentiate between a “soft” blessing and a “hard” one?

October 2, 2016
New Trends within Unitarian Universalism
Rev. Martin Woulfe
During the past few months, I have noticed that the UU Minister’s Association and the UUA have been promoting new emphases and issues. What are these, and how might they impact the future of UUism on the Illinois Prairie?
This will be a “Change for Change” Sunday.

Volunteer(s) needed to help create Guest Packets and New Member Packets
As the new liturgical year moves forward, we would invite one or more persons to assist with assembling ALUUC’s Guest Packets and the New Member Packets. These packets are essential for those who are learning about UUism and ALUUC. If interested, please contact Rev. Woulfe.
From Your Intern Minister:

I have officially started as your 2016-2017 Ministerial Intern. As I shared last month, my family and I are moved in and we’ve had the added bonus of my younger sister Alice moving in with us. She moved to Illinois from Stevenson, WA (near Vancouver, WA). The children have started school and are making friends. It feels like a very good start to this church year.

One of the things I have found that I really appreciate about Springfield is the variety in the weather. The cooler days and the fact that the air moves here, even when it’s hot, the wind moves, making it not quite so terrible. The thunderstorms have been a particular highlight. Arizona gets monsoons, which are different and not as spectacularly beautiful.

I have been getting questions from congregants about what I will be doing with my time this year. I will be offering adult religious education classes, organizing small group ministry circles, attending committee meetings, preaching, working with social justice issues, helping out in the kitchen as often as I can and getting to know all of you. I will also be the on call minister when Martin is on vacation or not available.

Throughout my time in ministry, I have identified that one of my biggest passions is small group ministry. I love getting to know people in a much deeper way than just saying “Hi” on Sunday. My first offering within small group ministry will be a Couples Enrichment Group (CEG). We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, starting **September 14, 2016 through May 24, 2017**. This is a group for people in committed relationships, married or not, who want to have some dedicated time together to work on communication and to meet other couples who want the same. Whether your relationship has just begun or you’ve been married for years; we all want a healthy, mutually satisfying relationship with the one we love. I invite you to come check it out. The group will meet on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the Channing room from 7-8:30 pm**. Please email me at intern@aluuc.org if you would like to sign up. It is my hope to have a steady group of couples wishing to participate, so feel free to come and see if this might be for you.

I look forward to getting to know you as this year progresses.

Paula

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**ALUUC Choir**

**Rehearsals on Sundays**

Would you like to be part of our congregation’s music ministry? Come to our choir’s rehearsals as we prepare to sing for Sunday services. We need all voices—sopranos, altos, tenors, basses—as we sing in harmony.

We rehearse at **9:15 am each Sunday in the Fuller room**. Our commitment in choir is a joy, knowing that the music is a type of “prayer” for our congregation. Please join us! If you have further questions, feel free to contact Kathy Schultz at choir@aluuc.org.

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**New ALUUC Cookbooks are on the Way!**

A new edition of the ALUUC Cookbook will be ready by Christmas.

Great for a present or stocking stuffer!

If you have a recipe you want put in (or a revision to a previously submitted recipe), please send to: Rob Ewart by **November 1**.

All recipes welcome!
From Your Religious Education Committee

The new Religious Education year is underway at ALUUC. This year’s curriculum is dedicated to the teachings, history, and principles and sources of Unitarian Universalism. We are particularly proud of our teachers and staff who volunteer their time to make sure our students receive the best lessons every Sunday morning. The nursery is dedicated to babies and toddlers ages two and younger, while our other classes are carefully constructed so each age group receives curriculum tailored to their growing spiritual needs and interests. Once a month we celebrate a Children’s RE Worship — a special intergenerational lesson prepared for all age groups and students to share.

Religious education is the backbone to spiritual growth, leading to the next generation of adults who will lead not only productive lives, but ALUUC and Unitarian Universalism, and even entire communities, as a whole. The RE Committee, and its new co-chairs Caitlin McDonald and Tracy Zieber Minks, are proud to help guide ALUUC’s future leaders. Come join us and be a part of shaping the future.

All new and returning ALUUC Religious Education students must register for the 2016-17 RE year. You can do so by visiting the ALUUC website and filling out the electronic registration form and photo permission slip, or please see Caitlin McDonald or Tracy Zieber Minks for paper copies. To volunteer as a teacher or adult assistant, or holiday pageant help, offer snack or other RE supplies, please contact Caitlin or Tracy at re@aluuc.org, or by phone.

— Caitlin McDonald & Tracy Zieber Minks

Flowers for September

September 4 – Vi Lanum
September 11 – Posy Robertson
September 18 – Available
September 25 – Available

September Quote

Music is gathering. Taking our scattered thoughts and senses and coalescing us back into our core. Music is powerful. The first few chords can change us where no self-help books can.

— Jane Siberry

FABULOUS FUNDRAISING

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 special code for ALUUC provided by Kerri 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 September 18. Please contact Kerri Skrudland at scrip@aluuc.org or by phone for more information about this exciting program.
ALUUC Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee met with the Board in July to share our strategic plans and collect specific goals that support those plans. In August, the Committee met with church staff and held our first meeting with committee chairs. In September, we will collect specific goals from committees.

At the church service on Sunday, October 23, our consultant, Steve Mennerick, will join us as we share our strategic plans with the congregation as a whole; share goals from the board, staff and committees; and ask the congregation to contribute goals that Sunday and the next Sunday. On Sunday, November 13, we will hold a special congregational meeting to vote to formally adopt the strategic plans and to prioritize the final list of specific goals for the next 18 months.

Please reserve October 23 and November 13 on your calendar — and join us to help guide our congregation’s next steps.

For more information

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 by phone (leave a message) or Debby by phone.

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, September 19 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.

UU Women’s Connection

Get ready for the UU Women’s Connection Fall Retreat at the beautiful DeKoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin

Our Keynote speaker, Kayta Gajdos, the author of Quiet Wisdom In Loud Times: Rise of the Wounded Feminine is a renowned psychologist and proponent of women’s studies and issues. Kayta will also be offering an additional workshop, and the women’s connection will offer retreat workshops focused on both the spiritual and physical aspects affecting women today. Registration will be available online and in our newest edition of the VOW in a couple of weeks.

So save the date for Oct. 14 -16, 2016, and plan to be at the UU Women’s Connection Fall Retreat at the DeKoven Center.

For more information, please contact Tracy Zieber Minks or Diana DeWeese. The UU Women’s Connection website is www.uuwomensconnection.org
**Pathway Sessions** is a special series for people interested in membership at ALUUC. The next series will be held on **Wednesday, September 14 at 7-10 pm and Wednesday, September 21 at 7-9 pm** (double session of #2 & #3) Please contact Rev. Martin Woulfe (minister@aluuc.org) if you would like to attend. Child care is available upon request.

**September 14:** Single 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.

**September 21:** Double 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. New and seasoned members are encouraged to attend.

**#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!

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**ROY ZIMMERMAN, “This Machine” Concert,**
Thursday Sept 15, 7 pm—$18.00

Roy Zimmerman’s upcoming show, “This Machine,” is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman’s hilarious, rhyme-intensive original songs. The title is a reference to Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to be sure, but also an acknowledgement that songwriting does good work in the world. “Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression,” says Roy, “because in calling out the world’s absurdities and laughing in their face, I’m affirming the real possibility of change.”

Roy’s songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime. He’s shared stages with Bill Maher, Robin Williams, Ellen DeGeneres, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin. He’s been profiled on NPR’s “All Things Considered,” and he’s a featured blogger for the Huffington Post.

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**Greater Springfield Interfaith Association**

We look forward to gathering for our first GSIA meeting on September 6th at the **Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation** (228 W. Miller St.). We will meet in the MCLI Schnirring Board Room on the second floor. While our meetings typically run from 11:45-1:30, please note that this particular event will last until 2:00 pm. Why the extension? Our hosts will be offering a guided tour of the MCLI starting at 1:00 pm; you will get to see a state of the art learning environment, including the simulated apartment, ambulance and surgery suite. We will have a time to meet, greet & eat before our tour. Please bring your lunch or you can pick up something from the “Food for Thought Café” on the first floor of the MCLI.

**Date:** September 6  
**Start Time:** 11:45-1:30pm (tour 1:00 - 2:00 pm)  
**Room:** MCLI 2E Schnirring Board Room (2nd floor)
Thank you to those who helped collect seeds at Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary. Their work resulted in several big bags of seed from flowers such as penstemon, monarda, and grey headed coneflower. Many of those seeds will go into our prairie to enrich its diversity.

Also, a big thank you to the Men’s Group for whacking all the giant ragweed on the northern property boundary. Here they are (minus Jim Curran who took the photograph) in the midst of the vanquished foe. Ragweed, and not goldenrod, is one of the main causes of sneezes in the fall and considered a noxious weed. Although this ragweed was not in the prairie, it was a potential seed source for our prairie, and we are glad it is gone.

The flowers already present in the prairie are attracting many pollinators. Here is a Buckeye butterfly, one of several species of butterflies that can be found in our prairie. The Buckeye immigrates up from the south to our area in the spring then can be found in open sunny areas, old fields and road-sides—not an uncommon butterfly but important as it flies flower to flower transferring pollen while feeding on nectar. I’ve talked to several experts who manage natural areas and they say this year they see fewer butterflies than in previous years. So our little ALUUC prairie, especially as it matures, will provide food and habitat—increasingly limited resources—for butterflies and other pollinators. Besides, butterflies are so beautiful they bring joy and wonder just by being present.

Join us in the Prairie!

Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm, join the Green Sanctuary Committee to weed the prairie. We are now working primarily on goldenrod, a beautiful plant but one that tends to take over where ever it grows. Long pants and socks are recommended.

Collect Seeds at the Nipper Wildlife Area

Join the Green Committee and the Friends of the Sangamon Valley to collect seeds at Nipper Wildlife Area on the second Sunday (September 11). Some of the seeds will be used to enrich the diversity of the ALUUC prairie. Long pants, socks, hat and water are suggested.

We will meet at 1:00 pm after Sunday Services in the ALUUC parking lot and carpool out to Nipper—an approximate 20 minute ride. For more information contact Virginia Forrer.
ALUUC Green Sanctuary

Solar Report for September 2016
by Bob Croteau

ALUUC Gets Recognized for its Solar Efforts & Group Buy Pricing for Solar

ALUUC didn’t win an award from Interfaith Power & Light for the green activities the Green Sanctuary Committee has practiced over the years, but we did get noticed for our Solar Array. Cindy Shepherd is the Central Illinois Director of Faith in Place www.faithinplace.org, the Illinois Affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light, and she is working with Andy Robinson of the UUC in Washington, Illinois, that is exploring installing solar panels to reduce their carbon footprint. Cindy would really like to write up a “success story” for the Faith in Place website, so that other communities of faith could be inspired by our example. They were exploring financing options and were made aware of a “group buying plan” to make solar more affordable, in the Champaign/Urbana area but were not able to move quick enough to participate.

However a new plan has emerged here called “Go Solar Springfield” to replicate that successful program. It is being organized in the Springfield area by Sustainable Springfield Inc. and Downtown Springfield Inc. in cooperation with WindSolarUSA from whom we purchased our solar panels. A series of meetings have established a plan to involve as many homes and businesses as possible to take advantage of this lower volume pricing strategy saving about 20% on the installed cost and the next meeting is on September 7th at 6:30-7:30 at Lincoln Library. So if you have wanted to go solar, this may be your best chance to do so. For more information and to sign up, go to eventbrite.com/e/go-solar-springfield-information-meeting-lincoln-library-tickets-27148892067?aff=erelexpmlt.

If you can’t make that meeting then we could sponsor a presentation at ALUUC in the near future to make sure we can all get on board. Visit the Facebook page “Go Solar Springfield” to get all the details.

Is it time for ALUUC to expand its modest solar array?

We could get in on this low price that would also bring the opportunity to sell our SRECs at double the price we are getting for our current 2.7kW array. With these conditions and another CWLP rebate we are looking at a 5-year payback and 5-cents/kWh over 30 years.

Labyrinth Walk

Our monthly meditative walks resume on Friday, September 16. This is a unique, ancient pathway to greater spirituality that incorporates body and 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 a UU Communion held in Rev. Woulfe’s office.
ALUUC Social Action Committee Updates

SAC Yearly Retreat

We were again graciously hosted by Vinnie Gupta (thanks Vinnie). SAC welcomed 6 new members, but there is still room for you.

Main SAC focuses for this year: Homelessness and Racial Justice

SAC Goals for this year: SAC will be more visible at ALUUC. More ALUUC members will become involved in social action activities.

So look for more details about, and who is participating in, local social action events on the ALUUC webpage and on Facebook. Thanks to new members for taking on this task and the UUANI representative position.

Illinois UUs are invited to join the September 12th Higher Ground Moral Declaration Day of Action

On Monday, September 12, in Springfield and at state capitols across the nation, faith leaders from diverse traditions will come together to declare that it is time for a moral revolution of values. We will demand that our elected leaders and candidates move to higher ground, away from extremist politics and policies that benefit the few, and toward policies and laws that value people and the planet. To strengthen this show of solidarity, these events will all start at 11 am in each respective time zone.

Rev. William Barber, leader of the North Carolina Moral Mondays movement and speaker at this summer’s UUA General Assembly, says, “We are called to be the ‘moral defibrillators’ of our time. Together, we can save the heart of our democracy, and ‘shock’ this nation with the power of love, mercy, and justice for all.” Rev. Barber’s article in the UU World outlines the “fusion politics” needed to bring about a Third Reconstruction in our nation.

- Sign the Higher Ground Moral Declaration (http://www.moralrevival.org/signmoraldeclaration/) put forth by Rev. Dr. Barber, Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon, and Sister Simone Campbell. The Declaration includes sections on democracy and voting rights, poverty and economic justice, workers rights, education, healthcare, environmental justice, immigrants rights and xenophobia, criminal justice, LGBTQ rights, war mongering and the military.

The September 12 Day of Action is not an end in itself, but a vehicle for organizing ourselves among communities across the state and across the nation for further action. ALUUC’s Rev. Martin Woulfe, along with UUANI’s Rev. Scott Aaseng will be actively involved in organizing the UU presence and participation. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Woulfe (minister@aluuc.org) or the SAC chair, Nancy Derrig (SAC@aluuc.org), as soon as possible.

The Faith Coalition for the Common Good

FCCG is a local association of over 25 churches (including ALUUC), faith-based organizations and labor unions. It provides opportunities for us to work on SAC focuses of Racial Justice & Homelessness with people of different faith traditions.

The vision of the Faith Coalition is Racial and Economic Equity for All across Central Illinois. Much of their work is done through the 4 task forces described below.

1) Education for All Task Force – “a very dynamic and positive group” according to Stu.
   Goal: Create education focused campaign aimed at closing academic opportunity gap in District 186. ALUUC Reps: Stu Jacobson; District 186 parents or prospective parents needed.

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2) Jobs and Economic Equity
   Goal: Promote opportunity for meaningful employment with a living wage for all.
   ALUUC Reps: no one at present; new members would be most welcome.

3) Civic Engagement and Policy Involvement
   Goal: Create systemic, economic & social change in our communities (and lives) through Policy & Legislation.
   ALUUC reps: Jan Droegkamp & Virginia Forrer; other ALUUC members most welcome.

4) CUJO: Restorative Justice (Citizens United for Justice and Order)
   Goal: Work with local, state & federal agencies to ensure equity & justice for those in danger of becoming incarcerated, those incarcerated and those who have been released from prison.
   ALUUC reps: no one; would be great to tie this into our new Illinois UU prison initiative.

If you are interested in the task forces, contact the Faith Coalition office at www.faithcoalition-il.org or at 544-2297. The website does not have contact information for task force leaders, but has a calendar of the meetings under the heading News and Events. There is strength in numbers and diversity folks. (Thanks to Stu Jacobson for researching and writing this article)

UUANI (UU Advocacy Network of Illinois)
   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.

   The UUANI newsletter is on ALUUC web page at www.aluuc.org/category/unitarian-universalist-advocacy-network-of-illinois, or the link on the right hand side of the first page.

Change for Change
   The Change for Change collection in September will go to Springfield based International Assist Medical Missions (IAMM). Our good friend Sandy Hudgins Brewer gave a presentation several weeks ago on IAMM, which she and Dr. Michael Brewer founded in 2012. IAMM is a not for profit organization that focuses on short term medical trips to underserved areas. They have an ongoing relationship with the village of Ekori, Nigeria. IAMM has deployed medical missions in Haiti, Nigeria, Nicaragua and other Central American countries. Check out their website for more information and photos at iammspringfield.com.

   The Change for Change collection in August raised $814.57 for the new UU Prison Ministry of Illinois. Thank you for your generosity. “The UU Prison Ministry attempts to create a spiritual space where all people can come as they are and be affirmed in their inherent worth and dignity, no matter their identities or past harm they may have caused. The Prison Ministry will connect UUs to local and state-level policy initiatives that seek to build a world community of peace, liberty and justice for all.”You can also donate at faithify.org/projects/unitarian-universalist-prison-ministry-of-illinois/ Your donation is tax-deductible through our fiscal sponsor, the Unitarian Church of Evanston.

   — Dale Griffin and the ministry team

September SAC Meeting—To Be Announced!
   Look in the weekly announcements for news of our next meeting. 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, SAC@aluuc.org

Conversations on Race + Action
   Please join us at 6:15 pm on Monday, September 19 at St. Patrick’s Church (basement) for a potluck and continuing action. Contact Rev. Martin Woulfe if you have any questions.
**ALUUC Fellowship Events**

**Game Night — September 9 at 6 pm.** 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!

**Potluck Sunday — September 18 at 12 noon.** Join us for 1st potluck of the liturgical year! Please bring a dish to share or a small donation to cover the cost of the potluck. Also, a reminder that those members, friends and guests who need assistance getting their plates—either due to age or ability—be allowed to go to the front of the line (small children must be accompanied by an adult).

Please **sign up to help in our kitchen on Sundays!** Sign up by clicking here or contacting Marissa DeWeese at email@aluuc.org. Helping in the kitchen is a great way to meet new people, make friends, and build our community. Thank you to the members and friends who have helped.

“I’ve never helped in the kitchen before, what’s involved?” We have a handy how-to guide (PDF) that you can peruse. Also, don’t hesitate to ask a question or two; we UUs love questions!

**ALUUC Fall Movie Series — Cultural Enrichment**

This Fall for **Movie Night**, we will host a film series full of movies that are culturally important - movies that are quoted time and again, movies that are continually referenced in media and at home, movies that either shaped you, or will shape you.

We’ll show at least **2 films a month on 2 different Sundays** at the ALUUC — check the schedule below. Watch some great movies with your UU family - all are welcome!

Movies will have subtitles (when possible) for those who have a hearing impairment. Popcorn will be provided—except for *Lawrence of Arabia*—when we’ll provide pizza during the intermission (we’re showing the whole thing - 3 hours, 48 minutes long).

**Movie Series Schedule**

- **September 11, 5pm**
  *The Magnificent 7 (1960)*
  **“An Old West-style remake of Akira Kurosawa’s 1954 Japanese-language film *Seven Samurai*, *The Magnificent 7* stars Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, Horst Buchholz, Charles Bronson, Robert Vaughn, James Coburn, and Brad Dexter as the title characters, a group of seven gunfighters hired to protect a small village in Mexico from a group of marauding bandits and their leader (Eli Wallach).”** 128 minutes. Not Rated (due to predating the MPAA ratings system).

- **September 25, 5pm**
  *Frida (2002)*
  **“The story of Frida Kahlo (Salma Hayek) and her husband Diego Rivera (Alfred Molina), the larger-than-life painters who became the most acclaimed artists in Mexican history, and whose tempestuous love affair, landmark journeys to America, and outrageous personalities made them legendary.”** 123 minutes. Rated R.

- **October 9, 3pm**
  *Lawrence of Arabia (1962)*
  **Pizza served during intermission**

- **October 30, 3pm**
  *...a mini-horror/thriller marathon!*
  *Rear Window (1954)*
  *Alien (1979)*
  *Aliens (1986)*
  **approx. 5:15 pm**
  **approx. 7:30 pm**
  — (if time permits)

- **November 6, 5pm**
  *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)*

- **November 20, 5pm**
  *On Golden Pond (1981)*

- **December 4, 5pm**
  *Some Like it Hot (1959)*

- **December 18, 5pm**
  *The Life of Brian (1979)*
Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War
A new film directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky

Martin Woulfe will host a get together at his house on September 20 to watch the film, which starts at 8 pm.

“Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War is an account of a daring rescue mission that occurred on the precipice of World War II. It tells the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children behind in the care of their parish and boldly committed to multiple life-threatening missions in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped to save hundreds of imperiled political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi occupation across Europe.

Defying the Nazis... is cinematically told through the letters and journals of the Sharps, with Tom Hanks as the voice of Waitstill and Marina Goldman as the voice of Martha. It features firsthand interviews with the now adult children whom the Sharps saved, as well as leading historians, authors and Holocaust scholars, including William Schulz, Deborah Dwork, Modecai Paldiel, Ghanda DiFiglia and Yehuda Bauer.

September Quote
This is the power of gathering: it inspires us, delightfully, to be more hopeful, more joyful, more thoughtful: in a word, more alive.
— Alice Waters

BOOK GROUP
The Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday each month. Join us on September 27 at 7:30 pm at Barbara Moore’s home. We will be discussing The Immortal Irishman by Timothy Egan.

“From the National Book Award–winning and best-selling author Timothy Egan comes the epic story of one of the most fascinating and colorful Irishman in nineteenth-century America.

“The Irish-American story, with all its twists and triumphs, is told through the improbable life of one man. A dashing young orator during the Great Famine of the 1840s, in which a million of his Irish countrymen died, Thomas Francis Meagher led a failed uprising against British rule, for which he was banished to a Tasmanian prison colony. He escaped and six months later was heralded in the streets of New York — the revolutionary hero, back from the dead, at the dawn of the great Irish immigration to America. “ — GoodReads review.

Everyone is welcome. Contact Barbara Moore by phone or email bookgroup@aluuc.org if you have questions.

Continued on page 14
**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 at uudreamgroup@aluuc.org or phone.

**HIKING GROUP**

**Centennial Park Prairie Grass Trail**

Take a hike! I didn’t know there was a prairie trail at Centennial Park until recently. It’s a wide grassy path that rolls through the lush prairie containing many wild flowers and butterflies including Monarchs. We’ll walk the perimeter of the prairie and then pick up the Sangamon Valley Bike trail which leads to Centennial Park. Then, for those with gas still in their tank, we’ll walk up the large hill where folks gather to watch sunsets. Centennial Park encompasses 190 acres and was added to the park district in 1997. The park, located on the far southwest side of Springfield features picnic areas, sledding hill, skateboard, bocce ball courts, ball fields, and a small lake.

Contact Jim Curran with questions or to confirm if questionable weather — by phone or email at hiking@aluuc.org.

**Just the facts:**

Date: Sat, Sept. 24th  
Time: 10:00 am  
Where: Meet at the Centennial Park parking lot  
Hike Distance: 2.0 miles  
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate  
Hiking time: 1.5 hours  
Kids and dogs on leash are OK  
Port-a-potty available  
Address: Centennial Park (parking lot),  
5751 Bunker Hill Road,  
New Berlin, 62670  
Park Map: [click here...](#)  
Misc info: [springfieldparks.org/parks/centennial/](http://springfieldparks.org/parks/centennial/)

**HUMANIST GROUP**

Thank You Susan!!

We wish to acknowledge Susan Solon for her never ending support of the Humanist Group. Susan has resigned as co-chairman because of a work promotion but will remain a valuable member of our group. Sarah Iaiennaro volunteered to be my co-chair.

—Vi Lanum

On Monday, September 27 at 7 pm, Kim Efird will review the Humanist Group’s September book selection, Bill Bryson’s *One Summer: America 1927*: “It was a summer when Lindbergh flew, the Yankees soared, the Midwest rains flowed, Al Capone reigned, and America prospered — a summer that was vibrant and wild and only two years from Depression and despair. It was a time of character and insights into the American character, of spicy murder and saucy music. It was 1927, and in *One Summer*, Bill Bryson recounts a remarkable period in America’s passage.” — *Boston Globe*.

If you have questions about this group, email Sarah Iaiennaro and/or Vi Lanum at humanistgroup@aluuc.org.

**MEN’S GROUP**

The Men’s Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 6 pm at ALUUC. The next meetings are scheduled for September 7 and September 21. Please join us for insightful discussion, support and fun. We typically start off with a noncompetitive sports activity, like bocce ball or Frisbee golf, then meet in the church commons area. Please join us, bring a friend! Contact Jim Curran for more info or to get on our mailing list (mensgroup@aluuc.org).

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**All groups must reserve their meeting space in advance,** whether it’s a meeting or an event, through Office Manager Cheryl Wycoff at office@aluuc.org. If you aren’t on the reservation calendar, you could find yourself bumped by another group who followed procedures. Thanks.
NEWS GROUP

The News Group Meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us on September 1 at 7pm. in the Commons Room at the ALUUC. Come 10 or 15 minutes early and help set up the tables and chairs if you can. Because the Meditation Group is also meeting at that time please be quiet as you enter the church and the Commons area. Bring some snacks if you’d like.

If you have any questions call Frank Kopecky at by phone or email at newsgroup@aluuc.org. Everyone is welcome!

PAGAN GROUP

The Pagan Group will have a planning meeting on Sunday, September 4, in the Fuller Room, at 12:30 pm. We will be discussing the upcoming Mabon, and making some early plans for October. Please join us!

Come join the Pagan Group for the first days of Autumn! The Autumn Equinox, or Mabon, will be celebrated on Saturday, September 17, at 5pm sharp. We will have ritual to honor the balance between the light and dark, drumming and singing, a bonfire outside, and a yummy potluck dinner. Please be sure to bring anything you’d like to set on the altar including personal mementos and any kind of Autumnal decorations, also bring your drums and noise makers, and a dinner dish to share. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please contact Tracy Zieber Minks by phone or email at aluucpagans@gmail.com.

WOMEN in the RED TENT

No Red Tent in September!

Our next Red Tent will be October 29 at 1:30 pm, with our topic to be announced.

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.

LISTENING HEARTS

Pastoral Care is perhaps the mortar that holds together our foundational relationships with one another. There is no question that each of us carries a number of concerns as well as joys, and our bundles only seem to increase with each step on life’s journey. Sometimes, we may desire to go into more depth than what may be possible during the Milestones ritual during a Sunday service. In recognition of that, ALUUC is launching a “Listening Hearts” group, that will be available on a Sunday during the Fellowship Hour – as of this writing, Mary Ryan and Pat Goller have graciously agreed to serve as our first Listening Hearts – they will be available to sit down with those individuals who are in need of more pastoral care. If you are interested, please let them know.
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<tr>
<td>9:15 am Choir Rehearsal Sunday Service</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Labor Day</td>
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<td>7 pm News Group</td>
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<td>Change for Change collection: IAMM Senior Youth Group (SYG)</td>
<td>Change for Change collection: IAMM Senior Youth Group (SYG)</td>
<td>6 pm Mens Group</td>
<td>7:15 Meditation Group</td>
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<td>6:30 pm Green Sanctuary (G.S.) prairie weeding party</td>
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<td>12:30 pm Pagan Group: planning meeting</td>
<td>*11:45 am Greater Springfield Interfaith Association</td>
<td>*6:30 pm “Go Solar Springfield” meeting</td>
<td>6:30 pm Green Sanctuary (G.S.) prairie weeding party</td>
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<td>9:15 am Choir Rehearsal Sunday Service SYG</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 6 pm A Course In Miracles Group</td>
<td>14 6:30 pm G.S. prairie weeding party</td>
<td>7 pm Pathways Sessions: #1</td>
<td>15 7 pm Couples Enrichment Group</td>
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<td>11 am Moral Declaration Day of Action @ IL State Capitol</td>
<td>11:45 am Greater Springfield Interfaith Association</td>
<td>7 pm Board Meeting</td>
<td>7 pm Pathways Sessions: #1</td>
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<td>5 pm Movie Series: The Magnificent 7 (1960)</td>
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<td>14 6 pm A Course In Miracles Group</td>
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<td>7 pm Pathways Sessions: #1</td>
<td>7 pm Couples Enrichment Group</td>
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<td>1 pm G.S. Collect Seeds: Nipper Wildlife Area</td>
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<td>16 7 pm Pathways Sessions: #1</td>
<td>16 7 pm Labyrinth Walk</td>
<td>17 7 pm Couples Enrichment Group</td>
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<td>5 pm Movie Series: The Magnificent 7 (1960)</td>
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<td>9:30 am Zen Meditation</td>
<td>5 pm Pagan Group: Mabon ritual</td>
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<td>9:15 am Choir Rehearsal Sunday Service Potluck Sunday SYG</td>
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<td>20 6 pm A Course In Miracles Group</td>
<td>21 6 pm Mens Group</td>
<td>22 9:21 am Fall Equinox</td>
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<td>12 pm RE Committee meeting Scrip Deadline</td>
<td>*6:15 pm Conversations on Race + Action</td>
<td>*8 pm Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War</td>
<td>21 6:30 pm G.S. prairie weeding party</td>
<td>7 pm Pathways Sessions: #2 &amp; #3</td>
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<td>5 pm Movie Series: Frida (2002)</td>
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<td>29 7:15 Meditation Group</td>
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<td>7:15 Meditation Group</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
Intern Minister: Paula Brayden, intern@aluuc.org

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RE Coordinator: TBA, CRE@aluuc.org
Membership Coordinator: TBA, welcome@aluuc.org
Music: Kathy Schultz, choir@aluuc.org
Pianist: Bonnie Ettinger, music@aluuc.org

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Treasurer: Tina Bennett, treasurer@aluuc.org
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Kim Villanueva
Melissa Bernhardt
Kent Childs
Debby Hagan
Dianne Roberts
Posy Robertson
Ricky Stead

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Welcoming Congregations: Tracy Zieber Minks & Meg Evans, WCC@aluuc.org

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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. Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org.