



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

# THE PIONEER

April—May 2010

## Guest in the Pulpit

**David deCoriolis**

Dear Members of UUSG,

As you know, the Canvass for the 2010-2011 church year is wrapping up. We began the pledge drive with a goal of \$355,000, and while many of you have pledged and some have increased their pledges, as of Tuesday night we have reached only \$322,000.

The Canvass Crew has done an excellent job having taken the time and energy to contact all of our extended community. There are members we have not heard from and I would urge those of you who have not yet pledged to contact the office or your Canvass Crewmember.

While it is the generosity of the community that supports our church home, it is the duty of the leadership to propose to the congregation a responsible budget based on realistic estimates of our revenue. The board met last Tuesday night and determined that, with the pledges made so far and a reasonable estimate of the pledges yet to be received, we would begin to make a budget for next year assuming \$330,000 in pledges.

It is true that over the past few years our church has grown and we have met that growth with increased services. We are, however, at the point where we cannot borrow from the future to meet the needs of today. As a consequence, several items are being considered for reduction or elimination from next year's budget. These items include (but are not limited to) summer Saturday services, Saturday services throughout the year, choir, coffee, lawn care, and Friday night flicks. We're also considering closing the church and buildings one day per month or per week.

I believe that none of us wants to make these cuts, but the board will not propose that the next church year proceed by dipping deeply into our modest reserves. The effect of coming up short on the Canvass is going to be cuts in church functions that no one really wants to see.

There is a way to avoid these cuts and that is by reconsidering your pledge. If you have pledged all that you can, may blessings be upon you. We are not asking anyone to make sacrifices beyond their means.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Senior High OWL</i>	2
<i>Teaching the Next Generation</i>	3
<i>Sasha's Medical Adventures</i>	4
<i>Peacemaking Commitment</i>	5
<i>Peacemaking Commitment (cont.)</i>	6
<i>Concert to Benefit IYC</i>	7
<i>Supporting Mutual Ground Shelter</i>	8
<i>Spring Spruce-Up &amp; Smorgasbord</i>	9
<i>Poetry Reading Roundtable</i>	10
<i>What's Happening to the Bees?</i>	11
<i>Earth Month Events</i>	12
<i>April Calendar</i>	13

But if you can afford to give just a little more, we can together go on providing all of the services that are so important to all of us.

So let us all together give generously to our beloved church. Please drop the new green form in the box on the bulletin board, by pledge online at <http://content.uusg.org/additional-pledge/>, or contact the office by phone or email.

I know we have it in our hearts to fulfill the best dreams of our community. Please give generously.

David de Coriolis

President Board of Directors of UUSG

2009-2010

## Religious Education Announcements and Upcoming Events

### A Message from Sandi Sumner, Our Acting Director of Religious Education

#### A Few Good Mentors!

An important element of the Coming of Age Program is mentored learning. Together, mentors and youth explore spiritual matters through discussion, group conversations, journaling, and writing personal faith statements. A mentor's role is as a guide and confidant, someone with the ability to teach appropriate skills and offer an expanded view of the world.

We are looking for a few people to join our group as program mentors. This year's Mentor Training is on Thursday, May 27 at 7pm. Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in joining the group!

**Guided Meditation** The UU Buddhist Meditation and Study Group invites members and friends to join them for a guided meditation on Wednesday, May 12, at 7pm in the UUSG sanctuary. For more information, contact Eric Bodwell or Lisa Gades through the church office at 630-232-2350 or [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

#### This Summer: Coming of Age Program

We're very excited to offer our Coming of Age Program again this summer! This program for current eighth grade youth offers a comprehensive exploration of the meaning of congregational membership and growing into adult responsibilities.

Through discussion, personal exploration, and mentoring relationships with adults, youth prepare for their changing roles and decide whether to join the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva as student members. Of course, we'll be doing this with a scavenger hunt or two, games, food, conversation...and then, at the end, a worship service that officially welcomes the youth into YRUU and a new way of being a part of UUSG.

Our Coming of Age classes will meet approximately twice each month, beginning Friday, June 4 with a pizza party from 6pm to 8pm. Then, the group will meet from 1pm-3pm on Sunday afternoons from June through October.

Information was recently emailed to all eighth grade families. If your young person will be participating in the program or if you have questions, please contact me.

#### NEW this summer: Senior High OWL

We are very excited to have begun preparations for offering the *Our Whole Lives* program for high school youth in grades 10-12. The overall goal of the program is to create a positive and comprehensive lifespan educational program that helps participants gain the knowledge, values, and skills they need to lead sexually healthy, responsible lives.

All available OWL advisors (Montgomery, Alleman, Jenkins, Sumner, Karim) have agreed to help facilitate the High School OWL program. No dates have been selected at this time, but it is likely the schedule would include three overnights, or a combination of overnights and Sunday morning/afternoon meetings to cover the curriculum.

Please see one of the OWL advisors if you have any questions or to let them know your interest (or your teen's interest) in attending the program.

#### Get involved with Small Group Ministry!

It's a new year, and our Small Group Ministry has room for you to join in once a month on either a Thursday evening or Saturday afternoon. Small Group Ministry (SGM) is a way for growing church communities to make sure that people can be connected in close circles as well as be part of a vibrant and large congregation.

In a small group meeting, 6 to 10 participants discuss issues and topics of their choice in a structured format that provides time to get to know each other and have in-depth conversations about things that matter.

At the heart of healthy congregations, we find people who are part of close relationships with others in the congregation. SGM is an especially good way to get to know other members and friends of UUSG if you are new to the community or to discover people anew if you've been here a while.

Have questions? Want to get involved? Contact Sandi Sumner at [ire@uusg.org](mailto:ire@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350 x224.

## Upcoming LRE Events

### LREcruitment: Summer and Fall Teaching Teams Forming Now!

Though it may be a little early, teacher sign-up sheets are on the LRE Board in the Common Room. We are asking those of you who plan to teach in the summer and the fall to please sign up before the end of the spring session of church school. Summer plans often make it difficult to be at UUSG consistently before the church year begins in September, which makes it very difficult for us to start the year with full teaching teams.

The more we have our fall teaching teams built now, the easier it is for us to start teaching in September with three or more teachers per team. ***Please, if you are able, sign up now!***

We will kick-off our Summer Spirit Play Program for children in preschool through Grade 5 on Sunday, July 4 with a picnic for children and teachers. If we have enough teachers sign up, we will offer two Spirit Play classes, PreK-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5, beginning Sunday, July 11. Otherwise, we will have one class for young people in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please talk to me or send me an email.

**Remember, church school is on hiatus in June, meets in July and August with children ages PreK-5, and begins again on Sunday, September 19.**

Apr 23, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks: "Nicotine Bees" (turn to page 11 for more details)
Apr 24, 6:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Apr 25, 1:00pm	Sandel's Justice Study Group
Apr 28, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
May 2, 1:00pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
May 2, 1:00pm	Munch & Learn Lecture Series: "Asperger's Syndrome"
May 5, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
May 12, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
May 13, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
May 15, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
May 15, 6:30pm	Games Night!
May 19, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
May 21, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks: "A Force More Powerful" (see page 7 for more details)
May 23, 1:00pm	Sandel's Justice Study Group
May 26, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
May 27, 7:00pm	Coming of Age Program Mentor Training
May 29, 6:30pm	Small Group Ministry

### Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

Every Monday at 7:00pm in the Common Room: "Still Living in the Present Moment"

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary: UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

## Circles of Life

Best wishes for full recovery soon for Mary Schweizer, now at DuPage Convalescent Center.

Deepest sympathies to Karen Moore, whose father died on March 26, and to Helen Hawkins, whose cousin passed away recently.

A Celebration of Life for Vohny Moehling's mother, Virginia "Maude" Woods, was held at the Moehlings' home on April 10. Reserved Parking signs for newcomers and the mobility-challenged will soon be appearing; they're in loving memory of Maude.

We send our love and best wishes with Beth Johnson, Chris Laughton, and Jeremy Laughton as they move to Texas for Beth's new job. We'll miss you and we wish you the best of luck in your new home.

We also learned this month that Joan McInnes has sold her house—to Jim and Linda Burke! We wish them all happiness in their new homes.

Best wishes, also, of course, to Sasha our UUSG MalamUUte - and to Sasha's person Katie, too!

## Sasha's Medical Adventures

Well, things didn't go quite as planned!

After looking at new x-rays and an MRI, the vet was not comfortable going ahead with the surgery without further proof that the problem is in Sasha's leg and not somewhere else. So he gave her a shot of cortisone directly into the hip and we'll wait a couple weeks to see what happens. You can keep up at [www.becomingbionic.wordpress.com](http://www.becomingbionic.wordpress.com).

## Annual Congregational Meeting

If you are a voting member of UUSG, please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 16 at 12:30pm.

Anyone can attend and the Membership Book will be available for anyone who wishes to officially join our community (although you won't be able to vote until the next annual meeting). At the meeting, we'll vote on the 2010-11 budget, the Board of Directors, and the UUSG Peacemaking Commitment. We'll also hear from our Long-Range Planning Committee.

And if you're not sure if you're a voting member or not, please talk to Katie.

## Shopping for UUSG

If you shop at Dominick's, you could earn money for UUSG! Next time you're there, ask to have your Dominick's card attached to the UUSG scrip account and UUSG will get a 1-4% rebate on all your purchases. Or register your Dominick's card today by grabbing your card and going to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

(We've heard that the Dominick's at Randall and Route 38 is closing, so please register your card and use it often before that happens!)

## Job Search Support Session

On Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm, Sally Jones will facilitate a session for people to share job search tips, how to start a job search, and more. The group will share their individual backgrounds, review some of the basic information essential to everyone out looking (or thinks they may need to be looking) for the next job, and have a time for questions and sharing among the group.

If you'd like to attend, please sign up in the Common Room or by talking to Katie in the office.

If you've gotten a new job in the last year and would be willing to share 5 minutes of what you did and how it worked, please talk to Sally about sharing your experience with the group. Nothing helps like hearing that someone went through all the same challenges and came out with a job.

Also, if you were recently laid off and could use a hand getting started and connecting to resources, talk to Sally Jones about resources available in the area.

## Social Justice News

### Next Steps on the Peace Commitment

On Sunday, May 16, members of the congregation will be asked whether they endorse the Peace Commitment. The latest draft is below. Suggested edits are being accepted for possible revisions to *The Environment and Peacemaking* section.

You may submit ideas for changes either in the designated box in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusq.org/peacemaking-pledge/>.

You are invited to meet with others at 10:40 on Sunday, May 2 to help finalize the wording for that part of the Commitment. Copies of the Peace Commitment incorporating any changes to the Environment section will be part of the Annual Report to the congregation, available May 9.

### Peacemaking Commitment of the UU Society of Geneva

As a force for compassionate social justice in the community, members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva endorse a variety of principles and values. Among these values, we recognize that social justice is essential for peace. The following document is intended to clarify our peacemaking values in a variety of contexts.

#### (A) Inward Peacemaking

We seek to develop peace and acceptance within ourselves. To this end, we recognize the importance of

- Taking time to look within, to know and respect our own needs and feelings, and to develop a sense of centeredness around our own deepest values.
- Educating people of all ages about effective approaches to inward peacemaking.

In addition, we support efforts of the church to

- Provide opportunities for learning how to deeply meditate and for practicing it.
- Sponsor groups which focus on meditation.

#### (B) Interpersonal Peacemaking

We seek to communicate in a way that acknowledges the “inherent worth and dignity” of the other, no matter how much we disagree with them. To this end, we commit ourselves to

- Listen thoughtfully and respectfully to others’ needs and feelings.
- Communicate our own needs and feelings verbally and nonverbally in positive, clear ways.
- Use nonviolent approaches to resolving conflict whenever possible.
- Build greater trust and understanding among ourselves.

In addition, we support efforts of the Lifespan Religious Education Committee and the Hospitality and Fellowship Committee to provide opportunities for families and others to spend time together.

Further, we seek to nurture and support the bonds among people. To this end, we endorse efforts of LRE and Social Justice Committees

- To present information about patterns and resources for coping with stress, conflict, and crisis.
- To offer classes and other opportunities that support spiritually grounded relationships based on shared values, trust, respect, and appreciation.

And we support efforts of UUSG’s ministries – both professional and lay – to help people develop and strengthen committed relationships.

### **Peacemaking Commitment continued...**

#### **• C) Congregational Peacemaking**

We are committed to having our congregations be a model of clear, honest, respectful communication, and peaceful handling of differences. To this end, we support

- Efforts of our Lifespan Religious Education to offer education across all age groups on communication and conflict resolution including clarifying our positions, actively listening to others, and considering win-win solutions, while avoiding power struggles and factions.
- Efforts of UUSG's "Caring Team" to oversee implementation of policies relating to the prevention, reporting, and response to issues of abuse, harassment, behavior problems, and similar matters.
- Efforts of Boards, Councils, and Committees of the church to use decision-making processes which ensure that all perspectives are heard and respected.
- Choices of our members and their children who participate or have participated in the armed forces of our country as well as those who choose conscientious objection.

#### **D) Societal Peacemaking**

We endorse changes needed to end oppression and/or systemic violence. To this end, we support efforts of our Lifespan Religious Education Committee to provide education which

- Challenges racism, classism, sexism, etc.
- Promotes respect and acceptance rather than glorifying verbal and physical violence.

Furthermore, we support efforts of our Social Justice Committee to

- Conduct collections for organizations which seek to build a just and peaceful society by promoting economic justice and human rights and by caring for those who are victims of injustice and violence.
- Provide opportunities for people to volunteer for organizations which promote justice in our society.
- Promote events such as movies, speakers, and peace vigils which focus attention of the community on justice and peace.
- Collaborate with other churches and organizations which promote justice and peace.

#### **E) Environment and Peacemaking**

We understand our interconnectedness with the web of all life, and recognize that we must consider how our actions have consequences for life on earth. To this end, we support efforts of our Green Sanctuary Committee to

- Identify potential legislation for Action Alerts as the need arises regarding policies that promote
  - the sustainable use of resources so that there might be just and equitable access to these resources.
  - efforts to reduce dependence on oil and other nonrenewable energy resources while increasing the use of renewable resources.
  - a reduction of global warming.
  - preservation and reverence for natural places and beings.
- Identify ways in which we can assume individual and collective responsibility for reducing our "carbon footprints."

#### **F) International and Inter-Community Peacemaking**

We endorse efforts to build a global culture of peace based on empathy, compassion, and justice that comes from honoring universal human rights to education, a healthy economy, energy resources, food, water, and other natural resources. To this end, we support efforts of our Social Justice Committee to

- Include international organizations which support universal human rights among the recipients of Beyond Our Walls collections.
- Identify potential legislation for Action Alerts regarding policies supporting universal human rights and respectful communication.

And we support efforts of the Lifespan Religious Education Committee to

- periodically offer opportunities/programs/activities that promote a clearer understanding of religions and cultures that are different from our own. Since the curricula for youth already contains elements of peacemaking and justice, opportunities offered to youth would enhance, but not replace, these materials.

## More Social Justice News

### Michael Smith Concert at UUSG will Benefit the Illinois Youth Center

Well-known singer-songwriter Michael Smith will be returning to UUSG for a concert on **Friday, May 14 at 8pm**. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Illinois Youth Center; suggested donations are \$15 for adults and \$2 for children.

Michael Smith has been described in Chicago Magazine as “one of the best songwriters in the English language...an enchanting and riveting performer,” while Songtalk Magazine says that “hearing the songs of Michael Smith in this day and age is like reading an anthology of short stories by Hemingway after decades of only comic books.”

Michael’s songs have been performed and recorded by dozens of artists in the folk, country and pop genres. Some of his better known (and often covered) songs include The Dutchman, Dead Egyptian Blues, Last Days of Pompeii, and I Brought My Father With Me.

Michael Smith received international acclaim for his original music composed for the Steppenwolf Theatre Company’s production of The Grapes of Wrath. Since then he has been active in the Chicago Theatre scene, receiving four Joseph Jefferson awards. He has also been featured on NPR’s All Things Considered, Noah Adams’ Good Evening, and CBC and BBC radio programs.

UUSG has long provided support for the IYC, a medium-security facility which houses approximately 300 young men going through the juvenile justice system. Many of them have little contact with the outside world and, due to budget restrictions, resources for education and rehabilitation materials have been limited. In past years UUSG has provided items to be used for positive reinforcement, library materials, and other items.

The concert will feature open seating and no tickets will be sold in advance. Consisting of two 45-minute sets, the concert will begin at 8pm. Please join us for an evening of great entertainment to support a great cause!

### Ban Land Mines Now

Landmines indiscriminately maim and kill innocent civilians – mainly woman and children – in the aftermath of a conflict. It is estimated that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 new casualties caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance every year. Yet the U.S. has not joined the Mine Ban Treaty, which aims to eliminate the use and production of these injurious weapons. *The treaty is the most comprehensive international instrument for ridding the world of the scourge of mines.*

156 countries have joined, including all U.S. military allies. Cuba is the only other country in the Western Hemisphere that has failed to sign the treaty. After a request by 67 national organizations, the Obama administration undertook a review of U.S. landmine policy.

Please go to [http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5550/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=2569](http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5550/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=2569) to send a message to President Obama to encourage the signing and speedy ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty.

### Friday Flick: “A Force More Powerful”

If the last century was the most violent in history, how can this one be different? At 7pm on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, stories of nonviolent resistance will be shown in the prize-winning DVD, “A Force More Powerful.”

Critically hailed as “outstanding” with “beautiful footage,” and “passionately instructive,” the film richly documents successful nonviolence resistance efforts that overcame oppression in a variety of different situations: the Danish resistance against Nazis; striking workers in Poland, Chileans opposed to Pinochet, and South Africans against apartheid.

### Batavia Community Garden

This summer, a combined effort of organizations in Batavia is beginning to develop a Community Garden at the corner of Main and Water Streets. During the next few years, the garden will be developed in a series of stages. The first phase of the garden will be devoted to helping educate the public and to providing harvest to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

People from UUSG will be heading over to Main and Water Streets once each week beginning the week of May. Please contact Betsy Zinser through 630-232-2350 to be added to the rotation or to find out when UUSG will be gardening.

## RSVP: “Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants”

### Wrapping Birthday Presents

A heartfelt thank you to the ten volunteers who wrapped birthday presents on March 20 for children sponsored by the Humanitarian Service Project: Kevin Beyer, Sandy Bottoms, Alexander and Steve Cordogan, Paul Deaton, Lisa Gades, Monica Gephart, Hannah Hirschberg, Carolyn Lach, and Jean Pierce.

### Planting Trees for Earth Day!

On Saturday, April 24, we will join the Green Sanctuary Committee in planting trees in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. For more information on this event, please see the Green Corner section of the Pioneer on page 11.

### Supporting Mutual Ground Shelter in Aurora

In May, we will be collecting items for babies and children at Mutual Ground Shelter. Please ask your neighbors to contribute items to our Caring for Kids campaign. Just make copies of the note below and leave it on the outside of mailboxes or at front doors in your neighborhood. Then plan on returning on May 15 to pick up bags your neighbors have left for the project, and bring items you collect to church on Sunday, May 16 (when you come for the Annual Congregational meeting!). Note: More copies of the note will be available in the Common Room the first weekend in May.

Note for Neighbors: Mutual Ground RSVP

Dear Neighbor,

Individuals at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva are collecting items for babies and children who are temporarily housed at the Mutual Ground Shelter in Aurora. Mutual Ground provides shelter and services to approximately 1700 women and children each year. Here is a list of the items they need frequently:

#### Baby Items

- Baby Care Items—wipes, lotions, powders, shampoos, hair brush, nail scissors, sippy cups, bibs, diaper rash, ointment, etc.
- Diapers/Pull-ups (all sizes, especially 5 & 6)
- Formula, Bottles
- Crib Sheets
- Baby Clothes

#### Children's Items

- Pajamas (all sizes)
- New Underwear
- New Socks
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

### Feed My Starving Children

On Saturday, June 19, we will be returning to Feed My Starving Children.

### How to Sign Up

Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board or through the UUSG website: <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades.

## Volunteer Headquarters

### From the Hospitality & Fellowship Folks

We've been so pleased that our new scheduling plan has resulted in us having at least 1 host at every social hour in the last 3 months.

**However, hosting social hour really is a 2-person job, so we're going to require TWO HOSTS at every social hour beginning in May.**

Openings are listed online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

Sign up before April 30 to save coffee in May!

### Greeting in April & May

If you're interested in greeting in April or May, you can sign up in the Common Room or by going to <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

### Fertilizing Our Yard

We're looking for a few volunteers to help out with yardwork this spring and summer by spreading organic fertilizer, so if you can help, talk to Katie.

### Clipping Coupons!

We're all looking for ways to save money, and clipping coupons is an old stand-by. If you'd like to facilitate a UUSG coupon exchange, talk to Katie.

### Garbage Patrol

Ryan, Vanessa, Ravyn, and Phoenix Wheeler are our "Garbage Patrol"—they stop by the church every Wednesday evening and take the trash can and recycling bins to the curb.

If you can help out with this very important job by bringing the containers around the back of the church on Thursday evenings, then (you guessed it!), talk to Katie.

### Spring Spruce-Up & Smorgasbord

Join fellow UUSGers on Saturday, May 22 for a day of sprucing up our grounds for the spring and summer.

We'll begin at about 9am and will work until 2pm, but feel free to drop in for an hour or two as your schedule allows.

The Hospitality & Fellowship Committee will be providing breakfast snacks & coffee in the morning. For lunch, they're bringing sandwiches, salads, chips & dip, and cold drinks.

So come hungry, work hard, have fun, and leave happy!

Sign up in the Common Room or by talking to Katie in the office.

### Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt appreciation to:

**Joanne Erickson**, for folding our Mini-Pioneers each week (we also thank her church and work friends for helping with this project).

**Sandy Anderson-Cordogan**, for leading our children and youth in the RE Music Program & Chime Ensemble this church school year/.

**Our OWL Advisors: Mark Alleman, Jim Jenkins, Elba Karim, and Jenny Montgomery**, for leading this year's program for youth in grades 7-9. It was a huge success!

**John Rosenkrans**, for keeping an ear on the piano and tuning it as needed.

**Karen Moore & Karin Kemp**, who created the beautiful flower arrangements in the urns outside the Sanctuar

**April's Lazarus House Volunteers**, William Elbert, Maureen McKeough, Jim Roberts (dinner), Jeanne Neltor (lunches) and Bill Baar (overnight).

**Getting Involved** Are you looking to get more involved at UUSG but aren't sure where to start? Think about joining a committee! Or simply drop in for a meeting to see if it's something you'd like to do. Many of committees would love to have new members, but our Communications Committee and Green Sanctuary Committee are particularly in need of a few more helping hands. If you'd like more information, contact Katie in the office at 630-232-2350 or [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

## Choir Potluck

The UUSG Teen/Adult Choir welcomes singers past, present, and future, along with their families and friends, to attend our **Potluck on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 12:45pm** in our Common Room.

Come celebrate our successful season and share some fellowship and food. Sign up in the Common Room or by emailing director Ruth Cavanaugh at [choir@uusg.org](mailto:choir@uusg.org).

Please indicate how many will attend and what you will be bringing. Thank you!

## Poetry Reading Roundtable

Come join a reading roundtable on the last Sunday of each month, 1:00-2:30pm. No performing, no critique, just poetry lovers listening to each other read their favorite poets or perhaps their own work.

No sign-up necessary—drop in as the spirit moves you! The next gathering is on Sunday, April 25.

## Available: A New Directory!

A new and improved UUSG Directory of Members & Friends has been published. Look for a PDF version in your email inbox or a paper version in the Common Room.

If you're not in this version and want to be in the next, talk to Katie in the office—she'll be happy to add you.

## “Giving Up Excuses”

The UUSG “Healthy Habits” Group send its thanks to Deb Leoni for her wonderful presentation “Giving Up Excuses” on April 7. We all learned more about ourselves and our excuses for not living healthier lives!

This workshop was sponsored by the “Healthy Habits” group, which meets the first Wednesday of every month at noon to talk about living more healthful lives.

The group is thinking of adding back an evening meeting, so if you think you'd like to attend if it were offered on a weekday evening, let Katie know.

We may also ask Deb to come talk to us again, so look for more info in future Pioneers.

## Noshing & Earning

You can help UUSG twice in one day by coming to church on Sunday, May 16!

We invite you to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting, which will begin immediately after the 2nd worship service.

After the meeting, take your bulletin and head on over to Nosh Restaurant for some good eats! **On Sunday, May 16 ONLY**, Nosh is sponsoring a “Rebate Day” for UUSG--15% of purchases (excluding alcohol) by UUSG friends & members will come back to UUSG. You must have your bulletin with you for us to get credit.

We're also working with Niche Restaurant to set up a similar program with their brunch menu. Look for details in the next Pioneer!

## UUSG Online

Check out the computer in the Common Room on Sundays! You can look at websites for UUSG, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Central Midwest District, the UU Service Committee, and others.

## Updating Our Bathrooms

We've recently made some earth-friendly changes to our bathrooms by installing cloth towel dispensers, wall-mounted hand soap dispensers, and larger toilet paper roll holders.

And thanks to a generous gift from a couple church members, we'll soon have more efficient toilets.

## Parking Spaces

Please keep the parking apron and the 4 parking spots directly in front of the Sanctuary open for visitors and anyone who needs to park close to be able to attend church.

New signs will be going up soon!

## Green Corner

### Friday Flick: "Nicotine Bees" Friday, April 23, 7pm

We hope you'll join us Friday, April 23 at 7pm in the Common Room for some fresh honey and the April Friday Flick "Nicotine Bees." Many of you have heard in recent years of whole hives of bees who either just don't come home one day, or are found dead. This problem is not going away and has devastating implications.

Although the phenomenon is widely considered to be a mystery, filmmakers Kevin Hansen and Krista Keenan have systematically ruled-out the other possible causes of this massive die-off to find the one underlying explanation that really works.

We'll get a local take on their findings from our guest speaker and local beekeeper Harry Patterson.

### Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In April, we collected \$747 for Faith in Place.

### Looking for Earth Day Volunteers

Can you believe it? Thursday, April 22, 2010 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. Global Days of Service, featuring actions by tens of thousands of volunteers world-wide are being planned for mid-April.

Well, just to be contrary as true UUs, the Green Sanctuary Committee would like to invite you to help support the work of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County a little bit later in April, Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> to be exact, from 10:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m. As the FPD plants 6,000 baby oak trees in the Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve in Elgin.

This is a community wide event with opening celebrations and fun activities for the whole family. Wouldn't you like to take this opportunity to help plant some trees in honor of Earth Day and recognition of the inter-related web of life of which we all are a part?

Questions? See Trish Beckjord.



### Why Bottled Water?

Another eco-mystery to be addressed is why, despite the depressed economy and the widely publicized findings that most bottled water is no better than tap water (and more often than not *is* tap water), we continue to see so much bottled water, even here at UUSG.

Learn more about the issue and taste the difference for yourself in the Common Room during Social Hours the weekend of April 24 & 25.

**Green Gratitude** Many thanks go out to all of those who helped with this year's Earth Hour celebration. We thank Ann Drover, Vohny Moehling, Melissa Auer, Deb & Don Brod, Trish Beckjord, Marilyn James, Bob Brubaker, Jeanne Neltor, Julie Riffle, Betty Bristol, storytellers Thom Thomas and Monica Jenkins and our Earth Hour chef, William Elbert.

Well, it wasn't quite a cast of thousands, but there are many, many people to thank for their wonderful work on the Earth Day weekend puppet show service. Thank you to Jim Jenkins for his incredible puppet theatre created with the help of Elba Karim and Chris Schulman, and to Nancy Goodfellow and her daughter Steph Stone for the wonderful puppets and clever script and to all the fellow puppeteers and support people who made this special service possible: Rhonda Robinson, Melissa Auer, Julie Riffle, Ann Drover, Vohny Moehling, Trish Beckjord, Marilyn James, Jeanne Neltor, Tracy Rosenkrans, Kelly Herz, Thom Thomas, and Sandi Sumner.

## Swedish Days? Pizza? Already?

That's right—it's time to sign up for the UUSG Swedish Days Pizza Booth, our biggest fundraiser!

You can sign up online TODAY at  
<http://content.uusg.org/swedish-days-pizza-booth/>.



### Facilities Reminders

We have a policy authorizing any church member or staff to take action to deal with an emergency that could cause serious damage to our facilities. This policy is posted, along with phone numbers of who to call, in the Common Room (by door to hallway), in the church office, and in the office/library in Pioneer House (PH11).

A check list called "Reminders for Building Usage" is to be used by any group using our facilities. This will help to assure that all necessary procedures are followed so that the rooms are always ready for usage for the next event. Copies of this list are available in the kitchen (on cabinets by microwave) & in the clipboard rack in the in the Common Room. Please....follow this checklist when your group uses the building!

The procedure for carpet spills...and these will happen...is to immediately use seltzer (Club Soda) on the spot. You'll find bottles of Club Soda & rags in a basket in the kitchen and in the RE storage areas.

To help keep our painted walls looking good, please avoid attaching things to the walls. All rooms have tack strips for hanging displays; the Common Room has picture railing from which items can be hung. Leaning items like chairs or tables against the wall can also damage the paint. Thanks for helping us keep our facilities looking good!!

When there is a maintenance or repair need, please contact the church office. It is helpful to have the date and the name of the person reporting in case there is need for clarification.

### Take Your UU With You

Going for a walk?  
 Commuting to work?  
 Wouldn't you like to take along some UU friends?

For your UU listening pleasure, the Church of the Larger Fellowship presents Unitarian Universalist Podcasts, featuring sermons, meditations, RE materials and more.

Use your iPod, MP3 player, or computer to get connected anytime, any place!

Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication **Quest** (also available in print and online) gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

Have a listen at [www.clfuu.org/podcasts](http://www.clfuu.org/podcasts) or [www.clfuu.org/quest](http://www.clfuu.org/quest).

Visit the Church of the Larger Fellowship at [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org)

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of April 21, 2010. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our Website Calendar – go to [www.uusg.org](http://www.uusg.org) and follow the links to the Interactive Online Calendar. You can download a printable version if you like; the Calendar site has the instructions.

### **NEXT PIONEER DEADLINE**

The deadline for submission to this monthly newsletter, the PIONEER, is generally 9:00 a.m. on the third Friday of the month.

The next deadline for articles is **Friday, May 21, at 9:00 a.m.**

# MAY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> <i>Acting DRE at Conference</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM <b>10:30 AM</b> Long Range Planning Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>1:00 PM</b> Poetry Reading Roundtable <b>1:00 PM</b> Sandel's Justice Study Group	<b>26</b> <i>Acting DRE Off Today</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	<b>27</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>28</b> <i>Senior Minister at District Ministers' Meeting</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>29</b> <i>Senior Minister at District Ministers' Meeting</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Senior Minister at District Ministers' Meeting</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Staff at CMwD Annual Assembly</i> <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
<b>2</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:45 PM</b> Teen/Adult Choir Potluck <b>1:00 PM</b> "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series: "Asperger's Syndrome" <b>1:00 PM</b> UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group	<b>3</b> <i>Acting DRE Off Today</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>5</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>12:00 PM</b> "Healthy Habits" Group <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA <b>7:30 PM</b> UU Paganism Study Group	<b>6</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
<b>9</b> <b>Mothers' Day</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM <b>10:45 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>7:00 PM</b> 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	<b>10</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>1:30 PM</b> Women's Guild <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group	<b>11</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Job Search Support Session <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors	<b>12</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>13</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry	<b>14</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>8:00 PM</b> Michael Smith Concert to Benefit the Illinois Youth Center	<b>15</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM <b>6:30 PM</b> Games Night!
<b>16</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> <b>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b> <b>12:45 PM</b> Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	<b>18</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing	<b>19</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA <b>7:30 PM</b> LRE Committee Meeting	<b>20</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>9:15 AM</b> Simple Living Circle <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER deadline <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks: "A Force More Powerful"	<b>22</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Spring Spruce-Up & Smorgasbord <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
<b>23</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>1:00 PM</b> Sandel's Justice Study Group	<b>24</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	<b>25</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>26</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>6:00 PM</b> Pioneer Mailing Prep <b>7:00 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>27</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Coming of Age Program Mentor Training	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM <b>6:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry
<b>30</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>1:00 PM</b> Poetry Reading Roundtable <b>1:00 PM</b> Sandel's Justice Study Group	<b>31</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	<b>1</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>2</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>12:00 PM</b> "Healthy Habits" Group <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>3</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	<b>4</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Coming of Age Program Pizza Party Kick-off	<b>5</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Private Bar Mitzvah

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva  
110 South Second Street  
P.O. Box 107  
Geneva, IL 60134-0107

Church Office: 630-232-2350  
Church Email: [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)  
Church Website: [www.uusg.org](http://www.uusg.org)

### **Our Covenant (written in 1842)**

*Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world, and of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement, we have associated ourselves together — not as agreeing in opinion, not as having attained universal truth in belief or perfection in character, but as seekers after truth and goodness.*

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates  
*Senior Minister*  
[minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org)

Sandi Sumner  
*Acting Director of Religious Education*  
[LRE@uusg.org](mailto:LRE@uusg.org)

Katie Phillips  
*Congregational Administrator*  
[office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)

Michael McElvain  
*Music Director*  
[music@uusg.org](mailto:music@uusg.org)

### **Our Mission Statement**

*The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva is a diverse, welcoming community which endeavors to make its Covenant a living reality. We provide religious education and opportunities for spiritual growth. We encourage individual and mutual responsibility as together we work to be a liberal religious voice in the community and a force for compassionate social justice.*

— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996

The next Pioneer deadline is May 21, 2010 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) AND [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org).

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva  
P.O. Box 107  
Geneva, IL 60134-0107