



A Newsletter of  
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

# THE PIONEER

April-May 2009

## Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister  
& the Rev. Adam Robersmith, Associate Minister

### A Survival Guide for Interesting Times

As we continue through the challenges of the current recession, your clergy have come up with some simple suggestions for redeeming these opportunities to build our character:

**Show up.** Come to services, come to potlucks and parties, come to the Small Group Ministries, come to the study groups. Come whether you think you need it or not, come whether you want to or not! You may think your presence – or absence – doesn't matter, but it does. You may be the person someone else most needs to see. Or you may find the person you didn't know you needed to meet.

**Have fun.** It's a lot easier to have fun in a group than by yourself. Celebrating life includes sharing laughter, play, joy, and even silliness. Come to our Games Night – toss in a buck or two for pizza, or bring food to share. We're hoping to get a "Films for Fun" series going, for both children and adults & youth, as well as other just-for-fun events. Let's come together to enjoy ourselves – not every UUSG gathering has to be Deeply Significant!

**Drop the guilt.** Do what you can, offer what you can, and don't waste energy worrying about what you wish you could do instead. (Well, OK, maybe hang on to a *little* bit of guilt.... Remember that the seemingly small things do matter. Maybe you can't give what you want to or do what you used to, but everyone can still bring something to the community. There's a lot to be done, and much of it really is easy and enjoyable. Make coffee, set up tables, help clean up the kitchen after services, make the popcorn for film nights, sit and listen to someone who just wants to chat.)

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**Ask for what you need.** Don't get stubborn about "toughing it out" on your own! Sometimes we can offer practical help (networking, resource information, emergency transportation or childcare, help with bills). Sometimes what you need is pastoral care or some moral support. You are – you **all** are – deserving of whatever help your church community can offer. Too many of us hate to acknowledge that we're only human and we need a hand or a shoulder now and then. Give others the gift, the privilege, of helping you, as you and others have almost certainly helped them.

Remember that we are a community, and we need one another. Alone, not one of us can do well. Together, we can do far more than merely survive – we will show the rest of the world what community looks like, and in so doing, together we will thrive.

See you in church! **LB & AR**

## Religious Education Announcements and Upcoming Events

### More Than We Thought Possible: Spirit Play for Two Grades

We've been offering the Montessori-style Spirit Play classes for our children K-5 in the summer, and we've found that it would be most helpful to have a class for grades K-2 and another for grades 3-5. This year, we have the possibility of making that happen! Right now, we have five teachers signed up; in order to offer both sessions each Sunday, we'll need at least eight teachers (four per grade) and would be most comfortable with ten total (five per grade). This is also a great way for new people to explore teaching church school – whether you're new to the UUSG community or just new to teaching.

Spirit Play is an adaptation of Montessori techniques for Unitarian Universalist religious education, giving children an opportunity to be in a multi-age class. Each lesson involves group activities and individual activities, including arts and crafts, writing, quiet contemplation, reading, and listening to music. At the end of each class, everyone comes back together to share their insights. This story- and play-based curriculum is a relaxed way to have class over the summer, and we're hoping that you'll join us in July and August for our Spirit Play classes.

If you'd like to learn more about Montessori-style education, discover what UU religious education teaches, or spend some time in a setting that is both playful and contemplative, please join the teaching team. You can find the sign-up sheet on the Volunteer Board or contact Sandi Sumner (630-232-2350, ext. 224 or [lre@uusg.org](mailto:lre@uusg.org)) to express your interest. If you'd like more information, please speak with Sandi Sumner or Ryan Wheeler (our Spirit Play coordinator) – they're happy to help get you involved!

### Upcoming Adult & Youth LRE Events

May 3, 1:00pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
May 6, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
May 9, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
May 10, 12:15pm	YRUU Joys & Concerns
May 13, 7:00pm	Coming of Age Mentor Training
May 14, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
May 15, 6:00pm	Coming of Age Program
May 15, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks
May 16, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
May 16, 6:30pm	Games Night!
May 20, 7:00pm	LRE Committee Meeting
May 31, 12:15pm	YRUU Joys & Concerns
May 31, 01:00pm	Coming of Age Program

#### Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

Mondays, 7pm, in the Common Room:  
"Still Living in the Present Moment"

Wednesdays, 7pm, in the Sanctuary:  
UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

### A New Adult LRE Learning Opportunity!

In March, Thom Thomas led *Talk Softly and Just Compost the Stick*, a series of workshops introducing the principles of Compassionate Communication (based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg). Now, in response to popular demand, the people who attended those sessions are forming an ongoing study group.

Beginning April 29, the group will meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Alcott Room, 7-8:30pm. Please join us as we begin a detailed study of Marshall Rosenberg's *Nonviolent Communication, a Language of Life*, following the lesson plan developed by Lucy Leu in her *Nonviolent Communication Companion Workbook*.

If you are interested in learning more about these gentle tools of communication, then all you need to do is obtain both books (available at Amazon.com) and show up at a meeting ready to learn.

If you would like to participate, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the LRE Board in the Common Room or call/email Sandi Sumner at 630-232-2350 x224 or [lre@uusg.org](mailto:lre@uusg.org).

We need a minimum of 4 people to run the class and the class size is limited to 12 people.

We hope that you will join us!

## Volunteer Headquarters

### Volunteer Appreciation

A great big THANK YOU to some of this month's volunteers!

**Michele Hoecker**, who organized this year's Blood Drive—we met our goal of 16 units!

**Kate Frazier**, who made muffins for our Blood Donors to enjoy (which we did!)

**All Blood Donors**, some of whom were pros and some of whom were first-timers, we thank you for your generosity

**George Hickman**, who's been busy getting our yard ready for the growing season

**Eric Bodwell**, who set up a new-to-us computer in the library

**Betty Bristol**, who replaced some torn wallpaper in the back hallway bathroom

**Bill Baar & Mark Alleman**, who attended a meeting with the Director of the Open Door Clinic, arranged by **Sacha Willsey-Urban**

**Andy Montgomery**, who redesigned our Mini-Pioneer and the Directory cover page, and also created a brochure template for our committees to use

**Karin Kemp & Karen Moore**, who created the lovely spring urns at the Sanctuary entrance

**Betty Bristol, Donna Giamberdino, Gloria & Stuart Mansfield, Joan McInnes, Kathy Meier, Kathie Noll, Jean & Lou Pierce, Tracy Rosenkrans, and Gail Tattersfield**, who have been happy to help Helen Hawkins get around (she's a busy lady!)

**Ann Drover, Ali Auer, Andrew Lanthrum, Betty Bristol, Craig Bristol, Tom Peters, Tracy Rosenkrans, Thom Thomas, William Elbert, Kelly Herz, Andy Murschel, Marilyn James, Dave Tomell, Jim Frazier, Jeanne Neltner & Trish Beckjord**, who joined in making our first UUSG Earth Hour celebration a big success

**This year's Canvass Crew: Mark Alleman, John Brennan, Jim Burke, Linda Burke, Kathy Cornell, David deCoriolis, Mike McCarthy, Jim O'Malley, Lou Pierce, Sue Stibal, George Tattersfield, David Tomell, Rick Veague, & Pat Ward**, for all their hard work contacting everyone in our UUSG community!

**Our Canvass Committee: Linda Burke, David deCoriolis, Kevin O'Neill, & George Tattersfield**, for their dedication to making this year's Canvass run smoothly and successfully!

### Canvass Update

As of Tuesday, April 21, we have 186 pledging units totaling \$338,893.

Thank you to everyone who filled out a form! Thanks to you, the Canvass process only took about 6 weeks (which gave us plenty of time to work on the budget!).

The Finance Committee and the Board have approved a budget for the upcoming church year. The budget will be included in the Annual Report, which will be available in early May.

### A Special Thank You

We send many thanks to Brad Lipman, who is retiring as our Comptroller after 13 years. Since 1996, Brad has signed over 30,000 checks and created more than 150 monthly reports—he's amazing! Brad, we'll miss you as our Comptroller, but we look forward to seeing you in the Sanctuary for worship services.

### Greetings!

If you'd like to help welcome members, friends, and visitors to UUSG, sign up in the Common Room or at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

### Clear Channels

A lot of dirt has made its way into the channels along the sides of the Sanctuary over the wet winter. We're planning a workday to sift the dirt out and put the stones back—if you'd like to help, please let Katie know (630-232-2350, [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).

### Getting Some Fresh Air...

The windows in the Conant Room and back hallway have been covered by plastic this winter to keep the heat in and the cold out. Now that's spring's here, we need someone to remove the plastic. Talk to Katie in the office if you can help.

# Survival Guide to the Kitchen

## Getting to Know Your UUSG Kitchen Appliances



Yes, there have been reports of well-meaning volunteers nearly losing an arm in the dishwasher. And we've all heard the rumor about Sasha the Malamute being chased around the Common Room by an angry airpot. We're sad to confirm that these statements are true—our kitchen is populated with vengeful appliances.

Unfortunately, they're the only appliances we have, so we're going to have to learn to live with them in peace. We'll provide you with the tools you'll need to emerge unscathed (and with all your limbs) from your encounter with the malicious coffee machine and the depraved dish sanitizer.

Here are the tools you'll get:

- A page of general instructions that tell you when to arrive and what to do when you get here
- A step-by-step instruction manual with pictures
- Pre-stocked caddies full of all the sweeteners and creamers you'll need
- An online sign-up form so you can check for openings from home
- A Hospitality Team of social hour experts ready to show you the ropes

All you need to do is sign up and help us show those appliances who's boss!

- Sign up at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.  
If you'd like help with your first social hour, sign up to work with an Expert!
- See the instructions manual at <http://content.uusg.org/storage/instructions/CoffeeInstructions.pdf>

# Social Justice News

## Congregational Vote on Peacemaking Pledge

In the fall of 2007, the congregation discovered that our opinions are fairly evenly spaced along a continuum from supporting principles of Just War to Pacifism. During the Annual Meeting on May 17, the congregation will be asked to vote on a UUSG Peacemaking Commitment that tries to capture our areas of agreement. The commitment evolved from the Peacemaking Statement which was presented during services in October and has been open for discussion in a variety of venues during the past two years. The statement is intended to be a congregational commitment to peacemaking in a variety of venues. For instance, at the congregational and interpersonal level, we would strive to use principles of respectful communication which include expressing and listening to each others' needs and feelings. At the societal and international level, we would consciously make an effort to support causes and organizations which recognize that peace is possible only when social justice has been attained. Currently, committees are being asked to give input to the wording of the commitment, so it is possible that the draft below will be changed somewhat before it is brought to a vote on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Members of the UUSG community are invited to meet in the sanctuary from 10:15am until 10:45am on April 26 and on May 3 to give input, ask questions, and discuss the commitment.

### Peacemaking Commitment of the UU Society of Geneva, IL

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. Peacemaking takes place in a variety of settings which interact with each other. These begin with recognizing the worth and dignity of ourselves through inward peace and extend to honoring the worth and dignity of others in a variety of contexts.

#### A) Inward Peacemaking

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

- taking time to go within, to know and respect one's own needs and feelings, and to develop a sense of centeredness around one's own deepest values
- educating ourselves and each other about effective approaches to inward peacemaking.

#### B) Interpersonal Peacemaking

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

- efforts to listen thoughtfully to others' needs and feelings
- attempts to communicate our own feelings and needs in positive, effective ways
- endeavor to use effective approaches to resolving conflict and building greater trust and understanding.

#### C) Congregational Peacemaking

We are committed to having our congregation 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 the Board, Councils, and Committees of the church to use decision-making processes which ensure that all perspectives are heard and respected
- 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.

(continued on the next page)

## More Social Justice News

Peacemaking Statement (continued)

### **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 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:

- include organizations which seek to build a society which is both just and peaceful among the recipients of "Beyond Our Walls" collections
- provide opportunities for people to volunteer for organizations which promote justice in our society.

### **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
- work with the LRE Committee to identify opportunities that promote a clearer understanding of religions, cultures and governments that are different from our own.

## **Literacy Volunteers Needed!**

Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley needs volunteers to help adults read, write and speak English more effectively. They will supply training, materials, a meeting location, and an adult who wants to learn. You will contribute about one hour of your time each week for tutoring in addition to any preparation time you may need. Several of our church members have become tutors and have found it to be quite satisfying. For more information from a church member, contact Joan McInnes through the church office.

Upcoming training workshops are scheduled for May 5, 7, 12, and 14, 2009 at the St. Charles Library. If you would like to register, just send your name, home address, email and phone to Peg Coker at 630-584-4428 or [COKER46@aol.com](mailto:COKER46@aol.com).

For more information and to see a 3-minute video about the tutor experience, go to <http://www.lvfv.org> and click on "Learn More."

## More Social Justice News

### Mutual Ground to Benefit from Collection and RSVP in May

The "Beyond Our Walls" offering on May 9 & 10 will benefit Mutual Ground in Aurora, which provides services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This worthy organization has experienced serious cuts in money allocated from the federal government within the past year. The Social Justice committee will use the money contributed to purchase items on the shelter's "wish list." On May 16, 2-3pm in the Common Room, people of all ages are invited to help pack personal kits which will be presented to women who arrive at the shelter with no basic toiletries. Plano Molding has already donated "caboodles" tote cases which will hold each woman's supplies. Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board, online at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or by contacting Lisa Gades through the church office (630-232-2350, [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).

### May Friday Flick: "This Palestinian Life"

On May 15 at 7 pm, Friday Flicks will feature a screening of *This Palestinian Life*, a film by Philip Rizk, a friend of Katie Phillips. In the documentary, Rizk shares the stories of villagers in Palestinian rural communities who attempt to use nonviolent means to deal with the Israeli occupation. Katie will give personal insights into the remarkable experiences of the film-maker. More information about the film is available at <http://www.thispalestinianlife.org/>.

The film promises to provoke a lively discussion as we examine this important, yet rarely-examined perspective. This is part of the free monthly third-Friday Film programs which are sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. You are encouraged to register at <http://content.uusg.org/friday-flicks/> to receive email notices of future programs.

### Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In February, we collected \$1981 for our youth Habitat for Humanity trip this summer.

In March, we collected \$1593 for Habitat for Humanity - Pottawatomie Partnership. They're currently building a house in St. Charles—if you'd like to help out or get more information, see the article below!

### Action Alert!

#### Tell Pesticide Peddlers: We support Michelle Obama's organic garden

The Mid America CropLife Association (MACA) has a bone to pick with Michelle Obama. MACA represents chemical companies that produce pesticides, and they are angry that Michelle Obama isn't using chemicals in her organic garden at the White House.

In an email they forwarded to their supporters, a MACA spokesman wrote, "While a garden is a great idea, the thought of it being organic made [us] shudder." MACA went on to publish a letter it had sent to the First Lady asking her to consider using chemicals—or what they call "crop protection products"—in her garden.

Please go to the website below to learn about this issue and to sign a petition telling MACA's board members to stop using Michelle Obama's garden to spread mistruths about produce needing to be sprayed with chemicals.

[http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/wh\\_garden/?r\\_by=3489-1411073-nvUHT.x&rc=confemail](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/wh_garden/?r_by=3489-1411073-nvUHT.x&rc=confemail)

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

### Habitat for Humanity—Pottawatomie Partnership Update

Now that spring has finally arrived, work is proceeding full speed ahead and volunteers are needed for the house that is now underway in St. Charles. The tentative schedule is for roofing and exterior work during April. The site is located on Dean Street, just west of 15th St. Work begins about 8am on Saturdays and lasts until mid-afternoon. Latecomers are welcome and lunch is provided.

For this house, UUSG is scheduled to work second and fourth Saturdays. If you are available, please show up at the site, introduce yourself, and someone will put you to work. Bring a hammer, and dress for working outdoors in whatever weather. Contact: Joan McInnes through the office (630-232-2350, [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).

## Green Corner

### RSVP for April

#### Planting Oak Trees to Celebrate Earth Day

Place: Kenyon Farm, Kane County Forest Preserve  
South Elgin, IL

Date: April 25, 2009

Time: 10am to 1pm

Let's Car Pool: meet at UUSG  
by 9:20am

Directions: Heading north on Route 25 towards South Elgin, you'll turn left onto Main St./Kenyon Rd. (Main St./ Kenyon Rd. is the next street off of Route 25 after Middle St.) Take Main St./Kenyon Rd. west until you hit the high school, and we'll be planting in the field just south of the high school. You'll see signs for the Earth Day event and Event Parking, too.

Children and adults welcome!

**DRESS FOR PLANTING & BRING GLOVES!**



### Native Plant Sale

With the church celebrating Earth Month in April in recognition of Earth Day, the Green Sanctuary Committee is hosting its second annual native plant sale. As we did last year, we will have a select list of native grasses and wildflowers chosen for various sun and soil conditions. New species will be included this year as well as some favorites that we'll keep on the list. And you'll still be able to purchase them at less than market price!

So start planning now, and come place your spring order! April 18<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be in the Common Room taking orders after each service. Pay with cash or check at the time of your order and pick up on May 11<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day Weekend. No order is too small or too large!

### Five Things Not to Recycle

*from Environmental journalist Lori Bongiorno; submitted by Diane Thornton*

The best thing you can do is educate yourself about local recycling rules. In the meantime, here's the short list of common items that don't belong in the recycling bin, no matter what your zip code:

**Pizza boxes.** The oil from pizza can contaminate cardboard boxes, making it impossible to process them into clean paper.

**Napkins and paper towels.** It's not the paper goods themselves that present a problem, but the fact that they're typically used to wipe up food, cleaning products, and other "hazardous waste."

**Sticky notes.** Their size, color, and the adhesive strip make them a better bet for the trash bin.

**Plastic caps.** Curbside programs won't recycle them, but Aveda collects them and turns them into packaging for new products.

**Wet paper.** Paper fibers that have been exposed to water are shorter and therefore less valuable to paper mills, making it unprofitable to collect and recycle.

Figuring out which plastics you can recycle is often confusing. It's generally well known that most curbside programs only take plastics labeled #1 and #2 on the bottom, but many people are shocked to hear that shape sometimes plays a role. For example, many communities don't accept tubs (mouth wider than base), but will take bottles (base wider than mouth) even if the numbers are the same because these plastics are manufactured differently, says Darby Hoover of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Check in with your local waste or sanitation department to find out what the specific rules are in your area. You can also go to <http://www.earth911.org/> for a wealth of recycling information from helpful articles to its extensive database where you can type in your zip code for a listing of local resources.

# Earth Month Happenings Around Town

## Saving the Environment: Book Display

Batavia Public Library, April 2 – April 30

Books of interest will be displayed opposite the circulation desk. Reference Librarian Robert Brubaker's bibliography, "Saving the Environment," will be available at the library or online at [www.greenbatavia.org/what-batavia-offers/the-batavia-public-library.aspx](http://www.greenbatavia.org/what-batavia-offers/the-batavia-public-library.aspx). This bibliography includes nearly 100 resources at the library: non-fiction and fiction books, videos, and links for additional info.

## Energy and the Environment

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

7-8 pm

Geneva Public Library

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Geneva/St. Charles.

Chuck Brown, Staff Physicist of Fermilab, will make a short presentation on energy production and its inevitable impact on the environment.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion on steps citizens can make to impact the new directions in energy production and the environment. For more information, contact Linda Robertson (630-377-1508) or Kim Haag (630-365-2138).

## Beltane Celebration

Earth-based worship is a part of the Green Sanctuary program at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, and they will be celebrating Beltane on Sunday, May 3 at 1pm. Beltane, the beginning of summer under the old traditional calendar, has become a regular festival for them, complete with a pageant, music and singing, food and drink, and dancing around the Maypole. Dress as you will, and bring an instrument if you wish. For more info, call the Green Man at 708-485-2296.

## Green Arts Walk

Downtown Batavia's celebration of art, music, & the environment

Downtown Batavia

Friday, April 24, 2009

5-9 pm

Sponsored by Mainstreet Batavia

- **The City's dedication of Kai Schulte's "Nature" sculpture** on the bridge – if all is ready in time!
- **Plastic Bag Prom Dress competition.** Bring your old unwanted plastic bags. Creative minds will create beautiful (?) prom dresses to be judged by Mary Marconi-Popiel of Special Occasions.
- **Artwork** Water Street Studios will have activities. Many local artists, including Joe Gagnepain and T.J. Hicks, will display their works. Marisa Pawelko, a Modern Surrealist from Chicago will display her "upcycled" works.
- **Environmental displays.** Local groups of all sorts will present information and materials so we can all be a little greener. Learn about clean cars, Batavia's new Peak Energy Reduction Program, victory gardens, and more.

## ECCO Green Expo

Live Green – Save Green – Earn Green

Saturday April, 25, 2009

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Elgin Community College

Fox Valley University & Business Center Building

1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL

FREE admission

More info at [www.slowglobalwarming-elgin.com](http://www.slowglobalwarming-elgin.com).

## The Air We Breathe: Consumer Choices and the Illinois Clean Cars Act

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 7:00 pm, Batavia Congregational Church (21 S. Batavia Ave.)

Sponsored by the Spiritual Green Connection and Batavians for Clean Energy and Conservation

Learn about this important legislation and help Illinois become the 15th state to adopt clean car emissions standards. Learn how to keep your existing car running as clean and efficiently as possible.

Presented by Batavia Alderman Alan Wolff of Batavia and Kate Delahunt Schrank of the Environmental Law & Policy Center.

## More Green Corner

### Earth Day Begins at Home

[www.earthshare.org/green-tips.html](http://www.earthshare.org/green-tips.html)

There are plenty of ways you can make every day Earth Day. Improve your own small part of the planet by considering these suggestions for spring cleaning, garden preparation, and home improvements.

- *Purchase non-toxic cleaning products.* Use natural fiber sponges and cleaning agents that are biodegradable, phosphate-free, chlorine-free, and unscented.
- *Reduce paper use.* Use rags instead of paper towels; cloth napkins instead of paper ones. Buy post-consumer recycled paper and recycle it when you've used it.
- *Refurbish responsibly.* Use water-based or vegetable-based paints, stains, and varnishes. Don't wash paint thinners, household cleaners, oil, or pesticides down the drain or pour them on the ground; use them up, give leftovers to friends or a charity, or dispose at your local toxic waste disposal center.
- *Repair instead of replace.* Reupholster furniture. Resole your shoes.
- *Replace disposable goods with renewable ones.* Buy rechargeable batteries. Use dishes instead of paper plates.
- *Plant for the planet.* Strengthen your garden's resistance to pests by planting resilient plants, by rotating the fruits and vegetables you plant, and by attracting friendly bugs to prey on the pesky ones.

Watch for more information on the UUSG Green Jobs Conference! This event was moved from April 22 to Friday, May 22 at 7pm.

### Awakening the Dreamer...

Thanks so much to those who were able to join us for the "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" symposium on April 4. For those of you who missed it, you have another chance! Thom Thomas will be co-presenting a shorter version of this symposium at the Green Fest at Navy Pier May 16 & 17.

Green Fest is a huge event and you should try and get there if you can. More information, including the schedule of speakers and presentations that are going on all day, both days, in 8 different venues, is available at

[www.greenfestivals.org/Chicago](http://www.greenfestivals.org/Chicago).

The "Awakening the Dreamer" symposium is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at 4pm.

### How to Recycle CFL Bulbs

Bring spent, unbroken bulbs to Home Depot or Ikea. There's no fee and the stores will accept any CFL bulbs. Your local Ace Hardware and Household Hazardous Waste collection site may also accept CFLs. For information about how to clean up a broken CFL, See the "FAQs" section at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Our thanks to the Social Justice Committee for turning over the Friday Flick, Beyond Our Walls collection, and RSVP project to us for April.

### April Showers Bring May Flowers...

but they didn't bring many donations to our April "Beyond Our Walls" collection—too many people stayed home because of the rain!

We'll accept donations through the end of April, so if you'd like to donate, just write a check to UUSG with "Global Green Grants Fund" in the memo line. Global Green Grants Fund is a public charity in Boulder, Colorado that works worldwide to bring individuals and organizations who want to offer financial support together with worthy grassroots environmental groups who are working to solve problems of poverty and environmental destruction.

## Upcoming Services & Summer Planning from Rev. Lindsay & Rev. Adam

**Church School** The Flower Celebrations on May 30 & 31 will be Intergenerational, and for our services in June, we'll have childcare for children up through the first grade. Older children and youth are invited to stay for the entire service. Special LRE summer activities will start in July – more information can be found on page 2.

**Summer Services** We had hoped to have the funding to keep our Saturday services going throughout the summer, but the current economic situation is preventing that. We'll continue our 3-service weekend format through May 30 & 31, and move to **Summer schedule** of one service at 10am Sunday, on **June 7** and continue through **September 6. (Remember: no services on June 28—it's Swedish Days!)**

We'll return to our regular 3-service weekends on **September 12 & 13**, when we'll celebrate our Homecoming!

Would you like to provide special music for a summer service or two, work with our ministers to create a special service, or help with our Spirit Play activities for Summer Sunday LRE? Please do **let Adam or Lindsay know** soon – plans are well under way for our Summer Services schedule.

### Mark Your Calendars!

All UUSG voting members are asked to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17th at 12:30pm.

Copies of the Annual Report and the 2009-2010 budget will be available in the Common Room and electronically beginning May 2 & 3.



### Swedish Days? Pizza? Already?

That's right—it's almost 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/>.

## Upcoming Election for Board of Directors

The following is the slate of nominees for the Board of Director for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva, to be voted on at the annual congregational meeting on May 17, 2009.

### Officers (one-year terms):

President — David deCoriolis  
Vice President, Admin. Council — Jane Willard  
Vice President, Program Council — Thom Thomas  
Secretary — Bill Pokorny  
Treasurer — John Brennan  
Assistant Treasurer — Jim O'Malley

### Directors:

Jim Frazier (finishing 2nd year of 2-year term)  
Pat Ward (beginning 1st year of 2-year term)  
Julia Adams (beginning 1st year of 2-year term)  
Bill Baar (beginning 1st year of 2-year term)

### Nominating Committee:

Tony Giamberdino, chair  
David Tomell  
Michael Mackey  
Rick Veague

### Submitted by the 08-09 Nominating Committee

Tony Giamberdino  
David Tomell  
Michael Mackey

Additional Nominations for any Board position are possible by petition of ten Voting and/or Student Members made to the Nominating Committee at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

## Thank You to Our March & April Food Bank Volunteers

Thank you to all of the Northern Illinois Food Bank volunteers who have helped to repackage cereal for distribution to area food pantries!

On March 21, 19,360 boxes of cereal were packed by our volunteers: Melissa Auer, Colleen Besic, Rachel Besic, Kevin Beyer, Judith Calleja, Lisa Gades, Jennifer Graham, Tim Graham, Mary Jonke, Patrick McGleam, Anne Moultrie, Jeanne Neltnor, Duncan Powers, Ian Powers, Lisa Rittenberry, Tracy Rosenkrans, May Sanders, Lauren Schrock, Mathew Schrock, Megan Simpson, Ray Somera, Maggie Walker, and Rod Walker.

And a special "thank you" to volunteers who answered the last-minute call on April 18: Melissa Auer, Katie Baar, Kevin Beyer, Jennifer Briggs, Lauren Cass, Lisa Gades, Cathy Newman Holmes, Patrick McGleam, Jean Pierce, Lou Pierce, Ellie Radvanovsky, and Tom Russo. We packed almost 12,000 boxes of cereal!

## Healthy Living...

You're invited to join a new group at UUSG—the "Healthy Habits" Group! We meet on 1st Wednesdays at 12pm and 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm. The group is open to men & women of all ages.

We're not following a specific plan, but just getting together to share ideas about living healthier lives. For more info, talk to Katie in the office or just show up at a meeting!

## Fresh Leaves, a concert of original chamber music by Susan Conant

Susan Conant returns to UUSG after her move to Charleston, SC, where she has been busy writing music, making new musical contacts, and discovering the finer points of eating oysters. She has just finished a new four-movement Suite for Solo Flute. You'll hear that and more, including some UUSG favorites, on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. She will be joined by our own Lynn McCanne, piano; Cynthia Spiegel, soprano; and Elena Spiegel, violin. The program will be mostly taken from Susan's compositions—many of which were written and performed for services here in Geneva. Admission at the door is \$12 for Adults and \$8 for Students and Seniors.

## Circles of Life

Quite a few of our families are dealing with illness and loss. We send our loving sympathy to Katie Baar, whose mother died on March 26, and to Michele Hoecker, whose father died earlier in the month. Our thoughts are also with Lisa McCarthy, whose dad in Florida is not doing well; with Ruth Fitzpatrick, whose brother's health has been deteriorating; and with Vohny Moehling, whose mother's health is also failing. Jodie Rees, to whom we said goodbye last month, died peacefully on April 8. In accordance with Jodie's wishes, Rev. Adam was in Wisconsin on April 19 to lead her memorial service.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Jim and Pat O'Malley - Jim is in ICU recovering from 10+ hours of surgery to repair a tear in his aorta. Please, ABSOLUTELY NO VISITORS! He's still heavily sedated, but they'll be weaning him from that, and he needs to stay quiet. If you know Jim, you know that if he knows he has company, he wants to talk, and he can't. Cards to their home for Pat to take to him would be welcome. The office will have updates.

Mary Schweizer is now recuperating at DuPage Convalescent Center in Wheaton and Bev Coe is getting used to her "new ear" after a second cochlear implant.

It was a joy to celebrate the Naming & Dedication of Maissy Littlefield and Riley Balhan at the end of March, and to welcome Jacob Piper, who has been in church with his parents and big brothers several times now. We also welcome Gary and Jessica Littlefield, who signed The Book on March 29.

And happy updates from old friends ~ the Rev. Jennifer Innis, our Interim Associate Minister before we called Rev. Adam, is receiving her Final Fellowship at this year's General Assembly (for ministers, this is a Very Big Deal Indeed). And the Rev. Craig Schwalenberg, our Ministerial Intern in 2004-05, is the Candidate at Oneonta, NY. At some point in the next year, Rev. Lindsay will head East to take part in his Installation. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Jennifer and Craig!

## There's Nothing New Under the Sun...

except for what's on our What's New webpage! Check out <http://content.uusg.org/whats-new/> to hear sermons, learn about new groups, and get information about UUSG events & activities.

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of April 22, 2009. 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 15, at 9:00 a.m.**

## MAY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> <i>Senior Minister at CMwD Meeting</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON <b>10:15 AM</b> Peacemaking Forum <b>12:15 PM</b> Facilities Committee Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	<b>28</b> <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>3:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</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>30</b> <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Thursday Group Hypnosis	<b>1</b> <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <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>3</b> <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON <b>10:15 AM</b> Peacemaking Forum <b>10:30 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Peacemaking Discussion Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal <b>1:00 PM</b> UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group <b>2:00 PM</b> Lay Ministers' Meeting	<b>4</b> <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Concert Rehearsal <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> Sanctuary Aesthetics Group Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Concert Rehearsal <b>3:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>6</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Concert Rehearsal <b>12:00 PM</b> "Healthy Habits" Group <b>6:30 PM</b> Susan Conant & Friends Concert <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>7</b> <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>3:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM <b>6:30 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group
<b>10</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>8:15 AM</b> Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal <b>9:00 AM</b> & 11 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON <b>10:00 AM</b> Commit to Knit <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:15 PM</b> YRUU Joys & Concerns <b>2:00 PM</b> UU Social Justice Meeting (a subgroup of Chicago Area UU Churches) <b>7:00 PM</b> 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	<b>11</b> <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> <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>12</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>3:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors	<b>13</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Coming of Age Mentor Training <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>14</b> <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry	<b>15</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER deadline <b>6:00 PM</b> Coming of Age Program <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks: "This Palestinian Life"	<b>16</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> RSVP: Care Packages for Victims of Abuse <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>17</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share	<b>18</b> <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> <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> UU Christianity Study Group	<b>19</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing	<b>20</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>6:00 PM</b> Pioneer Mailing Prep <b>7:00 PM</b> "Healthy Habits" Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> LRE Committee Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>21</b> <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising (meeting off-site)--time TBD <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	<b>22</b> <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i> <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
<b>24</b> <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>2:00 PM</b> Dedication of Memorial Garden Stones	<b>25</b> <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i> <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting	<b>26</b> <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i> <b>3:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</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>28</b> <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>9:15 AM</b> Simple Living Circle <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Thursday Group Hypnosis	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
<b>31</b> Church Member Event (time TBD) <b>9:00 AM</b> & 11 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:15 PM</b> YRUU Joys & Concerns <b>12:30 PM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Coming of Age Program	<b>1</b> <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</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>2</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>3</b> <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meetings</i> <b>7:00 PM</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>4</b> <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meetings</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>5</b> <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meetings</i>	<b>6</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting

<p>Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates — <i>Senior Minister</i> minister@uusg.org</p> <p>Rev. Adam Robersmith — <i>Associate Minister</i> associate.minister@uusg.org</p> <p>Katie Phillips — <i>Congregational Administrator</i> office@uusg.org</p> <p>Sandi Sumner — <i>LRE Administrator</i> LRE@uusg.org</p> <p>David deCoriolis, <i>Board President</i></p> <p>George Tattersfield, <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Bill Pokorny, <i>Board Secretary</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our Covenant (written in 1842)</b></p> <p><i>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</i></p>
<p>The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva 110 South Second Street P.O. Box 107 Geneva, IL 60134-0107</p> <p>Church Office: 630-232-2350 Church Email: office@uusg.org Church Website: www.uusg.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our Mission Statement</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996</p>
	<p>The next Pioneer deadline is May 15, 2009 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH <a href="mailto:office@uusg.org">office@uusg.org</a> AND <a href="mailto:minister@uusg.org">minister@uusg.org</a>.</p>

**To protect the privacy of our members and friends,  
all personal phone numbers and email addresses  
are removed from the online versions of our publications.**

**To reach anyone about items in this newsletter,  
please call or email our church office.**

**We'll pass your message along.**

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