

A Newsletter of  
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

# THE PIONEER

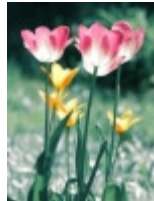
April-May 2011



## Welcome, Spring!



Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, is on Retreat through May 2.



All voting members are encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 12:30pm.



Dust off your gardening gloves for the Spring Spruce-Up & Smorgasbord on Sunday, May 21, 9am-2pm.



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The Annual Report will be published next week and will include information about our committee's activities over the last year and the proposed 2011-12 budget.

# Religious Education Announcements

## Upcoming LRE Events

April 27, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
April 30, 6:00pm	YRUU Spring Overnight Begins
April 30, 7:00pm	Speaker on Filter Pots (see page 10)
May 1, 8:00am	YRUU Spring Overnight Ends
May 1, 12:30pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
May 2, 7:00 pm	"Owning Your Religious Past"
May 8, 01:00pm	Munch & Learn Lecture Series
May 9, 7:00 pm	"Owning Your Religious Past"
May 11, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
May 12, 7:00 pm	Small Group Ministry
May 16, 7:00pm	"The Bible for UUs" Study Group
May 16, 7:00 pm	"Owning Your Religious Past"
May 18, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
May 20, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks: "Gasland"
May 21, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
May 21, 6:00pm	Games Night!
May 21, 6:00pm	Saturday Supper & Seminar Series
May 23, 7:00 pm	"Owning Your Religious Past"
May 25, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group

## Weekly Adult RE Opportunities:

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

## LREcruitment: Summer & Fall Teaching Teams

Though it may be a little early, we are asking those of you who plan to teach in the summer and fall to please sign up at the end of this spring. You can sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/teacher-sign-up/>.

Our Summer Spirit Play Program for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 begins on Sunday, July 3. We will kick off the summer with a picnic for children and teachers, and then have one class, for children in Preschool through Grade 5, beginning on Sunday, July 10.

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. *Please, if you are able, sign up now!*

## Justice Study Group

Would you sacrifice one person's life to save 10 lives? 100 lives? 1,000 lives?

This type of moral question is at the heart of Harvard University's "Justice" course, taught by Professor Michael Sandel.

Feel free to drop in on the Justice Study Group on the last Sunday of each month at 12:45pm to watch recordings of these fascinating classes and discuss our own moral interpretations.

## Coming this Summer: Coming of Age

Parents of current 8th graders, please keep an eye out for information about this summer's Coming of Age Program! We're hoping that all our 8th graders will be a part of this opportunity to explore Unitarian Universalism at the beginning of their journey into adulthood.

If you know that your 8th grade youth will be participating or you have any questions, please send an email to [LRE@uusg.org](mailto:LRE@uusg.org). We're looking forward to a great summer together!

## Thoughts from Our Intern Minister, Pam Rumancik

Maybe it's just my incurable optimism, but spring is just around the corner. I'm sure of it. It's waiting like a surprise party, just behind the door, ready to jump out and yell "hooray" just when we have given up hope of it ever happening. The grass will green and grow, the daffodils will give way to lilacs and blossoming trees, the breeze will lose its bite—and we will settle into a routine involving sunblock and floppy hats instead of scarves and woolen outerwear. I have faith.

We all have faith in something. What is it that you put your faith in? Is it in human kindness and generosity of spirit? Is it in the onward march of time, the strength of family, or the power of love? Is it in cold hard cash and capitalism? Is it in God, your country, or the web of creation? Is it in yourself?

Faith is one of those tricky words that can bring up strong emotional responses. As defined by Wikipedia, faith is "the confident belief or trust in the truth or trustworthiness of a person, concept, or thing." The Merriam Webster dictionary lists: allegiance to duty or a person, loyalty, fidelity to one's promises, sincerity of intentions, a belief and trust in and loyalty to God, belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion, firm belief in something for which there is no proof, complete trust, something that is believed especially with strong conviction.

All of these definitions speak of something held in trust. One of my favorite quotes comes from D. Elton Trueblood: "Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation."

Trust without reservation—how does one have such a thing in a world so full of disappointment, anguish, betrayal, and greed? What is there to trust in that can sustain us through the darker moments of life? Trueblood and many religious folks would offer God. They'd say that God is trustworthy, that if you can just live through the difficulties of this life you will be rewarded in some future promised time.

But I don't believe that. I don't have trust in a future life beyond this one. I have trust in this life, in what is here and now, in what I see and hear and experience with my senses every day. I trust in life. I trust in the depth and gravity, the fullness and groundedness of the present moment.

In the present moment, all the hyperbole and distraction of the material world are brushed away. In the present moment, I can remember that I am, I matter, my story counts, and I am an intricate and inextricable piece of the whole of the universe.

Further, I have faith that every person matters; that each and every one of us has a story that deserves to be told; a perspective that needs to be heard; a voice that is necessary—no, *essential*—to the ongoing cacophony of life. It doesn't have to be a story of fame and glory. It can be simple. It can be straightforward. It can be the tale of one breath. The story of a single breath contains within it all the elements of drama; it tells of desire, hope, waiting, wrenching disappointment, loss. Every story counts.

What is your story? What gift do you bring to the world? Simple, elaborate, genius, generous; what is the truth of you that must be told? Listen to it. Recite it to yourself. Be the center of your story. Be.

And after you've found your story—start listening for others: to the short stories, to the long and detailed, to the anguish and triumph, to the heartbreak and joy. Listen to the stories around you and honor them, enjoy them, give them the recognition they deserve.

Wondrously, as you listen, you will also be heard. As you participate in life's ongoing dramatic telling, you will feel the light of love upon your own face. It's a strange and wonderful confluence: the gift of listening becomes the gift of being heard, the gift of being aware becomes the gift of awareness.

What is there to have faith in? Have faith in life. Have faith in yourself. Have faith in the stories which go on and on and on. The ongoing current of life contains more stories than can ever be known, yet each is unique, precious, and indescribably essential.

I do have trust without reservation, that each one of us is important and woven into life, that we are each worthy of being heard, worthy of singing our own song, telling our own story in this universe without reservation or regret. Be a herald of spring, go forth, and find your voice... and never forget to listen.

## Budgeting for the 2011-12 Church Year

A copy of the proposed 2011-12 budget will be emailed next week.

Some highlights:

- the budget asks for a 3.5% raise for our 3 full-time staff members and a 3% raise for our childcare providers and custodians.
- we'll not be able to set aside funds for an Intern Minister or hire an Office Assistant
- \$1000 is budgeted to support our youth's Habitat for Humanity trip
- the budget reflects the Board's decision, based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, to fund all Capital Building Improvement projects directly from the Elsa Ollsson Capital Endowment Fund and not from the operating budget

### Still Want to Pledge?

Canvass Season officially ended on March 15, but if you were planning to pledge, it's not too late to let us know!

Send an email to Katie (office@uusg.org) or let us know your intentions online at <http://content.uusg.org/canvass-pledge-form/>.

### Slate for the 2011-12 Board of Directors

The current Nominating Committee (Jane Willard, David Tomell, Nancy Christensen, and Diane Peters) is pleased to present the slate for the 2011-12 Board of Directors.

President	Bill Pokorny
V.P., Program Council	Doreen Christiani
V.P., Admin. Council	Pam Tilbrook
Secretary	Pat Ward
Treasurer	George Tattersfield
Assistant Treasurer	Jim O'Malley
Director, 2-year term	Don Brod
Director, 2-year term	Jenny Stewart
Director, 1-year term	Barry Knerr

Ben Walker will be completing the 2nd year of his 2-year term.

2011-12 Nominating Committee: Diane Peters (chair), David Tomell, and Sally Jones.

Additions to the slate may be made by petition of ten Voting Members and/or Student Members made to the Committee at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Any additions must be submitted to the Nominating Committee ([nominating@uusg.org](mailto:nominating@uusg.org)) by Sunday, May 1, and must include the required petition of ten Voting Members and/or Student Members.

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, is on Retreat through May 2. Please contact the office or our Intern Minister, Pam Rumancik, in the event of an emergency.

### Annual Congregational Meeting

All voting members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 12:30pm.

Information about the proposed 2011-12 Board of Directors, the proposed budget, and the proposed changes to the UUSG Bylaws is displayed in the Common Room and is also available by contacting Katie at 630-232-2350 or [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

Anyone who has been active at UUSG for at least 6 months and is interested in officially joining the congregation may sign The Membership Book at the meeting (you won't be able to vote, but you can see how our annual meeting works).

### Last Chance to Order Memorial Stones

On May 29, 2011, we'll dedicate new memorial stones as they're installed in the Memorial Garden.

If you'd like to purchase a carved stone for a loved one, talk to Katie (630-232-2350, [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)) to get an order form.

**Orders must be placed by May 1** to be installed this spring.

## Social Justice News

### Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

#### May 2011: Feed My Starving Children

On May 21, we will return to Feed My Starving Children to pack nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. We will meet at 11:30am at FMSC's Aurora location, 555 Exchange Court. Children in grades 3 and up are welcome with a parent. We only have room for 20 volunteers; please sign up early to guarantee your spot! For more information, visit the organization's website: <http://www.fmsc.org>. Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room, register online at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades.

#### June and August 2011: Batavia Community Garden & Habitat for Humanity

Batavia Community Garden: Join others from UUSG who are learning sustainable gardening techniques while assisting with the Community Garden in Batavia. At 9am on June 18 and August 20, people of all ages are welcome to come to 311 W. Main Street in Batavia. We will also be signing up to return to the garden at various times between June 19-24 and August 21-26. To find out what tools you should bring, please contact Jean Pierce or Betsy Zinser. Produce from the garden will be contributed to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Habitat for Humanity: See the Pottawatomie Habitat Update on page 7 for information about another opportunity for volunteers during the summer months.

Thank you for your continued support!

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
May 21 11:30am-1:30pm	Feed My Starving Children	3rd grade and up	1 adult for every 3 students	Pack meals for hungry children
June 18 9:00am	Batavia Community Garden	All ages	See above	Gardening for the Interfaith Food Pantry
August 20 9:00am	Batavia Community Garden	All ages	See above	Gardening for the Interfaith Food Pantry

### Friday Flick: "Gasland"

#### May 20, 7pm

The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the United States. A Halliburton-developed drilling technology called "fracking" or "hydraulic fracturing" has unlocked a huge amount of natural gas just beneath us. But is fracking safe? When filmmaker Josh Fox was asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarked on a cross-country road trip to find the answer to this question. The result was an award-winning film which was honored at the Sundance festival and nominated for an Oscar.

### Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice

On April 3, at a gathering at UUSG, the Northern Illinois Jobs with Justice Coalition was created. It is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of faith-based groups, unions, community organizations, student groups, and seniors' organizations. The purpose is to work together to support each other and to develop and advocate for policies that (a) create sustainable living wage jobs and (b) challenge the existing economic inequalities. Activities will focus on research, education, advocacy, and mobilization around issues. The next meeting of the Coalition will be on Sunday, May 22. Anyone who is interested in representing UUSG on the Coalition is invited to contact Jean Pierce.

## More Social Justice News

### Save the Date!

On July 23 at 8pm in the UUSG Sanctuary, the musical duo February Sky will present an all-ages benefit concert for the St. Charles Youth Center for Boys. Tickets will be family-friendly priced and available for purchase the end of May.

A folksy fair of crafts, displays, food/snacks, a costume contest, and a raffle is scheduled from 6pm to 8pm. Please email Vohny Moehling if you'd like to sell your crafts at the fair.

### About February Sky

February Sky (<http://www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk>) is traditional singer and Celtic guitarist Phil Cooper with songwriter and singer Susan Urban. Phil sings and plays his own arrangements of traditional songs and tunes on six-string guitar and cittern. Susan Urban is a writer of story songs and humorous "slice of life" songs. Phil and Susan present a combination of old and new songs addressing the widest possible range of experience, complete with vocal harmony, intricate instrumentation, and thoughtful stagecraft. They believe that Folk Music is a continuum—whether the songs are self-penned or have a history thousands of years old, as long as they speak to the human condition and the human heart, they carry on the Folk Music tradition.

### About the Illinois Youth Center (IYC) in St. Charles

The IYC-St. Charles is a high/medium security facility for 432 boys, average age 17. The Center provides GED and high school diploma academic services, an in-patient substance abuse treatment program, vocational programs, mental health services, clinical services, leisure time activities, and family reunification programming. Resident volunteer projects have included building a greenhouse for CUSD 428, and constructing framed walls and a kitchen unit for Habitat for Humanity.

UUSG supports the IYC in a variety of ways. UUSG volunteers carry out an annual winter holiday party of lunch, games and activities for 32 residents. Each boy receives a gift bag of a warm hat and gloves, books, and candy. UUSG has also gifted treadmills and TVs to IYC. In December 2010, UUSG volunteers teamed with members of Ceasefire to help residents successfully transition to their communities upon release. UUSG works throughout the year to raise funds for these projects.

### It's a Party! Getting Sassy for Green Construction

A kick-off party will be held at the Sassy Fox in St. Charles on Wednesday, May 11.

Discounts, refreshments, real deals are available throughout the day. Invitations with specifics will be available at church soon. Don't hesitate to use the referral form (available in the Common Room or by contacting Katie in the office) anytime before, during, or after May 11. Two referral forms were already used on purchases, with a percentage of each benefiting the Green Scholarship Program.

All are welcome!

Men: get foxy and sneak in for designer gifts at bargain prices—the women in your life will be thrilled.

Women: be sassy and buy yourself everything you wanted for Mom's Day but didn't get.

Everything is 20% off and purchases benefit The Green Sanctuary Construction Scholarship. Complimentary snacks and beverages will be provided.

### May 14 is World Fair Trade Day

Celebrate by buying/enjoying an item from the Fair Trade/Equal Exchange (FT/EE) display in the Common Room!

Some of the new items displayed are Organic Teas and Drinking Chocolate. FT/EE is discontinuing pyramid teas.

Information is also available on reasons for rising coffee prices.

If you purchase *Equal Exchange/Fair Trade* coffee and/or tea, then please let Vohny Moehling know what you'd like her to order. She'll do her best to honor requests while working within ordering and shipping guidelines.

## Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity (PHFH) Update

Did you know that UUSG is one of 12 local churches that directly support our local Habitat for Humanity (HFH) organization? If you would like to read more about the partnership, or about the Northern Fox Valley HFH affiliate, please go to <http://habitatnfv.org/~habitat/?q=content/pottawatomie-partnership>.

As you would expect, the success of our mission—to build and rehab homes for qualifying families—cannot be accomplished by money alone. Indeed, people helping people might arguably be even more powerful than financial contributions. This is an opportunity to help make a difference for fellow neighbors in need.

Activity is underway for the PHFH to complete its 12<sup>th</sup> house since 1997. At this time it is not clear if we will be rehabbing an existing house or building a new house. Either way, Nancy Goodfellow and Hal Schulman are excited to represent UUSG in this endeavor. We are looking for other UUSG participants to join us in the coming months. The normal work day is Saturday. There is discussion of perhaps adding a weekday as well, e.g. Thursday. You can volunteer to either work directly on the house, or to help provide lunch on a Saturday for the volunteers who are working. Both are important and needed. No prior experience is required, just a willingness to join in work efforts scheduled for that particular day.

Nancy and Hal are compiling a list of volunteers. Please contact them as soon as possible about participating in this heart-warming program. Anyone over 16 years old can work on the house itself. Of course, no age limit exists for lunch-making! Please contact Hal or Nancy if you're interested.

We look forward to a safe and successful 12<sup>th</sup> local building project. We hope you will join us!

## Action Alert: Cut Wasteful Spending on Nuclear Bombs and Bomb Factories

We have fewer nuclear bombs in the U.S. than we did at the height of the Cold War, and yet we continue to spend more and more money on them every year.

Current congressional plans would spend \$85 billion over the next 10 years, including \$12 billion building two gigantic new bomb plants and \$4 billion extending the life of old, outdated nuclear bombs. These projects don't make sense if we are working to rid the world of all nuclear weapons.

Tell Congress it's time to fix our priorities, and to stop wasting money on nuclear bombs and new bomb factories: <http://www.capwiz.com/peaceactionwest/issues/alert/?alertid=42839501&type=CO>.

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

## Fighting for Peace!

A year ago our congregation unanimously approved a Peacemaking Commitment. Here are two opportunities for you to become involved in peace advocacy:

(1) Work with Sharon Hansen and Jean Pierce to apply for recognition of UUSG as a Peace Advocacy Congregation. A congregation may become a Peace Advocacy Congregation by performing peace activities in each of several areas within the prior three years: International Peace; Personal, Domestic and Congregational Peace; Peace Lobbying and Activism; and Military Personnel Support.

(2) Help plan the International Day of Peace Celebration in September 2011. This year we will hold our celebration on a Saturday so that more people are able to participate during the day.

To become involved with either or both of these efforts, please contact Jean Pierce.

## Volunteer Headquarters

### Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Our Canvass Crewmembers, who contacted everyone in the church community last month: Mark Alleman, Bill Baar, Jim Burke, Linda Burke, Steve Clark, Kathy Cornell, David de Coriolis, Jim Frazier, Michael McCarthy, Pat McGleam, Jim O'Malley, Lou Pierce, Emily Smith, Sue Stibal, George Tattersfield, David Tomell, and Pat Ward

Our Brave Blood Donors, who came together to donate 10 units of much-needed blood to the Heartland Blood Center

Our April Greeters: Pat Ward; Wendy, Mick, Michael, & Danae Jaggard; Louise Haslett; Pat Vary; Buffy Higgins; Marcelite & Lulu Bucheit; and Lynn & Llona Steele

If you know someone who needs to be thanked, tell Katie! She can be reached at 630-232-2350 or [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

### Thank You to Our April Lazarus House Volunteers!

George & Gail Tattersfield, Maureen McKeough, and Jonah & Marcella Sheler made dinner; Kevin Beyer & Lisa Gades made lunch; and Shawn Thornton stayed overnight.

UUSG is committed to providing food and an overnight person on the 1st Saturday of each month.

For more information about how to get involved in this important local ministry, check out <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/>.

### Spring Spruce-Up & Smorgasbord

Join fellow UUSGers on Saturday, May 21 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 online at <http://content.uusg.org/spring-spruce-up/>.

### Coffee in May & June

Many thanks to everyone who signed up host social hour in May—all the slots have been filled, so we will have coffee at all of our May social hours.

If you have any questions or concerns about social hour, please contact one of the chairs of the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee, Judith Calleja and Cindy Vacek.

It's not too early to start thinking about June! Sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

### Friendly Faces: Greeting in May

We have lots of openings for friendly folks to greet on Sundays on May. Sign up online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/> or in the Common Room.

### Garbage Patrol: Now Easier Than Ever!

It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it. We have a new rolling cart for our recyclables—no more hauling the blue bins back and forth!

If you can help out by taking the bins out on Wednesday nights and/or bringing them back on Thursday nights, please talk to Katie—she can be reached at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350.

## Flat Augustus is Here!

You may (or may not) be aware that Augustus Conant, UUSG's founding minister, was born on October 16, 1811. This means that come 10/16/2011, he's 200 years old—and since many of us suspect he still hangs out in the Sanctuary, present tense seems appropriate. The 16<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday this year, so we (and at least 2 other churches that Conant had connections to) are planning a Conant Birthday/Bicentennial Celebration. Flat Augustus is part of it.

It's based on the "Flat Stanley" project that many school kids took part in a few years back, mailing a paper cutout to family and friends to take pictures of in interesting locations, then sending the pictures back to Stanley's home base and Stanley himself on to others for yet more photos. We're letting Augustus do something similar, but we'd like him to travel/explore/be in pictures with you. We have life-size Conant faces (thank you, Patrick McGleam) to cut out, attach to a stick (like a paint-mixer or a ruler) and hold in front of a face, or in back of a group, so that Augustus can have his picture taken wherever you might be.

If you would like to participate, pick up a Flat Augustus in the Common Room. If we run out, we'll see about getting more printed. We're requesting a donation of \$5 per Augustus, to fund UUSG's celebration in October. Obviously, we'd gladly receive more—but we'll also gladly receive less if need be. We do want everyone who wants to take part to do so!

(Parents—we don't yet have the appropriate permission/release form, but we will. We won't post any pictures showing identifiable children's faces unless you've given your consent. We're still deciding if we need that for everyone else, but we'll let you know!)

Questions? Suggestions for the celebration? Talk to Lindsay.

## Sing a Happy Song

We welcome all voices to join our choir for the following service. Please contact Ruth Cavanaugh at [choir@uusg.org](mailto:choir@uusg.org) if you'd like to join in.

**Service:** Sunday, June 5, 2011 (Flower Services)

**Rehearsals:** 5/22, 5/29

**General Information:** Sunday Rehearsals will be held in the Sanctuary from 12:45-2:15pm. On the Sundays that we sing, our warm-up begins at 8:45am.

## Circles of Life

It's been a hard month for many in our church community.

Our hearts go out to Jim O'Malley, whose mom died on April 18; Dave Moore, whose dad passed away on April 7; and to Gail Tattersfield, whose sister died on April 13.

We send our thoughts and prayers to former UUSG member Lisa Dapas as she nears the end of her life. Please see her blog at <http://pullupachair.typepad.com/>. When the time comes, Lisa's memorial service and a celebration of her life will be held at UUSG.

## April & May Music

Thank you to April musicians: Ben Walker and Thom Thomas singing from "Jesus Christ Superstar;" Zoe Zacker; Alexander Cordogan; & the UUSG choir led by Ruth Cavanaugh.

In May, we will listen to Dave & Jennifer Briggs and flute music of Eric Luminais & Grace Christiani. We also look forward to hearing these 7 UUSG friends and members who call themselves FUUision: Pat Vary, Rhonda Robinson, Dawn Pokorny, Susan O'Neill, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Pam Birch, and Trish Beckjord.

Lastly, you won't want to miss the lovely Mothers' Day service in the works by Katie & Emma Baar; Doria, Elena, & Cynthia Spiegel; and Laura Bartoszek.

Please contact Tracy Rosenkrans if you or someone you know would like to sing or play—we are such an appreciative audience! Thank you all for sharing your gifts!

## Senior Flute Recital

Eric Luminais will be sharing his flute skills with us at a worship service in May, but you can also hear him again in June!

Eric's senior recital will take place in the UUSG Sanctuary on June 4 at 1pm.

## 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.

## Book Drive

What's a school without books? This is the plight of the students of Allen Elementary School in Aurora—their library books were destroyed by mold. You can help by donating new and gently-used children's (K - Grade 5) books. Please drop off books in the labeled boxes in the Common Room by May 15.

## New Workshops from the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI)

UUSG Members have participated in these events in the past and found them very worthwhile.

NCBI has announced the dates for two public workshops they will offer in the Chicago area this year. Both workshops will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Downtown Chicago. On May 16, they'll offer their Welcoming Diversity Workshop; on September 20-22, they'll present their Welcoming Diversity Leadership Institute.

For more information, go to [www.ncbiillinois.org](http://www.ncbiillinois.org).

## Swedish Days? Pizza? Already?

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

A paper schedule will be posted in the Common Room in mid-May, but you can sign up online today at <http://content.uusg.org/swedish-days-pizza-booth/>.

# Green Corner

## Clean Water for Everyone!

On Saturday, April 30, the much-heralded and publicized Lisa Ballantine will speak in the Sanctuary at 7pm about developing her life-saving filter pots (<http://www.filterpurefilters.org>) for pure water and her experiences in other countries like Haiti, helping communities with inadequate drinking water to use low-cost filters to improve their health and sustainability.

Ballantine has distributed over 35,000 filters and has helped countries to build factories of their own. Haiti and the Dominican Republic together can now produce about 4500 filter pots on their own. There will be a discussion and refreshments in the Common Room following her talk and demonstration.

More information about the filter pots is available at <http://www.filterpurefilters.org>.

Ballantine's work was recently featured in a Chicago Tribune article, which can be found at [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-03-23/health/ct-x-n-third-world-water-20110323\\_1\\_water-filters-water-supply-dominican-republic](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-03-23/health/ct-x-n-third-world-water-20110323_1_water-filters-water-supply-dominican-republic).

## Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In April, we collected \$945 to support Lisa Ballantine's work to bring clean water to people in the third world.

## Green Your World

Check out the Common Room this weekend for all kinds of wonderful earth-friendly products!

## MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> CMwD AA <i>DLRE Off Today</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>8:00 AM</b> YRUU Spring Overnight Ends <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM <b>10:45 AM</b> Canvass Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group <b>1:00 PM</b> Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p><b>2</b> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE: "Owning Your Religious Past" <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> <i>DLRE Off Today</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program &amp; Administrative Councils</p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <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</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <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</p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service</p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service</p>
<p><b>8</b> <b>Mothers' Day</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Membership Committee Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Social Justice Committee Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Munch &amp; Learn Lecture Series <b>7:00 PM</b> 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group</p>	<p><b>9</b> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <b>1:30 PM</b> Women's Guild <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE: "Owning Your Religious Past" <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors</p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <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</p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <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> Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry</p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service</p>	<p><b>14</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>11:00 AM</b> Private Event <b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting <b>2:30 PM</b> Internship Committee Meeting <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service <b>5:00 PM</b> Private Event</p>
<p><b>15</b> Intern Minister Pam Rumancik Graduates from Meadville-Lombard! <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM <b>10:00 AM</b> Hospitality &amp; Fellowship Committee Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Visitors &amp; Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> <b>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b> <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share</p>	<p><b>16</b> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> "The Bible for UUs" Study Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE: "Owning Your Religious Past"</p>	<p><b>17</b> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:00 PM</b> Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p><b>18</b> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <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</p>	<p><b>19</b> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <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</p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Gilgan Wedding Rehearsal (off-site) <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks</p>	<p><b>21</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> to 2:00 PM Spring Spruce-Up &amp; Smorgasbord <b>10:00 AM</b> Long Range Planning Committee Meeting <b>11:30 AM</b> RSVP: Feed My Starving Children <b>1:00 PM</b> Gilgan Wedding (off-site) <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service <b>3:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>6:00 PM</b> Games Night! <b>6:00 PM</b> Saturday Supper &amp; Seminar Series</p>
<p><b>22</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM <b>10:45 AM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:45 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>1:00 PM</b> Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required) <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service</p>	<p><b>23</b> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE: "Owning Your Religious Past" <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Safety &amp; Security DVD Showing</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <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</p>	<p><b>26</b> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <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)</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service <b>6:00 PM</b> Garland Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>28</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Music Rehearsal <b>3:30 PM</b> Garland Wedding</p>
<p><b>29</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:45 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:45 PM</b> Sandel's "Justice" Study Group <b>2:00 PM</b> Memorial Garden Service</p>	<p><b>30</b> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>31</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis</p>	<p><b>1</b> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <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</p>	<p><b>2</b> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <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</p>	<p><b>3</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>2:30 PM</b> Sanctuary &amp; Common Room on Hold for Memorial Service</p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <b>11:00 AM</b> Luminais Recital</p>

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### 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.*

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### 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 23, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) AND [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org).