



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

THE PIONEER

August-September 2011

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

There's an old maple tree that overhangs Route 38 west of Wheaton. For years it's been my harbinger of seasonal change. It shows buds before most of the others, and its leaves begin turning ahead of its companions as well. There are splotches of red and orange within its green already. Autumn, with all its changes, is on its way.

Summer was, as always, too brief. My trip East was restful, energizing, and rewarding (Last Tuesday Hypnosis Group folks will begin benefiting right away ~ although you may not remember...). My mom's doing well, we had a great time, and I'm looking forward to the family's Thanksgiving in just three months. In July, I was one of four clergy celebrating a group Civil Union ceremony in DeKalb, with the privilege of making legal a long-term relationship that will one day be recognized not just by our religious community and the State of Illinois, but by our nation as a whole as fully valid and deserving of the same privileges and responsibilities automatically granted straight couples who marry. Special thanks to all who have led worship, offered pastoral support, and handled the important ongoing work of our community while I was away. Gratitude and cheers to you all!

There are a lot of plans for the new church year, so please do read your weekly UUSG emails, the Mini-Pioneers, the bulletin boards, and the monthly newsletter! On my list of projects and plans, I have:

- an informal potluck brunch and quiet Sanctuary time on the morning of September 11 (no church services that day, because of the interference of Geneva's Festival of the Vine & the Yellowjackets)
- the All-Church Picnic on the 11th, when we'll gather at Wheeler Park for food and fun and enjoy being back together after the scatterings of summer
- the Saturday Supper & Seminar Series starting up again on September 17, with our theme being "How Shall We Talk Together? Creating Safe Space for Disagreement" (the promised practical follow-up to the August 21 sermon)
- ongoing Bible Studies for UUs, starting up again on October 16 at 1:00pm and October 17 at 7:30pm

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- planning meetings for the Intergenerational services for Halloween/Samhain/Day of the Dead (with our Puppets), Thanksgiving (I'd especially like suggestions focusing on the immigrant experience and the many nations represented in our own UUSG), and the Winter Holy Days (again, inviting suggestions for celebrating at least a few of the many Winter Festivals that come together in December & January, especially those that members of our UUSG community celebrate as part of your own family traditions)

If any of the above are especially interesting to you, please do let me know. No need to wait for formal sign-up sheets if you want to be sure to be part of the projects!

Finally, I'm especially looking forward to a formal announcement from the Board and the LRE Committee regarding the arrival of their chosen candidate for the position of Church School Administrator. They had at least a half-dozen strong candidates, and I'm eager to start working with the finalist!

Peace! **LB**

Religious Education Announcements

Upcoming LRE Events

August 24
7:30 pm Compassionate Communication Group

August 28
11:00 am Coming of Age Program

August 29
7:00 pm Teachers' Meeting

September 8
7:30 pm Small Group Ministry

September 14 & 28
7:30 pm Compassionate Communication Group

September 17
3:30 pm Small Group Ministry
6:00 pm Games Night
6:00 pm Saturday Supper & Seminar Series:
"How Shall We Talk Together?
Creating Safe Space for Disagreement

September 18 Church School Begins!
12:30pm Coming of Age Program
1:00pm "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series:
"Attracting Birds to Your Backyard"

September 25
12:30pm Parents' Group Kickoff Lunch

September 25
1:00pm Sandel's "Justice" Study Group"

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities:

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

LRE Committee Update

As many of you know, we are on the edge of some new exciting adventures in LRE. The Committee has had a great time organizing to this point, getting to know each other in many long hours of meetings, and creating a vision for our church.

Our Chair during this crazy year has been Jim Roberts. Sandra Anderson-Cordogan, Jenny Montgomery, Tracy Rosenkrans, and Elba Karim would all like to thank him for his calmness, professionalism, and steady leadership. We have learned a lot from Jim and are thankful for his service and time.

Sandra Anderson-Cordogan has graciously accepted the reins and is our new chair. Her organization and thoughtfulness are just what we need at this juncture—thank you!

We are looking for 2-3 fresh faces to bring new perspective and energy as we continue this process. If you are fervent about the religious education we provide to kids, youth, & adults, please join our group and help represent their needs. We meet on Monday nights, usually once a month.

Please contact Sandra with any questions or concerns.

Church School Registration

Have you registered your child(ren) for church school yet? It's not hard to do, but it is required for students of all ages (including those in the nursery).

You can fill out the Registration Form in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/church-school-registration/>. Then, you'll need to print off the Emergency Contact Info & Consent-to-Treat form (available in the Common Room or to download from the bottom of the page linked above) and either mail it to the church or bring it with you the next time you're here.

Church school classes begin on September 18, so please register your child(ren) today!

Update on the Hiring Process

We're still immersed in the process of finding the right person to hire as our Church School Administrator.

We have completed two rounds of interviews. Much appreciation goes out to Eleanor Hamilton, Audris Griffith, Jim Roberts, Tracy Rosenkrans, Sandra Anderson-Cordogan, Bill Pokorny, and Elba Karim for their time preparing for and conducting the interviews. We are being methodical in this process, which is slowing it down a bit, but we obviously want to do what's best for the program.

We hope to make a decision and an announcement soon.

Teachers' Meeting

The first teachers' meeting, for all volunteers, will be Monday, August 29, 7-8:30pm.

If you're teaching this year, please plan to attend this important event. You can RSVP by contacting Sandra Anderson-Cordogan.

You're invited to join us!

Annual UUSG Fall Picnic

Sunday, September 11

12pm at Wheeler Park

(Remember: there are no worship services that day.)

Got Kids?

If so, being a parent is likely one of the most important aspects of your life—and at times one of the most difficult. But having a strong and supportive community of other parents can help.

This year we hope to help more UUSG parents find just such a community within our church by creating a Parents' Group. We don't yet have a specific program or agenda in mind. The first step is to simply get together to talk about what we would like to see in a ministry for parents and how we can make it happen.

Our initial meeting will be from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 25. Childcare and lunch will be provided, but please sign up online at <http://content.uusg.org/parents-group-lunch/>, in the Common Room, or via email (office@uusg.org) so that we know how many kids and lunch-eaters to expect.

Bill and Dawn Pokorny will be acting as the facilitators for the first meeting.

If you use Facebook, join our new UUSG Parents' Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uusgparents/>. We made it a closed group for now to encourage discussions, so you'll need to ask to join—if you're not sure how, contact Bill or Dawn for help.

“Munch & Learn” Lecture Series

The Munch & Learn Series will start up again with a talk at 1pm on September 18th with Kate Frazier entitled "Attracting Birds to Your Backyard."

More About the Youth Habitat Trip

On September 25, during the “For All Ages” segment of the worship services, our youth will tell us about their amazing July trip to Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Summer Summary

Worship Services

August 28

Our annual poetry service,
led by Monica Jenkins

September 4

Our last Sunday on the summer
schedule of one service at 10am

September 11

NO WORSHIP SERVICES!

Intergenerational Potluck and End-of-
Summer Celebration Picnic at Wheeler
Park

September 18

Homecoming Sunday! We return to
our regular church year schedule—
2 services on Sunday at 9:30am &
11:15am—and church school begins.

Church School

During the summer, all children are
invited to join us in the Sanctuary for
our worship services. Church school
classes will begin on Sunday,
September 18.

Staff Vacation

Katie: On vacation September 9-19

Annual Fall Picnic

It's time again to come together and enjoy fellowship, great
food, and the beautiful fall weather!

Bring your favorite dish and lawn chair on Sunday, September
11 at noon to the Wheeler Park Pavilion in Geneva.

Sign up in the Common Room or online at

<http://content.uusq.org/picnic/>.

The deadline for sign-up is Wednesday, September 7. A mini-
mum of 40 people is needed in order for this event to occur.

Please note that there will not be church services that day due
to Festival of the Vine, thus the noon start time.

Welcoming Congregation Conversation

Please join the Welcoming Congregation Team for a
conversation on bisexuality and bi-phobia on Friday, October 7.

We'll begin with a potluck at 6pm and the program will begin at
7pm.

All church members and friends are invited to participate as we
seek to complete the process to become a UUA recognized
Welcoming Congregation.

Please sign up in the Commons Room or online at

<http://content.uusq.org/welcoming-congregation-event/>.

If you need childcare to attend this event, please let us know
so we can try to make arrangements.

July Financial Summary

In July, we recorded \$48,831 in income (about half of that was 11-12 pledges that were paid in advance in the spring and early summer) and \$22,891 in expenses. At about 8% through the year, our income is at 14% while our expenses are at 6% of what we budgeted for the year. Because of pledges paid early, July is always an income-heavy month, but we'd like to see this trend continue!

Other items of note for July:

- We paid \$3171.81 to complete installation of 3 new toilets and 2 new sinks—many thanks to our generous & anonymous donors for this wonderful improvement!
- We paid \$299 for payroll renewal and \$279.98 for new checks & envelopes
- We received \$7837.07 in tax credit from the U.S. Treasury—this money was transferred in August to the church's Elsa Ollsson Capital Endowment Fund.

If you have any questions about our income or expenses, or would like to see a copy of our monthly financial report, please talk to Katie in the office (office@uusq.org, 630-232-2350).

The most recent monthly report is also available on the "Board News" display in the southwest corner of the Common Room.

Social Justice News

Interfaith Focus on Peace to be held at UUSG

2011 is the tenth anniversary of 9/11. In recognition of that event and its impact on many people in our country, representatives of a variety of faiths will gather at UUSG on the weekend of **September 16 & 17** to mark both September 11th and September 21st, the annual International Day of Peace. Following is a list of highlights of the events. All are free and open to the public. Plan on coming, and bring your friends and family!

Voices from the Middle: Bridging the Interfaith Divide International Day of Peace Celebration Sept. 16/17

Friday, September 16, 7pm:

Free public screening of the documentary "Divided We Fall" at UUSG

This prize-winning film documents stories of Sikhs, Muslims, and Arabs in America and interviews scholars, lawyers, and legislators about race, religion, and security in post-9/11 America.

Saturday, September 17

10am - 10:20am: Dedication of Peace Pole

Event at Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors, 121 S. 3rd Street in downtown Geneva

*** Remaining events are at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva. ***

Note: The Sanctuary will be open throughout the celebration for meditation

Saturday, September 17, 10:30am-2pm

10:30am - 11:30am: Non-violent Communication Workshop

"Have you heard the one about...: How to respond to hate language (& "jokes")"

Led by Thom Thomas, a practitioner of the Marshall Rosenberg's approach to non-violent communication

11:45am - 12:45pm

Building Bridges: Religious Tolerance Post-9/11

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, will be joined by religious leaders representing Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. They will examine areas of common beliefs as well as their perceptions of religious tolerance in the aftermath of 9/11. There will be time for questions from the audience.

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Building Bridges: Panel of Young Adults

Ben Walker from UUSG will join Elam Margulies from the Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors and a young adult Muslim for a discussion of how 9/11 affected their ideas about their own faiths and others.

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Activities for children (parents welcome!)

Puppet shows about diversity, craft projects, meet & greet children from other religions and ethnicities

September Friday Flick: "Divided We Fall"

On Friday, September 16, at 7pm, UUSG will present the documentary "Divided We Fall." Winner of more than a dozen international awards, this film documents stories in the Sikh, Muslim, & Arab communities in America in the years following 9/11. The film explores "who counts" as American. This Friday Flick is scheduled as part of this year's International Day of Peace celebration in Geneva.

More Social Justice News

Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

September 2011: Northern Illinois Food Bank

To kick off the new church year, we're looking for 30 UUSG members and friends to join us for a 9-11am Youth Shift on Saturday, September 24 at Northern Illinois Food Bank. In addition to adult volunteers, teens and children ages 8 and up are invited with a parent/guardian. Volunteers will sort and pack food and other necessities for people in need in northern Illinois. We will meet at Northern Illinois Food Bank (600 Industrial Drive in St. Charles) at 8:45am. For more information about NIFB, please see: <http://www.northernilfoodbank.org/>. To sign up, please see the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room, register online at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades.

October 2011: Tri-Cities Crop Walk

On Sunday, October 16, we'll volunteer for Tri-Cities CROP Hunger Walk, a 3K walk raising money to alleviate hunger and poverty throughout the Tri-Cities area and beyond. Part of the proceeds will go to local organizations including Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry, Lazarus House, Northern Illinois Food Bank, and the Salvation Army. The remainder supports the work of Church World Service worldwide. Walkers will meet at the Batavia United Methodist Church at 1:30pm to register for the walk, which begins at 2pm.

How can you help?

Volunteer to **walk in the event**. Walkers are encouraged to ask friends and neighbors for donations supporting the walk. We will be sharing information with walkers about using a donation webpage for Team UUSG, so please sign up early by contacting Shawn Thornton or Lisa Gades.

Donate to a walker. If you would like a list of walkers, or would like to make a donation directly, please contact Shawn Thornton or Lisa Gades.

For more information about Church World Service and CROP walk, please see:

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR/2011FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2011?pg=entry&fr_id=13479

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
September 24 9:00am	Northern Illinois Food Bank	8 and up with a parent	Closed-toed shoes	Packing food for distribution to local food banks
October 16 1:30pm	Batavia United Methodist Church	All ages with a parent		Raise pledges and/or walk

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In August, we collected \$509 for Freedom From Hunger, an organization that brings poor women a powerful combination of microfinance, health education, life-skills training, and health protection to help them achieve a sustainable, self-help end to hunger. We also collected for this organization in July, so the total amount we'll be sending to them is \$1104.

Even More Social Justice News

Fair Trade Bake Sale!

Here is your opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolates, etc. for HALF PRICE!

Simply promise to use part of the product in a yummy creation which will be auctioned during a coffee hour of your choice this fall. Look for the Fair Trade Equal Exchange shelves in the Common Room. Find the price marked on the item you want. In the can provided at the display, deposit half of the cost with a note promising to make a bake sale item.

What could you make from it? How about coffee-coated pecans, coffee ice cream, chocolate mole sauce, coffee meat marinade, or even a chocolate cake?

Contact Jean Pierce to get more ideas or recipes. Then tell Jean when your creation will be ready to sell, and a silent auction form will be prepared for that coffee hour. All proceeds will go to pay for Fair Trade products.

Of course, you are always welcome to pay full price and use all of a high quality Equal Exchange item for yourself and your family!

Action Alert: Tell President Obama: Stop the Keystone XL Pipeline

"Essentially game over" for the climate. That's what climate scientist James Hansen calls the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry oil out of Canada's vast tar sands oil fields to Texas, where it will be refined, then burned across the globe, dealing a catastrophic blow to our chance of returning earth to a stable climate.

This project requires a presidential permit to start building—and it is President Obama's decision alone to grant or deny that permit. He will make the decision as soon as September.

Just last week, the administration approved offshore oil drilling in the Arctic. They have opened vast new areas to coal mining, and late last year, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton even said that she was "inclined" to approve Keystone XL.

But President Obama still has the final word. He does not have to negotiate with Congress or industry. As his State Department reviews the permit, the decision—which could have a devastating impact on the livability of our nation, and our world—is entirely in his hands.

Urge President Obama to stop the pipeline by signing the petition at http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/obama_pipeline/.

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

Commit to Knit... 35 hats by the holidays!

For half the cost, Social Justice hopes to give handmade hats to 35 lucky boys at the St. Charles Youth Center this year. So far, knitters have committed to making 15 hats. Anyone who knits is invited to lend a hand. Jean has found that it is possible to make one hat in two or three evenings. Contact her for a skein of yarn (which makes 3 hats) and a pattern.

Update on RE Talent DVD Recording

With the invaluable help of Brad Lipman, a DVD is being created of RE children performing a variety of talents. The following children's performances were recorded: Quinn Bryant singing; Stephan Cordogan and Alexander Cordogan playing the piano; Lachlan Hardin and Anna Hickey playing their flutes; Collin Klein, Cameron Klein, Corey Klein, and Anna Rosenkrans performing tae kwon do; Josie Myers performing a dance; Ryan Thornton playing the saxophone; and Ravyn Wheeler reading an original poem.

Sincere thanks are due to the children and their parents who helped create the DVD. It is anticipated that by the beginning of the church year all of the permissions to record will be obtained. At that point, 25 DVDs will be available for people to "purchase" with a donation to the current recipient of the "Change for a Change" Jar, UNICEF, for their clean water project.

Green Corner

Appreciation from the Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee would like to send their appreciation to:

- The Hospitality & Fellowship Committee for sharing time during July's delicious Super Summer Salad Supper for a Green Sanctuary astronomy presentation by Tom & Diane Peters
- Tom & Diane Peters for their interesting slide presentation on light pollution and viewing the August sky, and views through their telescope
- Diane & Shawn Thornton for research about lawn chemicals and providing extra-strength vinegar and Burn Out to attack weeds in the church lawn
- All our super August weeders who logged many hours to make our church lawn look better: Llona Steele, Trish Beckjord, Nancy Goodfellow, Jude Hoecker, Sally Jones, Ro Mariarz, Kathy Meier, Mary Swanson, Shawn Thornton, and Ann Drover
- The Facilities Committee, for their helpful ideas toward solutions to the lawn issue
- Chris Schulman, for recycling the backlog of UUSG used print cartridges.
- Vohny Moehling for creating & maintaining the GSC bulletin board (at the south end of the east Common Room wall)
- Jean Pierce and Katie Phillips for helping us weave our way through protocols
- Thom Thomas and Julie Riffle for help with the projector and good discussion after the August 19 Friday Flick, "Fuel."

Announcing a New Class

"Our Grandchildren's Water," a 5-session, motivating, and thought-provoking discussion course, will meet Mondays at 7pm, from September 26 through October 24.

This course can take up to 16 participants. The topic was developed and offered free of charge as a gift to churches like ours from Faith in Place, an organization that assists approximately 600 houses of faith in the Chicago area in greening their own churches and members.

If you're interested, sign up at the GSC bulletin board. If you have questions, contact Ann Drover.

"From the Earth" Harvest Supper

Plans are under way for "From the Earth" Harvest Supper on Saturday, October 15 at 6pm. Sponsored by Green Sanctuary Committee, this event will feature homemade breads, healthy crockpot soups, creative salads, and of course, yummy desserts, all from GSC members and "Friends of Green Sanctuary."

A free-will donation for a worthy green cause will be gladly accepted. If you're interested, please sign up on the Green Sanctuary Committee's bulletin board, so we can plan enough food for everyone.

The speaker for the evening will be Jennifer Jarland, Kane County's new Department of Environmental Resources Coordinator, who heads up Kane County's new Recycling and Conservation Program. Jennifer hails from Colorado where she was Zero Waste & Resource Conservation Specialist. She is an accomplished speaker and educator who will share stories and her plans for Kane County.

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Our August Greeters: Sally Jones, Gail & George Tattersfield, and Llona & Lynn Steele.

Our August Social Time Hosts: David & Renée Tomell, Jeannie & Bill Scown, Vohny Moehling, Ellie Radvanovsky, Tracy Paszkiet, and Laura Bartoszek.

Jim Jenkins and Lee Bernard, for moving the loveseat out of the basement and on to a new home

Kathy Meier, for weeding, for coordinating rides for Helen Hawkins, and for donating tissue and yard bags to the church

Helen Hawkins' wonderful drivers this summer: Gloria Mansfield, Betty Bristol, Norlyn Dimmitt, Lou Pierce, Jim O'Malley, Gail Tattersfield, Jean Pierce, Kathy Meier, and Jenny Montgomery

Do you know someone who should be thanked? Let Katie know! She can be reached at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

Administrator for a Day

If you'd like to help out in the office while our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, is on vacation September 9-19, please let her know (office@uusg.org, 630-232-2350).

The tasks are small but important, and she'd be grateful for your help.

Experimenting with Our Social Time

On Sunday, September 18, we will begin an experiment of one social each Sunday, between services. For a detailed explanation, check the display in the Common Room or send an email to Katie (office@uusg.org) with your request.

If you'd like to sign up to host in September, you can do so in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

And remember, all the September hosting slots need to be filled by August 31 for us to have refreshments in September. The good news is that there are now half as many slots to fill!

Pioneer Prep

Are you looking for a way to get involved at UUSG without making a big time commitment? Then consider joining our Pioneer Mailing Prep Crew!

Most church members & friends get the monthly Pioneer newsletter via email, but we still mail about 75 each month.

The prep currently takes place each month on the Wednesday following the 4th Monday, at 6pm.

(If you're interested in helping out, but can't on Wednesday evenings, let Katie know—she'll consider switching to Thursday mornings if there's enough interest.)

And if you'd like to help out, let Katie know (she can be reached at office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350).

Where's Augustus?

Have you been taking your Flat Augustus on trips? Has he been to Europe, helped in your garden, or taken a ride on the bike path?

Wherever he's been, send your pictures to office@uusg.org!

Check out his travels at <http://content.uusg.org/pictures/the-adventures-of-flat-augustus/>.

Staff Vacation

Our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, will be on vacation Friday, September 9 through Monday, September 19.

She will not be checking email or phone messages during this time, so please contact Sandra Anderson-Cordogan with any LRE questions and Rev. Lindsay with any items that can't wait until Katie returns to the office on Tuesday, September 20.

Please note that the Mini-Pioneer deadline for September 18 has been moved up a week to Wednesday, September 7 at 9am.

Annual Carpet Cleaning

The building will be closed on Friday, August 26 and Saturday, August 27 for our annual carpet cleaning.

So that the carpet can dry thoroughly, we ask that you not enter the building on those days unless absolutely necessary.

Cold Air in the Common Room

In June, we installed a wall-mounted air-conditioner in the north end of the Common Room. That end of the Common Room isn't cooled by central air, so we moved the A/C unit from the Volunteer Office to the Common Room so we can socialize with sweating so much!

Please remember to keep the doors at the north end of the Common Room closed so the cold air stays where we need it and to turn the A/C unit off when you're done using it.

Circles of Life

Congratulations to Roger Tilbrook! He was recently awarded the American Nuclear Society's Distinguished Service Award.

If you'd like to read more about this achievement, check out the "Joys & Concerns" bulletin board in the back hallway.

Staffing & Meetings on Labor Day

The office will be closed and all staff off on Monday, September 5 in honor of Labor Day. Meetings that would normally meet on that day have been canceled.

A New Year, A New Website!

The Communications & Technology Committees are working on a new design and organization for our website, which will be ready by the end of 2011 (and maybe even sooner!).

They'd like your help in determining the best way to make use of the website to get info to church members and to new visitors. Please take a moment to send your answers to these 2 questions to Katie at office@uusg.org.

- (1) As a member, what do you want to quickly access on the website?
- (2) What information or image do you want to quickly communicate to a new visitor?

Celebrate Thanksgiving with the UUSG Choir

Director Ruth Cavanaugh and the current choir membership welcome YOU to sing with us in the upcoming church year! Here is what we have planned for Thanksgiving weekend, our first performance of the church year:

Sunday, November 27: Join us in singing works by Vivaldi, Schubert, and Handel, accompanied by a professional string quintet! You won't want to miss this special opportunity!
Rehearsals: November 6, 13, & 20, 12:45-2:15pm

We also have a vocal warm-up/dress rehearsal prior to services. Please contact Ruth Cavanaugh at choir@uusg.org if you'd like to be added to our email contact list or want more information.

Music Summit

Did you feel the force? In mid-July, we had a musical blast of energy when Tracey McFadden, Lynn Fisher-McCanne, Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, Tom Zimmerman, Ruth Cavanaugh, Dean Malambri, Cynthia Spiegel, Diane Handler, Lindsay Bates, and Katie Phillips all met to discuss logistics and inspiration for the coming church year.

As a group, we discovered we had latent un-tapped talents, too many frustrated sax players, and a fantastic enthusiasm for our music ministry. Thank you for your dedication!

“Taste of New UUs” Held on July 10

The Membership Committee hosted a three-hour summer program to help new visitors learn a bit about our church prior to the upcoming three Sunday “New UUs” Orientation Sessions in November.

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, presented an overview of our faith followed by questions from the participants. While the program was lightly attended, the people who came were very enthusiastic listeners, and expressed a desire to learn more in the expanded program in the fall.

A big thanks to Lindsay, who did a wonderful job of condensing lots of information for our newest people.

July & August Appreciation

Thank you to Dean Malambri & Cynthia Spiegel for all the rehearsal time, talent, and planning to make the All-Music Service a success. Well done!

So many musicians took time out of their summer to sweeten up services this summer! Thank you to Lily Phillips and her a cappella girls group The 88s, Steve Hanson, Ben Walker, Grace Christiani, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Tracy Rosenkrans, Clarke Berrick, Ryan Thornton, and Alexander & Sandy Anderson-Cordogan.

Our music ministry is thriving—jump in! Please contact Tracy Rosenkrans at music@uusg.org if you or someone you know is interested in music at UUSG.

New to UUSG?

The Membership Committee is here to answer your questions and help you get connected.

Members are available after each service in the Common Room. Identify us by our blue Membership name tags.

On September 18, after each service, we will be showing a brief video, “Voices of Our Liberal Faith.”

And our next full program to introduce new UUs to our church will begin on Sunday, November 6 and will run for 3 consecutive Sundays.

For more information, contact Katie Phillips (630-232-2350, office@uusg.org), talk to someone at the Welcoming Table on Sunday, or look for details in upcoming UUSG Mini-Pioneer bulletins and Pioneer newsletters.

Social Events, Past & Future

Your Hospitality & Fellowship Committee enjoyed organizing the Super Summer Salad Supper on July 30. We had about 38 attendees and all enjoyed composing our individual salads from the wealth of food items contributed.

Following dinner, Tom and Diane Peters guided us on a Star Gazing adventure of our summer skies.

The next all-church event is the ever-popular Annual Picnic at 12pm on Sunday, September 11 at Wheeler Park in Geneva. You can sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/picnic/>.

New Bulletin Board Displays

If you haven’t looked closely at our bulletin boards lately, take a few minutes to do so the next time you’re at church.

The new display on the “People You Should Know” bulletin board has information about our Board of Directors, Committee chairs, Lay Ministers, and members of the Committee on Ministries.

The results of the spring church-wide survey are posted on the “Long-Range Planning” bulletin board.

Folk Fest Event at UUSG

The Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival will be held at the beautiful 13-acre Island Park, located in downtown Geneva. Eight stage areas will present concerts, hands-on workshops, topical song and story workshops, dance, vocal and instrument classes and special activities for kids. For more info, go to: <http://foxvalleyfolk.com/>

On Saturday, September 3, UUSG will host a live WFMT (98.7 FM) radio broadcast!

Don't Miss The Annual "Midnight Special" Festival Concert—September 3, 7pm

Rich Warren usually hosts several of our feature Festival artists in a live studio concert for WFMT "Fine Arts Circle" members that is broadcast and streamed on the Internet for all. This year, everyone can attend because UUSG will be hosting the show!

Tickets are available by contacting the Fox Valley Folklore Society.

\$15 for adults (paid in advance)

\$10 for seniors, students & volunteers (paid in advance)

\$20 / \$15 at the door

UUSG is extremely grateful to Jeff Stibal for all the work he's put into making this event happen! It's going to be a great way for locals to learn about us, what we stand for, and how we make a difference in this community.

Going Behind the Scenes

Have you ever wondered what happens at Council Meetings or Board Meetings? These meetings are open to anyone who's interested. The Councils (which is a meeting of the Committee chairs, Vice Presidents, minister, and administrative staff) meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. The Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Pottawatomie Habitat to Start Rehabbing in September

This is an exciting announcement that the Pottawatomie HFH is expecting to close shortly on its newest project. We hope that UUSG volunteers will exhibit hands-on participation in the upcoming months to help another local family in need of decent housing.

The project is a 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch in the Valley View area of north St. Charles just off of Route 25. It is about 1,000 sq. ft. in size, plus a garage. A detailed assessment of the work required will be made after closing in order to start the building permit approval process. However it already appears that it will require some window, roof, electrical, flooring and wall work, plus perhaps a new deck.

The "normal" work day is Saturday, roughly 9am to 3pm. Besides needing direct workers each week, there is also a need to arrange lunch for the workers. So as individuals and as a church, there are multiple ways to support the efforts. It seems that the initial Saturday the project will be either September 17 or 24. A typical Saturday would have multiple tasks happening concurrently, and perhaps require a total of 6-12 people. However, some weeks might have less going on or more resource demands on other weeks. Any one Saturday is not required to have all workers from 1 church, although that could be worked out as well.

If you have interest in being part of this valuable and rewarding social justice program and have not already contacted Hal Schulman (handc79@sbcglobal.net) or Nancy Goodfellow (goodfellow@sxu.edu), please do so today. There is no experience required, just a willingness to help create a new home for a local family. We welcome all feedback and comments too.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:00 AM Worship Service; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 11:00 AM Coming of Age Program 11:15 AM Communications Committee Meeting 5:45 PM Bread & Roses Rehearsal	29 7:00 PM LRE Teachers' Meeting	30 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis (pre-approval required)	31 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	1 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	2 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> Liberman-Utroska Wedding Rehearsal (off-site, time TBD)	3 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM Church Reserved All Day for Folk Concert Prep 4:00 PM Liberman-Utroska Wedding (off-site) 7:00 PM Folk Fest/WFMT Concert
4 10:00 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 11:00 AM	5 Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i> 4:30 PM Private Event	6 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	7 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	8 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	9 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 6:00 PM Chambers Wedding Rehearsal	10 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 3:00 PM Chambers Wedding
11 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> No Worship Services Today 9:30 AM -12:00 PM Intergenerational Potluck End-of-Summer Celebration 10:00 AM Social Justice Committee Meeting 12:00 PM Homecoming Family Picnic at Wheeler Park 12:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	12 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	13 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors	14 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	15 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	16 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Friday Flicks	17 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM International Day of Peace Celebration 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 6:00 PM Games Night! 6:00 PM Saturday Supper & Seminar Series: "How Shall We Talk Together? Creating Safe Space for Disagreement"
18 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> Homecoming Sunday 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:00 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 11:00 AM Welcoming Congregation Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Coming of Age Program 12:45 PM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 1:00 PM "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series: "Attracting Birds to Your Backyard" 7:00 PM Reiki Share	19 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>	20 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	21 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting	22 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	23 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	24 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM RSVP: Northern Illinois Food Bank
25 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 11:00 AM Personnel Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 11:15 AM Communications Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Coming of Age Program 12:30 PM UUSG Parents' Group Kickoff Lunch 12:45 PM Sandel's "Justice" Study Group	26 Building Closed After 3pm for Floor Cleaning & Waxing 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Class: "Our Grandchildren's Water"	27 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	28 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	29 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	30 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>	1 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i>

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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.

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 September 25, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.