



A Newsletter of
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

THE PIONEER

December 2010—January 2011

Lindsay

Aludy

Amy

Joe

Paul

*May your holidays be filled
with joy, hope, contentment,
and thanksgiving.*

Sandi

Nell

*And may your Christmas wishes
be grand and worthy
of the New Year's rededications.*

Michael

Jan

Yuriko

Jinny

Katie

Inside this issue:

Munch & Learn Lecture Series	2
This Weekend's Pageant	3
Hooliday Happenings	4
End-of-the-year Donations	5
Youth Center Project	6
Gifts for Seniors and Kids	7
New Pioneer Deadline	8
UUSG Vision 2020	9
Volunteer Appreciation	10
Boxing Day & Beyond...	11
Green Corner: Recycling Plastic	12
January Calendar	13

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services

5pm our "Family Friendly" service especially for young children

8pm Candlelight Choir Service

10pm Candlelight Meditative Service

Sunday, Dec. 26, 9am-12:30pm All-Church Boxing Day Potluck

Staff Hours

In addition to their regular days off (Fridays & Saturdays for Katie; Saturdays & Mondays for Sandi; and Wednesdays & Thursdays for Lindsay and Pam), the staff will be off on:

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

Friday, December 31 New Year's Eve

Saturday, January 1 New Year's Day

Staff hours between Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be irregular. Please call first if you need to stop by during that time.

Religious Education Announcements

Hello UUSG Members and Friends!

We are nearly at the end of our fall session of church school and things have gone very well. I'm so pleased to see so many families attending regularly. I sincerely appreciate all the time and dedication our teachers and advisors have given to help make our LRE Program a huge success. With their guidance, our young people are exploring and studying the stories, values, history, beliefs, and promises that are part of Unitarian Universalism and being a Unitarian Universalist in this congregation.

If you are curious about the curricula we are using this year, please let me know. I would be happy to share the material with you! Do you have comments, concerns, or ideas? Please let me know those, as well. Just see me on Sunday, send me an email to lre@uusg.org, or call me at 630-232-2350 x224. Also, you may speak to a member of the LRE Committee: Jim Roberts (Chair), Tracy Rosenkrans (Preschool-Grade 4 Representative), Jenny Montgomery (Grades 5-8 Representative), Elba Karim (YRUU), Sandy Anderson-Cordogan (RE Music), and Diane Thornton (Library Liaison).

Happy Holidays! Sandi

Munch & Learn Monthly Lecture Series!

We're so pleased to offer this program of factual talks. These one-hour sessions allow folks to share their knowledge and experience with others! The next date is Sunday, January 23 at 1pm. Join Jim Frazier as he presents "Digital Photography: 10 Common Mistakes." Hope to see you there!

Lecturers are needed, too! Please consider joining us as a lecturer if you would you like to present an informal factual talk about something you know, if you would like to share the experience of your visit to somewhere wonderful, or if you would like to teach others your talent! The only restriction of the topics' scope is that the content of the talk must be factual and not opinion (no ideology, religion, politics, or anything that provokes rancorous debate!). Please let us know your interest in facilitating a future talk by adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the LRE board. *Also include your topic choice.*

Missing Bike Is your family missing a green bike? If so, talk to Katie about getting it back in your garage before we get any more snow!

LRE Spring Session

Teacher Sign-up for the Spring session has begun! Our Ministry of Religious Education is one of our core responsibilities as a congregation. Church school is an important way in which we pass on our faith to our children and youth.

We need young adults and elders, parents and those without children, people of all kinds to become teachers in our classrooms! This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and have fun. Each one of us has something wonderful to share.

As a teacher, you will share the values of our covenant with children and youth and show them that their religious education program is important to you. With your guidance, our young people will develop their own beliefs and a better understanding of the world around them. Sign-up sheets for teachers and substitute teachers are on the LRE Board in the Common Room. If you have questions, please talk to Sandi.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

We will once again offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program to 7th, 8th, and 9th grade youth and planning has already begun! This is an excellent relationship and sexuality education program which integrates the values of our Unitarian Universalist community. The program consists of four lock-in overnights, one each month from January through April.

There will be a parent orientation meeting on Monday, January 3 at 7:00pm. An email invitation was sent to all families with youth in grades 7 through 9. Please see Sandi if you have any questions or to let her know if your teen will be participating.

Upcoming LRE Events

Dec 18, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Dec 18, 6:00pm	Saturday Supper & Seminar Series
Dec 18, 6:00pm	Games Night!
Jan 2, 12:30pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
Jan 3, 7:00pm	OWL Parent Orientation
Jan 12, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Jan 13, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Jan 15, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Jan 15, 6:00pm	Saturday Supper & Seminar Series
Jan 15, 6:30pm	Games Night!
Jan 15, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
Jan 19, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Jan 21, 7:00pm	Friday Flick: "The Big Uneasy"
Jan 23, 1:00pm	Munch & Learn Lecture Series
Jan 26, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Jan 29, 10:00am	"Curriculum & Cookies" Spring Teacher/Advisor Workshop & Social

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

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

New Time, Same Night, Last Chance This Year!

This Saturday at the new time of 6pm is the All Ages Games and Fun Night! Relax with friends. Bring a pizza or share one of ours. Get away from holiday stress for a few hours. The event is open to friends if you'd like to bring them along.

Don't let the kids get caught with Crackers in My Bed while the adults are playing Zobmondo and the teens are comparing Apples to Apples. The church owns over 70 games, or you can bring one along from home.

This runs concurrently with the Saturday Supper and Seminar Series; in December, we'll be looking at the various ways people explore and practice spirituality throughout the world with an eye to spiritual practices which call to Unitarian Universalists in particular. The evening will be both informational and experiential and will include discussion, chant, and music. All are welcome! The more, the merrier!

This Weekend's Pageant

Help is needed for the No-Rehearsal Pageant! You don't have to be Joseph or memorize any lines to help out – just offer to help bring out or put away the Pageant costumes and props, or lend your hand as a "rober" to get our actors ready for their parts.

If you can help, please talk to Sandi about which service you'd like to help at. She can be reached at lre@uusg.org or 630-232-2350 x224.

Guest at Your Table

It's time to collect your Guest at Your Table! On Sunday, January 16, we will close our Guest at Your Table program.

Please look for a display in the Common Room where you can drop off your boxes or envelopes.

In recent weeks, our Guest at Your Table boxes and *Stories of Hope* have taught us about real people engaged in the struggle for justice in the United States and around the world. It has also taught us about our power to change the world when we support our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the many amazing people with whom they partner.

Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, be sure to complete the form on the box. And, if possible, please convert your cash and coins to a check made out to "UUSC." We'll announce the results of our Guest at Your Table program as soon as we are able.

On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings through the Guest at Your Table program.

If you miss bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, you can pass it along to Sandi at any time.

Holiday Happenings

Plan to Join Us for Our Winter Holiday Services & Celebrations

Sunday, December 19 Our annual Holiday Pageant at both services
(if you can help with the Pageant, please let Sandi know at LRE@uusg.org or 630-232-2350)

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services

5 PM – our “Family Friendly” service especially for young children

8 PM – Candlelight Choir Service

10 PM – Candlelight Meditative Service

Sunday, December 26, 9am-12:30pm All-church Boxing Day Potluck

Holiday Staffing

In addition to their regular days off (Fridays & Saturdays for Katie; Saturdays & Mondays for Sandi; and Wednesdays & Thursdays for Lindsay and Pam), the staff will be off on these days:

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25

New Years' Eve
Friday, December 31

New Years' Day
Saturday, January 1

Staff hours between Christmas Day and New Years' Day will be irregular. Please call first if you need to stop by during that time.

YRUU Reunion Potluck

YRUU youth and all former members:
Please join us for a potluck reunion on
December 19, 2010 in the Common Room
at 1pm.

Please bring a dish to pass and a donation for
someone less fortunate than yourself.

RSVP to Elba Karim at ej.karim@comcast.net.

Hello, Mr. Fire Marshall!

Using all available seating, our Sanctuary holds an absolute maximum of 150 people, including the Choir. Understandably, the 8pm Choir Service is the most popular—for our own folks and also for visitors looking for a place to go on Christmas Eve.

Once there are 150 people in the room, our Greeters will have to turn people away. We'll broadcast the service into the Common Room for those who choose to stay and listen, but it's not ideal.

We strongly recommend that families with young children plan to attend at 5 o'clock. That service contains all the central Christmas Eve elements, but is paced for shorter attention spans and lasts no more than an hour.

The 10 o'clock service has most of the same readings and carols as the earlier Choir Service, but is far more meditational/prayerful in tone—and has far more room to stretch out and enjoy the beauty of our sanctuary by candlelight.

If the 8 o'clock service is your only option, please do plan to arrive well before 8pm. Latecomers are almost guaranteed seating in the Common Room.

Our Christmas Eve Collection

This year's collection will be divided between the Association for Individual Development and our UUSG “Make a Difference” emergency assistance fund.

If you'll be out of town or otherwise unable to attend Christmas Eve services but would like to make a donation to the Christmas Eve offering, please mark it “For Christmas Eve” and send it in or drop it into the collection baskets.

And those who need our help thank you!

Winter Weather Closing Policy

Because we're a regional congregation, with many of our folks traveling a considerable distance to get to Geneva, we do have a policy for winter weather. If the wind chill in the greater Chicago area is colder than 40 degrees below zero, or if travel advisories have been issued because of snow or wind, we cancel all church events, including any committee meetings, office hours, Sunday morning religious education, and Sunday worship. During the week, if you're not sure about the severity of the weather, please check with your group's convener before heading for a winter meeting.

If Sunday activities are canceled, we'll try to get that information onto our homepage (www.uusg.org) and the Congregational Administrator's voicemail message (call the church office at 630-232-2350 and then press 1-0-0 to hear the message). But when in doubt, please stay home!

End-of-the-year Donations

This is the perfect time of year to make a donation to UUSG, just in time to include it as a deduction on your 2010 taxes!

Donations must be received by Friday, December 31. If you'd like to know your donation total for 2010 thus far, please contact Katie in the office.

Jim Scott Service

We had a wonderful morning on December 5 with Jim Scott!

Special thanks to our Choir, & to director Ruth Cavanaugh, and also to the Moehling family and Vohny's mother Maude ~ Jim's morning with us was made possible by a gift in loving memory of Maude Woods, who would have enjoyed it all immensely.

Christmas Eve Greeters

Celebrate Christmas Eve by welcoming friends & visitors to UUSG!

We need 2 more greeters at the 10pm service—please talk to Katie (office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350) if you'd like to help out.

Join us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Geneva-IL/Unitarian-Universalist-Society-of-Geneva/112368975479570>

Sing a Happy Song

We welcome all voices to join our choir for the following services. Please contact Ruth Cavanaugh at choir@uusg.org if you'd like to join in.

Services: Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011 (Ecology Theme)
Rehearsals: 4/10 & 4/17

Services: 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. Services are at 9:30am & 11:15am.

Cookie Walk Results

This year's Cookie Walk was the biggest yet—we sold over 630 dozen cookies and made nearly \$2600!

Many thanks to everyone who participated by baking, setting up, working the event, and cleaning up.

Special appreciation goes to Elba Karim and Sherri Casterline for the time and effort they put into making this event a beloved and successful UUSG tradition.

We're putting together a cookbook of Cookie Walk recipes—send yours to CookieWalk@uusg.org.

Social Justice News

2010 Youth Center Project

Plans are well underway for this year's holiday celebration at the Illinois Youth Center. Honoring our first principle—recognizing the worth and dignity in everyone—the goal of the Social Justice Committee is to make sure the boys know that "someone in the community thinks that even though you're in here, you are worthy of comforts that other people have."

The large gift this year is a 55" TV with surround sound so that the boys can gather in community to watch programs. As usual, we will be hosting a party for boys who do not get visited by friends or family, and we will be giving them hats, gloves, socks, puzzles, and books.

The party will be this Saturday, December 18. This year we have a couple of changes – we will be serving a sit-down lunch including sandwiches and fruit, as well as the homemade cookies that are a huge hit with the boys. Also, this year, 4 former gang members from Cease Fire Chicago will join us to provide positive role models for the boys and to inspire them to make better decisions.

None of this is possible without the generosity of the UUSG community. The last day when we will be selling fair trade items and crafts during coffee hours in the Common Room will be Sunday, December 19.

This year, people can also support the Youth Center project by coming to a concert by the popular singing group, the Bittersweet Christmas Band, at 8pm on Friday, December 17.

January Friday Flick

At 7pm on Friday, January 21st, UUSG will screen Harry Shearer's acclaimed film *The Big Uneasy* about New Orleans post-Katrina.

The film depicts the inside story of a disaster that might have been prevented. Shearer speaks to the investigators who poked through the muck as the water receded and a whistle-blower from the Army Corps of Engineers, revealing that some of the same flawed methods responsible for the levee failure during Katrina are being used to rebuild the system expected to protect the new New Orleans from future peril.

Trick-or-Treaters

We send our thanks to the following people, who participated in this year's Reserve Trick-or-Treat project by handing out fair trade chocolate:

Jamie Anderson	Ann Drover
Connor Loughheed	Mylane Bryant
Kathie Noll	Rej Rooney
Wendy & Danae Jaggard	Vohny Moehling
Katia Crosier	Buffy Higgins
Tracey McFadden	Sarah Hickey
Brandi Martin	Diane Gallentine
Ryan Thornton	Rhonda Robinson
Ben Walker	Renee Tomell
Ravyn & Phoenix Wheeler	
Tracy, Anna, & Erin Rosenkrans	

Action Alert: Demand Illinois Use Best Available Technologies to Cut Global Warming Emissions

Large power plants, industrial boilers, and oil refineries release a lot of global warming emissions. On January 2, 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin requiring these facilities to obtain permits for these emissions. In November, the EPA released guidance about the kinds of pollution control technologies and best practices state agencies should consider when issuing these permits. The good news is that most states already intend to comply with the EPA's recommendations because they are practical and affordable measures—such as implementing energy efficiency improvements that can cut fuel use and save money. Unfortunately, the coal and oil industries are already attacking the EPA's guidance. If successful, they could lock us into more polluting facilities for years to come.

Please go to <http://action.ucsusa.org/site/R?i=rVh3kNmmYx97K9OFNEqakA> to send a message to our governor to ensure Illinois complies with the EPA's technology guidance in a way that helps put us on the path to real global warming emissions reductions.

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

More Social Justice News

Upcoming RSVP Opportunities

The month of December brings our annual holiday party for boys at the Illinois Youth Center. This is one of UUSG's major social justice initiatives, and there are many ways to help out! For more information, please see the article on page 6 dedicated to this event.

January 2011: Gift Bags for Seniors

On Saturday, January 22, 2-4pm, we will gather in the Common Room to assemble gift bags for needy seniors in the Kane and DuPage County area. Volunteers of all ages are needed to decorate the gift bags for a "personal touch" and to fill them with items that will be useful and comforting during the winter months. Gift bags are distributed through the Humanitarian Service Project, which is committed to alleviating the pain and suffering poverty brings to children and the elderly living in DuPage and Kane Counties. All of their programs are fueled by the love and generosity of local clubs, schools, businesses, churches, and individuals who contribute their time, energy, and resources. More information can be found at <http://www.humanitarianservice.org>.

February 2011: Children's Birthday Project

The Children's Birthday Project currently celebrates the birthdays of 1,200 local, impoverished children. People of all ages are invited to wrap birthday presents and/or make cards on Saturday, February 19, 2-4pm, in the Common Room. Participants are asked to bring a roll of wrapping paper and ribbon. The gifts will be distributed by the Humanitarian Service Project. More information can be found at <http://www.humanitarianservice.org/>

Sign up for RSVP opportunities on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room, register online at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades (maikoda@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued support!

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
January 22 2-4pm	UUSG Common Room	All ages		Assembling gift bags for seniors
February 19 2-4pm	UUSG Common Room	All ages		Wrapping birthday presents for HSP

Fox Valley Interfaith Connection

On December 6, Ann Drover and Jean Pierce met with people from other churches in the region: Fox Valley Presbyterian, Congregational UCC of St. Charles, Bethlehem Lutheran, and Calvary Episcopal church in Batavia. Ann helped explain activities and goals of the Spiritual Green Connection, and Jean proposed a number of ways in which local churches could work together to promote social justice in the area.

Anyone from UUSG who would like to join Fox Valley Interfaith Connection is welcome to attend the next meeting, on January 25 at 7pm, when the group will gather to watch a DVD, "The Great Mystery." This prize-winning movie, released in 2010, has been called "a noble effort posing hope for the world's major religions to work together for everlasting peace." (Arselan Rizvi, Islamicinsights.com). The location of the January 25 meeting has not been finalized. People who would like to meet with Fox Valley Interfaith are invited to contact Jean Pierce through 630-232-2350.

December Lazarus House Volunteers

Jean Pierce and Sherri Casterline made dinner; Amy Brink and Kathy Basil made lunch, and Bill Baar stayed overnight.

Check the Social Justice bulletin board for January volunteer opportunities or sign up online at <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/>.

Notes from our Intern Minister, Pam Rumancik

My heart is full of gratitude for the warm support and encouragement I received from folks at UUSG as I headed off for my meeting with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee last week. I felt prepared that Sunday after Thanksgiving when I answered your questions during the “Question Box” sermon. Unfortunately, the result of my interview was not what I had hoped for or expected. Instead of being welcomed into ministerial fellowship I was told I needed to come back and meet with them again.

Their main criticism—and the deciding factor in giving me a grade 3 instead of a passing grade 2—was that I did not have a sufficient UU identity.

I have to admit that I choked. I remembered my scripture, my theologians, my world religions, but when asked about my own racism—the racism and prejudice that each person carries just by virtue of living in this society—I lost ground and could not come up with an articulate answer defining how I would work against racism and oppression in the world. It was a moment when I did not exhibit the composure and self-confidence needed to be a full-throated and passionate voice for the oppressed. In this place they identified an area in which I have work to do. I need to own a fierceness which will sustain my work and hold me firm when challenged by powerful voices and overwhelming opinion.

I am going to own this fierceness; to get beyond the fear and uncertainty which caused me to choke; to get to a place where I am buoyed by the strength of a commitment to justice, to a commitment of ending the “othering” of anyone. I will work for justice for all peoples and learn the ways I can best utilize the gifts and privileges that I have simply by being born white. Anti-racism and anti-oppression work is holy work. It comes from the understanding that we are all inter-dependent and inter-connected; we are mutually engaged in this business of being alive as members of one earth, one reality in which we live and breathe and have our being.

It is a tremendous task and one which lies before all of us – how do we live out our values of human justice and equality in the confines of our comfortable lives? What must we give up? How do we explore and understand what it means to have a racial identity – what it means to be white especially, in a way we have not understood it before?

This will be one of the things I will explore in the months to come. I invite you to join me. Perhaps we will begin with a few good books, find interesting trainings to attend, and explore the odd edge of being committed to anti-racism/anti-oppression/multi-culturalism while sometimes feeling unsure or slightly off-kilter. We must own our solid ground in this work not just for the world around us but for our own spiritual maturity. Learning to know ourselves makes it possible to be in right relationship with others.

We can step into a New Year doing the holy work of creating just and equitable relationships between human beings in our own community. For me this is the gist of our Unitarian Universalist identity; people who not only talk the talk, but walk the walk of respecting the intrinsic worth and value of every human being. ‘Tis the season of peace and good will to all people—let us hold this goal in our hearts and make it the work of our hands.

In Peace, Pam Rumancik

New Pioneer Deadline

Beginning in January 2011, the Pioneer deadline is moving from the 3rd Friday of the month to the 4th Monday of the month.

Remember that this deadline is FIRM unless arrangements are made in advance with our Congregational Administrator.

Commit to Knit!

Commit to Knit is proud to be completing their first of several "mini-projects" this year! In addition to our yearly shawl dedication, we will be improving our knitting skills by dedicating our time to small projects to be donated to a variety of charities, both local and overseas.

The first charity we committed to knit for was "Threads of Compassion." ToC is a charity local to Chicago with branches all over the U.S. and donates scarves to victims of violence and abuse. These people are surely in need of warmth in the months to come, so we were more than happy to collect a number of handmade scarves for them.

For more information on Threads of Compassion, please visit their website <http://threadsofcompassion.bravehost.com/> or their blog <http://threadsofcompassion.blogspot.com>

In the future, we hope to continue knitting dolls for children overseas, as well as security blankets for the Linus Project, chemo caps for children and adults battling cancer, and anything else we can learn to create!

We will be offering instructional "Knit-Togethers" each month to teach knitting to aspiring knitters and to help experienced knitters learn new techniques. For information on the current project or when the next "KTog" will be, please contact Ben Walker at manmadeknits@gmail.com. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are welcome to join us and contribute!

Steeple Walk Summary

This year's Steeple Walk was another resounding success! The event featured music concerts at four Geneva Churches: UUSG; the First Church of Christ, Scientist; the United Methodist Church and the Geneva Lutheran Church.

The Steeple Walk, sponsored by the Geneva Cultural Arts Commission, is a popular holiday favorite.

Many thanks go to Gail Tattersfield, Jeanne Neltner, and Linda Valentine for their hard work putting together this amazing event!

UUSG Vision 2020 wants you!

Starting in January, UUSG is undertaking an update to our congregation's Long Range Plan, last completed in 2001. Over the first six months of 2011, we will begin the initial steps of a two-year process that will help us discern what the members and friends of our congregation feel is most important as far as our future over the next 5-10 years. This is no small task! Our work in 2011 will be our dreaming work. 2012 will be our planning and prioritization. Please join us and take an active part in this important work. We want the end product to reflect you!

In January we will publish a survey to start you thinking and to gather your opinions about where you generally feel we are today. Think of it as a chance for you to talk about how you think we are doing. What do you feel we should be thinking about and working on between now and 2020? Which dreams should have first priority? What are we doing well? What can we be doing better? Please look for the survey and take a few minutes to participate as we begin our journey of conversation and sharing.

Currently the members of the Vision 2020 Committee are Trish Beckjord, Don Brod, Julia Adams and Monica Jenkins. We are looking for two additional members to round out the Committee at six. Please see one of us (or send an email to LRP@uusg.org) if you are interested in participating at this level, or if you would like to help on an as-needed basis as we move through the process.

During this work, the life of the congregation will continue. We hope that interweaving our Vision 2020 process will enrich our worship and sharing! Blessings.

-Trish Beckjord, Vision 2020 Chair

Congratulations, Sandi!

On the recommendation of the LRE Committee, the Board of Directors voted Tuesday night to promote Sandi Sumner from "Acting" Director of Religious Education to Director of Lifespan Religious Education.

This promotion speaks to Sandi's excellent work in the LRE program since taking on the full-time position over a year ago. We're glad you're here, Sandi, and hope you'll be with us for many more years!

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Elba Karim and Sherri Casterline, for making this year's Cookie Walk the most successful ever!

Cookie Walk Bakers, who made over 630 dozen cookies

Aaron Clevenger, who donated time to the church and helped by shredding documents and moving many boxes of books over to the Geneva Library

Jim Jenkins and Deann Alleman, for hanging the Sanctuary curtain decorations

Bob Atac & Lucy Thelin Atac, for donating and hanging greenery around the exterior door of the Sanctuary

Our December Greeters: Eleanor Hamilton, Doris & Brad Lipman, Don & Nancy Smith, and George & Gail Tattersfield.

Our December Social Hour Hosts: David & Renee Tomell, Dan & Sandy Bottoms, Bob Atac, Vohny Moehling, Ellie Radvanovsky, and Thom Thomas.

Save Coffee in January!

All our January hosting slots need to be filled by the end of December in order for us to have coffee at our January social hours.

If you can host social hour in January, please sign up in the Common Room or by going to <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

Know of someone who needs to be thanked? Talk to Katie at office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350.

Drivers Needed!

If anyone would like to join the group of volunteer drivers on a weekly, monthly, or as-needed basis, please contact Kathy Meier at 630-762-1788 or at Katem88@sbcglobal.net.

How DO Those Newsletters Get In the Mail?

Well, Katie sends out the e-version, but we still mail about 75 copies each month!

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

Al & Nanine Bull have been doing this faithfully for years, but we'd like to add a few more people to help with the job. They meet 1 Wednesday evening a month to fold, label, and stamp the Pioneer newsletter. If you're interested (the next date is Wednesday, January 26), talk to Katie.

December Music

Thank you to everyone who agreed to perform in December: the UUSG choir directed by Ruth Cavanaugh, Karen Mooney, Samantha Brink, Ryan Thornton, Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, and Michael McElvain.

In addition, we had a special presentation by the famous UU singer/songwriter Jim Scott.

January Music

Tantalize your ears and spirit - you'll get to hear Sophia, Elena, Doria, & Cynthia Spiegel; Kristin McFadden; Abby Zacker, all the YRUUs at their service; and Michael McElvain.

Please contact Tracy Rosenkrans if you know someone or are interested in performing yourself. Kids, youth, hobbyists, professionals—we hope you see how welcome all of you are to perform and how much we want to hear you sing or play! Jump in—now!

The Bittersweet Christmas Band

A Benefit Concert at UUSG for the Illinois Youth Center

Friday, December 17th, 8pm

Doors open at 7:30pm

Adult tickets: \$12 in advance / \$15 at the door

Kids tickets: \$7 in advance / \$10 at the door

The holidays are a mixed bag and so is the Bittersweet Christmas Band! Traditional artists Cooper, Nelson, and Early join forces with songwriter and UU “wisewoman” Susan Urban for a show with every possible perspective on the holiday season, from the reverent to the ridiculous!

Two- to four-part harmonies and instrumentation on guitar, banjo, dulcimer, hand drum, and other percussion instruments make the Bittersweet Christmas Band an act not to be missed!

A portion of the proceeds will go to a holiday party for boys who do not get visitors at the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles.

If you'd like tickets, contact Katie at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

If you'd like to hear the show for FREE, talk to Katie about volunteering to make coffee or provide treats for the intermission.



Getting to Know YoUU...

As the congregation grows, it becomes more challenging for your staff to put faces to names—there are so many new people and we want to know each and every one of you! It always helps if you wear your nametag, but we'd also like to add photos to our database so we can easily see who's who. The pictures will not be made public and will just be used to jog memories.

If you can email us a picture of yourself and/or your family to office@uusg.org, we'd appreciate it!

Keeping Warm!

All the thermostats at UUSG are programmed to provide heat when there are activities in the building and to conserve energy when no events are planned.

But there are times that the temperature needs to be adjusted—and you're welcome to do so! But PLEASE follow the instructions posted at each thermostat so that the programs remain and so future groups can also adjust the temperature. Pressing buttons (especially the HOLD button) other than those noted in the instructions can cause the program to not run as scheduled, resulting in groups not being able to meet as planned.

Check out the UUSG Podcast at

<http://itunes.apple.com/podcast/unitarian-universalist-society/id387392633>

Boxing Day & Beyond

In addition to the special Christmas Eve services at 5 (for families), 8 (with the Choir) and 10 (the quieter, more meditative Candlelight Service, with more music from Michael McElvain), we've got the weekend right after Christmas to plan for.

Experience has taught us that the closer the weekend is to Christmas, the lower the attendance at the services. A respectable total of folks of all ages will show up, but spread across the two services, it tends to look more than a little bit sparse! Sparse attendance, alas, tends to dampen the spirit of the services.

So this December, we're going to continue with a different kind of celebration. Come to church with children and visiting family – bring whatever you'd like to bring for the common tables (there are bound to be leftovers you'd rather not face for the whole week, we're sure!), and join us for a **Potluck Holiday Brunch** on Boxing Day, Sunday, December 26, any time from 9 o'clock to 12:30pm.

No need to sign up—we'll be here, and those who gather will pull it all together and have a wonderful time!

Circles of Life

We send our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to 2 families this month: Bob Atac's father died unexpectedly on December 7, and Larry Bartoszek's father died on December 10. To both men and their families, we'll be thinking of you during this difficult holiday season.

We're pleased to report that former UUSG member Susan Conant is doing well in South Carolina! She's getting connected in the music scene and enjoying her new home very much.

We recently learned that UUSG friend Carolyn Lach's granddaughter was the Art Director for the movie "Unanswered Prayers," which debuted on the Lifetime Movie Network in November.

And some good news from the Bartoszek family: they welcomed Renzo Wee from the Philippines into their family; he'll be with staying with them until the end of June.

UUSG Congregational Administrator Katie Phillips will be holding a poetry reading and book release party at the church on Friday, January 14 at 7pm. Come for the poetry, stay for the handcrafted beer!

Green Corner

A Green Reminder

Advice Concerning Recycling Plastic

1. Rinse out plastic containers and do not replace the plastic caps. Throw away lids. Plastic containers with lids will frequently be landfilled because they cannot be removed from rapidly-moving conveyer belts at recycling processing plants.
2. Do not put plastic bags in recycling bins—not even to contain newspapers. Take them to local stores that have receptacles (usually near the entryway) that are intended for plastic bag recycling. Be sure they are clean and empty so as not to contaminate the recycling "brew." Far better, refuse plastic bags from stores and bring your own reusable cloth bags, which can always be kept in the car.
3. Polystyrene (PS, # 6) should not be recycled. Polystyrene comes in two forms—blown (Styrofoam cups, plates, clamshells, packing material) and rigid (cups and clear polystyrene). There is currently a recycling drop-off site in Aurora by Dart Container Corporation, which makes polystyrene products from petroleum, a non-sustainable, heavily-polluting, and disappearing commodity. It's better to re-use packing peanuts or take them to mailing centers. Chemicals in Styrofoam can leach into the food products and can damage the nervous system of living beings. Even if recycled, it will eventually release chemical pollutants when disposed of.

More info at: <http://www.mindfully.org/Plastic/plastic.htm>



Did You Know?

The Batavia Environmental Commission has a Green Business Certification program that encourages local businesses to apply for a certificate in any one of four levels: silver, bronze, gold and platinum. The requirements for certification increase from silver to platinum.

In October 2010 Confident Aire received a Silver Certificate, and Marsh Products, Water Street Studios (where Jim Jenkins has his studio), and the City of Batavia Clean Aire Program received Gold Certificates.

The certification program provides guidelines for businesses to review their current practices and offers suggestions on how to make improvements. Several areas of environmental concern addressed in the program are: use of products with recycled content, water efficiency and urban run off, energy efficiency, chemical use and pollution prevention, and a waste assessment.

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:45 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Facilities Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)	29 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>	30 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Steeple Walk Committee Meeting	1 Hannukah 1 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	2 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 6:30 PM Cookie Walk Set-up 7:00 PM WomenSpirit Rising (meeting off-site) 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	3 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 4:30 PM Cookie Walk	4 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>
5 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal & Warm-Up 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group 2:00 PM Steeple Walk	6 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Fox Valley Interfaith Network 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting--CANCELED	7 Islamic New Year 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing (meeting off-site) 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	8 Hannukah 8 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	9 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry	10 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER deadline	11 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 3:30 PM Atac Memorial Service 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group
12 ALL ACTIVITIES CANCELED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:30 AM Commit to Knit 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Munch & Learn Lecture Series 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	13 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> 12:30 PM Women's Guild Luncheon at the Mill Race Inn 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting	14 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Steeple Walk Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors	15 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Social Entrepreneurs Covenant Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	16 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising (meeting off-site)	17 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 8:00 PM Bittersweet Christmas Band Concert	18 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 11:15 AM RSVP: Visiting the Illinois Youth Center 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 6:00 PM Games Night! 6:00 PM Saturday Supper & Seminar Series
19 10:30 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 10:45 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM YRUU Reunion Potluck 7:00 PM Reiki Share	20 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i>	21 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing (meeting off-site) 7:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)	22 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	23 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	24 Christmas Eve <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 5:00 PM Family Service 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM Candlelight Service 10:00 PM Meditative Service	25 Christmas Day <i>Office Closed--All Staff Off Today</i>
26 9:00 AM -12:00PM Boxing Day Potluck	27 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i>	28 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	29 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	30 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	31 New Year's Eve <i>Office Closed--All Staff Off Today</i>	1 New Year's Day <i>Office Closed--All Staff Off Today</i>

JANUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM -12:00PM Boxing Day Potluck	27 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i>	28 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	29 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	30 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	31 New Year's Eve <i>Office Closed--All Staff Off Today</i>	1 New Year's Day <i>Office Closed--All Staff Off Today</i>
2 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group 1:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)	3 7:00 PM OWL Parent Orientation Meeting 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	4 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	5 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM "Healthy Habits" Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	6 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	7 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:30 PM Junior High OWL Program Begins	8 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 4:00 PM Junior High OWL Program Ends
9 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:30 AM Commit to Knit 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 12:45 PM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	10 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	11 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors	12 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	13 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry	14 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Poetry Reading & Book Release Party	15 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 6:00 PM Saturday Supper & Seminar Series 6:30 PM Games Night! 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group
16 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:30 AM Canvass Crew Training 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:45 PM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)	19 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <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	20 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	21 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Friday Flicks	22 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 2:00 PM RSVP: Gift Bags for Seniors
23 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:30 AM Canvass Crew Training 10:45 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 1:00 PM Munch & Learn Lecture Series 1:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)	24 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	26 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	27 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	28 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 8:00 PM Cooper, Nelson, & Early Concert	29 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 10:00 AM "Curriculum & Cookies" Spring Teacher/Advisor Workshop & Social 3:00 PM Andrew/Garcia Wedding Rehearsal
30 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &	31	1 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp	2 Brigit/Candlemas <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i>	3 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	4 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	5 <i>Acting DRE's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational</i>

<p>12:15 PM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 3:00 PM Andrew/Garcia Wedding</p>		<p>Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils</p>	<p><i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM "Healthy Habits" Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p>7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p>6:30 PM Junior High OWL Program Begins</p>	<p><i>Administrator's Day Off</i> 4:00 PM Junior High OWL Program Ends</p>
---	--	--	--	---	--	--

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva
110 South Second Street
P.O. Box 107
Geneva, IL 60134-0107
Church Office: 630-232-2350
Church Email: office@uusg.org
Church Website: www.uusg.org

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates
Senior Minister
minister@uusg.org

Pam Rumancik
Intern Minister
internminister@uusg.org

Sandi Sumner
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
LRE@uusg.org

Katie Phillips
Congregational Administrator
office@uusg.org

Michael McElvain
Music Director
music@uusg.org

Our Covenant (written in 1842)

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

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 January 24, 2010 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.