



THE PIONEER

February-March 2009

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Adam Robersmith, Associate Minister

Our recent thaw set me to thinking of spring and summer – and although you might not expect it of me, that does get me to thinking about some sports as well. Some of you know that I enjoy rowing my one-man crew shell on the Fox. I'm hoping that the river is a little safer this year, so that I can get out there with my boat! My golf clubs are waiting for me to pick them up again. I'm hoping that this is the summer that I can get back to Wrigley Field for an afternoon game. It's occurred to me, though, thinking about the sports I enjoy playing or watching, that all of them have something in common. Whenever I've played any of them, I've always been told to "follow through."

Think of me as Coach Adam for the moment, and let me point out a few things about following through here at UUSG:

- It's actually very good advice – whether about taking a full rowing stroke, golf swing, or making sure we get things done.
- It's remarkably easy to do – all it takes, more often than not, is a simple response to a phone call or email.
- It's respectful and polite – giving the clergy, staff, and church leadership an answer to our reaching out to you lets us know that you hear us and that you understand we're working hard on the behalf of us all.

As we move into March, this year's Annual Canvass Month, we are trying to tighten up our canvass so that it takes no more than one month. We will be planning our 2009-2010 budget in April so that we can vote on it in May. Your following through with our pledging process and the communications from our Canvass Crew will make this year's canvass simple and efficient. You'll find information inside the Pioneer about our canvass to get you started.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>A Certain Investment</i> | 3 |
| <i>Is She Going? Has She Gone?</i> | 4 |
| <i>Trivial Knowledge Needed</i> | 5 |
| <i>Social Justice Committee Reports</i> | 6 |
| <i>The Problem with Bottled Water</i> | 7 |
| <i>"Green Collar" Careers</i> | 8 |
| <i>Universalist DVD Showing</i> | 9 |
| <i>The Times, They Are a-Changin'</i> | 10 |
| <i>Green Spring Cleaning</i> | 11 |
| <i>"If I Had a Hammer..."</i> | 12 |
| <i>March Calendar</i> | 15 |

There are other opportunities to follow through here at UUSG, too. When Sandi Sumner contacts you about an overdue library book or a curriculum that needs to be returned, please let her know if you're looking for it, about to return it, or certain that it's no longer in your possession. When Katie Phillips contacts you about helping with a particular event or service to the congregation, please offer her a call or an email in response.

This is something we all can practice. Our church leadership is making a practice of following through by closing our communications loops: sending emails that acknowledge receipt of information, saying thank you, getting back to one another in a timely manner. We're doing pretty well, but we can all improve.

May Spring come quickly and give us all a variety of ways to practice following through!

Faithfully, ~~Coach~~ Rev. Adam

Religious Education Announcements and Upcoming Events

Upcoming: Coming of Age this Summer

Parents of current 8th graders, keep an eye out for information about this summer's Coming of Age program! Amy Brink and Jim Jenkins will be our Co-Leaders for the 2009 class, and Rev. Adam will, as usual, be part of the teaching team as well. We're hoping that all our 8th graders will be a part of this opportunity to explore Unitarian Universalism at the beginning of this journey into adulthood. If you know now that your 8th grade youth will be participating, please contact our LRE Administrator, Sandi Sumner, and let her know. If you've questions, please feel free to speak with Rev. Adam, Sandi, or the co-leaders. We're looking forward to another great summer together.

People and Puppets and Projects, Oh My: Special Spring Project

We had so much fun last year that we've decided to do it again, but with some new friends and new ideas! We're going to be exploring the diversity of people in the world this spring, considering many ways in which we're different and yet very similar. Our puppet theater will return to the Common Room in April, and we can't wait to introduce our new friends to everyone. Pictures of last year's puppets can be seen at <http://content.uusg.org/peace-puppets/>.

The Pleasure of Your Company is Requested: Attending LRE Classes

It's true – we don't have a stick, only a carrot. The only way our classes are full and enjoyable is if you and your families make the commitment to be here. We hope that, even if the day is cold and rainy, you'll remember that it's warm and comfortable when we're all here together. We look forward to seeing our children, youth, and adults in our classes each week. If there's something keeping you away, please let us know; otherwise, we hope to see you as often as possible!

Upcoming Adult & Youth LRE Events

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Mar 1, 10:35am | 7 th /8 th Chime Ensemble Rehearsal |
| Mar 1, 12:30pm | New UUs Orientation Program |
| Mar 1, 1:00pm | UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group |
| Mar 4, 7:30pm | UU Paganism Study Group |
| Mar 8, 10:35am | 7 th /8 th Chime Ensemble Rehearsal |
| Mar 12, 7:30pm | Small Group Ministry |
| Mar 14, 6:30pm | Junior High Youth Group |
| Mar 14, 6:30pm | Universalist Heritage DVD Viewing & Discussion |
| Mar 15, 10:35am | 7 th /8 th Chime Ensemble Rehearsal |
| Mar 15, 12:15pm | YRUU Joys & Concerns |
| Mar 16, 7:00pm | UU Christianity Study Group |
| Mar 17, 7:30pm | Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg |
| Mar 18, 7:00pm | LRE Committee Meeting |
| Mar 20, 6:30pm | OWL Overnight Begins |
| Mar 20, 7:00pm | Friday Flick: "The Promise of America" |
| Mar 21, 3:30pm | Small Group Ministry |
| Mar 21, 4:00pm | OWL Overnight Ends |
| Mar 21, 6:30pm | Games Night! |
| Mar 24, 7:30pm | Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg |
| Mar 28, 7:00pm | Earth Hour Event |
| Mar 31, 7:30pm | Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg |

See page 4 for more info about "Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg"

Small Group Ministry

It's a new year, and our Small Group Ministry has room for you to join in once a month on either a Thursday or Saturday.

Small Group Ministry (SGM) is a way for growing church communities to make sure that people can be connected in close circles as well as be part of a vibrant and large congregation. In a small group meeting, 6 to 10 participants discuss issues and topics of their choice in a structured format that provides time to get to know each other and have in-depth conversations about things that matter.

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

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

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

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

A Certain Investment in Uncertain Times: The 2009-2010 Canvass

Keeping the Faith:

Sustaining Our Church in the Face of Extraordinary Economic Challenges

As the global economic meltdown continues around the world, the crisis also hits close to home, as many UUSG members and friends struggle to make ends meet. While offering a haven from many of life's cares, even the church itself is not immune from financial troubles.

Everyone's financial situation is different, and some of us are hurting more than others. Yet in the midst of stock market plunges and bank failures, there is one risk-free investment we can make that offers a guaranteed rate of return: a pledge to provide the financial support that UUSG depends on.

This year, the Operating Fund Canvass is all about sustainability: keeping the good things we have at UUSG going strong during difficult times. No new hires. No major purchases or costly initiatives. Just a renewed commitment to sustaining the place that sustains our souls.

How to Pledge and Give

This year, our "Canvass Crew" plans to contact every member and friend of UUSG personally during the Canvass campaign, March 1-31, 2009. You may complete your pledge form at that time, at one of our Canvass social events, by mailing the form to the office, or online at <http://content.uusg.org/canvass-pledge-form/>.

Pledges are payable beginning July 1, 2009. Many people pay weekly or monthly, while some pay the full pledge amount upfront. Please do what is most comfortable for your budget.

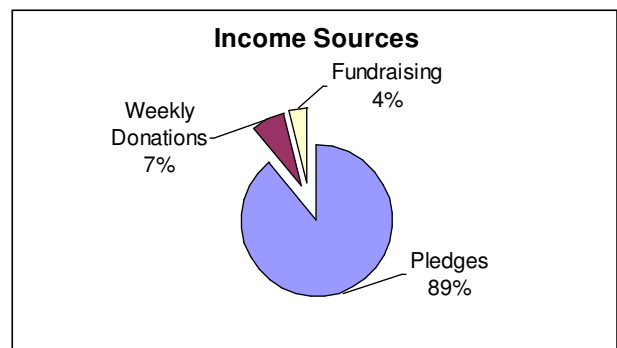
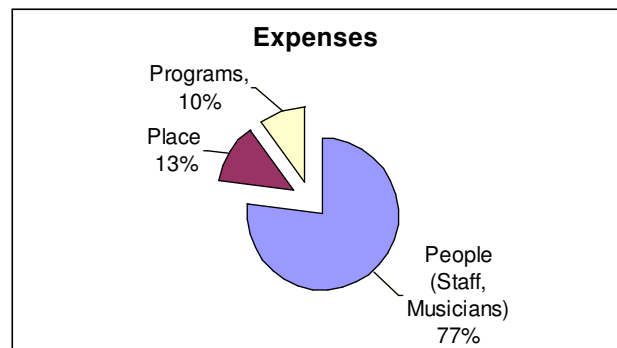
IMPORTANT: To assist us in budgeting for the coming year, please make sure that we receive your pledge by the end of the Canvass campaign, March 31, 2009.

See the next page for info about Canvass Events!

Our Budget

For the 2009-10 fiscal year which begins on July 1, our operating budget is \$403,500, a 4% increase over 2008-09. The increase is largely based on four factors:

- (1) Elimination of our Operating Fund deficit, which we have already reduced to \$6,728
- (2) Beginning of \$881 per month payments on the mortgage for our land acquisition (Prior to May 2009, payments have been covered by special gifts from several generous donors.)
- (3) Modest 2% pay increase for our staff
- (4) Anticipated 10% increase in staff health insurance premiums



Canvass Goal

In order to meet our increased expenses, we have set a pledge goal of **\$370,000** for the Canvass. While increases in fundraising and collection basket donations can help, pledges make up almost 89% of our income.

The only sure way to meet our expenses is to increase the number of pledgers and/or the amount of each pledge.

A Certain Investment in Uncertain Times: The 2009-2010 Canvass

Food & Fun

What would Canvass season be without a couple parties?

Canvass Kick-Off Party

Saturday, February 28th at 7pm
(featuring the percussive sounds of Clarice Castilho & Friends)

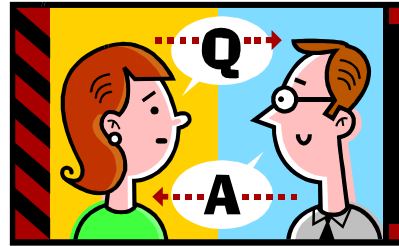
Annual Canvass Tea & Celebration

Sunday, March 15th at 12:30pm

Childcare will be provided for both events.

Canvass Group Sessions

For those of you who have questions but aren't quite ready to sit down one-on-one with a Canvass Crewmember, we'll be offering two "Group Canvass" sessions.



Thursday, March 12, 7pm
Childcare not provided

Sunday, March 22, 12:30pm
Childcare provided

Sign up in the Common Room or by contacting Katie at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

Is She Going? Has She Gone? Is She Back Already?

There seems to be a bit of confusion over our Senior Minister's Sabbatical plans. So here's the basic information:

Lindsay's six-month sabbatical will begin on June 10, 2009, the day after the scheduled June Board meeting (and no, the Board can't delay the sabbatical by canceling their June meeting!). She'll return on December 8, 2009, to be at the December Board meeting.

During her sabbatical, Lindsay will be starting to learn conversational Spanish, studying Native American flute, making two silent retreats, visiting New Mexico, and reading – a lot! She'll be in touch with UUSG through Adam and occasional notes thru the Pioneer and Mini-Pioneer. But basically, we'll be a one-minister congregation again, for those six months.

We're already making plans to help Adam with covering the pulpit through the summer and fall. Our Lay Ministers will continue to help with pastoral care, and Katie has the day-to-day administration of UUSG well in hand. Our Committee on Ministries and Board and Adam and Lindsay will have more information for everyone as we get closer to June.

Questions? Please ask! You can reach Lindsay directly at minister@uusg.org.

Last Call

for March 2009 Celebrations
of Naming & Dedication

If we have any older children or youth who would like to be included in a special "Claiming Our Name" service on Saturday, March 28, and any little ones who would like to be included in our traditional Services of Naming & Dedication at 9am or 11am on Sunday, March 29, we need to know before the end of February. Please call or email the UUSG office, so Katie can pass the information on to Rev. Lindsay as soon as our Senior Minister returns from vacation.

Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg

Thom Thomas will present a series of classes on Non-Violent Communication on March 17, 24, & 31, at 7:30pm.

Did you know that UUSG has a Facebook group? Look us up!

Social Justice News

Friday Flick on March 20: Your Chance to Meet the Director!

At 7pm on Friday, March 20, Janet Fitch will share with us her film, *The Promise of America*. The film documents the personal experiences of people involved in a major demonstration for gun control. Participants' motivations to attend the event are explored, along with barriers they overcame to do so and their responses to the experience. After the screening, Ms. Fitch will join us for a discussion of the issues raised – the efficacy of demonstrations, as well as developments in gun control policies.

This issue has particular relevance for us now as we experience the anniversary of the shooting at NIU in DeKalb, and as we remember the UU church in Knoxville, Tennessee where a shooting occurred during a children's program in their sanctuary. Ms. Fitch is the producer and director of two documentaries on gun violence which have aired on Wisconsin Public Television and is currently working on her third. She is a member of the UU Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Third-Friday films that have been shown during the past year on the Friday Flick series are listed on <http://content.uusg.org/friday-flicks/>. These timely-issue programs are free and open to the public; no reservations required. The Friday Flicks series shows great films about matters vital to social and economic justice and then invites discussions about the topics. Each night is a stimulating, informal, stand-alone program.

Annual Trivia Bee Set for March 21! We need a team!

We are looking for three really smart people who have a lot of trivial knowledge floating around in their heads and are good Trivial Pursuit players. Please don't be shy—we know we are a brainy bunch! If you qualify, sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board to participate in the annual "Trivia Bee," which will take place from 9am to noon on Saturday, March 21 at the Q Center in St. Charles. All proceeds are for the benefit of Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley.

This year, the Bee will take on a tropical theme in celebration of Hawaii's 50th anniversary of statehood. Those folks who sign up will find a time before the Bee to gather, practice a little, and choose the team name. This will be the fifth year UUSG has sponsored a team, and each year we've come sooooo close to winning—this year we surely will!

The event is one in which three-person teams answer questions from a variety of categories. The team with the most correct answers at the end of three rounds wins prizes, awards, and bragging rights for the year. There are also prizes for the most original team name and aloha spirit. A fabulous silent auction between rounds, Starbucks coffee, and delicious refreshments are all included. Friends, neighbors, and relatives are all invited to come & cheer the team on.

RSVP for March 21: Northern Illinois Food Bank

The next RSVP volunteer opportunity has been scheduled for March 21 (see details below). Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board, by contacting Lisa Gades through the church office, or through the UUSG website (<http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>). To get an idea of what volunteers have done previously at the Food Bank, see the photos at <http://content.uusg.org/social-justice2/>.

| Date | Location | Ages | Requirements | Activities |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|---------------------------------|--|
| March 21 8:45am- 12pm | Northern Illinois Food Bank 600 Industrial Dr. St. Charles, IL | 14 & older | Must wear closed- toed shoes | Sort and package food for distribution to food pantries |

Thank you to all of the UUs who volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on Saturday, January 17: Colleen Besic, Conner Besic, Kevin Beyer, Lisa Gades, Tim Graham, Jan Miller, Jeanne Neltner, Julie Overcash, Jean Pierce, Duncan Power, Ellie Radvanovsky, Tracy Rosenkrans, Ian Rittenberry, Lauren Schrock, Vince Schuster, Ray Somera, Ben Walker, Maggie Walker, and Rod Walker. We packed 6300 pounds of meat for delivery to needy families!

More Social Justice News

What We've Been Up To...

National Day of Service Report

Members of the UUSG community contributed generously to the coat drive organized by Kathy Cornell of the Social Justice committee. On February 26, we delivered the following to the PADS homeless shelter in Wheaton: 23 adult coats and jackets, 8 children's jackets, 7 sweaters and vests, 20 scarves, 10 hats, and 4 pairs of gloves. As she tried on a coat, one of the residents remarked, "This is just like shopping, and it's been a long time since I've been able to do that!"

Weatherizing Report

Nine blankets were contributed to the weatherizing project. From them, 54 draft guards were created and delivered to Community Contacts in Elgin, who distributed them. Community Contacts Incorporated is funded through the Illinois Department of Health and Human Services. The organization works with 9000 low-income households in Kane County to provide energy assistance, weatherization, housing rehabilitation, etc. In return, Community Contacts gave us 10 weatherization bags containing materials for caulking and covering windows. The bags were distributed by Ann Drover through the Spiritual Green Connection to families in the tri-cities.

"This Spud's for You" Report

On January 31, fifty-five people attended "This Spud's for You," a potato bar/potluck benefiting Lazarus House homeless shelter. More than \$470 was raised, and a van full of donations were contributed. Our speaker, Darlene Marcusson, wrote, "Thank you for your generous donation and collection of needed items. You have been such a wonderful support to us since we began 11 years ago and I thank God for each of you." The event was planned and coordinated by Gail Tattersfield, with the help of Ann Drover, Joanne Erickson, Gloria Mansfield, and Ellie Radvanovsky. Special thanks are due to George Tattersfield, who baked countless potatoes for the dinner.

"Green Collar" Careers

In these uncertain economic times, the Social Justice committee wants to make sure that people are aware of websites which advertise jobs that protect and preserve the environment.
See page 8 for more info.

List of Medical Supplies for Foyer de Sion Orphanage in Haiti

If you would like to purchase an item from the list below, please bring it to church no later than 12 noon on March 15. Medical supplies are being collected in a basket on the top of the right armoire in the Common Room. Contact Jean Pierce through the office at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org with questions.

- Children's chewable vitamins
- Anti-fungal medications (Lamisil)
- Scabies lotions (elimite or permethrin cream)
- Monistat/yeast infection cream
- Latex gloves
- Band-Aids/gauze/medical tape
- Infant/children's Tylenol
- Bacitracin/triple antibiotic ointment
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Topical ointments for rashes & skin irritations
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Lotion
- Eye drops/ointment
- Ear drops
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Benadryl/Dimetapp
- Cough syrup

Habitat for Humanity— Pottawatomie Partnership Update

Work is proceeding and volunteers are needed for the house that is now underway in St. Charles. We are now ready to put up the roof and begin siding. The site is located on Dean Street, just west of 15th St. Weather permitting, work begins about 8am each Saturday and lasts until mid-afternoon. Latecomers are welcome, and lunch is provided. If you are available, please show up at the site on any Saturday, introduce yourself, and someone will put you to work. Bring a hammer, and dress for working outdoors in whatever weather. Questions? Contact Joan McInnes through the church office at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

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

A Bit More Social Justice News

Social Justice Action Alert: The Problem With Bottled Water

Bottled water creates many environmental, economic, public health, and social justice problems.

Environmental

- Plastic bottle production in the US annually requires about 17.6 million barrels of oil.
- Worldwide bottling of water uses about 2.7 million tons of plastic each year.
- Transporting bottled water to market produces air pollution and emissions of carbon dioxide which contribute to global warming.
- The energy it takes to transport the water to market, to chill the bottles, and collect the empties is the energy equivalent of filling each bottle a quarter of the way with oil.
- About 86 percent of empty plastic water bottles in the United States land in the garbage instead of being recycled. That amounts to about two million tons of PET plastic bottles piling up in U.S. landfills each year.
- Many plastic bottles end up being incinerated, releasing toxic byproducts such as chlorine gas and ash laden with heavy metals into the air.

Economic

- Tap water costs about \$0.002 per gallon compared to the \$0.89 to \$8.26 per gallon charged for bottled water.
- As much as 40% of bottled water actually comes from the tap, which means bottled water consumers are paying hundreds or thousands of times more for an illusion of purity.
- Bottled water typically costs more than \$1 for 8 to 12 ounces, amounting to more than \$10 per gallon.
- Cities across the nation spend \$70 million annually to dispose of plastic water bottles.

Public Health

- The federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring of municipal drinking water than of bottled water.
- The FDA regulates only the 30 or 40 percent of bottled water sold across state lines. FDA regulations also exempt carbonated bottled water.
- The FDA does not test bottled water for phthalates like DEP—a chemical that is used to produce plastics water bottles and which is also a potential cancer agent in humans.
- Chemical from the plastic bottles can leach into the water.
- According to a Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) study of 103 bottled water brands, about one-quarter of the brands tested contained bacterial or chemical contamination in some samples at levels that violated “enforceable state standards or warning levels.”

Social Justice

- Water bottlers harm the environment by depleting aquifers and other groundwater sources.
- Water bottlers often have an impact on local economies because they pay little for the water they take.
- Water companies can often draw the maximum amount of water they want, regardless of drought or water shortage.
- Local water districts bear all the responsibility for the wellbeing of the water infrastructure required.

(Source: Food & Water Watch)

So the next time you feel thirsty, forgo the bottle and turn to the tap. The EPA standards for tap water are as safe as, or safer than, those for bottled water. To take action as well as get more info, please go to <http://www.takebackthetap.org>.

Tracey McFadden—for the Social Justice Committee

Reviving the Denominational Affairs Committee

Are you involved with any UU groups or committees outside of UUSG? Are you a Chalice Lighter (Sherri Casterline is), involved with the Chicago Area UU Council (Dave Karcher's their VP), a member of the UU Service Committee (many people in our congregation are), or involved with Youth Cons?

If so, we'd like to hear from you! We're planning to revive the Denominational Affairs Committee by meeting 3 times a year to discuss the UU world outside of UUSG.

Whether or not you're already involved in denominational programs or groups, let Rev. Adam know if you would like to join this revitalized committee.

CMwD District Assembly

Did you know that this year's District Assembly is in Waukesha, Wisconsin on April 24 & 25?

The theme is "Leadership in Times of Profound Change" and the keynote speaker is Sharon Daloz Parks, the author of "Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith" (Jossey-Bass, 2000) and co-author of "Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World" (Beacon Press, 1996). Her latest book is "Leadership Can Be Taught: A Bold Approach for a Complex World," published in 2005.

More details are available at www.cmwd-uua.org and you can register online at www.regonline.com/690962.

"Green Collar" Careers

In these uncertain economic times, the Social Justice committee wants to make sure that people are aware of websites which advertise jobs that protect and preserve the environment. In the near future, the committee will sponsor a forum informing people about "green collar" employment opportunities.

Care2Make a Difference: (<http://jobs.care2.com/a/all-jobs/list/q-%22Green+Collar%22>)

The links below can also be accessed through Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs (http://www.greencollarchicago.org/index.php?section=job_seekers)

The Chicago Sustainable Business Alliance (<http://csba.foresightdesign.org/>) hosts regular Sustainability Careers Workshops to assist job seekers with the entire process of entering the sustainability sector in the Chicago area.

Idealist (<http://www.idealist.org/>) has lots of listings in the non-profit sector -- from volunteer and intern positions to full-time jobs.

NPO.net (<http://www.npo.net/>) is a good resource for all things non-profit in the Chicagoland region. From training to jobs, they've got the info.

The Chicagoland Environmental Network (<http://www.chicagoenvironment.org/>) showcases both green-collar jobs and green jobs throughout Chicagoland.

EnvironmentalCareer.com (<http://www.environmentalcareer.info/index.asp>) has a job board and issues the Green Careers Journal.

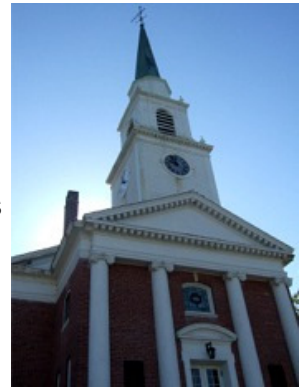
Green Dream Jobs (<http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/greendreamjobs.main>) is also a great resource for entry level to professional.

If you're looking for more diversity, or assistance with the process, try Illinois Worknet (http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/residents/en/Jobs/) or Illinois Skills Match. (<http://www.illinoisskillsmatch.com/>)

Universalist DVD Showing March 14, 6:30 p.m. Common Room

This video is sponsored by The Universalist Heritage Foundation and is entitled "Sharing the Universalist Message as an Agent of Hope for a Fractured World." The first Universalist Profession of Belief was adopted at Winchester, NH, 200 years ago. Some of its ideas are still in the UUA bylaws, specifically the "liberty clause."

On October 5 last fall, while Rev. Adam was giving a sermon on Universalism here at UUSG, Harry and Mary Shuemaker were 1,000 miles to the east, attending the rededication of the Universalist Memorial Church in Winchester (see picture).



After viewing this short video of the 200-year history of formal Universalism, Harry will discuss the Rededication and Universalism in general and attempt to answer all your questions. No admission charge; no collection will be taken. Come hear how UUA President Sinkford (the main speaker at the rededication) was made to delay his trip back to Boston while the Rev. Olav Nieuwejaar and Harry discussed Harry's grandparents and the Rev. Clinton Lee Scott.

Circles of Life

We're delighted to report that Ed Kendall is finally back home, getting used to his new hip. Thank you to all for calls, cards, and offers of help!

Cindy Vacek reports that her new granddaughter, born on Christmas Eve at 2 lbs., 15 oz., is growing rapidly and is up to 5 lbs., 6 oz. She'll be going home soon!

Thank you to those who prepared food for the Visitation and Reception before and after Judy Bernard's memorial service last month: Betty Bristol, Gloria Mansfield, Julie Riffle, Molly Mackay Zacker, Wendy Evans-Glazier, Joan McInnes, Joanne Erickson, Jean Pierce, Mary & Harry Shuemaker, Marcia Friedman, Anne Wilson-Dooley, and Laura Bartoszek.

Along with the sadness at Judy's death came some happy news – she knew her son Harry Toigo was engaged, and Harry and Michelle were married in China shortly before Harry returned to the States for his mother's memorial service. To Harry and Michelle (whose Chinese name we'd best not attempt), all joy and good wishes!

Jodie Rees had a recent stay in Delnor and discovered that she will need to move back to Wisconsin to be close to family as she attends to her health. She'll be with us at least into March, and will be participating with us until she moves. Jodie appreciates the support she's received from UUSG, and is looking forward to being with us until her move. We look forward to our time with you as well, Jodie, and wish you the best in this change.

Finally, we've learned that UUSG member Patricia van Sasser died at the end of January. To her family and friends, our deepest condolences.

Supporting NPR, Supporting UUSG...

UUSG is a "pass-through" collector of member contributions to Northern Public Radio out of NIU in DeKalb. By doing so, we become a Corporate Sponsor and obtain promotional opportunities as a partner of NPR, which broadcasts WNIJ (89.5FM—news & talk) and WNIU (90.5FM—music).

We advertised our Cookie Walk with this important tool and will advertise our Swedish Days Pizza Booth this summer. We'd like to continue to use NPR as a way to let the community know about us, so we're asking again for your support in making us a sponsor of public radio.

Send a check for your contribution to UUSG with "NPR" on the memo line. You will not get any premiums and will not be an individual member of NPR, but you will still get your tax deduction, though through UUSG rather than from NPR.

Monarch Landing in Naperville

(located at Ferry Road & Route 59) is a senior residence facility and where our own Ruth Fitzpatrick lives. Members & friends of UUSG and the UU Church in Naperville are invited to attend a tour & lunch on Thursday, March 12. If 12 people sign up, a bus will be provided (leaving UUSG at 10:30am, returning by 2:15pm).

Contact Ruth Fitzpatrick to sign up or for more information.

Volunteer Headquarters

The Times, They Are a-Changin'

We're revamping the way we do social hour and we'd like you to get involved!

- To see the NEW & IMPROVED social hour instruction manual, complete with pictures (taken by Jim Frazier) and step-by-step instructions on how to use the coffee machine & dishwasher, go to: <http://content.uusg.org/storage/instructions/CoffeeInstructions.pdf>. Two copies will be available in the kitchen, so you'll know exactly how everything works!
- Katie is working on the formation of a NEW Hospitality Team that will provide instruction to social hour newbies so they can learn the ropes with confidence (if you're interested in joining this Team, talk to Katie).
- You can now sign up for greeter & social hour host positions online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.
- We have new Kitchen Elves: Patsy Carrow will be handling ordering supplies and making sure that the kitchen is in order; John Rosenkrans will be shopping for supplies; and Gail Tattersfield, Pam Tilbrook, Karen Moore, and Betty Bristol will take turns washing the kitchen linens. Many thanks to Terri Thompson, our former Kitchen Elf, for handling ALL these tasks!

Visiting Friends, Welcoming Guests

Here are the social hour host openings for the next month.

Sign up in the Common Room or ONLINE at
<http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Sunday, March 1, after the 9am service | 2 hosts needed |
| Sunday, March 1, after the 11am service | 2 hosts needed |
| Saturday, March 7, after the 5pm service | 2 hosts needed |
| Sunday, March 8, after the 9am service | 2 hosts needed |
| Sunday, March 15, after the 9am service | 2 hosts needed |
| Saturday, March 21, after the 5pm service | 2 hosts needed |
| Sunday, March 22, after the 9am service | 1 host needed |
| Sunday, March 22, after the 9am service | 2 hosts needed |
| Saturday, March 28, after the 5pm service | 2 hosts needed |
| Sunday, March 29, after the 9am service | 2 hosts needed |
| Sunday, March 29, after the 9am service | 2 hosts needed |

If you'd like to help but you're nervous about using the coffee machine or the dishwasher, let us know—we have detailed instructions with pictures and will be glad to help you!

Volunteer Appreciation

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

Terri Thompson, who's been an amazing Kitchen Elf for many months—she's so awesome that we had to replace her with 6 new volunteers!

Pat McGleam, who installed 2 new bulletin bars in one of our lower level classrooms

Gail Tattersfield & a Mystery Volunteer, who put together 275 canvass packets!

MacKenzie & Carolina, who provided beautiful artwork for the Green Sanctuary bulletin board

All those who volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on January 17 (see list on page 5)

If you know someone who needs to be thanked for their work around UUSG, let Katie know!

Not Your Mother's Kitchen

For a long time, we've asked people who use dishes in the UUSG kitchen during the week to wash them in the sink, dry them, and put them away.

We're updating that practice to make sure we're providing properly-cleaned dishes for everyone's use. If you use a dish during the week, please rinse it very well and put it in the dishwasher to be washed over the weekend.

Green Corner

Calling All "Wild Ones"!

A new chapter of "Wild Ones" is forming for northern Kane County, which would include anyone from Aurora and north (or others who would like to attend). What is "Wild Ones"? you ask with eyebrows raised.

"Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes" is a national not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization that promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Born from a small group in Wisconsin in the early 90's, Wild Ones currently has about 45 chapters from Connecticut west to the Mississippi.

Currently meetings are scheduled for the 4th Thursday of the month at Christ the Lord Lutheran Church (12N462 Tina Trail, Elgin 60124). The church is at the corner of Highland Ave. and Tina Trail, 3 blocks west of Randall Road. Trish Beckjord, a UUSG member, will be presenting "The Makings of a Backyard Woodland" on February 26th. Her talk is based on her own experience and will highlight some of the pitfalls and rewards of such endeavors.

Please contact Trish through the church office if you would like to be added to the meeting announcement list and join us on the 26th!

February Tip of the Month

from the Green Team of Fox Valley Pres. Church

Here are three tips to avoid common mistakes in recycling plastics:

1. Rinse out plastic containers and DO NOT replace the plastic caps. THROW AWAY LIDS. Plastic containers with lids are 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 certain they are clean and empty (no receipts, please). Better yet, don't accept plastic bags from stores—bring your own reusable cloth bags.
3. Polystyrene (PS, No.6) is NOT recyclable ANYWHERE. The recycling symbol around "6" is a misnomer. Polystyrene comes in two forms—blown (Styrofoam cups, plates, packing material) and rigid (cups and clear clamshells used for salads and cookies, etc.). If it breaks when crushed, it is polystyrene. Reuse packing peanuts or take them to mailing centers. Try to avoid No. 6 if you can.

Green Your Spring Cleaning

from National Green Page at

www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages/greentips/march

"Green Tips" are simple steps you can take today to green your clothing, your home, your transportation, and more! We encourage you to choose one step to get started and return for additional tips over time.

Buy green cleaners at your local natural foods store or via mail order or the Internet.

Make your own cleaners. To avoid toxic chemicals, consider making your own cleaners. Household items like baking soda, lemon juice, vinegar, and club soda, can be combined to clean everything from carpets to toilet bowls.

Use old clothing and sheets for dusting and cleaning rags, rather than paper towels.

Install a clothesline in your backyard or basement, and let your clothes dry naturally.

Avoid cleaners that contain phosphates as a water softener. Phosphates appear in a number of cleaners such as some dishwashing liquids and promote rapid algae growth which pollutes the water supply.

If you use mothballs, consider replacing them with a more natural alternative. Try cheesecloth-wrapped cinnamon sticks, bay leaves, or cloves.

Eliminate the need for chemical fabric softeners by adding ¼ cup of vinegar to your washing machine's rinse cycle.

Let your houseplants do the cleaning! Some houseplants—such as Boston ferns, English ivy, rubber plants, and peace lilies—can help clean your indoor air by absorbing toxic chemicals.

Green Corner (continued)

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

from Batavians for Clean Energy and Conservation (BCEC), courtesy of Betsy Zinser

What if you could talk with the farmer who grew your potatoes? What if the farmer knew you, too, and called you by name? What if he or she shared recipes? It's not a dream from yesteryear. It's a choice. It's again that time of year to partner with our local farmers for this summer's freshest produce. If you want to join a CSA this year, sign up now – before month's end.

This is how Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) works: You pay your subscription price for a season of produce now. The farmer plants crops with you and the other subscribers in mind. When the food is ready, you pick it up weekly or bi-weekly June through October. The benefits are so numerous. The vegetables are varied, seasonal, healthy, ripe and delicious. If this idea is new to you, try it out by splitting a share with a friend and neighbor. Below are three local farmers.

Erehwon Farm - Beth and Tim Propst

968 Pattee Ave., Elburn, IL 60119

630-485-9963, www.erewonfarm.com

Subscription brochure: www.erewonfarm.com/CSA-Application-2009.html.

Green Earth Institute - Steve Tiwald

10S404 Knoch Knolls Road, Naperville, IL 60565-5447

630-664-5681, www.greenearthinstitute.org.

Subscription brochure: www.greenearthinstitute.org/csa_brochure/GreenEarthCSA-2009.pdf.

Angelic Organics

1547 Rockton Road, Caledonia, IL 61011

815-389-2746, www.angelicorganics.com

Subscription brochure: www.angelicorganics.com/share.php.

This farm is farther away yet they have a pick-up location in Geneva just off Route 31. The farm offers many opportunities for you to visit and meet them.

For more information about locally grown food, please see <http://content.uusg.org/green-sanctuary-committee-3/>.

“If I Had a Hammer...”

YRUU Habitat Trip is looking for a few good men and women! “If I had a hammer . . .” Sing it with us! Now is the time for adults to consider attending this trip as adult participants/chaperones.

No building experience is required and no experience with teenagers is required. Also, you do not have to have a teen in the YRUU program in order to participate. A willingness to become part of an intentional service community for a week is required.

The trip is from July 11-19. We are going to Grand Rapids, MN again this year. We are expecting a large group of teens this year and therefore are looking for a larger group of adult participants as well.

Please think about it. The 14- to 18-year-olds in our community are some of the most interesting and visionary among us. Working on a team with them is many things, but it is never dull. If you have questions or would like to express even a possible interest, please contact Laura or Hal at habitat@uusg.org.

UUSG YRUU would like to thank this congregation for your generous support and love.

Over \$1900 was collected for Habitat for Humanity during the YRUU service earlier this month. That money will support our trip and help to purchase home building materials. We thank you and the future home owners in Grand Rapids Minnesota thank you for reaching Beyond Our Walls. We are very proud to be part of you.

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of February 25, 2009. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our Website Calendar – go to www.uusg.org and follow the links to the Interactive Online Calendar. You can download a printable version if you like; the Calendar site has the instructions.

NEXT PIONEER DEADLINE

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

The next deadline for articles is **Friday, March 20, at 9:00 a.m.**

MARCH 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 10:35 AM 7th/8th Grade Chime Ensemble Rehearsal 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Program 1:00 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group | 2 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting | 3 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils | 4 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Facilities Subcommittee Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM UU Paganism Study Group | 5 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 5:30 PM Faivre Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 PM Private Music Rehearsal 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising | 6 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 5:00 PM Faivre Wedding | 7 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 3:30 PM Lazarus House Dinner Preparation 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM |
| 8 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> Daylight-Saving Time Begins 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 10:00 AM Commit to Knit 10:25 AM 7th/8th Grade Chime Ensemble Rehearsal 10:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:15 PM Facilities Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 1:15 PM Private Music Recital 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group | 9 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group | 10 <i>Associate Minister on Study Leave</i> 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors | 11 <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meetings</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 9:30 AM Private Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA | 12 <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meetings</i> 7:00 PM Group Canvass Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry | 13 <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meetings</i> | 14 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group 6:30 PM Universalist Heritage DVD Viewing & Discussion |
| 15 9:00 AM & 11 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 10:25 AM 7th/8th Grade Chime Ensemble Rehearsal 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:15 PM YRUU Joys & Concerns 12:30 PM Annual Canvass Tea & Celebration 12:30 PM Communications Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share | 16 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM UU Christianity Study Group | 17 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg | 18 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:00 PM LRE Committee Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA | 19 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising | 20 First Day of Spring 9:00 AM PIONEER deadline 6:30 PM OWL Overnight Begins 7:00 PM Friday Flick: "The Promise of America" | 21 8:45 AM RSVP: Northern Illinois Food Bank 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 4:00 PM OWL Overnight Ends 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Games Night! |
| 22 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Group Canvass Meeting | 23 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" | 24 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg | 25 <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 GAS AA | 26 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:30 PM Last Thursday Group Hypnosis | 27 | 28 9:00 AM Private Music Recital 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 7:00 PM Earth Hour Event |
| 29 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Teen/Adult Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM Private Music Recital | 30 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> Spring Break in the Tri-Cities 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" | 31 Spring Break in the Tri-Cities 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Speak Softly and Forget the Stick: an Intro to the Work of Marshall Rosenberg | 1 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> Spring Break in the Tri-Cities 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM UU Paganism Study Group | 2 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> Spring Break in the Tri-Cities 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising | 3 Spring Break in the Tri-Cities | 4 9:00 AM Blood Drive 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM |

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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

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 Friday, March 20th at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.