



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

# THE PIONEER

February—March 2010

## Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

More a Bulletin Board than a Pulpit this month; there are four items in particular I'd like to raise up:

We trust word has reached you about the change in Sunday Service times, beginning on March 14. That's the morning you lose an hour of sleep after setting your clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time. Your church, however, is giving thirty minutes of that hour back to you, IF you come to Sunday morning's first service! The numbers attending at 9 and 11 AM have been badly out of balance – only around 50 (including children) at 9, but usually well over 100 at 11. Early session teachers have tiny classes and second session classes are getting too large. Newcomers are crowded out at 11, and latecomers have to stand or sit in the windows. Therefore, we're experimenting – the first Sunday service will start at 9:30 and the second at 11:15, with the usual social times following each service. If you have younger children and/or you're not tied to the second service time because of the Junior and Senior High schedules, please help us out by experimenting with 9:30. See if that extra half hour makes it easier to be part of the earlier crowd.

And speaking of making things easier – Katie's investigating temporary signage that will let us reserve some parking spaces (including the staff's parking apron) for those who find walking to be a problem. In the meantime, if you and yours are fortunate enough to be able-bodied, please consider parking a block away, so that our mobility-challenged members and friends don't stay away from church for fear of impossible hiking distances.

If we have an email address for you, I hope you've also received Katie's inquiry regarding your interest in Summer Saturday Services. If UUSG is going to grow – if we're going to expand our influence and share our message with more people – we don't have a lot of choice. A multi-million-dollar building program just isn't in the cards for a while. We can't expand in space, only in time. That means encouraging attendance at our Saturday evening service, where we still do have plenty of room to welcome folks in. But it's hard to build up the momentum when those services disappear in June, July, and August. So again we're inviting your help with an experiment – if you can commit to attending 5 out of the 10 Summer Saturday Services, please let Katie know. If you have children, we'll have the usual childcare – and if there's enough interest, we'll also offer Spirit Play. Again, please let us know.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Upcoming LRE Events</i>	3
<i>Canvass 2010</i>	4
<i>Apprentice with a Master Chef</i>	5
<i>Hypnotism at UUSG</i>	6
<i>Sunday Service Times are Changing</i>	7
<i>Coffee at Social Hour</i>	8
<i>Green Tax News</i>	9
<i>Poetry Reading Roundtable</i>	10
<i>March Calendar</i>	11

Finally, thank you to all who came out for the revived Minister's Round Table a couple of weeks ago, for a conversation primarily about how we talk with one another that ranged widely over responsible gun ownership, societal violence, the importance of honest and respectful disagreement, the role of the family, the reality of our diversities, and the strength of our common core values. I've got a list of sermon topics that will take us well into next year – and some ideas for future Round Tables as well. These will be occasional gatherings, opportunities to talk with one another about ideas that come up in sermons, in small groups, in the UU World, or any other source. The only requirements are simple: it fits somewhere on the calendar, and at least a half-dozen people have committed to attending. If you have ideas, please pass them along!

See you in church! **LB**

## Religious Education Announcements and Upcoming Events

### A Message from Sandi Sumner, Our Acting Director of Religious Education

#### Drum roll, please...

It is with great joy and gratitude that I announce that the LRE Committee has a new Chair, Jim Roberts! Jim, the committee, and I will be working closely to keep our Ministry of Religious Education going strong. Welcome, Jim!

#### Something for Everyone

Have you checked out the LRE Board in the Common Room or the Parent Board in the hall by the Volunteer Office? There you will find upcoming LRE events, sign-up sheets for various activities, church school calendars, and other important news.

In addition to church school on Sunday mornings for children, we offer a variety of study groups and classes for older youth and adults. Looking for opportunities to meet people and have fun outside the classroom? Try Games Nights on the third Saturday of each month or Junior High Youth Group on the second Saturday of every month, to name just two.

**Our Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) Program has something for everyone!!**

#### Guest At Your Table Summary

Our Guest at Your Table Program ended in January and was a huge success! A total of \$639.66 was collected to support the immensely important work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Thank you so much for your generosity!

#### Don't Forget!

**Our Sunday service worship times are changing on Sunday, March 14 to 9:30am & 11:15am!**

#### Teachers and Subs are Still Needed!

Our Church School spring session began on Sunday, January 31. 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. Please consider volunteering to share your knowledge and experience with the youngest members of our congregation!

Thank you to all of our fall teachers who are continuing to teach this spring. And thank you to the small group of folks who have already signed up. We just need a few more people and our teaching teams will be complete. Teaching experience and/or children in the program are not required, just a love for inspiring and educating our young people.

Sign-up sheets are on the LRE Board in the Common Room. If you have questions, please see me!

#### "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series

We continue the Munch & Learn Monthly Lecture Series on Sunday, March 7 at 1pm with "The Space Elevator and Moving into Space," presented by Larry Bartoszek.

This talk will cover the concept of the Space Elevator as described in Edwards' and Westling's book, "The Space Elevator—A Revolutionary Earth-to-Space Transportation System." After we see the impact of such a system on getting to orbit, we'll discuss why we should go there and what life might be like on a space habitat. We'll talk about mining on the moon and asteroids, and what resources we can expect to find and use. The pioneering work of Gerard K. O'Neil on space habitats will also be covered.

The talk will be a wide-ranging romp through the solar system featuring a scale model of the Earth-Moon-Space Elevator system. If you've ever wanted to live Out There, this talk is for you!

We hope that you will join us!

Sign up on the LRE Board or Parent Board if you plan to attend the talk on March 7 or if you are interested in facilitating a future talk. Future facilitators, be sure to include your topic choice. If you have any questions, please let me know.

## Upcoming LRE Events

Feb 24, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Feb 26, 6:30pm	OWL Overnight Begins
Feb 27, 4:00pm	OWL Overnight Ends
Feb 27, 6:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Feb 28, 11:30pm	YRUU Celebration Brunch
Mar 3, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
Mar 7, 1:00pm	Munch & Learn Lecture Series
Mar 7, 1:00pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
Mar 10, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Mar 11, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Mar 12, 6:30pm	OWL Overnight Begins
Mar 13, 4:00pm	OWL Overnight Ends
Mar 13, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
Mar 14, 10:30am	Chime Ensemble Rehearsal
Mar 14, 12:30pm	New UUs Orientation Program
Mar 17, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Mar 19, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks: "Capitalism: A Love Story"
Mar 20, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Mar 20, 6:30pm	Games Night!
Mar 21, 10:30am	Chime Ensemble Rehearsal
Mar 21, 1:00pm	Sandel's Justice Study Group
Mar 23, 7:30pm	Hypnosis Info-Intake
Mar 24, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Mar 27, 6:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Mar 28, 12:30pm	New UUs Orientation Program
Mar 28, 1:00pm	Sandel's Justice Study Group

### Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

Every Monday at 7:00pm in the Common Room: "Still Living in the Present Moment"

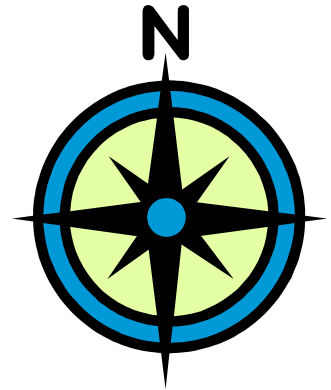
Every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary: UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group



# Canvass 2010

## Weathering the Storm...

## Charting a Steady Course



As the winds of change howled in 2009, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva weathered the storm.

We emerged with a new sense of purpose, and a renewed understanding of what makes our beloved religious home the special place it is.

Keeping our church strong, vibrant and forward-looking in the wake of change is what this year's Operating Fund Canvass is all about.

Supported by our members and friends, our church has remained strong and steadfast through challenging times.

Please pledge generously this year—and help sustain the place that sustains our souls.

### Our Canvass Goal: \$355,000

Meeting this goal will allow us to:

Sustain our current people, programs, and place to continue to serve the needs of our members and friends

Support our intern minister as she helps expand our ministry and pastoral services

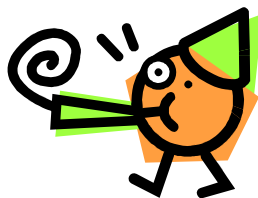
Eliminate our Operating Fund deficit to prepare for the future on sound financial footing

## Canvass Season is March 1-31, 2010.

### Food & Fun

What would Canvass season be without a couple parties?

**Canvass Kick-Off Party**  
Saturday, February 27th at 7pm



**Annual Canvass Tea & Celebration**  
Sunday, March 21st at 1pm

Childcare will be provided for both events. Sign up in the Common Room or by contacting Katie at 630-232-2350 or [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

### How to Pledge and Give

Just like last year, our "Canvass Crew" will 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/>.

Many people pay weekly or monthly, while some pay the full pledge amount up front. 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.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

## Social Justice News

### Apprentice with a Master Chef

Aspiring chefs will have an exciting opportunity on Saturday, March 6, to work with William Elbert to help prepare dinner for 60 people sheltered at Lazarus House. Chef Elbert will design a menu around foods which he finds in the Lazarus House freezers and pantry.

Meet him at 3pm in the kitchen at UUSG to discover how he works his magic with the items he finds. Sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board or contact Jeanne Neltner through 630-232-2350 to reserve your spot in the kitchen.

### Action Alert: Fair Elections Now

Recently the U.S. Supreme Court opened the floodgates for corporate dollars to flow into federal election campaigns. The 5-4 ruling strikes down decades-old laws and legal precedents restricting corporate spending on political campaigns.

What does this mean? If unchallenged, it means the world's largest corporations will intensify their influence over our political system. It means there will be even less accountability for corporations that abuse the public's health and our environment. It means we will forfeit personal freedoms and the integrity of our democracy, so that a handful of corporations can prosper.

The Fair Elections Now Act (S.752, H.R.1826) is a bipartisan bill introduced in both chambers of Congress that would allow Congressional candidates to run for office using small donations and limited public financing and not take any large contributions. Elections should empower voters and volunteers instead of campaign donors and wealthy special interests.

To add your name to the petition to be presented to Congress, please go to: <http://www.fairelectionsnow.org/>.

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

### RSVP Summary

We had an overwhelming volunteer response in February! Our January 16 volunteers at Feed My Starving Children packed 16,416 daily meals, enough to feed 45 children for a year! Thank you to Laura, Larry, Ian, Hannah, and Aron Bartoszek; Kevin Beyer; Lisa Gades; Monica Gephart; Maureen and Merryn McKeough; Vohny Moehling; Page Poris; Velma Powers; Julie Riffle; Thom Thomas; Lois Ulreich; and A.J. and Caleb Warren.

Our January 23 volunteers at Northern Illinois Food Bank packed enough food to feed 3,544 people for an entire weekend! Thank you to Hillary Accarizzi; Kevin Beyer; Dan Bottoms; Aaron, David, Jennifer, and Natalie Briggs; Lori Clemens; Laura Deurling; Justin Hirschberg; Amy, Chris, and Natalie Hong; Elizabeth Johnston; Vohny Moehling; Jenny Montgomery; Jeanne Neltner; Ellie Radvanovsky; Lauren and Mathew Schrock; Ryan and Shawn Thornton; Jane Willard; Ben, Betsy, and Claire Zinser.

On February 20, members and friends of UUSG brought joy and good company to seniors at Geneva Care Center during their weekly BINGO game. Thank you to Kevin Beyer, Eric Bodwell, Lisa Gades, Laura Kivisto, and Jeanne Neltner.

### March RSVP: Wrapping Birthday Presents

People of all ages are invited to wrap birthday presents and/or make cards on Saturday, March 20 from 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, which is committed to alleviating the pain and suffering that 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. The Children's Birthday Project currently celebrates the birthdays of 1,200 local, impoverished children.

For more info, see <http://www.humanitarianservice.org/>. Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board or through <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or email Lisa Gades through the office at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

## More Social Justice News

### Friday Flick on March 19: *Capitalism: A Love Story*

At 7pm on Friday, March 19, Michael Moore's movie, *Capitalism: A Love Story*, will be shown at UUSG. With his characteristic humor and insight, Moore looks at the price that Americans pay for "loving" capitalism. The movie tells the stories of ordinary citizens who have lost their jobs, their homes, and their savings. Moore exposes shocking practices of corporations that benefit from the deaths and financial difficulties of individuals.

If you missed this movie in the theaters, this is your chance to see it for free. Friday Flicks are still the best deal going in the recession!

### Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In February, we collected \$2257 for our youth's upcoming 11th Annual Habitat for Humanity trip.

Under the leadership of Laura Laughlin, teens and adults from our church will travel to Grand Rapids, MN, July 10 -18. Their goal is to build a house to the point where it is "under roof," including exterior doors and windows installed.



If you'd like to know more or want to get involved, contact Laura Laughlin at [habitat@uusg.org](mailto:habitat@uusg.org).

Our youth thank you for your support!

### Annual Trivia Bee Set for March 20

We are looking for three smart people who have lots 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" to be held the morning of March 20 for the benefit of Literacy Volunteers of Fox Valley. Those folks who sign up will find a time to gather, practice a little, and choose the team.

This will be the sixth year UUSG has sponsored a team, and have finished very close to the top each year. Last year we came in 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 28 teams. This year, we will surely win! During the event, 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. A fabulous silent auction between rounds, Starbucks coffee, and delicious refreshments are all included. Friends, neighbors, and relatives are all invited to come and cheer the team on.

This year the theme for the Bee is "Candy," so there will be a number of sweet questions. The UUSG team name is the JUU JUU BEEs. The event will be held on Saturday, March 20, 9am to noon at the Q Center, 1405 N. Fifth Avenue, St. Charles.

Our team is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. Sign up on our bulletin board in the Common Room, or contact Joan McInnes through the office at 630-232-230 or [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

### Hypnotism at UUSG

If you're interested in learning more about hypnotism, or would like to be able to join the Last Tuesday Group Hypnotism program, you're invited to the "**HypnoInfoIntake**" on **Tuesday, March 23, 7-9pm** in the Common Room. There are 4 requirements:

- \* Sign up, please, so we know how many to prepare for. Call or email the church office no later than Friday, March 12, or sign up in the Common Room.
- \* You must be at least 18 years old **or** have written permission from a parent or guardian. Children in elementary school are old enough to learn self-hypnosis; children and youth accompanied by a parent or guardian are welcome to participate.
- \* But please leave the younger children at home – there is no on-site childcare and we can't have the session interrupted.
- \* And finally, you must **not** have any sort of seizure disorder or dissociative personality disorder or uncontrolled mental health issues (Lindsay can work safely with you on an individual basis with the OK from a licensed health care provider, but not in a group setting).



On Sunday, March 14, Daylight Saving time begins and Sunday worship service times will change to **9:30 am & 11:15 am.** (Saturday services will stay at 5pm.)

### Put the “YOU” in New UUs!

The membership committee welcomes you to join our three-session New UUs Orientation Program. The program is on three Sundays: March 14, March 28, and April 11, and begins right after the second service at 12:45 pm.

Each session is on a different topic and begins with lunch at 12:45 pm, followed by a program which ends at 3:15 pm. New UUs is mainly designed to introduce newcomers to UUSG and to Unitarian Universalism in general. But even if you have been here awhile, but are interested in the session, please attend.

**Please sign the clipboard in the Common Room or contact the church office, so plans can be made for the right number of attendees.**

If you need transportation or other assistance, please let the church office know. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you wish, as each covers a different topic. Childcare will be provided.

Here is an outline of the three sessions, which are facilitated by members of the Membership Committee, and include presentations by our minister and other church members:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 14 | <i>History of Unitarian Universalism and Your Spiritual Journey</i>  |
| March 28 | <i>Story of the UUSG, our Historic Building, and the Faith Continuum</i>   |
| April 11 | <i>Church Institutional (or How Does Anything Get Done Around Here?) and Our Senior Minister's Spiritual Journey (of course, by Lindsay herself)</i> |

### Naming & Dedication Service

The next scheduled times for Naming & Dedicating Celebrations for our UUSG-connected little ones will be during the services on Mothers' Day Weekend, May 8 & 9. So far, one family is planning to take part at 11:15 (the new time for the second service). We can add one more family at 11:15, two at 9:30, and two on Saturday at 5 o'clock. If you'd like to be included, please let Lindsay or Katie know.

### Staff Travels

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates is on vacation February 22-March 6. Katie Phillips will be on vacation March 4-7. Sandi Sumner will be at an off-site training session March 11-13.

### Got a Song In Your Heart?

The UUSG Teen/Adult Choir will be singing on Easter Sunday, April 4. We welcome new and returning members!

Rehearsals are Sundays, 3/7, 3/14, 3/28 in the Sanctuary, 12:30-2pm. We warm-up at 8:15am prior to the Easter Services.

Please contact director Ruth Cavanaugh through [choir@uusg.org](mailto:choir@uusg.org) or sign up in the Common Room if you plan to join us or would like more info.

## Volunteer Headquarters

### Continuing Coffee at Social Hour

Once again, we've filled the social hour hosting schedule a month in advance!

Since we finally may have struck on a system that works, we'll repeat the process for March social hours. Coffee will be available in March **ONLY if ALL of the March hosting slots are filled by the end of February.**

The remaining slots are:

- March 13, 6pm
- March 27, 6pm
- March 28, 12:15pm

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

Regardless of whether we have coffee or not, social hour still continues, and we hope you'll stick around to visit with old and new friends.



### Greeting in March

The current openings are:

- March 6, 5pm
- March 7, 9am
- March 7, 11am
- March 13, 5pm
- March 20, 5pm
- March 21, 9:30am
- March 21, 11:15am
- March 27, 5pm
- March 28, 9:30am
- March 28, 11:15am

If you're interested in greeting or hosting, you can sign up in the Common Room or by going to <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

### Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt appreciation to:

**Our Wonderful Chauffeurs, who have been promoting practical goodness by driving Ms. Helen in January & February:** Anne Veague, Stu and Gloria Mansfield, Jean & Lou Pierce, Joan McInnes, Kathy Meier, Page Poris, Jim O'Malley, Jenny Montgomery, Katie Phillips, & Lisa McCarthy.

**Kathy Meier**, for coordinating Helen's rides

**Dave Moore and Andy Montgomery**, for their creative minds and hard work as they came up with this year's canvass brochure.

**Twelve blood donors**, who gave the gift of life on March 6 at our annual blood drive

**Jeff Stibal**, for setting up the large screen in the Sanctuary so our February Friday Flick could be seen by a record number of people.

### Canvass Tea Helpers Needed

We're so fortunate that Elba Karim has agreed to share her considerable culinary skill with us again this year and host the Canvass Tea, which is scheduled for March 21 at 1pm.

We need some helpers for the tea this year—people to set up, clean up, and be on hand to help Elba.

If you can lend a hand, talk to Katie in the office or sign up in the Common Room.

### “Eat Your Heart Out for UUSG”

The first event sponsored by our newly revitalized Hospitality & Fellowship Committee (formerly the Social Activities Committee) was a heart-stopping success!

About 40 people attended and enjoyed the amazing spread of food. Committee members stood up and told a little about their committee, what they did, what volunteers might be expected to do, and then invited people to join.

Look for more community events in the future!

## Green Corner

### Green Tax News

*adapted from earth911.org*

#### **Cars**

If you got a more fuel-efficient car in 2009 with help from the Cash For Clunkers program, your rebate is not considered taxable income.

If you purchased a hybrid car, you're eligible for an energy tax credit. According to the Tax Incentives Project, the credit is unrelated to the type of car that you replaced, so you're eligible even if you just traded in your old hybrid for a new one. The hybrid tax credit is now in the process of being phased out, so what once was worth \$2,000 is now worth less than \$1,000. 2010 is the last year of eligibility for the tax credit, so if you want any incentive at all for your hybrid, time is of the essence.

If you made the big splurge and upgraded to an electric vehicle, you qualify for some major dough. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 expanded the credit for plug-in vehicles, and it is now available for a new plug-in electric drive vehicle having a battery capacity of at least 4 kilowatt hours, which qualifies for a credit of \$2,500. Each kilowatt hour of battery above this adds \$417 to the credit, up to a maximum of \$7,500 for vehicles up to 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

#### **Home**

The Energy Star program has an entire website dedicated to identifying credits available for your purchases. The key is that you need to upgrade a product – such as a water heater or air conditioning unit – in your primary home, meaning that new construction or rentals are not eligible.

Credits are not limited just to appliances. You may qualify for extra money if you have installed insulation or weatherstripping, a qualifying roof that reflects the sun, or even skylights, among many others. Tax credits do not include installation costs. For a full list of possible tax credits, enter your ZIP code and any upgrades at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=rebate.rebate\\_locator](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=rebate.rebate_locator). You may also qualify for sales tax exemptions, rebates, and sponsored recycling programs that will reduce the burden of disposing your old products.

Double- and triple-check your local tax credit descriptions because even the little stuff counts. Here are a couple of quick upgrades you may have overlooked:

- Energy-efficient lighting – Did you make the switch to CFL bulbs or make an LED upgrade?
- New electronics or office equipment – New laptop or desktop computers, printer/scanners, and even televisions may be eligible.
- Heating and cooling improvements – Programmable thermostats do not qualify, but some states have a tax credit for energy-efficient ceiling fans.

If you're planning on making some home improvements in 2010, do some quick rebate research for next year's tax season. As always, remember to save your receipts.

#### **Deductible Donations**

Reuse is always preferred over tossing items. Lots of organizations, such as Goodwill and Salvation Army offer products for reuse. The IRS lets you determine the fair market value of products donated, which can be treated as a tax write-off. Goodwill gives some guidance on this on their website: <http://www.goodwillsew.com/page.asp?dbID=294>. Don't forget to ask for a receipt when you donate your products.

Carbon offsets are accepted as a tax-deductible donation if the group providing the offsets is a nonprofit organization, such as [www.Carbonfund.org](http://www.Carbonfund.org). If you're unsure about an organization's classification, look for the 501(c)(3) notation in the "About Us" section of its website.

## More Green Corner

### Earth Hour 2010

**Saturday, March 27, 8:30pm**

Last year, nearly 1,000,000,000 people (including 80,000,000 Americans) turned off their lights for one hour, clearly stating their concern over the world's power consumption and its effects on our future. Declare your solidarity again this year by registering at [www.myearthhour.org](http://www.myearthhour.org).

For the second year, UUSG will celebrate the raising of all those voices by coming together and having some fun on a Saturday night. We will have good food and activities for all age groups to choose from, including a scavenger hunt in the dark. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Common Room to ensure your spot!

If you would like to help out that night, please talk to a Green Sanctuary member, send us an e-mail to [gsc@uusg.org](mailto:gsc@uusg.org), or send us a message through the office.

### Green Sanctuary Committee Changes

We extend our deepest thanks to Jeanne Neltner for all her work with Green Sanctuary over the last 3 years and look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role as Friend of the Committee.

Welcome to our newest member Vohny Moehling. We're so grateful for our enthusiastic addition!

### Up In Arms

**Sunday, February 28, 1 – 3pm**

As we all watch Congress fall apart, it becomes clearer with every newscast that our society is having a harder and harder time listening to and understanding positions other than our own. If you're an animal rights advocate, you probably have certain notions about hunting and hunters. But have you had occasion to listen to the positions held by hunters?

A unique opportunity is being offered by the Kane County Forest Preserve District to broaden your viewpoint. Registration is required. For more info or to register, call 847-741-8350 or go to <http://kaneforest.com/naturePrograms/adults.aspx>.

*From the Forest Preserve District:*

If you've ever wrestled with the issues of hunting, wildlife, and animal rights, this workshop is for you! We'll take a look at the topic from several vantage points and examine the questions: Who hunts and why? Can a naturalist be a hunter? Can a hunter be a naturalist? What influences our opinions of hunting? What ethical dilemmas are involved in hunting? How can we face the challenges these issues present? Instructors: Forest Preserve District Nature Programs Manager Valerie Blaine and Senior Ranger Tom Stewart.

### Release your inner puppeteer!

We are looking for a few more people to participate in our Earth Day weekend services. There are no lines to memorize, just fun to be had. If you're interested, please talk to Nancy Goodfellow, Rhonda Robinson, or any Green Sanctuary member.

### Circles of Life

It's with great sadness that we report the news of the death of Joanne Erickson's mom, Virginia Erickson, on Sunday, February 21. A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 19 at 11am at the Malone Funeral Home in Geneva, followed by lunch at the Mill Race Inn. David Foxgrover of the Congregational UCC Church in Batavia will officiate. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joanne.

Best wishes and joy to Paul and Jenny [Scanlon] Stewart, who celebrated their marriage with a service and reception here at UUSG on February 20.

### Poetry Reading Roundtable

Come join a reading roundtable on the last Sunday of each month, 1:00-2:30pm. No performing, no critique, just poetry lovers listening to each other read their favorite poets or perhaps their own work.

No sign-up necessary—drop in as the spirit moves you! The next gathering is on Sunday, March 28.

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of February 24, 2010. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our Website Calendar – go to [www.uusg.org](http://www.uusg.org) and follow the links to the Interactive Online Calendar. You can download a printable version if you like; the Calendar site has the instructions.

### **NEXT PIONEER DEADLINE**

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

The next deadline for articles is **Friday, March 19, at 9:00 a.m.**

# MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>28</b>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>  <b>9:00 AM</b> &amp; 11 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM &amp; NOON  <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group  <b>11:30 AM</b> YRUU Celebration Brunch  <b>12:30 PM</b> Facilities Committee Meeting  <b>1:00 PM</b> Private Recital</p>	<p><b>1</b>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"  <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing  <b>7:30 PM</b> Program &amp; Administrative Councils</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <i>Office Closes at 12pm</i>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>  <b>12:00 PM</b> "Healthy Habits" Group  <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA  <b>7:30 PM</b> UU Paganism Study Group</p>	<p><b>4</b>  <i>Congregational Administrator On Vacation</i>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)  <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p><b>5</b>  <i>Congregational Administrator On Vacation</i>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i></p>	<p><b>6</b>  <i>Congregational Administrator On Vacation</i>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>  <b>3:00 PM</b> Lazarus House Dinner Prep with Chef William Elbert  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM</p>
<p><b>7</b>  <i>Congregational Administrator On Vacation</i>  <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>  <b>9:00 AM</b> &amp; 11 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM &amp; NOON  <b>10:30 AM</b> Chime Ensemble Rehearsal  <b>10:30 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting  <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group  <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal  <b>1:00 PM</b> "Munch &amp; Learn" Lecture Series  <b>1:00 PM</b> UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group</p>	<p><b>8</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>1:30 PM</b> Women's Guild  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"  <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group  <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA</p>	<p><b>11</b>  <i>Acting DRE at Off-site Training</i>  <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)  <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry</p>	<p><b>12</b>  <i>Acting DRE at Off-site Training</i>  <b>6:30 PM</b> OWL Program Begins  <b>7:00 PM</b> Blue Papaya Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b>  <i>Acting DRE at Off-site Training</i>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting  <b>4:00 PM</b> OWL Program Ends  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM  <b>6:30 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group</p>
<p><b>14</b>  <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>  <b>New Service Times Begins!</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM  <b>10:30 AM</b> Chime Ensemble Rehearsal  <b>10:30 AM</b> Commit to Knit  <b>10:45 AM</b> Social Activites &amp; Hospitality Committee Meeting  <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group  <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal  <b>12:45 PM</b> New UUs Orientation Program  <b>7:00 PM</b> 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share  <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing</p>	<p><b>17</b>  <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA  <b>7:30 PM</b> LRE Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>  <b>9:15 AM</b> Simple Living Circle  <b>6:00 PM</b> Dooley Wedding Rehearsal  <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)  <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER deadline  <b>3:00 PM</b> OR 4:00 PM Dooley Wedding  <b>6:00 PM</b> Cavanaugh Wedding Rehearsal  <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks: "Capitalism: A Love Story"</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>11:00 AM</b> Cavanaugh Wedding  <b>3:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM  <b>6:30 PM</b> Games Night!</p>
<p><b>21</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM  <b>10:15 AM</b> Communications Committee Meeting  <b>10:30 AM</b> Chime Ensemble Rehearsal  <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group  <b>1:00 PM</b> Canvass Tea &amp; Celebration  <b>1:00 PM</b> Sandel's Justice Study Group  <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"</p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Hypnosis Info-Intake</p>	<p><b>24</b>  <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i>  <b>6:00 PM</b> Pioneer Mailing Prep  <b>7:00 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group  <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA</p>	<p><b>25</b>  <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)</p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Blue Papaya Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM  <b>6:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry  <b>8:30 PM</b> Earth Hour 2010</p>
<p><b>28</b>  Palm Sunday  <b>9:30 AM</b> &amp; 11:15 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM &amp; 12:15 PM  <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group  <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal  <b>12:45 PM</b> New UUs Orientation Program  <b>1:00 PM</b> Poetry Reading Roundtable  <b>1:00 PM</b> Sandel's Justice Study Group</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"</p>	<p><b>30</b>  <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i>  <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis</p>	<p><b>31</b>  <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i>  <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA</p>	<p><b>1</b>  <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i>  <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>  <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p><b>2</b>  <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i>  <b>Good Friday</b>  <b>8:00 PM</b> Tenebrae "Service of the Shadows"</p>	<p><b>3</b>  <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM</p>

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### **Our Covenant (written in 1842)**

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

### **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 March 19, 2010 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) AND [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org).

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