

THE PIONEER

February-March 2011

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

What with the blizzard and study leave and then getting sick, February seemed even shorter than usual. I think I'm OK with that. But it does mean that time is getting away from me, and suddenly the entire year has shrunk. And still so much we'd been planning to do!

Jim Frazier and I will be offering ***The Bible for UUs*** as a monthly presentation/conversation, starting in March. We were amazed and gratified at the number of you who said you would be interested (more than two dozen so far), and I was astonished to discover that we can accommodate almost everyone's schedule by offering each session twice: on the ***Third Sunday*** of the month from ***1 to 2:30 PM*** and on the ***Third Monday*** from ***7 to 8:30 PM***. We hope this will let the 8 of you who could do a Sunday afternoon but not a weeknight, and the 6 who could do a weeknight but not a Sunday afternoon, be consistent participants, while everyone else can float back and forth as your schedules permit. Of course anyone who hasn't yet responded is still welcome – we need a minimum of 6 participants at each session, but there's no upper limit.

That "minimum of 6" is essential. Fewer than that and there's little chance of a good conversation, and while Jim and I will be bringing a lot of materials to you, we don't want to do all the talking. We also can't guarantee childcare. It's not possible for Monday evenings – but if we know at least 2 weeks in advance that you will attend if we have it, we may be able to keep our nursery team for the extra time on Sundays. Please be sure Katie knows!

Our "Introduction to the Bible" overview is now on the calendar for ***March 20 and 21***. If you can commit to attending (health and weather permitting, of course), we need to know no later than Sunday, March 13. That gives us time to have the go/no go announcement in the weekly email blast and phone anyone who signs up but doesn't use email.

Sign-up sheets are in the Common Room, or you may email or call Katie or me to have us put your name on the list.

Inside this issue:

<i>Singing Meditation on March 5</i>	2
<i>Canvass Update</i>	3
<i>Emmaus Café: A Place to be Fed</i>	4
<i>Vision 2020 Congregational Survey</i>	5
<i>"Hope for the Homeless" Ministry</i>	6
<i>RSVP Opportunities</i>	7
<i>The Return of Spring!</i>	8
<i>Wanted: Garbage Patrol</i>	9
<i>Greening Your Life</i>	10
<i>Hypnotism at UUSG</i>	11
<i>Thoughts on the YRUU Service</i>	12
<i>March Calendar</i>	13

The other upcoming project is ***The Travels of Flat Augustus***. The bicentennial of Augustus Conant's birth is coming up on October 16, 2011, and the congregations of 4 churches that have connections with him (Geneva of course, as well as Elgin, Rockford and Palatine) will be co-celebrating Conant Sunday, and perhaps a full Conant Weekend, in October. Part of our celebration involves sending Augustus out with every household in each church. We hope you'll take digital photos of him joining you on vacation, on business trips, at committee meetings, wherever you happen to be. Send the photos to UUSG, and we'll be creating a page on our website to share them. The Augustus "masks" will soon be available. Watch the Mini-Pioneer for more information!

continued on the next page...

The Paper Pulpit continues with The Adventures of Flat Augustus...

[Just for the record – if you send us a photo, you must also send us permission to post it! The world being what it is and Safe Church requirements being very important, we'll also be providing a legal release that all participants must sign. In particular, photos involving anyone under the age of 18 *must* have such a release on file!]

If you think that the Conant Bicentennial is something you'd have fun working on, please let me know. How big the celebration is depends, of course, on how much interest and enthusiasm we can generate!

Finally, I was not happy to have to cancel out of Games Night in February – but trust me on this, no one would have enjoyed my coughing, feverish company! But I do still have our new UUSG Scrabble and Boggle games in my car. They – and I – will be at UUSG for Super Saturday Supper and **GAMES on March 19**. To be sure we have enough folks, we'll have a sign-up sheet in the Common Room. Think you can beat me? C'mon and try it! I dare you!

Peace! **LB**

Religious Education Announcements

Upcoming LRE Events

March 4, 6:30 pm	Junior High OWL Program Begins
March 5, 4:00 pm	Junior High OWL Program Ends
March 5, 7:00 pm	Singing Meditation
March 9, 7:00 pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
March 12, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
March 14, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
March 18, 7:00pm	Friday Flick
March 19, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
March 19, 6:00 pm	Games Night
March 19, 6:00 pm	Saturday Supper & Seminar Series
March 20, 1:00 pm	"The Bible for UUs" Study Group-
March 21, 7:00 pm	"The Bible for UUs" Study Group-
March 23, 7:00 pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
March 26, 7:00 pm	Earth Hour Program
March 28, 7:00 pm	ARAOM Book Club

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

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

Singing Meditation at UUSG

On Saturday, March 5 at 7pm, we will host a **Singing Meditation**, facilitated by Amanda Thomas, Choir Director at Park Forest UUC.

Singing Meditation is an interfaith spiritual practice that combines singing—of many types—with group observation of silence. Combining the two practices, which are often engaged in separately, results in a synergy that enhances each component.

The **singing** part of "Singing Meditation" includes a variety of vocalizations: toning, chanting, singing in rounds, singing in harmony and mantras. The repertoire is interfaith: Jewish, Christian, Sufi, earth-based, Hindu, Buddhist, and others.

The **goal** of Singing Meditation is to help the participants reach a place inside themselves where they can connect with the Divine, their Inner Core, the Spirit of Life.

If you're interested in attending, please let Sandi know at 630-232-2350, ext. 224, or LRE@uusg.org.

Canvass 2011: Giving Back, Moving Forward

Goals

For 2011-12, our Operating Fund Canvass goal is **\$375,000** in pledges. By meeting this goal, we will be able to accomplish several major objectives during the upcoming fiscal year:

- Provide fair compensation to our UUSG staff that reflects their broader roles and expanded job responsibilities
- Create and provide initial funding for a reserve account that will enable us to have a ministerial intern at UUSG every other year
- Operate "in the black" to avoid tapping our reserve funds to cover current expenses
- Offset anticipated declines in our fundraising programs

Progress

We're 2 weeks into Canvass and have received 111 pledges so far, totaling \$241,929.

While that's a good start, we're still short 149 pledgers and \$133,071.

If you've already pledged, we thank you!

If you haven't pledged yet, please do so today by going to <http://content.uusg.org/canvass-pledge-form/>.

Please pledge (or let us know if you won't be pledging) by March 15.

Upcoming Staff Travels & Days Off

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, is on study leave through March 7.

Our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, will be on vacation March 18-27.

The deadline for the March 27 Mini-Pioneer is a week earlier than usual, on Wednesday, March 16 at 9am.

Our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Sandi Sumner, will be on vacation March 27-April 3.

Put the New 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 13, 20, & 27; 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 3:00 pm. New UUs is mainly designed to introduce newcomers to the UUSG, and to Unitarian Universalism in general. But even if you have been here awhile, if you are interested in the session, please attend.

Please sign the clipboard in the Common Room or contact the church office (630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org), 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 is provided, so let us know if you will need it.

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 13 *Story of the UUSG and our Historic Building, and Your Spiritual Journey*
- March 20 *History of Unitarian Universalism and the Faith Continuum (with Pam Rumancik)*
- March 27 *Church Institutional (or How Does Anything Get Done Around Here?), and Our Senior Minister's Spiritual Journey (of course, by Lindsay herself)*

Contact the church office, or talk to a Membership Committee member at our welcome table during social hours for more details.



Emmaus

A Place to be Fed

Tuesday, March 8

&

Wednesday, March 9

Come Join Us!

What Emmaus Café: A Place to be Fed

Where Common Room at UUSG

Huh? An actual Café onsite which will feature Organic Slow Food menu options, Locally-Brewed Coffees, Interesting Fair Trade Merchandise, & Locally-Made Crafts.

There will also be scheduled events during the course of the evening—see schedule below.

Why To support the future ministry of Intern Pam Rumancik and her partner Karen Mooney as they create a prototype of the Spiritual Community Café they are planning to open in Chicago.

When Tuesday & Wednesday, March 8 & 9, 4-9pm

Visit our website for more information: <https://sites.google.com/site/emmauscafe/>.

Special Ash Wednesday Evening Communion Service will begin at 7pm.

Please sign up in the Common Room or by contacting Pam (630-232-2350, ext. 226, InternMinister@uusg.org) so we know how much food to order.

Volunteers Welcome to help with singing, serving, celebrating & collecting money!

Contact Pam Rumancik at InternMinister@uusg.org or 630-232-2350, ext. 226.

Tuesday Schedule

4:30pm Children's Story Time
6:00pm Non-Violent Communication
7:00pm Poetry Slam
8:00pm Song Circle

Wednesday Schedule

6:00pm Writers' Workshop
7:00pm Ash Wednesday
Communion Meal

2 Days Only!

UUSG Vision 2020 Congregational Survey

Have you taken the Congregational Survey yet? To take the survey, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Vision2020-Survey>.

This is the first step in our Long-Range Planning process and your input is very important! Please complete the survey by March 13.

The next step in this process is Cottage Groups. Meetings have been scheduled in March and April in many locations and on different dates and times around the area. Sign up in the Common Room on Sunday or by going to <http://content.uusg.org/vision-2020-cottage-groups/>.

Memorial Stones

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

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

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

Due to the ongoing cost of maintaining the garden, the price of the stones has recently gone up. The current prices are \$250/stone for any active members of the church and \$500/stone for those otherwise connected to the church.

Revisions to Our Bylaws

As you may recall, one of the goals our Board set for itself this year is to update and revise our Bylaws. Because our church has evolved and will continue to evolve in the future, it is essential for us to periodically review our policies and bylaws and ensure that they adequately meet both our current needs and our anticipated growth and challenges in the coming years. The bylaws were last amended in 1998. It is time to dust them off and take a fresh look.

Over the past several months, the Board has carefully reviewed our current bylaws and discussed potential revisions.

Active church members were recently emailed a copy of the revisions for review. If you did not get the email and would like to see the revisions, please contact Katie in the office (office@uusg.org, 630-232-2350).

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact Board President Bill Pokorny at your earliest convenience.

In accordance with the bylaws, the final proposed amendments must be published no less than four weeks before the Annual Meeting, and we will need some time to incorporate any suggestions into the final document. Accordingly, if you do have any feedback on the proposed amendments, please contact Bill no later than April 1, 2011 so that we can incorporate your thoughts and ideas into the final document, which will be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 15.

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.

Circles of Life

We send our hearty congratulations to Sarah [Dooley] and Jon Sebby on the birth of their son, Jonathan "Jack" Nele Sebby on February 10!

George Hickman is recovering well after a recent medical adventure—he & his new pacemaker were recently seen at UUSG!

We send our good wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to all our UUSG members and friends who are having various medical adventures. Take care of yourselves, and please let us know if your church community can help.

Social Justice News

“Hope for the Homeless” Ministry

Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board or online at <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/> to indicate your interest in participating with meal preparation for Lazarus House on the 1st Saturday of a month. All you are offering is your willingness to help feed the hungry occasionally.

Recipes are available online at <http://content.uusg.org/storage/instructions/Recipes.pdf>. Meat and pans can be obtained free of charge at Lazarus House. Money may be requested from the Social Justice Committee to purchase ingredients that are not available from Lazarus House.

After you sign up, you will be contacted to find out how you would like to participate.

- 1) Perhaps you like the “traditional” approach – you select a month, divide the tasks with others who sign up for that month, and each person takes their food to Lazarus House at 6:45pm.
- 2) On the other hand, you might prefer to get together with others from UUSG.
 - a. For instance, some individuals might choose to meet together at the church or at someone’s house to cook the meal for a certain month.
 - b. Perhaps other cooks will form groups around special interests (e.g. Fix a meal together? Eat out? See a show? Play a card game?), and they will gather together after dropping off dishes they have prepared at home.

The first step is to sign up for the “Hope for the Homeless” Ministry. Questions? Please call Jean Pierce at 630-232-2350.

Supporting Fair Trade Products

UUSG promotes the Equal Exchange/Fair Trade Coffee Project by purchasing coffee for church use and by selling products that meet your needs and wishes.

These products are displayed in the Common Room, just inside the double-door entry. When purchasing products, please put your checks in the silver coffee can on the top shelf of the display (no cash or IOUs, please).

Requests may also be placed in the can. The latest additions to the display are Organic Chai Tea, Hazel Creme Decaf, and French Roast wholebean. Pamphlets explaining the Coffee Project and some recipes are also available on the top shelf.

EE/FT chocolate is distributed during our annual Halloween Reverse Trick or Treat. EE/FT products are also included in our annual fundraiser to benefit the boys at the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles.

March Friday Flick: “Inside Job”

March 18, 7pm

The Academy Award-winning film “Inside Job” has been called “a crime story like no other in history.” Narrated by Matt Damon, the film won a 2011 Oscar for best documentary.

It has been recognized for its directing as well as its clear and insightful reporting of events leading up to the global economic meltdown of 2008.

Come see why critics have called it a “powerhouse” and a “masterpiece.” Join us for a free screening and discussion of the film, which will be shown as part of the Friday Flick series.

Giving “Beyond Our Walls”

In February, we raised \$915 to fund the newly-created Fox Valley Green Construction Scholarship. This scholarship will support unemployed or underemployed construction workers as they become certified in environmentally-sensitive construction techniques. Your contribution will help our Fox Valley neighbors, who will save on energy bills in new or remodeled houses; unemployed or underemployed construction workers, who may increase their chances for future employment by becoming certified through a respected green building program; and all of us, who will benefit when homeowners reduce their carbon footprints.

More Social Justice News

Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

Thank You!

Thank you to members and friends who wrapped birthday presents in this month's RSVP: Hillary Accarizzi, Kevin Beyer, Lisa Gades, Elizabeth Johnston, Debbie Leoni, Maureen McKeough, Vohny Moehling, Jean Pierce, Rej and Riley Rooney. The Humanitarian Service Project appreciates your support in helping to celebrate the birthdays of children in need throughout DuPage and Kane counties!

March 2011: Northern Illinois Food Bank

On Saturday, March 26, UUSG volunteers will join volunteers from the Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors for a 9-11am Youth Shift at Northern Illinois Food Bank. In addition to adult volunteers, children ages 8 and up are invited with a parent. Volunteers will sort and pack food and other necessities for people in need in northern Illinois. We will meet at Northern Illinois Food Bank (600 Industrial Drive, St. Charles) at 8:45am. We are hoping for 20 volunteers from UUSG and 20 from FVJN. For more information about NIFB, please see: <http://www.northernilfoodbank.org/>.

April 2011: Green Sanctuary

April is Earth Month! On Saturday, April 9, we'll join members of our Green Sanctuary Committee expanding a local park by clearing brush in the area immediately north of River Park. With our efforts, the 2 acres of River Park (which is a native ecosystem) will be enlarged by 1/3 acre. Participants may also be planting the area if time allows.

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. Thank you for your support!

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
March 26 9-11am	Northern Illinois Food Bank 600 Industrial Dr.	Ages 8 and up with a	Closed-toed shoes	Packing food for distribution to local food banks
April 9 9am-12pm	Immediately north of River Park in Geneva	All	Work gloves and sturdy shoes	Clearing brush and possibly planting

Action Alert: Stop the Attacks on Public Sector Workers and Unions

The Unitarian Universalist Association is asking for our support for public sector workers. As you know, Wisconsin has become the flash point for maintaining collective bargaining rights for public workers. This is an historic moment for workers and those who support them.

- The news in Wisconsin is happening in lots of other states. Interfaith Worker Justice, of which the UUA is a member, is asking for your help to garner broad religious support for workers on this issue. Our faith community has a long history of supporting workers and strong statements affirming workers rights for voice in the workplace.
- This is not about balanced budgets; it is about power. Workers need our help to keep their voice in the workplace, and advocate for a society that promotes fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. George Lakoff writes: "'Benefits' are pay for work, not a handout. Pensions and benefits are arranged by contract. If there is not enough money for them, it is because the contracted funds have been taken by conservative officials and given to wealthy people and corporations instead of to the people who have earned them."

Let's join UUA President Rev. Peter Morales by signing the petition to Stop Attacks on Public Sector Workers and Unions. Please go to http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1035/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5947

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

Thoughts from Our Intern Minister, Pam Rumancik

The Return of Spring

We are in that interesting time of the year—still winter but with hints of spring tantalizing here and there. It's the time when the days are still short but growing perceptibly longer day by day; when the sudden noticing of robins makes us hearken to warmer days; when we start thinking of digging in the earth, of planting, of springtime.

Spiritually, it's traditionally been a challenging time—this waiting for the earth to return to verdancy and life. Our ancestors watched the bare trees & shrubs, watched the way the natural world grew lean and bare before bursting forth into life, and developed seasons in imitation of these natural cycles. The Christian season of Lent is one such season.

Lent is the Teutonic word for Spring, but it's not the leafy green, fully blazing glory of spring. It is the austere, pregnant pause just before the celebration of life and renewal begins. It is a time of resting in the leafless limbs, in the brown fields, in the frozen mud and dirty ice which line our streets and our lives. It is a time of contemplating our own pared-down existence in the world.

Lent is the period of 40 days prior to Easter and it begins on March 9th this year. In the western Church, it is often kicked off by Ash Wednesday, a day to remember that everything comes up from the earth and returns back to it eventually in the end. Some Christians wear ashes on their foreheads as a symbol of this remembering. Christians have used the season as one of austerity and penitence—as a time to clear out the old and make ready for a renewed spirit of growth and rebirth.

How can we, as UUs, engage with this grey and somber time which yet holds within it the promise of light? Can we intentionally make space in our lives to observe the natural world around us? To take lessons from the bare branches which are beginning to show signs of bud, the fallow fields still frozen over with bent twigs bending in the stiff breeze, the river running full with melting snow and early rains?

Can we ponder similarities in our own spiritual lives? Where have we grown spare, waiting to begin again? Where are the swollen buds, the pregnancy that could be tended? In these next few weeks, each of us might take a few moments each day to listen to and to bless this waiting time. Pay attention to the shape of it, the feeling, the color, the flavor, and the smells. What strain of new music is waiting to be sung? Which tiny bit of the Holy is waiting to make itself known? How is the deepest truth of you, waiting, resting, incubating, in order to emerge in the growing light?

Invent a small practice: a walk, a quiet moment by the window, a time of prayer, a practice of journaling. Recognize and welcome the parts of yourself which have gone to sleep, which have lay fallow and have rested in the darkness. Give them space and make them welcome.

Let us see what may find new life as the light returns. Use this early dawn of spring to find a fullness which awaits, like the soft rains of spring, encouragement to growth. As we journey through Lent, let us enjoy this quiet and peaceful time and find within it nourishment, rest, and renewal.

Blessed Be. ~ Pam Rumancik



**On Sunday, March 13,
Daylight Saving time begins—
remember to “Spring Forward” on Saturday night!**

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Brandi Martin, Sophie Mancini, and Hannah Mancini, for prepping the paper Pioneer in February

Helen Hawkins' Drivers: Jim O'Malley, Lou Pierce, Jenny Montgomery, Norlyn Dimmitt, Anne Veague, Kathy Meier, Gail Tattersfield, and Betty Bristol

Bob Schwedler, for being our "Garbage Patrol" and taking the trash & recycling out and back every week for many months

Gail Tattersfield and Ellie Radvanovsky, for helping prep nearly 300 canvass packets

David Tomell & Jim Jenkins, for their dirty work fixing a leak in the basement

Our February Greeters: George & Gail Tattersfield, The Stibal Family, Deb Leoni, Doris & Samantha Lipman, Kate & Jim Frazier, Rhonda Robinson & David deCoriolis, Sally Jones, Nancy Steinke, and Kevin Beyer & Lisa Gades

Our January Social Hour Hosts: David & Renée Tomell, Emily Smith & Steve Clark, Tracy Paszkiet, Allen Geiger, Sherri Casterline, Nancy Goodfellow, Rhonda Robinson & David deCoriolis, Pam Rumancik & Karen Mooney, Anne Wilson-Dooley, and Bob Atac

Coffee in April

Sign up today by going to

<http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

February Lazarus House Volunteers

Sherri Casterline and Giana Felish made dinner; Jeanne Neltner & David Meehan made lunch; and Tracy Paszkiet stayed overnight.

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

UUSG is committed to providing these services to Lazarus House on the 1st Saturday of each month—help us show our support by volunteering.

Wanted: Garbage Patrol

It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it! We're very grateful to Bob Schwedler for taking the garbage and recycling bins out and back each week for many months, but it's time to pass this job on to someone else.

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

A Note from Cindy Vacek

to All Who Have Been Helping Her Out With Delicious Meals

Many, many thanks to everyone for their prayers, support, tender words, thoughts, hugs, flowers and fantastic meals that you provided to me during my surgery and recovery. Each day has been one more step to healing and moving pain-free.

Blessings ~ Cindy Vacek

Welcoming Friends & Visitors in March

Isn't it nice to be welcomed into the church every Sunday morning by a smiling face? YOU could be that smiling face!

If you'd like to brighten someone's Sunday, sign up to greet by checking out the bulletin board in the Common Room or by going to <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

Green Corner

Greening Your Life

Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee are excited that 11 people have registered for the Environmentally-Sustainable Lifestyle Mini-Program!

In mid-March, registrants will be contacted by a committee member with details regarding our first meeting on March 20 at 12:30pm. Each participant will select two daily practices to reduce water waste or to make purchases that are more friendly to the environment.

For two weeks, each person will try to incorporate the practices into daily life. We'll meet again on April 3 to discuss activities that were easily incorporated into daily living, those that were more difficult, any discoveries, and will hopefully be inspired to start additional daily practices that are friendly to the environment. Anyone who didn't register yet, but who is interested in the program, can register by contacting Nancy Goodfellow.

Are Pesticides Wiping Out Honey Bees?

U.S. honey bee populations have been in precipitous decline since 2006. Pollination by honey bees is key in cultivating the crops that produce one-third of our food. There are likely multiple interacting causes, but mounting scientific evidence suggests that one widely-used class of pesticides may be a critical factor.

One such chemical, clothianidin, has been used as a treatment on crop seeds, including corn and canola. It works by expressing itself in the plants' pollen and nectar...honey bees' favorite sources of food. Clothianidin has EPA approval, but independent studies have shown that neonicotinoid pesticides like clothianidin are highly toxic to honey bees.

Should the EPA prohibit the use of clothianidin until a full scientific review is conducted to determine its impact on honey bee and other non-target populations? If yes, please contact the EPA, Congress, and/or CREDO Action.

April Volunteer Opportunity

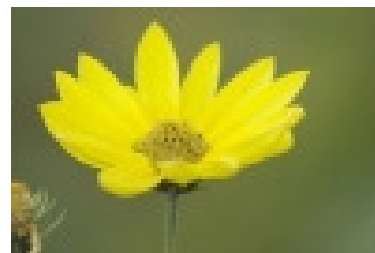
Eager to get outside and do something for the environment? How about some brush removal on the Fox River in Geneva?

The Green Sanctuary Committee was invited to select the April RSVP event and chose a Saturday morning volunteer activity that will increase the 2-acre area of River Park in Geneva by removing brush from 1/3 of an acre. On April 9, from 9am until noon, UUSG members & friends can join the group to remove invasive small trees and shrubs along the river immediately north of the present River Park native ecosystem.

We are asked to bring loppers and hand saws, if possible. A chainsaw will be provided for large cuts. Please wear long pants, boots or old shoes, protective gloves, and outerwear appropriate for the weather. (For those who are sensitive: Last year, our contact for the project, Mary Zaander, killed off poison ivy at the site, but it is possible there might be bits of this pesky plant left.)

The goal of this project is to open this area while leaving the larger native trees to establish a riverside savanna ecosystem. Future work in this area will control re-sprouts and establish native savanna and river edge ground flora. If the city supplies the plants, we may do some planting on April 9.

This project will continue the native ecosystems in River Park for another block going north. It provides important habitat for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, frogs, turtles, and wildflowers. The shoreline treatment holds soil and prevents erosion, which in turn keeps the Fox River water cleaner. Thus River Park serves as an example of River Edge Best Management Practices. River Park was recently recognized with a Native Landscaping Award from USEPA/Chicago Wilderness.



Hypnotism at UUSG

Curious about our hypnotism ministry? Then you're invited to a "HypnoInfoIntake" on Tuesday, March 22, from 7 to 9 PM at the church. Preregistration is required; you can sign up by emailing Lindsay (minister@uusg.org) or calling her (630-232-2350 ext. 222) or speaking to her at church if you make sure you see her write down your name!

There are three other requirements: You must be at least 18 years old or have written permission from a parent or guardian. You must leave the younger children at home – this isn't something for which on-site childcare is appropriate, because we can't have the session interrupted. And third, you must not have any sort of seizure disorder or dissociative personality disorder or uncontrolled mental health issues (those she can work with safely on an individual basis with OKs from licensed health care providers, but not in a group setting).

Lindsay has been using hypnotism as part of her pastoral ministry here since 1995. She is Board Certified by the National Guild of Hypnotists (the world's oldest and largest association of hypnotists) and serves on the Guild's Ethics Committee and President's Advisory Council. She's the past-president of NGH's Clergy Special Interest Group, co-presenter for the Certification in Spiritual Hypnotism curriculum, and a certified HypnoCoach.

The hypnotism she teaches and shares is about using your own natural self-hypnotic abilities for relaxation, self-discovery and self-improvement. It's amazingly effective – and it's also a lot of fun! Those who attend the March 22 session will then be eligible to participate in our monthly "Last Tuesday" Group Inductions.

If you have any questions, send Lindsay a note or give her a call (and do let yourself enjoy how very relaxed you are even now allowing yourself to be beginning to feel....)

Updated Policies

The Board has been working all year on updating our policies. Some needed minor changes based on new information and a few needed a complete overhaul.

The most recently-updated policies are available online at <http://content.uusg.org/uusg-policies/> or by contacting Katie in the office (630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org).

Celebrations of Naming & Dedication

Sunday, April 3, 2011

If you'd like your child(ren) to be part of our annual Naming & Dedication services (our UU rough equivalent of a Christian Baptism or a Jewish Naming ceremony or a Muslim Akikah), it's time to let us know.

The services on April 3 will be devoted to welcoming children into our UU community. Each family presents their child or children to the congregation with a reading (poetry, prose, a prayer, or prepared statement) or special music, and the members of each family make their individual promises of love and support to one another and to their children. The ceremony includes older siblings, grandparents, godparents or sponsors, and other special friends and relations.

As a religious community, we all covenant to help in caring for all of our children, and whenever possible, the children in the church school classes come into the Sanctuary for the actual ceremony of Naming and Dedication. We use the symbols of water and roses (thorns removed) to dedicate each child by name to a life of spiritual growth, moral integrity, and loving service.

Children being Named can be any age, may already have been baptized in a private service or a different faith community, and parents need not be Voting Members of UUSG—you need only want the support of our UUSG community as you raise each child.

So far, we have two families signed up, one for 9:30, one flexible. Since we can't easily have more than 3 families at any one service, it's first-come, first-served on the schedule. There's room, therefore, for four more families. We need to know who will be participating no later than **Sunday, March 13.**

If you'd like to be included, or if you have questions, please call Rev. Lindsay at the church or email her at minister@uusg.org. She'll send you the form that needs to be filled out for each child and be happy to answer any questions.

Thoughts on the YRUU Worship Service

A letter from our Intern Minister, Pam Rumancik

Dear Elba, Laura, Zia, & Bill,

The kids led a wonderful and uplifting service on Sunday—it was a joy to behold. I spoke with some of them, but please pass on that they did a fabulous job of envisioning and creating meaningful worship for the community. The entire service was creative and collaborative and held up a level of spiritual maturity that was a joy to behold—and participate with. I wish I could come and say this to the kids in person but am preaching next week and won't be able to—I appreciate your letting them know.

I have to tell you that I've never experienced such a vibrant and connected youth group in church before—especially a church this size. As facilitators, you are doing something amazingly right and should find a way to bottle it! You are blessings to these kids, this community, and the world they will be heading into very shortly.

Thank you so much for your time and generous hearts!

Pam Rumancik

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 by April 1 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.

New this year! The Communications Committee will match donations earmarked for NPR (up to a total of \$600). Donate today and watch your money go twice as far in the Fox Valley!

Lost? Found! This Sunday is the last day to check out the Lost & Found table in the Common Room for any of your missing items. Anything not claimed on March 6 will be donated or otherwise disposed of.

Music in February & March

Thank you to February musicians: David Briggs; Steve Hanson; Katie and Emma Baar; Ruth Cavanaugh; Laura Bartoszek; Sophia, Doria, & Cynthia Spiegel; and Michael McElvain.

Look who is slated for March! The sweet young voices of LRE kids led by Sandy Anderson-Cordogan & Diane Handler; Ben Walker; Emma Baar, and Diane herself singing with her daughters, Mara & Nadia, alongside Lynn Fisher-McCanne at the piano.

Please contact Tracy Rosenkrans if you or someone you know would like to sing or play. The gift of your time and talents add warmth to our services and we are a very appreciative crowd!

Leadership in Action

Board meeting minutes, monthly committee reports, and monthly financial reports are available in the Common Room (check the bulletin board to the left of the LRE board on the west side of the Common Room), in a binder in the Volunteer Office, or by contacting Katie (630-232-2350, office@uusg.org).

And if you'd like to see your church leadership in action, feel free to attend a Council Meeting (the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm) or a Board Meeting (the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm). Both meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

Lastly, if you'd like more information about being on the Board of Directors, please contact Rick Veague, chair of the Nominating Committee.

MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 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 12:45 PM Sandel's Justice Study Group 1:00 PM Poetry Roundtable 1:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p>28 <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM ARAOM Book Club</p>	<p>1 <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils</p>	<p>2 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM "Healthy Habits" Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p>3 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p>4 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 6:30 PM Junior High OWL Program Begins</p>	<p>5 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 4:00 PM Junior High OWL Program Ends 7:00 PM Singing Meditation</p>
<p>6 <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:45 AM Long Range Planning Meeting 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Canvass Afternoon Social 12:30 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group</p>	<p>7 <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting</p>	<p>8 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM Emmaus Event: Children's Story Time 6:00 PM Emmaus Event: Non-Violent Communication 7:00 PM Emmaus Event: Poetry Slam 7:30 PM Board of Directors 8:00 PM Emmaus Event: Song Circle</p>	<p>9 Ash Wednesday <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Emmaus Event: Writers' Clinic 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM Emmaus Event: Ash Wednesday Communion Meal & Service 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p>10 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting</p>	<p>11 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 2:30 PM Internship Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group</p>
<p>13 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 Facilities Committee Meeting 12:45 PM New UUs Orientation Session 1:00 PM Munch & Learn Lecture Series 2:00 PM Private Recital 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group</p>	<p>14 <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p>16 <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</p>	<p>17 <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</p>	<p>18 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Friday Flicks: "Inside Job"</p>	<p>19 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> Sanctuary Reserved for Puppeteers 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 6:00 PM Games Night! 6:00 PM Saturday Supper & Seminar Series</p>
<p>20 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Intergenerational Purim Services; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM "Green Living Handbook" Participation Meeting 12:45 PM New UUs Orientation Session 1:00 PM "The Bible for UUs" Study Group 7:00 PM Reiki Share</p>	<p>21 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM "The Bible for UUs" Study Group</p>	<p>22 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Hypno Info-Intake 7:00 PM Private Meeting</p>	<p>23 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <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</p>	<p>24 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <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)</p>	<p>25 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i></p>	<p>26 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM RSVP: Northern Illinois Food Bank 7:00 PM Earth Hour Program</p>
<p>27 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>DLRE 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 12:45 PM New UUs Orientation Session 1:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p>28 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM ARAOM Book Club</p>	<p>29 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis</p>	<p>30 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <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</p>	<p>31 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)</p>	<p>1 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE on Vacation</i></p>	<p>2 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 10:00 AM Vision 2020 Focus Groups</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.

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*
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Michael McElvain, *Music Director*
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Our Mission Statement

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva is a diverse, welcoming community which endeavors to make its Covenant a living reality. We provide religious education and opportunities for spiritual growth. We encourage individual and mutual responsibility as together we work to be a liberal religious voice in the community and a force for compassionate social justice.

— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996

The next Pioneer deadline is March 28, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.