



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

THE PIONEER

January-February 2012

Paper Pulpit

the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

MAD Generosity

On behalf of the UUSG households who have needed our help, thank you to all who gave so generously during the holiday season to support our UUSG "Make A Difference" fund.

The MAD Fund has received more requests this church year than ever before. The needs have also been far more basic and urgent than in years past. We've paid for medicine, put food on the table, covered rent and mortgage payments, kept the heat and light on, filled the gas tank. Thank you for making this possible.

And if you are among those whose worlds are teetering on the financial brink, please don't be too embarrassed to ask your church community for help. I'm the only person who knows the identities of MAD aid recipients. And I hope you know you can talk with me about anything.

Saturday Night Fever?

Thank you for your responses to our exceedingly informal, "let's count the yes votes" inquiry about a third service. Worship is the essential foundation of any church, synagogue, mosque, coven—it might not be everyone's reason for involvement, but it is the sine qua non of religious community. We knew that ending Saturday worship would effectively mean canceling church for some households. Unfortunately, we rarely had more than 30 people in the test-run's sixth (and final) year. That's just not enough to justify costs not just fiscal but also in staff and volunteer efforts.

So far, 28 individuals/18 households have let Katie and me know that they would attend Saturday services; 8 people have said they'd come on a Sunday afternoon. Still not enough. We'll keep the question open for the rest of January, but if the numbers stay as they are, we'll shelve the question again for a while.

Staying In Touch

One fascinating side-effect of the Saturday Service Survey was the discovery of how many people responded to the weekly e-letter and how few to the Pioneer! We're constantly looking at our methods of communication and trying to find better ways to be sure everyone has at least two or three opportunities to find the information we want to get out to you. So far, we've got the Pioneer in both paper and electronic formats, the Mini-Pioneer, the weekly UUSG E-News (with special thanks to Laura Kivisto, who prepares the template), the as-needed e-blasts to the online members of the community, the UUSG Facebook page, and to some extent my personal Facebook entries.

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So here's another question for you all: which of these work best for you? What might be even more effective?

"Rev"-ing Up

Ending on a joyful note ~ Pam Rumancik, our 2010-11 Ministerial Intern, has asked us to be her ordaining congregation. In our faith tradition, while everyone is [supposed to be] a minister, it is ordination that officially confers the title of clergy. And only a congregation is empowered to ordain. Therefore, we need a formal vote of the congregation to proceed, and a Special Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, February 12, at 10:45am (between the services) to vote on whether or not **The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva shall ordain Pamela Rumancik to the Ministry of Liberal Religion...** We need a quorum—at least 71 Voting Members—physically present. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there!

Peace! ~ LB

Religious Education Announcements

Teachers' Meeting Reminder

We'll meet on Monday, January 30, 7:30-9pm in the Common Room.

There were no requests for childcare for that evening, so childcare will not be offered.

Forms, Forms, Forms...

We're still requesting Registration Forms and Emergency Contact & Consent-to-Treat Forms for each child attending Religious Education (RE) classes. For students in grades 6-12, we also need copies of their picture ID and insurance card (front and back) for each student participating in:

- Field Trips (Exploring Faiths, Grades 6-8)
- Our Whole Lives (OWL, Grades 7-9)
- Conferences (CONS, YRUU/Grades 9-12)
- Habitat for Humanity

In addition, each field trip and special event will have its own permission slip to complete.

Please note that our Church School Administrator, Deb Askelson, will be contacting parents if any student forms are missing. You can also request a form from Deb at LRE@UUSG.org or 630-232-2350 x224. Your assistance with this is much appreciated.

The student forms/permission slips are on the LRE Bulletin Board in the Common Room—please take any forms you need from the copies supplied. Return completed forms to Deb's mailbox in the Volunteer Office or slide them under her office door; she's in the Woolley Room (PH-13), between the library and Lindsay's office on the main floor of Pioneer House.

UUSC "Guest at Your Table" Donation Boxes

If you still have a "Guest at Your Table" box, it's not too late to turn it in. You can put it in the marked basket in the Common Room, in the Volunteer Office on the shelf near Deb Askelson's mailbox, or give it to Deb in person on Sunday.

Thank You!

Returning & New RE Teachers & Assistants for the Spring Semester: Kindergarten - 2nd Grade Classes: Mary Swanson, Bob Swanson, Sean Hruby, Nadia Handler, and Anne Wilson-Dooley (also Pre-K).

New Books Donated to Our UUSG Library:

- Ann Drover donated: *Green Living Handbook: A 6-Step Program to Create an Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle*, by David Gershon
- Rhonda Robinson donated: *Nobody Particular: One Woman's Fight to Save the Bays*, by Molly Bang

Check out these and other great books from our UUSG Library!

Photography

Jim Frazier has spent three Sundays taking professional pictures of our RE teachers to be displayed on the LRE Bulletin Board in the Common Room and outside of the classrooms.

Social Activity for Grades Pre-K through 5

This outing was organized by Karen Laukaitis. Five families had a great time sledding and playing in the snow at Fabyan Park in Batavia on Sunday, January 15 after the UUSG services.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Thank you to the OWL Facilitators—Mark Alleman, Jim Jenkins, Elba Karim, Zia Karim, Jenny Montgomery, Tracy Rosenkrans, and Shawn Thornton (chaperone)—for the successful January 13-14 overnight with 18 participating students.

And most of all...thank you to all the student participants (who are in grades 7-9) for attending the January OWL and investing in yourselves!

The next OWL overnight is Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25.

To sign up or if you have questions, contact Elba Karim.

“Munch & Learn” Monthly Lecture Series

- Munch & Learn is temporarily out of speakers!
- If you would like to give a talk for our monthly lecture series, please let Deb Askelson (LRE@uusg.org, 630-232-2350 x224), Larry Bartoszek, or Barry Knerr know.
- Munch & Learn was conceived to be a place where members of the congregation could share their interests, passions, and expertise on a wide variety of subjects. Local author and UUSG member Deb Brod recently talked about how to start a writing career; we've also heard about how to attract birds to your yard, the Principle of Relativity, living with Asperger's, lessons learned from breast cancer, and how to move into space!
- There is no topic that is out of bounds. The only guiding principle we have for Munch & Learn talks is that they be fact-based.
- If you have something you're interested in and have been doing or studying for some time, please come tell us about it! The atmosphere is always informal and intimate with people who share your interest and want to learn more. And...we have snacks! (Hence the “Munch” part of “Munch & Learn.”)
- If you're interested in seeing past talks, we have several archived in the church library. Please check them out—they're located next to the DVDs and labeled “Munch & Learn Talks.”

The UUSG Parents' Group will meet again on Sunday, February 5, 12:30-2pm. We're currently trying to arrange for childcare, so please let us know if you would need it to attend. Sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/parents-group>.

Religious Education (RE) Class Topics

The RE classes studied or will study the following lessons for January and February:

Pre-K:

January & February: Be Yourself, Emperor & Seeds, Working Together, Celebrating Me & My World, My Feet

Grades K-2: Stories about God

January: God is Like Light & Like Darkness, Making Good Things Happen, Ever-Flowing Forgiveness, God Wants Fairness, Visit from Rev. Lindsay

February: Many Paths to God, Changing Woman/World, The Spirit of God Is There When a Baby Is Born

Grades 3-5: Holidays and Holy Days

January: Roman god Janus, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Chinese New Year, Chinese Dragon Celebration, Visit from Rev. Lindsay
February: Powamu (Hopi Bean Planting Festival), Susan B. Anthony

Grades 6-8: Neighboring Faiths

January & February: Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity, including field trips and speakers

Grades 9-12

January & February: YRUU worship service preparation and topics determined by YRUU students

Bible Studies for UUs

- The next meeting of "Bible Studies for UUs" will be on Monday, February 20, from 7pm to 8:30pm.
- This group meets on the 3rd Monday of each month and is for UUs who want to learn more about the Bible.
- We're using the book *Understanding the Bible*, by John Buehrens, as our study guide.
- At the February sessions, we'll discuss pages 43 to 61. You may also want to read Genesis.
- Each session stands on its own, so you can attend any without committing to attend them all.
- Please sign up online at <http://content.uusg.org/bible-for-uus/> or in the Common Room.

Supporting Practical Goodness: Canvass 2012

Theme

Our theme, “Supporting Practical Goodness,” is focused on the many ways that our pledge dollars strengthen UUSG.

Only a thriving church can provide the people and resources needed to create and sustain positive change in the wider community.

We will begin our Canvass with a Day of Service & Celebration on Saturday, February 11, which will offer all members and friends of our congregation opportunities to engage in practical goodness. Specifics of these options and sign-ups are on the next page.

Goals

This year’s canvass goal is \$375,000 in pledges—the same as last year. By meeting this goal, we will be able to sustain and strengthen our church by:

- Providing a fair compensation and benefits package to UUSG staff.
- Enhancing our long-term financial position by balancing our budget without using reserve funds, as we have had to do in recent years.
- Continuing to fund our social justice and community service initiatives.
- Expanding our childcare services to cover more church events.

Canvass Celebrations

Worship & Catered Dinner on Saturday, February 11 in our Common Room

We will gather in our Sanctuary at 5pm for a 30-minute worship service with music by Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, followed by a catered dinner in our Common Room at 6pm. The food will be provided by Inglenook Pantry, our renowned UUSG bakers are bringing desserts, and we’ll enjoy music by Grace Christiani and Kristin McFadden! This event is for all ages, with childcare available for children age 4 and younger. Sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/day-of-service/>.

Canvass Luncheon on Sunday, March 4

A Canvass Luncheon celebration at 12:30 pm, catered by Elba Karim, will offer another opportunity to submit your Canvass form and hear from our Canvass team. Childcare will be available for children age 4 and younger. Sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/canvass-luncheon/>.

All are welcome to attend either one or both celebrations, but as we want to have the appropriate amount of food for each event, please sign up.

How to Pledge and Give

In your snail mail this week, you’ll receive our Canvass packet with instructions on our Canvass process and financial commitment options.

Our “Canvass Crew” consists of 15 of your UUSG friends, who are volunteering their time and talent to reach out personally to our church members and friends. Their work is critical to the success of our Canvass, so please respond promptly to their emails and phone calls. You can also request a face-to-face meeting, if that is your preference.

You can submit your pledge in the box in the Common Room, mail it to the church office, or pledge online at <http://content.uusg.org/canvass-pledge-form/>. Pledges are payable beginning July 1, 2012. You can contribute to your pledge weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly, whichever best fits your family’s budget. The Canvass campaign, from February 11 to March 11, is timed to allow our Board to develop a budget based on actual amounts pledged.

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 11, 2012.

Day of Service & Celebration

The annual UUSG Canvass is a time to think about the variety of ways in which we can contribute to keeping our community strong and effective. We are reminded that gifts of time and talents from members and friends are crucial to keeping UUSG’s programs strong and to reaching out to the surrounding community.

This year, the Canvass Committee is teaming up with the Social Justice Committee’s RSVP program to offer a **Day of Service & Celebration**, emphasizing UUSG’s Covenant of “Promoting Practical Goodness.” We’ll kick off the Canvass on Saturday, February 11 with a variety of volunteer opportunities, and we encourage all members and friends to participate!

- **Rehabbing a home in St. Charles with Habitat for Humanity.**
 No experience necessary (really, we mean it). Must be 16 or older (16- and 17-year-olds must be accompanied by a parent or guardian with a signed release form, which is available from Katie in the church office). Volunteers are welcome at the Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity site (34W806 N. James Drive, St. Charles) beginning at 9am, for however long you can stay (work wraps up by 3pm). A free lunch is usually provided.
- **Northern Illinois Food Bank:** This activity has reached capacity already, but we’ll let you know if any more openings become available.
- **Wrap Birthday Gifts**
 All ages are invited to wrap birthday presents for children in need, sponsored by Humanitarian Service Project, from 3pm until 4:30pm in the UUSG Common Room.
- **Support Children’s Advocacy Centers**
 Everyone is encouraged to contribute to YRUU’s ongoing service project by bringing gently-used clothing, costume jewelry, movies, hand-held games & gaming systems, books, toys, outerwear, etc. for local families affected by child abuse who have accessed Children’s Advocacy Centers. Gift cards and checks (made out to UUSG with “YRUU—CAC” in the memo line) will also be accepted.

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
Saturday, 2/11 9am	34W806 N. James Drive, St. Charles	16 & up	Work clothes; gloves or tools	House rehab, most likely interior work
Saturday, 2/11 12:45-3:30pm FILLED	Northern IL Food Bank, Geneva	14 & up	Parent/guardian for ages 14-16, Closed-toe shoes	Pack food for distribution to local food pantries
Saturday, 2/11 3-4:30pm	UUSG	All ages	Bring gift wrap and ribbon	Wrap birthday presents for children in need
Ongoing	UUSG Common Room	All ages		Contribute to YRUU’s service project (CAC)

Afterward, please stay and join us for the Canvass Kick-Off party! The party starts at 5pm with a 30-minute worship service with music by Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, followed by a catered dinner at 6pm with food provided by Inglenook Pantry, desserts provided by renowned UUSG bakers, and music provided by Grace Christiani and Kristin McFadden!

To sign up, please visit <http://content.uusg.org/day-of-service/> or sign up on the Canvass bulletin board in the Common Room. **RSVPs will be accepted ONLY until Sunday, February 5, so sign up today!**

Social Justice News

Responding to Citizens United

In consideration that 2012 will see the first national election following the passage of Citizens United, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has recommended that member congregations consider taking action in a variety of ways (<http://www.uua.org/statements/statements/185343.shtml>).

Above all, the Social Justice Committee of UUSG believes that its role should be one of providing information so that members of the congregation can reach and act on their own opinions. To this end, we urge people to check out the petitions at the following websites:

- Ask President Obama to tell the Federal Election Committee to take action: <http://www.lwv.org/blog/citizens-united-decision-two-years-later>
- Sign Senator Sanders' petition proposing amendment to the Constitution: <http://sanders.senate.gov/petition/?uid=f1c2660f-54b9-4193-86a4-ec2c39342c6c>
- Sign the UUA-supported resolution of the People's Rights Amendment: <http://peoplesrightsamendment.org/>
- Support the UUA-endorsed Move to Amend: <http://movetoamend.org/amendment>

A dissenting viewpoint from the above links can be found at Cato's Center for Competitive Politics website. They include a copy of William O. Douglas's dissent in the U.S. v. U.A.W. and Douglas' support for unlimited campaign contributions. Anything less for Douglas was an abridgement of Free Speech. Go to: <http://www.campaignfreedom.org/blog/detail/justice-douglas-on-campaign-finance-reform-and-citizens-united>.

In addition, we urge all interested individuals to attend an organizational meeting sponsored by the Fox Valley Citizens for Peace and Justice on Tuesday, January 31 at 6:30pm at the St. Charles Library. The topic of the meeting will be strategizing how to coordinate county-wide actions to collect signatures to put the referendum on a ballot.

Finally, the Social Justice Committee invites anyone who is interested to work with us on any of the following projects. Please contact socialjusticechair@uusg.org for more info or to volunteer to:

- Create a study group to examine the issues in depth
- Sponsor a debate addressing issues of money, corporations, and corruption.
- Ask local city councils to pass resolutions stating that the word "person" does not apply to corporations.

Thank You to Our Lazarus House Volunteers

December

Overnight: Shawn Thornton

Dinner: Neil Shanahan, Kevin & Linda O'Neill

Lunches: Jeanne Neltner & Dave Meehan

January

Overnight: Bill Baar

Dinner: Melissa Auer, William Elbert, and Judith Calleja

Lunches: Llona Steele

Help support this important ministry—sign up online at <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/> or in the Common Room.

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In January, we collected \$892 to purchase items for care packages for 120 indigent seniors in Kane and DuPage Counties.

People of all ages are invited to help assemble the packages in the Common Room from 2-3:30pm on January 28 (see page 7 for more details).

More Social Justice News

Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

January 2012: Gift Bags for Seniors

On Saturday, January 28, 2-3:30pm, we will gather in the Common Room to assemble gift bags for needy seniors in the Kane and DuPage County area. Volunteers of all ages are needed to decorate the gift bags for a “personal touch” and to fill them with items that will be useful and comforting during the winter months. Gift bags are distributed through the Humanitarian Service Project, which is committed to alleviating the pain and suffering 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. More information can be found at <http://www.humanitarianservice.org>. To sign up, see the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room, visit <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades.

February 2012: Canvass Day of Service and Celebration

The RSVP activity in February will be part of our Canvass Season this year. The Canvass will kick off on Saturday, February 11 with a Day of Service & Celebration. A menu of different volunteer opportunities will be available through the day and will include packing food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, wrapping birthday presents for children in need, donating to a YRUU service project, and rehabbing a Habitat for Humanity home in St. Charles. See the article on page 5 for more information about these events and how to sign up.

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
Saturday, January 28 2-3:30pm	UUSG	All ages	Willingness to help seniors	Prepare gift bags for seniors
Saturday, February 11 all day	Various locations	All ages	Willingness to serve others	See details on page 5.

Friday Flicks in February & March

At 7pm on Friday, February 17 at UUSG, the League of Women Voters will sponsor the movie *Patriocracy*, which explores the extreme political polarization in America—a situation that is preventing our governmental representatives from addressing serious issues. Through interviews with legislators, journalists, and academicians as well as videotapes from town hall meetings and demonstrations, the prize-winning director, Brian Malone, examines a climate of shouting at—instead of listening to—each other.

On March 16 at 7pm, in honor of UUSG obtaining status as a Welcoming Congregation, we will show two acclaimed short films, both examining how people react to gay family members. *Family Values: An American Tragedy*, is a documentary which focuses on the issues affecting a family with an openly lesbian young woman and a staunchly anti-gay parent. This movie will be followed by *Lead with Love*, which provides information and guidance for parents who have learned that their son or daughter is lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Tax Time

The 2011 giving statements are now available in the Common Room. Please help us save on stamps by picking yours up on Sunday. Any not picked up by January 29 will be mailed.

If you have any questions about your statement or your records don't match ours, talk to Katie in the office (630-232-2350, office@uusg.org).

Sing With Us!

Upcoming UUSG Teen/Adult Choir rehearsals are Sundays, February 5 and 12 (12:45-2:15pm) for the services on Sunday, February 19 (warm-up 8:45am, services at 9:30am and 11:15am)

We welcome new membership at any time during the church year. Singers commit to one or all four choir opportunities and their respective rehearsals and warm-ups. Won't you join us in 2012?

Please contact director Ruth Cavanaugh at choir@uusg.org for more information or to be added to the choir email list.

Christmas Eve Collection

This year's collection brought in \$2894.21 and was divided between Mutual Ground and our UUSG "Make a Difference" emergency assistance fund. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

RE Music Program

Our young people are singing "We've Got the Whole World In Our Hands," and sharing ideas about what these words mean.

This tune is perfect for improvising lyrics about the many parts of our world that we need to care for, so students have been invited to create their own verse to share with the group!

We will be singing this song together during services on March 4, so mark your calendar. Questions can be directed to our RE Music Director, Sandra Anderson-Cordogan, at remusic@uusg.org.

"New UUs" Orientation Program

Attention all new UUs—here is the program you have been waiting for! Even those of you who are not so new but would like to learn more about our denomination and our congregation are welcome to attend. The three-part "New UUs" program will be held on three Sundays (February 12, 19, and 26) after the 2nd service. Sessions will be facilitated by Membership Committee members, church members, and our Senior Minister. Topics will include:

February 12

Our Spiritual Journeys

History of Unitarian Universalism (presented by Jim Frazier, Membership Committee member)

February 19

Our Spiritual Traditions (presented by the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister)

History of our Church (presented by Mick Jaggard, Membership Committee member)

February 26

Your Faith Continuum

History of UUSG Ministers (presented by Al Drover, resident historian & artist)

How UUSG Operates (presented by Bill Pokorny, President of the Board of Directors)

Financial Commitment (presented by Linda Burke, Canvass Committee member)

How to Get Connected and Involved

Lunch and childcare are provided. We ask you to sign up so that we can have a count for the lunch. Sign up either on the clipboard at Membership Table or by going to <http://content.uusg.org/new-uus/>. Feel free to ask questions of any Membership Committee members during social hours.

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Barry Knerr, for the time, energy, and great ideas he contributed to the Board of Directors in 2011.

Our January Greeters: Lynn & Llona Steele, Sherri Casterline, Dan & Sandy Bottoms, Gail & George Tattersfield, and all our last-minute recruits

Our December Social Hour Hosts: Kurt Bartnik, Jim & Linda Burke, Bill & Jeannie Scown, Pat Ward, Sherri Casterline, and Diane & Shawn Thornton

Our Holiday Un-Decorating Team: Judith Calleja, Linda Burke, Dick & Shirley Yingst, and Gail Tattersfield

George Tattersfield, Linda Burke, Jim Burke, Linda O'Neill, Kevin O'Neill, Ellie Radvanovsky, and Pat Ward, for helping Katie prep the 2011 giving statements

Dave Moore, who wrote the text for our Canvass brochure and Andy Montgomery, who came up with the terrific design

Jim Frazier, Ellie Radvanovsky, Gail Tattersfield, Jeannie & Bill Scown, and Linda & Jim Burke, for putting together this year's Canvass packets

Getting the Word Out

We learned last month that UUSG is now an official UUA-recognized Welcoming Congregation!

We'd like to share this great news with the rest of the world, but we need someone to write the press release. If you have writing skills and would like to interview a couple church members, talk to Katie in the office.

Canvass Event Helpers

This year's Canvass events, on February 11 and March 4, are going to be great fun for everyone and a terrific way to come together to celebrate this church community.

Successful events, however, require lots of behind-the-scenes work and that's where we need your help! If you can help with set-up and/or clean-up for either event, talk to Katie Phillips.

Needed: Creative Minds

The Merra-Lee stores in Geneva will close this week. It's the end of an era, but not the end of owner Mike Simon's generosity to the community.

He has offered window space to Geneva non-profits to advertise their existence, services, events, etc. We're on the list to get a window, but we don't know yet when or which one (that's okay, though, since that gives us time to figure out what we'll put in there!).

UUSGers Laura Kivisto and Eric Bodwell have already begun to brainstorm ideas about what we could put in a window that would attract attention to UUSG and let our community know what we're all about.

If you have the skills to create an eye-catching 3-D display and would like to help with this very hands-on project, talk to Katie in the office (630-232-2350, office@uusg.org) right away.

Christmas Eve Choir

A special thanks to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Choir, under the direction of Ruth Cavanaugh and accompanied by pianist Dean Malambri!

Singers included: sopranos Kelly Herz, Emily Clark, Pat Vary; altos Ann Drover, Julia Adams, Beth Towell, Marilyn James; tenors John Towell, Bob Brubaker, Kurt Bartnik; and basses Mark Adams, Steve Clark, Al Drover, William Elbert, Bruce Fackler, Tom Haslett, Lou Pierce and Eric Holmes.

Coffee in February? Yes!

Many thanks to our February social hours hosts: Dick & Shirley Yingst, Trish Beckjord, Kate & Jim Frazier, Roger & Diane Gallentine, and David & Renée Tomell.

If you enjoy a hot beverage next month, please take a moment to express your appreciation to these volunteers.



Green Corner

GSC-Sponsored Presentation

Jennifer Jarland, Kane County's Recycling and Resource Conservation Coordinator, spoke on "The Culture of Conservation" to an audience of over 100 people at the Batavia Public Library on January 19. Fourteen environmental conservation organizations of Kane County sponsored the talk, among them our Green Sanctuary Committee.

Jarland began her talk by breaking the efforts we make to conserve resources into two groups. The first group is conservation movements. In the case of water, repairing dripping faucets and turning off the water while we brush our teeth are conservation movements. The other type of efforts are efficiency moves. Installing low-flow toilets is an efficiency move. Efficiency efforts typically involve making a change in the infrastructure of a building.

She then briefly outlined what ideally can happen to many of the products we buy. First, the manufacturing process needs to be re-thought and re-designed to decrease waste. More and more manufacturers are creating their own guidelines so that guidelines will not have to be imposed on them by governmental agencies. Next series of happenings to products: repair and reuse. We need to question if we really need the latest model of some appliance/electronic gadget or if our present one be repaired or donated. The final steps in the series are recycle and compost.

Jarland utilized audience participation by asking questions such as "What are five advantages of recycling?" The audience responded with these answers: decreasing the size of landfills, saving energy, retrieving resources, reducing pollution, and creating jobs. This led into a long discussion of recycling.

Some points of interest: when you have a choice, purchase liquids in aluminum cans. When aluminum is recycled, there is a 95% yield and it can be recycled over and over. Glass yields 80% recovery and can be done over and over. Plastic has a low recovery and very limited number of times it can be recycled.

Jarland's discussion of recycling moved to recycling beyond our curbside bins. She discussed places to dispose of large appliances, small appliances & electronics, books, pharmaceuticals, syringes, and Styrofoam (if using it can't be avoided). The Green Sanctuary Committee will put this list on their bulletin board. The audience offered many questions in this segment. Some Jennifer was able to answer; the rest she committed to researching.

In hopes of decreasing landfills, Jennifer hopes to accomplish commercial recycling and recycling by multi-family complexes in Kane County. Her goal is that multi-family complexes will recycle the 2 highest items in their waste that can be recycled. An area where she has some hands-on experience and that she is carefully studying is curbside composting. More info on the culture of conservation is on the Kane County Department of Environmental Resources website:

<http://www.countyofkane.org/pages/recycling/default.aspx>.

Meditation Opportunity

The UU Buddhist Meditation and Study Group will be holding longer meditation-only sessions, approximately once a month, starting in February. Members and friends are invited to join us for the first one-hour session on Saturday, February 18 at 9am in the UUSG Sanctuary.

If you are interested and would like to be notified of upcoming dates, please contact Eric Bodwell or Lisa Gades at uubuddhism@uusg.org.

Changing Staff Hours

Our Church School Administrator, Deb Askelson, is experimenting with different working hours to find an arrangement that best suits her and us.

As soon as her schedule is finalized, we'll let you know when she'll be in the office. In the meantime, you can always find her on Sunday mornings and contact her via email (LRE@uusg.org) during the week.

Calling all Trivia Buffs!

Do you secretly enjoy watching movies like *Invaders from Mars*, *Godzilla vs. Mothra*, or *The Alien King Kong Zombie*? You might have the knowledge set to become a member of a prize-winning Trivia Bee team!

The Social Justice committee is looking for volunteers for this year's 3-person team for the annual Trivia Bee sponsored by the Fox Valley Literacy Volunteers (FVLV). The theme this year is "Bee 3-D: Celebrating the 'B' Movie." The Bee will be held on Saturday, March 17, from 9 until noon at the Q Center in St. Charles. Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room or send an email to socialjusticechair@uusg.org if you're interested.

The Trivia Bee is a major fundraising activity for FVLV. Even if you're not on the team, you can support them by attending the Bee and participating in the silent auction and the 50-50 raffle. It's fun and worth your time. Not only is FVLV one of the charities supported by our Social Justice Committee, but many UUSG members are ESL tutors assisting our Fox Valley neighbors to improve their English skills.

From the Board of Directors to the Voting and Student Members of UUSG,

A CALL to a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Whereas the ordination of UU ministers is not performed by a higher authority, but rather by a congregation; and

Whereas that decision to ordain must be made by a vote of that congregation; and

Whereas Pamela Rumancik has honored us with the request to hold her ordination service here in Geneva, the site of her 2010-11 Internship Year;

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Board of Directors issues a Call to a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 12, at 10:45am in the Sanctuary, with Sunday, February 19 at 10:45am to be the alternate date if weather makes a change necessary.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to vote on the Resolution that:

"The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva shall ordain Pamela Rumancik to the Ministry of Liberal Religion in May or June, 2012, with details of the service and attendant arrangements to be worked out with the Senior Minister and the UUSG Board of Directors."

This is one of the most sacred, important acts a congregation in our tradition can perform, and it can be done only by the voted consent of the congregation.

Our Bylaws require a quorum of 25% of our Voting Members - which means we need at least 71 of you Voting Members to be there!

Stay late after the first service or come early for the second. We can't do this for Pam without your vote!

Caring for the Littlest UUs

Our safety procedures require that at least 2 adults be in the nursery at all times (even if there is only 1 child) and that we always have at least 1 adult for every 4 children. For instance, if there are 1-8 children in the nursery, we need 2 adults; if there are 9-12 children in the nursery, we need 3 adults.

Because of our nursery staff's other obligations, we're not always able to have 2 childcare providers in the nursery. If that is the case, then parents will need to help out by staying with their child in the nursery or Common Room (where you can hear the service).

If you're interested in joining our nursery team as a paid staff person or you have a great babysitter you'd like to share with us, please talk to Katie (office@uusg.org, 630-232-2350) about the application process.

Memorial Stones

On May 27, we'll dedicate new memorial stones as they're installed in the Memorial Garden.

It's not too soon to place an order—if you'd like to remember a loved one with a carved stone, please talk to Katie in the church office.

Naming & Dedication Service

The next scheduled times for Naming & Dedicating Celebrations for our UUSG-connected little ones will be during the services on May 6.

We can include 2 families at each service, so if you'd like to be involved, please let Lindsay or Katie know as soon as possible.

Give a Kidney, Save a Life

Church members Hal & Chris Schulman have a member of their extended family who is in need of a kidney transplant. The doctor has placed Hal's relative on the National Kidney Registry, but simultaneously seeking a donor is certainly allowed.

The donor must have Type O blood (+ or - Rh is not a factor at this time) and would need to be willing to complete a survey and be vetted by the doctors and hospital screening procedures.

For more information, please visit:

National Kidney Foundation: <http://www.kidney.org/transplantation/livingDonors/index.cfm>

National Kidney Registry: http://www.kidneyregistry.org/living_donors.php#overview

Facebook: "Donate a Kidney to Lindsey": <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/groups/167845076653474/>

December Financial Summary

In December we recorded \$36,432 in income and \$32,029 in expenses.

Overall, at 50% through the year, our income is at 51% while our expenses are at 41% of what we budgeted for the year.

Other items of note for December:

- We funded Health Saving Accounts for our 2 full-time employees; \$3000 each
- We collected \$2864.21 on Christmas Eve, which was split between the UUSG "Make a Difference" Fund and Mutual Ground
- Our mortgage balance (for the western property) is \$108,353.

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

Circles of Life

It's been a hard month for a number of UUSG families.

Our thoughts are with Kathy Cornell, her daughter Amanda Slaiher, and the rest of their family. Kathy's mother passed away on December 23.

We send our condolences to Colleen Basic, whose father-in-law died in January.

Our love and prayers also go to Julie Riffle, Thom Thomas, and Kelly Herz. Julie's mom passed away on January 11.

We also send our support and sympathy to Jenny Stewart, who father died on January 24.

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group	30 7:30 PM Mid-Year Teachers' Meeting	31 11:30 AM Private Event 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	1 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	2 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	3 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:30 PM YRUU Service Planning Overnight Begins	4 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 11:00 AM Private Event 12:00 PM YRUU Service Planning Overnight Ends
5 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 10:30 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Parents' Group Meeting 12:30 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 9:00 AM LRE Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	7 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	8 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	9 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	10 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	11 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> UUSG Community Day of Service & Canvass Celebration 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 12:45 PM Packing Food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank 3:00 PM Wrapping Gift for Children in Need 5:00 PM Worship Service 6:00 PM Canvass Celebration Dinner
12 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 10:45 AM Special Congregational Meeting 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Session 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting	13 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	14 7:30 PM Board of Directors	15 <i>Church School Administrator'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	16 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	17 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Friday Flicks: "Patriocracy"	18 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 9:00 AM Buddhist Meditation Opportunity 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 6:00 PM Games Night
19 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 10:00 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 10:45 AM Special Congregational Meeting (snow date) 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Session 7:00 PM Reiki Share	20 7:00 PM "The Bible for UUs" Study Group	21 7:00 PM Reiki Share	22 Ash Wednesday <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	23 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	24 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:30 PM Junior High OWL Overnight Begins	25 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 4:00 PM Junior High OWL Overnight Ends
26 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 10:30 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Session	27 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	29 <i>Church School Administrator'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	1 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	2 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	3 <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

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Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, *Senior Minister*
minister@uusg.org
Office Hours: by appointment

Katie Phillips, *Congregational Administrator*
office@uusg.org
Office Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

Deb Askelson, *Church School Administrator*
LRE@uusg.org
Office Hours: Sunday-Tuesday, Thursday

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 February 27, 2012 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva
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