



THE PIONEER

June/July 2008

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

For some time now, there's been an ongoing conversation about how best to spread the word when members of our UUSG community are facing hard times – serious illness or injury, a death in their family, a separation or divorce, a family member in trouble, a special need. Good news is easy to pass along. Few of us are too shy to let our friends know of happy events. No one hesitates to say Congratulations! to their friends, or even to their acquaintances. But when the news is hard, many of us are far less comfortable letting others know.

When an event affects our community as a whole, it's usually easy. News of the death of a beloved church member and the plans for the memorial service, or requests for some obvious practical help, we manage pretty well. We send out a group email, ask folks to spread the word to those who aren't online, print it in the newsletter and the Mini-Pioneer, post it on the Joys and Sorrows/UUSG Community bulletin board, sometimes even create a special announcement for the home page on our website.

Sad or painful news is different. People often ask why they weren't told about someone else's troubles. But we've learned (sometimes the hard way) that not everyone wants the more "private" information shared. I've heard a variety of reasons: we don't want to impose, we don't want to make anyone else uncomfortable, we don't want to encourage morbid curiosity, we don't want to embarrass our families or our friends or ourselves, we don't want strangers coming up to us at coffee hour with questions we don't want to answer. Even when we know that those others are our friends, do truly care about us, and would gladly offer a hug or an ear or a hand if only they knew we were in need, still we tend to want to keep our hardships to ourselves. "Laugh, and the world laughs with you," goes the cliché. "Cry, and you cry alone."

We don't have an easy answer. Often it's appropriate to use our Circles of Life in the Pioneer. You may have noticed that our pastoral prayers more often include names – either at the request of or with the permission of those whom we're naming. Any member of the community may post a message on the Joys & Sorrows board. If you hear of something indicating a hardship or heartache, it's perfectly OK (in fact, we're grateful) if you call Adam or me to be sure we know. If **you** are having a rough time, call us. We won't share your story without your permission – but we can help, if only by listening and reassuring you that yes, there are others in the world who do care.

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And if you hear of hard news affecting anyone – not just here at UUSG – there is one always appropriate response. Send a card, a note, an email, or call and if need be leave a message: "I've just heard you're having a rough time. I'm thinking of you. No need to return my call/my note/my email. But I can run errands/watch the kids/bring you a meal/meet you for coffee if that would help. I'll check back in a few days." Then **check back**.

And hold one another gently in your minds, your hearts, your prayers.

Peace ~ **LB**

Religious Education Announcements And Upcoming Events

From the Rev. Adam Robersmith

Summer has come upon us once again, even though there were entire months when it seemed it would never arrive. Events and programming at UUSG slow down a bit through August, but there are still things to do!

Seeking Puppeteers

We're looking for a few more adults and youth who are interested in puppeteering – Peace Puppets was a blast for adults and children alike, and we'd like to expand what we can do. We're thinking about ways to enhance the church school curricula and possibly even be part of worship services. The possibilities for "For All Ages" times or intergenerational services are huge! We will be building puppets beginning in late July for the coming year, and will be working with other congregations in our district who are also interested in puppet ministry. Whether you've ever been a puppeteer or not, if you've got a ham hidden somewhere in your soul that would enjoy a ministry of laughter, please email or call Rev. Adam.

Spirit Play starts in July

Our summer church school curriculum, Spirit Play, begins in July with a wonderful teaching team and a brand-new room! The Potter Room has been reconfigured for the needs of Spirit Play, and our teachers are ready to welcome children into the class. We hope to see you this summer!

Upcoming LRE Events

June 29, 1:00 pm	Coming of Age Program
July 2, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
July 6, 11:30 am	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
July 12-20	Youth Habitat for Humanity Trip
July 13, 1:00 pm	Coming of Age Program
July 16, 7:00pm	LRE Committee Meeting
July 19, 6:30pm	Games Night!
July 28, 7:30pm	4 th Monday Small Group Ministry
July 29, 7:00pm	In the Name of Peace: Book Club & Shawl Ministry

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: Buddhist Meditation & Study Group

Got Questions?

We're working on a **FAQ [Frequently Asked Questions]** page for our website. Are there practical, easy-answer, obvious-to-the-initiated-but-not-so-obvious-to-newcomers questions you'd like us to include? Please send your suggestions to Katie at office@uusg.org.

The next Pioneer deadline is Friday, July 18th at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org. This deadline is **FIRM!**

Sanctuary Aesthetics

Have you had thoughts about ways of using art, hangings, temporary displays, even slide or video projection to make our worship space more visually interesting? It's a challenge, of course, since the Sanctuary is both historic space and sacred just as it is to many. But we'd like to explore our options. If you're of an artistic/creative bent, or have ideas you'd like to toss into the mix, would you like to be part of an informal preliminary conversation? Revs. Adam and Lindsay are hoping to get a group together to start talking and planning later this summer. Send an email to either or both of them if you'd like to be included.

Summer Services at UUSG

On June 29th, we begin our single Summer Weekend Service at 10 AM on Sundays, with a social time following. All services will be suitable for older children and youth; childcare will be available for pre-K and younger, and SpiritPlay will begin on July 6 for Kindergarten through 5th Grade! We don't have all our themes or topics chosen, but in accordance with our custom, here's the list of Summer Service presenters and the musicians who'll be assisting:

- June 29** Lindsay Bates, "In This Refulgent Summer," with Mac Willaert, pianist
- July 6** Lindsay Bates, "What's A Patriot?" with Mac Willaert and Kelly Herz
- July 13** Lindsay Bates, "Toward a Theology of Organization," with Mac Willaert
- July 20** Adam Robersmith, "Voluntary Complexity," with Susan Conant
- July 27** Adam Robersmith, "How to Build A House" (Habitat Trip Celebration), with Mac Willaert
- August 3** Adam Robersmith, with Susan Conant
- August 10** Adam Robersmith, "A Harvest of Hope," with Alec Watson
- August 17** William Elbert, "Poetry Service," with Lynn Fisher McCanne
- August 24** Lindsay Bates, "Leaving Harbor," with Susan Conant
- August 31** Adam Robersmith, Labor Day Weekend, with Lynn Fisher McCanne

Then on Saturday, September 6, and Sunday, September 7, Lindsay and Adam will lead our Intergenerational Homecoming Celebrations, with Cynthia and Elena Spiegel providing our music. See you in church!

Our Outdoor Space

Improvements are being made to the outdoor area south of Pioneer House to provide more usable space for all ages. The new compost bin will provide for a safer and more attractive space for continuing to compost our leaves and yard waste. The new picnic table on the lawn provides a seating area for small groups. The area will be safer with the installation of additional mulch so that the edges of the beds will be level with sidewalk areas to prevent the possibility of any feet slipping over the edge of the walks. A bike rack will soon be installed to provide a parking area for our healthy and environmentally-conscious members who choose to bike to church events.

Additional plantings in the beds would further improve the attractiveness of this outdoor space. If you have any perennials ready for dividing, especially easy-care plants that would spread to fill the space, your donations would be most welcome. And, of course, volunteers to do the planting will also be needed. Please contact the office if you can help with this project or donate plants.

For many years, George Hickman has been our resident groundskeeper...faithfully and skillfully tending the shrubs, flower beds, and the compost bin. George's retirement from that position leaves a gap that needs filling. Please let the office know how you can help with the ongoing groundskeeping work of weeding, trimming, watering, and tending the compost bin.

All Souls are coming to the UUSG Auction on November 1st!

It is time to begin thinking about what you will contribute to the goods and services auction that will be held on November 1st.

Original art work, tickets to a Bears game, a gift basket, babysitting, an airplane ride, baked goods, computer help...these are just a few of the items that people have given for the church to sell at past UUSG Auctions.

Early in the fall, you will be asked what you will contribute to this year's FUNdraising spook-tacular. Mark your calendar now for a wicked good time!

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

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

All of our Swedish Days Pizza Booth Volunteers, who helped with our biggest fundraiser!

Bob Atac, who coordinated the Pizza Booth this year

Rick & Anne Veague, who generously passed on their Pizza Booth expertise

Eric Bodwell, for donating a computer for our library

Bob Schwedler, Shawn Thornton, Tom Russo, and Bob Atac, for moving a large cabinet out of Lindsay's new office to make room for her books!

All our Greeters and Social Hour Hosts, for making UUSG a welcoming place

All our LRE teachers, for dedicating themselves to UUSG children

We're Rearranging!

You've probably already heard that some staff offices are going to be moving over the summer—Lindsay is moving back into her old office at the front of Pioneer House and Katie is moving into Lindsay's current office. Katie's current office will become a workspace for volunteers and will include mailboxes, the copier, a worktable, and other useful supplies!

Making all these changes means that we need a few people willing to help us move our furniture, books, etc. around the building.

If you'd like to help, please contact Katie in the office (630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org).

Geneva Swedish Days Pizza Booth

Many thanks to EVERYONE who volunteered at this year's Pizza booth, and to the youth for making our booth the best-looking one in town!

This may have been our most successful year yet! Check your Pioneer next month for details about how much money we raised.

Circles of Life

Two (well, maybe 3, depending upon how you count!) UUSG households celebrated marriages in the past few weeks. Fred Orchard and Sabine Vorkoeper-Orchard exchanged vows on May 31 surrounded by UUSG (and other!) friends and relations. And newly-graduated US Coast Guard Ensign James Dooley has married a fellow Coast Guard officer, Crystal Hudak. Joy and best wishes and congratulations to all!

Judy Bernard is now at the Provena Care Center in Geneva, working to recover from her April surgery. Visits are welcome – even if she's asleep, sit and talk with her, and if you're comfortable, hold her left hand. The tactile contact is helpful for her healing.

We're hoping to see Mary Schweizer back in church soon – it's been **far** too long a road since her fall back in the Fall!

We're still trying to believe the news of Nancy Cone's death on June 2. With her son John's blessing, we'll be holding a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for her life on Sunday, June 29, at 2pm. In accordance with the family's wishes, we're not making a formal public announcement, but if you know any of Nancy's friends from other parts of her life – the League of Women Voters, the Juvenile Court, Waubensee's Life-Long Learning Program, or any of the many other groups she was involved with – please do feel free to pass the word along. And if you're able to help with the reception following the service in any way, please send word to Jeanne Neltner or the UUSG Office.

We also send our deepest sympathy to Glenda Peck on the recent death of her brother.

Finally, some of us remember Mary Anne Ford, an active member of our UUSG community many years ago. Her companion, the Rev. Paul Bicknell (who once served our Elgin UU congregation) has died. To Mary Anne and to their families, we send our deepest sympathies.

Social Justice News

Social Justice Action Alert: Just Say NO to Offshore Drilling

Three of our nations leaders, President Bush, John McCain, and Newt Gingrich, are organizing a push to drill for oil along our coastlines and lift a 27-year moratorium. Opening up our coastline to drilling for oil will take up to 10 years before the first drop of oil would reach our local gas stations and it would last less than 10 years.

Furthermore, oil exploration would begin with seismic testing to find where the oil is located. Seismic blasts have a decibel level of 260 - that's more than twice as loud as an ambulance siren. Whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals rely on their sense of hearing to navigate, to locate food, and to communicate with each other. Exposure to this level of sound underwater can cause deafening disorientation and can lead to permanent damage and brain hemorrhaging and even cause entire pods of whales and dolphins to beach.

Seismic testing is not the only danger offshore drilling would cause for our oceans and wildlife.

Major oil spills would threaten our beaches, fish, and marine mammals. Global warming is already a major threat to our world's oceans, and despite Senator McCain's efforts to combat it, drilling for more oil will only cause more greenhouse gas emissions. Instead of pushing for more drilling, we should be investing in renewable energy sources. In order to stop this concerted effort to drill offshore, please go to the following website to sign the petition to urge Senator John McCain to stop endorsing offshore drilling: <http://usactions.greenpeace.org/action/start/200/>.

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In May, we collected \$951 for our very own Youth Habitat for Humanity program.

Super Summer Salad Supper

Fun for us and food donations for the needy!

Several of your UUSG friends are getting together to plan a SIMPLE salad supper on Sunday, July 27th. We will gather about 6pm in our Common Room. The idea is to bring an item chopped, sliced, or otherwise prepared, to share in the salad and ALSO to bring a donation (money or non-perishable items) for the Northern Illinois Food Bank. We will provide beverages and any other items that do not get donated. Please contact Gail Tattersfield to pick what salad item you will be bringing and to let us know how many in your family plan to attend. The sign-up sheets will also be available Sundays at church until we get a full house! Hope to see you there.

Gail Tattersfield & Ellie Radvanovsky

Change for a Change

Thank you to everyone who put your spare change in our **Change for a Change Tree** this year! At the end of May, we sent \$904.22 to AmeriCares for their humanitarian relief work around the world. (The Change Tree's still in the Sanctuary and your change is still most welcome ~ our Church School classes will decide in the fall who the next beneficiary will be.)

Green Corner

TIP OF THE MONTH (from the www.greenbatavia.com website)—Here are some GMO (genetically-modified organisms) factoids to help you maneuver through the grocery store.

- The Grocery Manufacturers of America estimate that 75 percent of all processed foods in the U.S. contain a GM ingredient. ([Wikipedia](#))
- In the US, by 2006, 89% of the planted area of soybeans, 83% of cotton, and 61% of corn were genetically-modified varieties. (Wikipedia)
- If you would like to avoid GMO fruits and veggies, read those little stickers found on each one:
A four-digit number means it's **conventionally grown**.
A five-digit number beginning with 9 means it's **organic**.
A five-digit number beginning with 8 means it's been **Genetically Modified**.

APRIL EARTH MONTH UPDATE

The plant and bag sales were a great success and the Green Sanctuary Committee was enthusiastic about the interest members had in the opportunity to become more familiar with native plants. In the upcoming Green Corner we will announce what our profits on the sales were and what will be done with the proceeds from the sales. We look forward to the 2nd annual native plant sale in '09! Although we made no money from the rain barrel sale, we were pleased with the response.

The Green Sanctuary Committee would like to say “thank you” to Kate Frazier for her help with the plant sale, Al Drover for being our Bag Lady, and Dan Lobbes for helping to sell rain barrels. Thom Thomas helped with “The Story of Stuff” and more. Kristin & Tracey McFadden, Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, and Tony Giamberdino provided music at the Earth Day weekend services. Social Justice generously let us have the “Beyond Our Walls” collection and the Friday Flicks slot during Earth Month. We would also like to give thanks to Julie Riffle and others who kept us well on track. All the members and friends who helped and generously supported the cause, thank you. And of course, Lindsay and Adam who worked with the GSC for Earth Month and their wonderful words throughout the month of April and the year, and especially for the Earth Day weekend services, thank you. GREAT JOB, EVERYONE!

BUY PRODUCE LOCALLY

The organic Heritage Prairie Farm and Market—out west of town—is fantastic! Wish we had time to tell more. Great fresh produce just picked, the sweetest beets, excellent honey flavors (you can **see** the bee hives), meats, eggs, award-winning milk, etc. It's a good variety of interesting items in a treasure of a small shop! There are many great products to use and give as gifts—they're even selling Chico bags (for \$5 though!). They also have classes and a summer farm camp, dear little prancing kid goats and wee chicks, depending on when you go. To get there, take Route 38 to Brundige Road in Elburn. For more info, contact them directly at 630-443-8253 or by visiting www.hpmfarm.com

Batavia Farmers' Market Opens June 28th, from 8 am to Noon.

For more information on local Farmers' Markets, see our web page at www.uusg.org.

REMEMBER: Reduce, reuse, and recycle!

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of June 25, 2008. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our Website Calendar – go to www.uusg.org and follow the links to the Interactive Online Calendar. You can download a printable version if you like; the Calendar site has the instructions.

NEXT PIONEER DEADLINE

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

The next deadline for articles is **Friday, July 18th, 2008 at 9am.**

JULY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>Associate Minister on Vacation</i> General Assembly <i>LRE Administrator on Vacation</i> 10:00 AM Intergenerational Worship (childcare available through 1st grade); Social Hour at NOON 11:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Coming of Age Program 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Nancy Cone	30 <i>LRE Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	1 <i>LRE Administrator on Vacation</i> 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	2 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM UU Paganism Study Group	3 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i>	4 Independence Day <i>Office Closed</i>	5 <i>Associate Minister at Ferry Beach</i>
6 <i>Associate Minister at Ferry Beach</i> 10:00 AM Worship and Summer Church School (K-5); Social Hour at 11am 11:30 AM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group 12:30 PM Peacemaking Discussion Group	7 <i>Associate Minister at Ferry Beach</i> <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	8 <i>Associate Minister at Ferry Beach</i> 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:30 PM Board of Directors	9 <i>Associate Minister at Ferry Beach</i> <i>Ministers' Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	10 <i>Associate Minister at Ferry Beach</i> 7:00 PM Reiki Share	11 <i>Associate Minister at Ferry Beach</i>	12 Habitat for Humanity Trip
13 Habitat for Humanity Trip 10:00 AM Worship and Summer Church School (K-5); Social Hour at 11am 12:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Coming of Age Program 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	14 Habitat for Humanity Trip <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	15 Habitat for Humanity Trip 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 6:30 PM Leadership Working Dinner 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	16 Habitat for Humanity Trip <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation and Study Group 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:00 PM LRE Committee Meeting 7:30 PM GAS AA	17 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> Habitat for Humanity Trip <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>	18 Habitat for Humanity Trip <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER deadline	19 Habitat for Humanity Trip <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 6:30 PM Games Night!
20 Habitat for Humanity Trip <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 10:00 AM Worship and Summer Church School (K-5); Social Hour at 11am 11:30 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share	21 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	22 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm)	23 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	24 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> Reserved for Lopez Wedding Rehearsal (hold through 6/30/08) 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle	25 Reserved for Lopez Wedding (hold through 6/30/08)	26 3:00 PM WomenSpirit Rising Annual Picnic
27 10:00 AM Worship and Summer Church School (K-5); Social Hour at 11am 1:00 PM Coming of Age Program 6:00 PM Super Summer Salad Supper	28 <i>Ministers' Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM 4th Monday Small Group Ministry	29 3:00 PM Staff Meeting (office closed until 4pm) 7:00 PM In the Name of Peace: Book Club & Shawl Ministry	30 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	31 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i>	1	2 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting

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

Rev. Adam Robersmith — *Associate Minister*
associate.minister@uusg.org

Katie Phillips — *Congregational Administrator*
office@uusg.org

Sandi Sumner — *LRE Administrator*
LRE@uusg.org

David deCoriolis, *Board President*

George Tattersfield, *Treasurer*

Bill Pokorny, *Board Secretary*

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva
110 South Second Street
P.O. Box 107
Geneva, IL 60134-0107

Church Office: 630-232-2350
Church Email: office@uusg.org
Church Website: www.uusg.org

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

**To protect the privacy of our members and friends,
all personal phone numbers and email addresses
are removed from the online versions of our publications.**

**To reach anyone about items in this newsletter,
please call or email our church office.**

We'll pass your message along.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva
P.O. Box 107
Geneva, IL 60134-0107