



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

THE PIONEER

March—April 2010

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

If you're on our e-mailing list, you received (we hope) a questionnaire about continuing to hold occasional Round Table Conversations both to discuss specific issues of concern to many of us and to keep working on our communication skills. We wanted to know if the interest was really there. I'll gladly serve as moderator and toss in my 2 cents if it seems appropriate, but the main idea is for everyone to have a chance to share their ideas, reflections, & experiences around particular issues. The Committee on Ministries came up with a list of possible topics (we intentionally left off the one that got us started!), and we asked which of the following would YOU be interested in attending if the timing were right?

1. What does Jesus say to us today? What does the teacher of Nazareth mean to UUs?
2. Theism – nontheism – atheism: What do these terms mean to us, and how are we individually comfortable understanding and naming our own beliefs?
3. So, who wants to buy a Toyota? Is the fear justified? How do we evaluate such corporate, safety & PR events?
4. Addressing our own religious roots – where did we come from, what do we cherish from our earlier faith journeys, what do we need to leave behind?
5. How do you talk about UUism with non-UUs – especially the ones around the dinner table at large family gatherings?
6. What does your faith mean for your approach to environmental issues? What do you think about recycling, global warming, carbon footprints, & tradeoffs, etc.?
7. How has your faith changed as you have grown older? How does aging affect one's connection to religion? How do you "grow" with your religion as you age?

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Since a group needs between 6 and 12 people to be both workable and satisfying for all participants, we then asked WHEN you might be able to participate. Weekday morning? Weekday afternoon? Weekday evening? Saturday morning? Sunday afternoon? Sunday evening? We also asked if you'd need childcare.

Blessings and thanks to the dozen folks who responded – but alas, while there's adequate interest in topics 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, there's no time slot that will work for enough of the interested for us to go forward.

We don't want to drop the idea, though. So I'm issuing the invitation one more time. If any of these topics appeal to you, please let Katie or me know which topic and when you can meet.

Peace! **LB**

Religious Education Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Coming this Summer: Coming of Age

Parents of current 8th graders, please keep an eye out for information about this summer's Coming of Age Program!

We're thrilled to tell you that Amy Brink and Jim Jenkins will be our Co-Leaders again for the 2010 class. We're hoping that all our 8th graders will be a part of this opportunity to explore Unitarian Universalism at the beginning of their journey into adulthood.

If you know that your 8th grade youth will be participating, please contact Sandi Sumner, Acting Director of Religious Education, and let her know.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Sandi, Amy, or Jim. We're looking forward to a great summer together!

Spring Project: Peace and Puppets!

Back by popular demand! Our peace puppets will return to the Common Room in April. Our puppet friends will encourage our young people to think about fair treatment of all people and how to promote nonviolent ways to communicate. Activities in the classrooms will reinforce the puppets' messages.

A special thank you goes to Jean Pierce, who adapted lessons from the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum for us.

LREcruitment: Summer & Fall Teaching Teams

Though it may be a little early, we are asking those of you who plan to teach in the summer and fall to please sign up at the end of this spring.

By the end of April, sign-up sheets will be on the LRE Board in the Common Room. Our Summer Spirit Play Program for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 begins on Sunday, July 4.

We will kick off the summer with a picnic for children and teachers, and then have two classes, K-Grade 2 and Grades 3-5, beginning Sunday, July 11.

Summer plans often make it difficult to be at UUSG consistently before the church year begins in September, which makes it *very difficult* for us to start the year with full teaching teams. *Please, if you are able, sign up now!* The more we have our fall teaching teams built now, the easier it is for us to start teaching in September with three or more teachers per team.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please talk to Sandi Sumner.

Remember, church school is on hiatus in June, meets in July and August with children ages K-5, and begins again on Sunday, September 19.

Get involved with Small Group Ministry!

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

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

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

Have questions? Want to get involved? Contact Sandi Sumner at lre@uusg.org or 630-232-2350 x224

Upcoming LRE Events

Mar 28, 12:30pm	New UUs Orientation Program
Mar 28, 1:00pm	Sandel's Justice Study Group
Apr 4, 1:00pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
Apr 7, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
Apr 8, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Apr 10, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
Apr 11, 12:30pm	New UUs Orientation Potluck
Apr 11, 1:00pm	Munch & Learn Lecture Series
Apr 14, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Apr 16, 6:30pm	OWL Overnight Begins
Apr 17, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Apr 17, 4:00pm	OWL Overnight Ends
Apr 17, 6:30pm	Games Night!
Apr 18, 1:00pm	Sandel's Justice Study Group
Apr 19, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Apr 23, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks
Apr 24, 6:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Apr 25, 1:00pm	Sandel's Justice Study Group
Apr 28, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

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

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

A Reminder About Your Staff's Days Off

Please remember that each full-time staff person is off 2 days a week.

Lindsay is off on Wednesdays & Thursdays.

Katie is off on Fridays & Saturdays.

Sandi is off Fridays, and either Saturday or Monday (depending on whether she doing the For All Ages section of the worship service over the weekend).

Now is the Time! You are the Answer!

How's the Canvass Going?

As of Wednesday, March 24, we have **112** pledgers totaling **\$254,240**, which is **71%** of our goal of \$355,000.

While this is good momentum, we're still 88 pledgers and over \$101,000 short.

Planning to Pledge?

but Haven't Filled Out the Form Yet?

Please do so TODAY so we can begin to work on the budget for the upcoming year.

You can pledge RIGHT NOW by going to <http://content.uusg.org/canvass-pledge-form/>.

Already Pledged?

If you have already turned in your pledge form or pledged online, we thank you for your generosity!

In April, the Finance Committee and Board of Directors will be working on the final 2010-11 budget.

Not Able to Pledge This Year?

We know that the economy continues to make everyone's lives more difficult, so we understand that not all our members & friends may be able to pledge this year.

If you won't be pledging this year, please take a moment to let us know by sending an email to Katie (office@uusg.org), Lindsay (minister@uusg.org), or your Canvass Crewmember.

Please let us know by March 31 if you'll be pledging or not. Work on the 2010-11 budget has already begun and we need as much information as possible when we start in April to look at what changes will need to be made based on the pledges.



Canvass Celebration Recap

This year's Canvass Tea (henceforth to be known as the Canvass Light Lunch & Heavy Desserts Celebration) was a roaring success—over 80 people attended!

This was our biggest crowd yet and everyone had a wonderful time enjoying Elba's culinary talents. Chocolate-chocolate-chocolate cake, anyone?

Elba made nearly all the food at the event, and we are so grateful for her and her generosity.

Social Justice News

Peacemaking Commitment – Peace in the Family

Taking a cue from Lindsay's sermon about peacemaking in the family, the section of the Peacemaking Commitment which addresses Interpersonal Peacemaking has been expanded (see the italicized portion in section B below). The latest draft of the whole Commitment is below.

All edits are welcome. Please contribute your ideas by contacting jeanpierce@aol.com, by leaving edits in the Peacemaking Commitment box in the Common Room, or by going online to <http://content.uusg.org/peacemaking-pledge/>.

If changes are suggested, a forum will be scheduled to discuss them. The plan is that there will be a vote on the Commitment during the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 16.

Peacemaking Commitment of the UU Society of Geneva

As a force for compassionate social justice in the community, members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva endorse a variety of principles and values. Among these values, we recognize that social justice is essential for peace. The following document is intended to clarify our peacemaking values in a variety of contexts.

(A) Inward Peacemaking

We seek to develop peace and acceptance within ourselves. To this end, we recognize the importance of

- Taking time to look within, to know and respect our own needs and feelings, and to develop a sense of centeredness around our own deepest values.
- Educating people of all ages about effective approaches to inward peacemaking.

In addition, we support efforts of the church to

- Provide opportunities for learning how to deeply meditate and for practicing it.
- Sponsor groups which focus on meditation.

B) Interpersonal Peacemaking

We seek to communicate in a way that acknowledges the "inherent worth and dignity" of the other, no matter how much we disagree with them. To this end, we commit ourselves to

- Listen thoughtfully to others' needs and feelings.
- Communicate our own needs and feelings verbally and nonverbally in positive, clear ways.
- Use nonviolent approaches to resolving conflict whenever possible.
- Build greater trust and understanding among ourselves.

In addition, we support efforts of LRE and the Hospitality committee to provide opportunities for families and others to spend time together.

Further, we seek to nurture and support the bonds among people. To this end, we endorse efforts of LRE and Social Justice

- *To present information about patterns and resources for coping with stress and crisis.*
- *To offer classes that support spiritually grounded relationships based on shared values, trust, respect, and appreciation.*

And we support efforts of UUSG's ministries – both professional and lay – to help people develop and strengthen committed relationships.

Peacemaking Commitment continued...

• C) Congregational Peacemaking

We are committed to having our congregations be a model of clear, honest, respectful communication, and peaceful handling of differences. To this end, we support

- Efforts of our Lifespan Religious Education to offer education across all age groups on communication and conflict resolution including clarifying our positions, actively listening to others, and considering win-win solutions, while avoiding power struggles and factions.
- Efforts of UUSG's "Caring Team" to oversee implementation of policies relating to the prevention, reporting, and response to issues of abuse, harassment, behavior problems, and similar matters.
- Efforts of Boards, Councils, and Committees of the church to use decision-making processes which ensure that all perspectives are heard and respected.
- Choices of our members and their children who participate or have participated in the armed forces of our country as well as those who choose conscientious objection.

D) Societal Peacemaking

We endorse changes needed to end oppression and/or systemic violence. To this end, we support efforts of our Lifespan Religious Education to provide education which

- Challenges racism, classism, sexism, etc.
- Promotes respect and acceptance rather than glorifying verbal and physical violence.

Furthermore, we support efforts of our Social Justice Committee to

- Conduct collections for organizations which seek to build a just and peaceful society by promoting economic justice and human rights and by caring for those who are victims of injustice and violence.
- Provide opportunities for people to volunteer for organizations which promote justice in our society.
- Promote events such as movies, speakers, and peace vigils which focus attention of the community on justice and peace.
- Collaborate with other churches and organizations which promote justice and peace.

E) Environment and Peacemaking

We understand our interconnectedness with the web of all life, and recognize that we must consider how our actions have consequences for life on earth. To this end, we support efforts of our Green Sanctuary committee to

- Identify potential legislation for Action Alerts as the need arises regarding policies that promote
 - the sustainable use of resources so that there might be just and equitable access to these resources.
 - efforts to reduce dependence on oil and other nonrenewable energy resources while increasing the use of renewable resources.
 - a reduction of global warming.
 - preservation and reverence for natural places and beings.
- Identify ways in which we can assume individual and collective responsibility for reducing our "carbon footprints."

F) International and Inter-Community Peacemaking

We endorse efforts to build a global culture of peace based on empathy, compassion, and justice that comes from honoring universal human rights to education, a healthy economy, energy resources, food, water, and other natural resources. To this end, we support efforts of our Social Justice committee to

- Include international organizations which support universal human rights among the recipients of Beyond Our Walls collections.
- Identify potential legislation for Action Alerts regarding policies supporting universal human rights and respectful communication.

And we support efforts of Lifespan Religious Education to

- periodically offer opportunities/programs/activities that promote a clearer understanding of religions and cultures that are different from our own. Since the curricula for youth already contains elements of peacemaking and justice, opportunities offered to youth would enhance, but not replace, these materials.

More Social Justice News

“Doing More with Le\$\$” Stone Soup Supper Saturday, April 17, 6:30-8:30pm

Is this recession ever going to end?! We all know people who are living on very reduced incomes. On April 17, Darlene Marcusson from our partner, Lazarus House, will come to UUSG to present “Doing More With Le\$\$.” She will share information about resources available in the community for those who are living on reduced incomes.

This program is suitable for any adult – whether you would like this information for yourself, your family, a friend, a student, or a client.

Please sign up on the Social Justice Bulletin Board to bring an item for the soup and one of the following: bread, salad, dessert, or pop.

People of all ages are invited to participate in the Stone Soup Supper. Children will then go to another room for Games Night. Questions? Please contact Jeanne Neltner through the church office at 630-232-2350.

Work with an Expert Chef Saturday, April 3, 3pm

If you ever wanted to volunteer to make dinner for the Lazarus House homeless shelter but found the task a little daunting, fear no more! April will be a great month to volunteer.

Platinum Chef (way better than any old Iron Chef!) William Elbert has graciously volunteered to make dinner at UUSG at 3pm on April 3, and he is welcoming a few extra hands.

Please sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board or call Katie at 630-232-2350.

Giving Beyond Our Walls

In March, we collected \$1130 for our local Habitat for Humanity—Pottawatomie Partnership.

Action Alert: Protect the Illinois Freedom of Information Act

We elect government officials to serve us and to protect our best interests. Ensuring that there is government transparency and accountability is essential to making sure our legislators are representing us as we wish. But in order to keep a watchful eye on our government, we need to have access to information about our government and its employees.

The Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is essential for ensuring accountability and transparency in our government. There are currently four bills in the Illinois General Assembly that would weaken FOIA and make it more difficult to obtain public records and information. Please click on the following link to send a quick message to your legislator asking him/her to oppose HB5154 and all other attempts to undermine Illinois' FOIA. <http://il.aclu.org/site/R?i=nVzjvhvQtnFP0XWRMhyXzWQ>.

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

Holocaust Memorial Event: An Invitation from Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors

On Sunday, April 11 at 3pm, Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors will hold their annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Event in the UUSG Sanctuary. UUSG members and friends are invited to attend.

The short program of speakers and music will include Holocaust survivor Dr. Hans Kautzky. Dr. Kautzky is a renowned scientist from Fermilab who was born in Vienna and survived the horrors of the Nazi persecutions in Europe.

Please feel free to attend this meaningful observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day. A reception will follow the program. Questions can be sent to info@fvjn.org.

Volunteer Headquarters

We're In Danger of No Coffee!

We filled the March social hour hosting before the end of February, but we're in danger of losing coffee if the April schedule isn't filled by the end of March!



Coffee will be available in April ONLY if ALL of the April hosting slots are filled by the end of March. Sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

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

The remaining openings are:

- Saturday, April 3, after the 5pm service
- Sunday, April 4, after the 9:30am service
- Sunday, April 4, after the 11:15am service
- Sunday, April 11, after the 9:30am service
- Sunday, April 18, after the 9:30am service
- Sunday, April 18, after the 11:15am service
- Sunday, April 25, after the 9:30am service
- Sunday, April 25, after the 11:15am service

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt appreciation to:

Elba Karim, for making our annual Canvass Light Lunch & Heavy Desserts Celebration one to remember! We had a record turnout (over 80 people!) and were all in awe of Elba's culinary skill.

William Elbert and Gail Tattersfield, for their culinary contributions to the Canvass Celebration

Joe Giamberdino, Lily Phillips, Jordan Karim, Isaac Karim, Sandy & Dan Bottoms, Gail & George Tattersfield, Kat Zimmerman, Judith Calleja, Cindy Vacek, Tracy & John Rosenkrans, Pat Vary, and Patrick McGleam, for their help setting up for and cleaning up after the Canvass Celebration.

Bruce Fackler and Kay Anderson, who generously gave of their time to be on an LGBT panel for our OWL group

Our Canvass Crewmembers: Bill Baar, David deCoriolis, David Tomell, Jim Burke, Jim Frazier, Jim O'Malley, John Brennan, Kathy Cornell, Lou Pierce, Mark Alleman, Mike McCarthy, Pat McGleam, Pat Ward, Rick Veague, and Sue Stibal, for their time and effort personally contacting *each and every* member of our church community.

Greeting in April

The current openings are:

- Saturday, April 3, 5pm
- Sunday, April 4, 9:30am
- Sunday, April 4, 11:15am
- Saturday, April 10, 5pm
- Sunday, April 11, 9:30am
- Saturday, April 17, 5pm
- Sunday, April 18, 9:30am
- Sunday, April 18, 11:15am
- Saturday, April 24, 5pm
- Sunday, April 25, 9:30am
- Sunday, April 25, 11:15am

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

Getting Involved

Are you looking to get more involved at UUSG but aren't sure where to start?

Think about joining a committee! Or simply drop in for a meeting to see if it's something you'd like to do.

Many of committees would love to have new members, but our Communications Committee and Green Sanctuary Committee (just in time for Earth Day!) are particularly in need of a few more helping hands.

If you'd like more information, contact Katie in the office at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

Put the "YOU" in New UUs!

The Membership Committee welcomes you to join our New UUs Orientation Program. There are two sessions left: Sunday, March 28 and Sunday, April 11, and they begin right after the second Sunday service.

Each session is on a different topic and begins with lunch at 12:45pm, followed by a program which ends at 3:15pm.

New UUs is mainly designed to introduce newcomers to UUSG and to Unitarian Universalism in general. But if you have been here awhile and are interested in the session, please attend.

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

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

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

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

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

Choir Potluck

The UUSG Teen/Adult Choir welcomes singers past, present, and future, along with their families and friends, to attend our **Potluck on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 12:45pm** in our Common Room.

Come celebrate our successful season and share some fellowship and food. Sign up in the Common Room or by emailing director Ruth Cavanaugh at choir@uusg.org.

Please indicate how many will attend and what you will be bringing. Thank you!

"Giving Up Excuses"

On Wednesday, April 7 at 12 pm, UUSG Member Deb Leoni will present "Giving Up Excuses." Deb will define ways in which excuses keep us in old patterns that don't serve us well.

The presentation will highlight, but not be limited to, eating habits. It will feature a workshop in which each participant will define his or her excuse in preventing achievement of personal goals.

This workshop is sponsored by the "Healthy Habits" group, which meets the first Wednesday of every month to talk about living more healthful lives. These one-hour sessions are designed to enlighten and enrich participants' lives.

Sign up in the Common Room or by contacting the church office.

Missing Hymnals

It seems that about 8 of our gray "Singing the Living Tradition" hymnals are missing from the Sanctuary. If you've seen one of them, please help it find its way home!

UUSG Online

Check out the computer in the Common Room on Sundays! You can look at websites for UUSG, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Central Midwest District, the UU Service Committee, and others.

Naming & Dedication Service

The next scheduled times for Naming & Dedication Celebrations for our UUSG-connected little ones will be during the services on Mothers' Day Weekend, May 8 & 9. So far, one family is planning to take part at 11:15am.

We can add one more family at 11:15am, two at 9:30am, and two on Saturday at 5pm o'clock. If you'd like to be included, please let Lindsay or Katie know.

Ringing thanks to Bob and Mary Swanson!

We thank the Swansons for their generous support of music at UUSG the past two years! By loaning their set of hand chimes to UUSG for its music activities, the Swansons gave our young people the opportunity to accompany their songs with the chimes in RE Music, our youth were able to create the UUSG Chime Ensemble which enhanced our congregational singing, and our Teen/Adult Choir also made use of the chimes to augment its musical offerings.

All who have heard the beauty of the chimes or have had the opportunity to ring them appreciate this musical addition to our worship and ministry at UUSG!

Staff Travels & Adventures

March 29-April 10, Sandi Sumner will be on vacation.

April 26-May 8, Katie Phillips will be playing nurse to Sasha the Wonder Malamute, who will be recovering from her April 20 hip replacement surgery. Katie will be working from home during this time—info about how to reach her will be included in the April-May Pioneer.

You can follow Sasha's recovery from surgery by going to <http://becomingbionic.wordpress.com/>.

Poetry Reading Roundtable

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

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

Coming Soon: A New Directory!

Check the whiteboard in the Common Room this weekend and make any corrections to your entry in the directory.

An updated version will be published in early April.

New Sunday Service Times!

Earlier this month, we “sprang forward” with Daylight Saving Time and also adjusted our Sunday service times to 9:30am and 11:15am.

We encourage you to come to the 9:30am service and leave room for visitors at the 2nd service.

Circles of Life

On Friday, March 19, Joanne Erickson, her family, and her friends celebrated the life of Joanne's mother, Virginia Erickson. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Joanne.

We send our condolences to Jean & Lou Pierce, whose beloved dog Wendy passed away.

We have good news from the world of Alex Jenkins—he will be a participant in this summer's Schleswig-Halstein Musik Festival, and will travel to Berlin, Warsaw, Budapest, and Prague. Congratulations!

We send our best wishes to Sarah Dooley and Jonathan Seby, and to Ruth Cavanaugh and Hans DeKok, on their weddings this month!

We learned this month that Joan McInnes will soon be moving to Denver to be closer to her family. Joan has found a great new home near the 1st Universalist Church of Denver. She says, “It will be hard to break my ties here, but my family loves it there, and I think I will too.” Joan, while we'll miss you terribly, we're so happy that you'll be closer to your son and his family! Please keep in touch!

Upcoming Tenebrae Service

Join us for our annual Tenebrae “Service of the Shadows” on Good Friday, April 2nd at 8pm.

This is a dark service (not suitable for younger children), acknowledging the suffering, the evil, the loss of hope that are realities in the world and a necessary prelude to Easter's celebration.

The doors to the Sanctuary will be open at 7:30pm, with meditational music and time for quiet reflection. The service itself begins promptly at 8:00pm and will last about an hour. Childcare will NOT be provided.

Green Corner

Earth Month is nearly upon us once again!
We begin our Green Corner this month with what will be going on at UUSG.

Earth Hour Saturday, March 27, 8pm

We invite you to come and explore UUSG in the dark! We will once again have our In-The-Dark-Scavenger Hunt; we will have a campfire storytelling group; there will be a story for kids with very special in-the-dark illustrations; and of course, the green cuisine of William Elbert.

It makes it much easier for us to prepare if we have an idea of how many people will be coming, so please, take a moment to sign up. You can sign up with a committee member during Social Hour, on the Green Sanctuary Committee bulletin board, send us an e-mail to gsc@uusg.org or leave a message with Katie.

Munch & Learn Lecture: A Tale of Two Cities Sunday, April 11, 1pm

Thom Thomas will share with us a cautionary tale that examines the choices made by two similar cities in different times.

In the ancient Mayan city of Tikal, unsustainable choices led to its abandonment. In contrast, the modern city of Curitiba, Brazil is facing similar situations but is making choices that have led to its recognition as one of the best places to live in South America.

Join us in the YRUU room downstairs.

Bottled Water Blind Taste Test Sunday, April 18, 10:30am & 12:15pm

Let's get to the bottom of this once and for all. Is there any good reason to buy bottled water? We'll find out!

Friday Flick: "Nicotine Bees" Friday, April 23, 7pm

All over the world, at the same time, with the same bizarre behaviors: bees are simply leaving their precious honey and young bees behind. They don't come home. We think we know why, and "Nicotine Bees" is ready to show what has happened.

Learn why the honey bees of the world are in big trouble, and why our food supply is in trouble without them. Bees have been in a slow decline for years, but something else happened between 2005 and 2006 that changed everything: a sharp and catastrophic collapse of bee colonies in dozens of countries simultaneously unlike anything seen before.

With the continuing bee collapse, one third of our food supply is at risk - yet despite the clear-cut scientific data, especially from Europe, news reports still call this issue "mysterious." Why?

View a trailer of the film at <http://pierreterre.com/video/nicotine-bees-trailer>.

We will be joined by our guest speaker, Harry Patterson of Patterson's Bee Farm in North Aurora. Mr. Patterson has been a beekeeper for over 30 years and frequently shares his expertise with area groups. We will have local honey on hand for sampling!



More Green Corner

There are many green events scheduled across the area over the coming months. Here are a few.

Earth Hour

Saturday, March 27, 8pm

Even if you won't be attending Earth Hour at UUSG, you can still participate. Register your support at <http://earthhour.org> and turn off the lights wherever you are!



Learning to Be Green

Black Gold Wednesday, April 7, 6:30pm

Green Landscaping Thursday, April 8, 7pm

Dragonfly Monitoring Thursday, April 15, 6:30pm

These are just a few of the classes being offered by the Geneva Park District through their new Green Living Program. For more information, go to <http://genevaparks.org> or call (630) 232-4542.

West Dundee Celebrates Earth Day

Saturday, April 24, 9am – 12pm

West Dundee is planning a community spring clean-up along the downtown portion of the Fox River. Meet at the Riverwalk Plaza on Lincoln Ave., across from the Dundee Supermarket.

You may want to bring work gloves, rakes, spades, pruning shears and/or trowels. You'll be given instructions and then set to work!

Green Fest, Navy Pier, Chicago

Saturday, May 22, 10am – 7pm

Sunday, May 23, 11am – 6pm

www.greenfestivals.org/chicago/

A 2-day action-packed cavalcade of sustainability. There will be lectures, panels, workshops, demos, vendors, and lots of delicious food.

Use <http://metrarail.com> to help you find a train into the city. CTA information is available at the Green Fest web site or at <http://www.transitchicago.com> to get you the rest of the way. You can also take your bike on the train. There will be bike valets at the Fest.

Green Earth Fair, McDonald Farm

Naperville

Sunday, May 2, 1 – 5pm

<http://www.greenearthinstitute.org/fair/index.html>

Enjoy a day on the farm learning about organic lawn care, sustainable landscaping, organic home gardening, green home building and remodeling, controlling your carbon footprint, and much more from over 50 organizations and vendors!

Come and check out the entertainment, children's activities, tours of the organic farm, and native landscaping plant sales.

Elmhurst Green Fest, Wilder Park

Saturday, July 31st, 10 – 3

<http://www.elmhurstgreenfest.org>

Whether you're ready to start with one small change in your home or business, or if you've been living green and want to take your efforts to the next level, you'll find something of interest here.

There'll be speakers, discussions, eco-friendly products, hands-on activities, demonstrations for kids and adults, a recycling boutique, hybrid vehicles, door prizes and free gifts.

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of March 24, 2010. 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, April 16, at 9:00 a.m.**

APRIL 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday 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 Choir Rehearsal 12:45 PM New UUs Orientation Program 1:00 PM Poetry Reading Roundtable 1:00 PM Sandel's Justice Study Group	29 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	30 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	31 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> Senior Minister's Day Off 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	1 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> Senior Minister's Sabbath 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	2 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> Good Friday 8:00 PM Tenebrae "Service of the Shadows"	3 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 3:00 PM Mastering the Art of Lazarus House Cooking 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM
4 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> Easter 8:15 AM Teen/Adult Choir Warm-Up 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 1:00 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group	5 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	6 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	7 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> Senior Minister's Day Off 12:00 PM "Healthy Habits" Group; Special Presentation: "Giving Up Excuses" 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM UU Paganism Study Group	8 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> Senior Minister's Sabbath 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry	9 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 5:00 PM Prange/Hauptman Wedding (off-site)	10 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 10:00 AM Earth Day Weekend Service Rehearsal 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group
11 <i>Acting DRE on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:30 AM Commit to Knit 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Potluck 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 1:00 PM "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series 3:00 PM Holocaust Memorial Event 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	12 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Women's Guild Meeting 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	13 7:30 PM Board of Directors	14 Senior Minister's Day Off 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	15 Senior Minister's Sabbath 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	16 9:00 AM PIONEER deadline 6:30 PM OWL Program Begins 7:00 PM Earth Day Weekend Service Rehearsal	17 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 4:00 PM OWL Program Ends 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Games Night! 6:30 PM Stone Soup Supper: Doing More With Le\$\$
18 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Sandel's Justice Study Group 7:00 PM Reiki Share	19 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting	20 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	21 Senior Minister's Day Off 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	22 Senior Minister's Sabbath	23 7:00 PM Friday Flicks	24 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Small Group Ministry
25 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 1:00 PM Poetry Reading Roundtable 1:00 PM Sandel's Justice Study Group	26 <i>Congregational Administrator Working from Home</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	27 <i>Congregational Administrator Working from Home</i> 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	28 <i>Congregational Administrator Working from Home</i> Senior Minister at District Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	29 <i>Congregational Administrator Working from Home</i> Senior Minister at District Ministers' Meeting	30 Senior Minister at District Ministers' Meeting	1 Senior Minister at CMwD Annual Assembly 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva
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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.

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates
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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 April 16, 2010 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.

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