



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

THE PIONEER

March-April 2011

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

FLAT AUGUSTUS IS HERE! You may (or may not) be aware that Augustus Conant, UUSG's founding minister, was born on October 16, 1811. This means that come 10/16/2011, he's 200 years old – and since many of us suspect he still hangs out in the Sanctuary, present tense seems appropriate. The 16th is a Sunday this year, so we (and at least 2 other churches Conant had connections to) are planning a Conant Birthday/Bicentennial Celebration. Flat Augustus is part of it.

It's based on the "Flat Stanley" project that many school kids took part in a few years back, mailing a paper cutout to family and friends to take pictures of in interesting locations, then sending the pictures back to Stanley's home base and Stanley himself on to others for yet more photos. We're letting Augustus do something similar, but we'd like him to travel/explore/be in pictures with you. We have life-size Conant faces (thank you, Patrick McGleam) to cut out, attach to a stick (like a paint-mixer or a ruler) and hold in front of a face, or in back of a group, so that Augustus can have his picture taken wherever you might be.

He's already in Germany with Sandi Sumner, and he's attended a meeting of the Western Crescent Ministers Group. Rockford and Palatine folks will be inviting him places along with them, too. UUSG will set up a page on our website and our Facebook page to post the pictures as they return to us (digitally, please!). Augustus traveled many thousands of miles for Unitarianism during his lifetime. I think he'd enjoy the adventures of traveling now – to your family gatherings, to museums, to the lakefront, to other parts of the state, the country, the wider world.

If you would like to participate, we'll have the Flat Augusti (it's been decided that that is the appropriate plural form) available in church in April. If we run out, we'll see about getting more printed. We're requesting a donation of \$5 per Augustus, to fund UUSG's celebration in October. Obviously, we'd gladly receive more – but we'll also gladly receive less if need be. We do want everyone who wants to take part to do so!

(Parents – I don't yet have the appropriate permission/release form, but we will. We won't post any pictures showing identifiable children's faces unless you've given your consent. We're still deciding if we

need that for everyone else, but we'll let you know!)

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Questions? Suggestions for the celebration? Let me know!

Peace! **LB**



Religious Education Announcements

Upcoming LRE Events

Apr 3, 12:30pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
Apr 8, 6:30pm	Junior High OWL Program Begins
Apr 9, 4:00pm	Junior High OWL Program Ends
Apr 13, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
April 14, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Apr 15, 7:00pm	Friday Flick: "FLOW"
Apr 16, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Apr 16, 6:00pm	Games Night!
Apr 16, 6:00pm	Saturday Supper & Seminar Series
Apr 16, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group (off-site)
Apr 17, 1:00pm	Munch & Learn Lecture Series
Apr 17, 1:00pm	"The Bible for UUs" Study Group
Apr 18, 7:00pm	"The Bible for UUs" Study Group
Apr 20, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Apr 27, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Apr 30, 6:00pm	YRUU Spring Overnight Begins

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities:

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

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 3. We will kick off the summer with a picnic for children and teachers, and then have one class, for children in Preschool through Grade 5, beginning on Sunday, July 10.

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.

Church school is on hiatus in June, meets in July and August with children Preschool through Grade 5, and begins again on Sunday, September 18.

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 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, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, and let her know. If you have any questions, please talk to Sandi. We're looking forward to a great summer together!

More Religious Education Announcements

Spring Project

Outstanding UUs – Past and Present! And Puppets, too!

Back by popular demand! Our wonderful puppet theater will return to the Common Room in April. Our puppet friends will encourage our young people to think about our seven UU principles and how we can act on them.

Each week, we'll learn about an outstanding UU who followed one (or more!) of our principles and made a difference in the world along with someone in our church today who is acting on that same principle. Activities in the classrooms will reinforce the puppets' messages.

A special thank you goes to Jean Pierce, who wrote the curriculum for us. We hope you will join us!

ARAOM Book Club Date Change

Flexibility being a supreme virtue, we are changing the dates of our ARAOM (Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression Multiculturalism) Book Club. Our next meeting will be April 11 at 7pm and we will be reading *The Children* by David Halberstam. We hope you'll find a copy at your local library and join us for a good discussion.

The Children is David Halberstam's brilliant and moving evocation of the early days of the civil rights movement, as seen through the story of the young people—the Children—who met in the 1960s and went on to lead the revolution. Magisterial in scope, with a strong you-are-there quality, *The Children* is a story one of America's preeminent journalists has waited years to write, a powerful book about one of the most dramatic movements in American history. They came together as part of Reverend James Lawson's workshops on nonviolence, eight idealistic black students whose families had sacrificed much so that they could go to college. And they risked it all, and their lives besides, when they joined the growing civil rights movement.

Are You Interested?

We currently offer several Adult Religious Education opportunities for our members and friends at UUSG, but it's important to look for new ones as well.

Recently, one of our members suggested a program (class, study group, or workshop) to help our parents parent well. There are a few excellent programs available and we'd like your thoughts!

If you are interested, let us know when you would be available (weekdays? evenings? Sunday afternoon? Saturday?), if you'd like a program that doesn't require you to attend every session, and if you would need child care in order to participate.

Share your thoughts with Sandi Sumner (Ire@uusg.org or 630-232-2350 x224).

Buddhist Meditation and Study Group

If you've been thinking about checking out the UUSG Buddhist group, now is a great time. Newcomers are welcome to join us for walking meditation on April 6.

On April 13, we will begin a new book entitled *The Zen Commandments*. Members of the group familiar with the book suggest that it should be particularly accessible to beginners while offering a fresh perspective for those familiar with Buddhism.

Puppets Are Fun!

The Purim Celebration was lots of fun for all. The puppeteers had as much fun planning and putting together their part of the morning as they have every time they slip puppets on their hands. Somehow, the puppet on the hand frees the mind and lifts the spirit. We would welcome anyone who wants to join us in our merriment. There are puppets just waiting for a hand to warm them and a voice to speak for them. No experience is needed; there are no lines to memorize, just great teamwork to enjoy. Contact Nancy Goodfellow or any one of the puppeteers—Melissa Auer, David deCoriolis, Monica Jenkins, and Rhonda Robinson—and let us know you are interested.

Canvass 2011: Giving Back, Moving Forward

Budgeting Begins!

The Board and Staff are currently working on the 2011-2012 budget and information will be made available soon.

You are invited to attend a special Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30pm. The Board will vote on the proposed budget at that time, and all UUSGers are encouraged to attend, especially if you have questions about our income and/or expenses.

Progress

As of Wednesday, March 30, we have 191 pledgers totaling about \$325,000.

35 of those pledgers are new to pledging this year!

This year, we heard back from more people than ever—80% of those contacted responded, which is a higher percentage than in previous years.

Still Want to Pledge?

Canvass Season officially ended on March 15, but if you were planning to pledge, it's not too late to let us know!

Send an email to Katie (office@uusg.org) or let us know your intentions online at <http://content.uusg.org/canvass-pledge-form/>.

Supporting NPR & UUSG

UUSG is a "pass-through" collector of member contributions to Northern Public Radio out of NIU in DeKalb. By doing so, we become a Corporate Sponsor and obtain promotional opportunities as a partner of NPR, which broadcasts WNIJ (89.5FM—news & talk) and WNIU (90.5FM—music).

We advertised our Cookie Walk with this important tool and will advertise our Swedish Days Pizza Booth this summer. We'd like to continue to use NPR as a way to let the community know about us, so we're asking again for your support in making us a sponsor of public radio.

Send a check for your contribution to UUSG by April 3 with "NPR" on the memo line. You will not get any premiums and will not be an individual member of NPR, but you will still get your tax deduction, though through UUSG rather than from NPR.

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

Circles of Life

It's been a rough month for many in our church family and we send our thoughts and prayers to everyone who's dealing with difficult situations.

We send our sympathy and kind thoughts to Diane Thornton and her family—Diane's father, Joe Steidl, passed away on March 8.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sherri Casterline and her husband Larry Mathias, who both lost uncles this month.

We send our loving condolences to Mick Jaggard and his family; Mick's dad died in March.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mary Kowalski's father, Louis Fleming, who died at the end of March. To Mary and Jeff, Sarah and David and Anna, Mary's mother Jean, and all the family, our deepest sympathies.

On the other side of the circle, we celebrate with our former intern, Bret Lortie, who was recently granted Final Fellowship with the UUA. He is serving as the minister at the First UU Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Owning Your Religious Past – Adult RE

Pam Rumancik will be presenting this workshop on five consecutive Mondays in May at 7pm. It will provide some simple tools through which people may reexamine and retrieve positive aspects of past religious connections. Sign up in the Common Room if you're planning to attend.

Memorial Stones

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

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

Orders must be placed by May 1 to be installed this spring. Due to the ongoing cost of maintaining the garden, the price of the stones has recently gone up. The current prices are \$250/stone for any active members of the church and \$500/stone for those otherwise connected to the church.

Leadership at UUSG

Are you interested in being on the Board of Directors at UUSG?

Our Nominating Committee is putting together the slate of candidates for next year. If you'd like to learn more about being on the Board, please contact them at nominating@uusg.org.

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 mid-April.

Revisions to Our Bylaws

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

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

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

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact Board President Bill Pokorny (w.pokorny@mac.com, 630-221-0196) at your earliest convenience.

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

Sing a Happy Song

We welcome all voices to join our choir for the following services. Please contact Ruth Cavanaugh at choir@uusg.org if you'd like to join in.

Services: Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011

Rehearsals: 4/10 & 4/17

Services: Sunday, June 5, 2011 (Flower Services)

Rehearsals: 5/22, 5/29

General Information: Sunday Rehearsals will be held in the Sanctuary from 12:45-2:15pm. On the Sundays that we sing, our warm-up begins at 8:45am. Services are at 9:30am & 11:15am.

Staff Travels

Our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Sandi Sumner, is on vacation through April 4. She'll be back in the office on Tuesday, April 5.

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, will be on Retreat April 25-May 2.

Mark Your Calendars!

All voting members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15.

Social Justice News

“Hope for the Homeless” Ministry

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

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

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

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

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

Save the Date!

Please put the evening of Saturday, July 23 on your calendar. This will be a time for some mid-summer FUN! A folk concert starts at 8pm.

Prior to the concert: food, crafts, green items, Fair Trade goodies, and more will be available for purchase. If you can't attend the concert, you may want to join the pre-concert fun beginning at 6pm. Three "expert judges" will award a gift basket to the attendee wearing the best "folky" outfit.

If you'd like to sell your crafts, showcase your business, etc., contact Vohny Moehling to let us know your intentions. You'll need to bring: a table, \$10 table fee (no restrictions on table size), cash box, and an item to donate to the raffle. All profits are yours to keep.

The Farmer's Almanac predicts "T-storms, then sunny & cool." We'll make every effort to hold activities on the church lawn to entice passersby.

We have 3 tables so far & may limit space to 15 tables, in case we have to move indoors.

Don't miss the fun, reserve your table space now!

Profits from the concert, table fees, Fair Trade, costume contest, raffle, beverage/snack donations, etc. will benefit the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles.



Giving “Beyond Our Walls”

Our March collection came just in time to help those in need in Japan. Our special “Beyond Our Walls” collection was combined with the money in the “Change for a Change” Jar to send more than \$3300 to the Red Cross for their work in Japan.

More Social Justice News

Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

Thank You!

Thank you to members and friends who volunteered at Northern Illinois Food Bank: Kevin Beyer, Dan & Sandy Bottoms, Lisa Gades, Janice Goldberg, Doris & Samantha Lipman, Hannah Mancini, Brandi Martin, Dave Meehan, Vohny Moehling, Jeanne Neltner, Page Poris, Rej & Riley Rooney, Llona & Zoe Steele, and Caleb & Ellie Warren. We teamed up with volunteers from Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors to process 4,265 pounds of meat, 1600 pounds of bread, and an unknown quantity of juice boxes!

April 2011: Green Sanctuary

April is Earth Month! On Saturday, April 9, we'll join members of our Green Sanctuary Committee in beautifying a local park. Please see the Green Sanctuary article on page 12 for details.

May 2011: Feed My Starving Children

On May 21, we will return to Feed My Starving Children to pack nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. We will meet at 11:30am at FMSC's Aurora location, 555 Exchange Court. Children in grades 3 and up are welcome with a parent. We only have room for 20 volunteers; please sign up early to guarantee your spot! For more information, visit the organization's website: <http://www.fmsc.org>.

Sign up for RSVP opportunities on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room, register online at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades. Thank you for your continued support!

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
April 9 9am-12pm	Immediately north of River Park in Geneva	Age 6 and up	Work gloves and sturdy shoes	Clearing brush and possibly planting
May 21 11:30am-1:30pm	Feed My Starving Children	3rd grade and up	1 adult for every 3 students	Pack meals for hungry children

Thank You to Our March Lazarus House Volunteers!

Karen Swanson & her family made dinner; the Brink Family made lunch; and Bill Baar stayed overnight.

UUSG is committed to providing food and an overnight person on the 1st Saturday of each month.

Check out the article on page 6 for more information about how to get involved in this important local ministry.

Stand Up for Worker Rights

This Sunday, 2-5pm at UUSG, Fran Tobin from Jobs with Justice and John Gaudette from Citizen Action will describe how their groups support workers' rights.

Help chart the future of a Kane County Living Wage Jobs for All organization.

April Blood Drive: Don't Let the IRS Bleed You Dry!

Come to our Blood Drive! Heartland Blood Center will be here on Saturday, April 16, 9am-12pm. Sign up on the Common Room or by talking to Katie (630-232-2350, office@uusg.org).

Social Justice Action Alert: Pain at the Pump

You've probably noticed that gas prices are once again hitting us hard, endangering America's economic recovery. In his national news conference on gas prices, President Obama said that a long-term solution to this problem "cannot wait for the next generation or the next president."

The Obama administration, in conjunction with the state of California, is working on new fuel efficiency and pollution standards (known as the "clean car standards") for vehicles sold through 2025. These standards could be the single most important step toward making this pain at the pump a thing of the past; meeting the objectives of the Union of Concerned Scientists Oil Savings Plan could cut our projected oil use in half by 2030. The Union of Concerned Scientists is the leading science-based nonprofit working for a healthy environment and a safer world.

As gas prices rocket toward \$4 per gallon and beyond, now is the time to tell President Obama your "pain at the pump" story and that strong clean car standards are the number one option to help solve this problem once and for all.

Please go to the following website to send a letter to President Obama:

<http://action.ucsusa.org/site/R?i=KE3mn505HknTUGqfjSA50w>.

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

A Sassy Way of Contributing to Green Construction Scholarship

The Social Justice Committee has a fun new way for people to contribute money to the Fox Valley Green Construction Scholarship. Shop at or donate an item to the Sassy Fox consignment clothing for women store at 323 Walnut Street, St. Charles, and tell them that you are consigning items in the UUSG account.

Just in time for spring cleaning, the store is currently accepting spring and summer ladies clothing items. Use the coupon below when you purchase clothing and 10% of your purchase will be donated to the UUSG account for the Green Scholarship. Consign items in the UUSG account and 50% of the sales will go to the Green Construction Scholarship.

All items must be brought in on hangers, cleaned, pressed, and ready for sale. Call ahead for appointment, especially for an initial consignment. The phone number is 630-945-3728.

My friend UUSG (10% of your total pretax purchase will be donated to UUSG)

sent me this coupon for

15% off one regular priced item at The Sassy Fox.

One coupon per customer per visit.
Cannot be combined with other discount offers.



The Sassy Fox
Ladies Clothing &
Home Decor Consignments
& Gifts

Expires 6/1/11

323 Walnut St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-945-3728
www.TheSassyFox.com



Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Gloria Mansfield, for getting & sorting the mail while Katie was out of town

Brad Lipman, for paying the bills (and employees) while Katie was out of town

Jim Jenkins, for handling the garbage & recycling bins while Katie was out of town

Our March Greeters: Steve Clark & Emily Smith, Gail & George Tattersfield, Barb McKittrick, Sally Jones, Eleanor Hamilton, Ed & Ruth Wehling

Our March Social Hour Hosts: Diane Thornton, Lee Bernard, Sandy & Dan Bottoms, Ellie Radvanovsky, Vohny Moehling, Pat & Jim O'Malley, David & Renee Tomell, Barb McKittrick

Coffee in April & May

We weren't able to fill all our April social hour hosting slots by March 30, so we're going to forego the coffee at our April social hours. We encourage everyone to still gather in Common Room after the worship services for fellowship.

If you have any questions or concerns about social hour, please contact one of the chairs of the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee, Judith Calleja and Cindy Vacek.

Moving on to May: coffee will be available in May ONLY if ALL of the May hosting slots are filled by April 27. Sign up in the Common Room or online at <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.

Wanted: Garbage Patrol

It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it!

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

Summer Weeding

Spring will be here soon (believe it or not!) and we'll soon be tending to our grounds.

If you'd like to "adopt" the church for a week of weeding, sign up in the Common Room.

Welcoming Friends & Visitors in April & May

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

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

Music in March and April

Thank you to March musicians: LRE kids led by Sandy Anderson-Cordogan & Diane Handler; Ben Walker; Emma Baar; and Diane herself singing with her daughters, Mara & Nadia, alongside Lynn Fisher-McCanne at the piano; Laura Bartoszek; & Jack Roberts. Special thanks to Sandy Anderson-Cordogan for jumping to the piano at the last minute on March 6!

Thinking about April: please come hear Zoe Zacker, Alex Cordogan, Ben Walker, and Thom Thomas in the roles of Jesus and Caiaphas, and the UUSG choir led by Ruth Cavanaugh.

Please contact Tracy Rosenkrans if you or someone you know would like to sing or play. Every month, we are blessed to hear a great diversity of styles and instruments. Join in and add your gift!

Bible Studies for UUs

Our first sessions in March were successful, so we're continuing on Sunday, April 17, at 1pm and repeating on Monday, April 18, at 7pm, with a session on "What Fits Where? Timeline & Historical Background."

There'll be a sign-up sheet in the Common Room. We need at least 6 people committed to attending an individual session, or it will be cancelled.

You're welcome to attend on either Sunday or Monday, and if you'd like, you're welcome to come to both. The session outline is the same each time, but with different groups, the actual materials are always going to vary, at least a bit!

UUSG Vision 2020 Cottage Groups

The next step of the Long Range Planning process has begun! Cottage group meetings have been scheduled in April in many locations and on different dates and times around the area. Sign up in the Common Room on Sunday or by going to <http://content.uusg.org/vision-2020-cottage-groups/>.

A minimum of 5 people are needed to hold the session and we are hoping many more than that want a say in our future plans for the church. Let us hear your voice!

Tenebrae

On Good Friday, April 22, at 8pm, we will hold our traditional Tenebrae ("Shadows") Service. This is a dark service, acknowledging the suffering, the evil, the loss of hope that are realities in the world and a necessary prelude to Easter's celebration. We'll have special music from Steve Hanson, and Pam and Lindsay will do the readings that take us through the shadows on the journey toward Easter Morning.

The doors to the Sanctuary will be open at 7:30pm, with meditational music and time for quiet reflection. The Tenebrae service itself begins promptly at 8:00pm and will last about an hour.

The traditional Tenebrae service really isn't suitable for young children, and it's probably well past bedtime for the littlest ones. Finding childcare for special events and services can be a challenge and we've not offered it for Tenebrae, but if you would need childcare here at church in order to attend service and would attend if childcare were available, please let us know. If there is enough interest/need, we'll see what we can do.

New UUs Orientation Sessions

A Recap from the Membership Committee

The sessions of our March New UUs Orientation program were quite successful. We had a large group of enthusiastic people whom we hope will become an integral part of our congregation.

We would like to thank the people who helped facilitate our sessions—Al Drover, Mick Jaggard, Bill Porkorny, Pam Rumancik, and (as always) Lindsay Bates—for making them informative, interesting and fun.

We also want to thank those new people who participated: Shirley & Dick Yingst, Bill & Jeannie Scown, Todd & Jenny Leslie, Kim & Glenn Vallone, Pete McCarville, Ruth Marks, Keith & Cari Gesiakowski, John & Beth Towell, Jim Toland, Cindy Peterson, Sara Hoerdeman & Joe Gange, and Kurt Bartnik.

If you missed this round of sessions, don't fret! We'll run them again in the fall.

Green Corner

Look your Greenest, Everyone!

UUSG is turning Green for April's Earth Month with a burst of activities.

With their sponsorship of Earth Hour on March 26th, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) urged us to "continue beyond Earth Hour" with earth-caring actions long after the well-spent hour that night in darkness using less electricity.

During April, the Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) will try to adopt new ways and share ideas of how to apply eco-friendly principles into our daily lives. We hope to find new means of reducing waste and consumption of all natural resources, especially our most precious: water. In fact, we have designed Earth Month at UUSG to have a strong focus on water.



FLOW: the April Friday Flick

The Green Sanctuary Committee selected this award-winning documentary as the Earth Month Friday Flick to be shown on April 15 at 7pm in the Common Room.

The title is capitalized because it is an acronym for "For the Love of Water." The documentary addresses the world's dwindling supply of fresh water and the privatization of that water in various locations around the world. It not only speaks to "the 3 Ps" (population, pollution, and politics), but also raises the problems created by the development of a world-wide water cartel.

While viewing this production, one wonders if the title should be *FLOM: For the Love of Money*. The film features people in both non-industrialized and highly-industrialized nations who have become victims of corporations, governments, and the World Bank.

The most common question asked by the interviewees is, "Can Anyone Really Own Water?" Please join us for this provocative film.

In Honor of Earth Month

By Lisa Gades

The Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) gathers approximately 35 million pounds of food and household products per year and distributes items to people in need throughout 13 Illinois counties, serving over 500,000 people annually. NIFB and similar organizations obviously do admirable work in feeding our neighbors in need. But did you realize that NIFB helps the environment as well?

We have a tremendous impact on the environment through our food production, using freshwater resources, energy, and sometimes chemicals including fertilizers and pesticides. Distributing food to people requires transportation as well. For these reasons, any food that we discard becomes a substantial waste of resources (Carnegie Mellon, 2008). Of the approximately 35 million pounds of food redistributed by NIFB last year, 2/3 would have otherwise been discarded.

Every time UUSG members volunteer, they repackage thousands of pounds of food for distribution throughout Northern Illinois. On the most recent shift in which we teamed up with Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors, we repackaged 4265 pounds of meat, 1600 pounds of bread, and an unknown amount of juice boxes.

NIFB's combined impact on both our neighbors in need and on the environment makes it one of my favorite charitable organizations.

For more information, please contact Lisa Gades.

Earth Month Activities

A group of us interested in living greener lives has met twice after church on new green ideas from Gershon's *Green Living Handbook*. Our intent is to examine both Conservation of Water and Eco-Consumerism and to challenge ourselves to change our lifestyles in viable ways in those areas. We meet again later in April, and if any others out there are interested in joining this project, please call Ann Drover to get a packet of ideas and guidelines.

During Earth Month there will be some information and environmentally suitable items for sale during the coffee hour, so drop by the GSC table for a look and a chat and maybe to pick up useful, earth-caring items. Also, anyone who can occasionally help out at the Green Sanctuary table during social hours will be much appreciated!

Saturday, April 9

From 9 to noon, we'll take part in an outdoor Recruiting Service Volunteer Program, a work project with Friends of the River Park in Geneva. We will remove invasive, non-native brush, shrubs, etc. to expand a Savannah Oak area. Dress for the weather, expect to get dirty, bring any tools you have (loppers, bow saws, or pruning saws with your name on them), and have an invigorating time. Families are welcome to come and help, including ages 8 up. Join us on North River Lane between Ford & Stevens Streets in Geneva.

Sunday, April 10

Lindsay's Earth Month Sermon will reflect the times we are experiencing.

Friday, April 15, 7pm

Our Friday Flick will be *FLOW*, an engaging narrative that will grip the viewer. The film tells how the world's water sources and pure water supplies are being bought up by a handful of corporations that largely serve the affluent and overcharge or refuse water to the needy. A passionate call to arms that urges our redoubled vigilance and preventive action. It begs the question: "Can anyone really own water?" Refreshments and discussion afterwards in the Common Room.

Saturday, April 16

Try to attend the City of Geneva's Earth Day Celebration at Island Park near the Mill Race Inn. It's being presented by Geneva Natural Resources Committee for all ages with various educational activities, eco-products for sale, booths by environmental groups, food from local farmers, an electric vehicle to inspect, paper shredding, rain barrel selling, bicycle tune-ups, and lots to just have a good time.

Sunday, April 17

During the Intergenerational Palm Sunday service, several puppets will be chatting with our Intern Minister Pam during the "For All Ages" segment of the worship service. The Big Tree and the Mountain will be back to share their concerns about care of Earth. They will be telling us about eco-friendly ideas they have learned about and applied in their lives.

Saturday, April 30

The much-heralded and publicized Lisa Ballantine will speak in the Sanctuary at 7pm about developing her life-saving filter pots (<http://www.filterpurefilters.org>) for pure water and her experiences in other countries like Haiti, helping communities with inadequate drinking water to use low-cost filters to improve their health and sustainability. She has distributed over 35,000 filters and has helped countries to build factories of their own. Haiti and the Dominican Republic together can now produce about 4500 filter pots on their own. There will be a discussion and refreshments in the Common Room following her talk and demonstration.

APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i></p> <p><i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:45 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:45 PM New UUs Orientation Session 1:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p>28 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00 AM Nominating Committee Meeting 7:00 PM ARAOM Book Club--CANCELED</p>	<p>29 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis</p>	<p>30 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p>31 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)</p>	<p>1 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE on Vacation</i></p>	<p>2 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 10:00 AM Vision 2020 Focus Groups</p>
<p>3 <i>DLRE on Vacation</i> 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 "Green Living Handbook" Participation Meeting 12:30 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group 2:00 PM Living Wage Jobs for All Illinois</p>	<p>4 <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils</p>	<p>6 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM "Healthy Habits" Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p>7 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p>8 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:30 PM Junior High OWL Program Begins</p>	<p>9 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 2:30 PM Internship Committee Meeting 4:00 PM Junior High OWL Program Ends</p>
<p>10 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group</p>	<p>11 <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM ARAOM Book Club 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group</p>	<p>12 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors</p>	<p>13 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p>14 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry</p>	<p>15 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Friday Flicks</p>	<p>16 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM Blood Drive 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 6:00 PM Games Night! 6:00 PM Saturday Supper & Seminar Series 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group (meeting off-site)</p>
<p>17 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:45 AM Long Range Planning Meeting 11:00 AM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 12:45 PM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 1:00 PM "The Bible for UUs" Study Group 1:00 PM Munch & Learn Lecture Series 7:00 PM Reiki Share</p>	<p>18 <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> Pesach 7:00 PM "The Bible for UUs" Study Group</p>	<p>19 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p>20 <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting</p>	<p>21 <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p>22 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE Off Today</i> 8:00 PM Tenebrae "Service of the Shadows"</p>	<p>23 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i></p>
<p>24 Easter 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM 10:45 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 1:00 PM Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)</p>	<p>25 <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>26 Passover Ends <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis 7:30 PM Special Budget Board Meeting</p>	<p>27 CMwD UUMA <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA</p>	<p>28 CMwD UUMA <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)</p>	<p>29 CMwD AA <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 7:00 PM 5th Friday Fellowship</p>	<p>30 CMwD AA <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>DLRE's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 6:00 PM YRUU Spring Overnight Begins 7:00 PM GSC Event: Speaker on Filter Pots</p>

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Our Covenant (written in 1842)

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

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

Pam Rumancik, *Intern Minister*
internminister@uusg.org

Sandi Sumner
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
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Katie Phillips, *Congregational Administrator*
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Michael McElvain, *Music Director*
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Our Mission Statement

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

— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996

The next Pioneer deadline is April 25, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.