



# THE PIONEER

May-June 2011

## The Dilemma of UUSG & the Fuzzy Yellow Flowers

By Nancy Goodfellow

Big thanks to all the people who worked on the grounds of UUSG on Saturday, May 21st. They weeded beds, spread mulch (lots of mulch, back-aching mulch), planted more flowers, tied off daffodils, and planted ferns in the pots at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Karen Moore & Karin Kemp were in charge of the activities, had a great plan for the day, and are to be congratulated on the results. The Hospitality & Fellowship Committee provided morning snacks, drinks, and a great lunch—for which everyone was very grateful! The labors of all involved will have the church grounds looking wonderful for weeks to come... EXCEPT for...

The DANDELIONS, those fuzzy yellow-to-be-white flowers that have taken over the northeast section of the lawn in front of the sanctuary and were a terrible eyesore until Saturday. What was once a beautiful turf has become, in just a few years, a sea of dandelions rising 5, 8, 12 inches above the grass. Three volunteers spent 4 hours each digging dandelions, pulling the heads off dandelions, and finally chopping them down with a hedge trimmer. Four yardwaste bags were filled with nothing but dandelions. There are more still in the ground and those are rising above the lawn even as you read this article.

There were many points of agreement among the volunteers as they discussed the issue of the pesky weeds:

1. The problem would not be solved in a day and will not go away until something is changed.
2. The church is located in a high-profile location very much in the public eye.
3. We must accept that the choice not to use toxic chemicals carries a responsibility requiring us to build a plan for non-toxic weed control.
4. The grounds as they looked on Saturday morning would never convince those who uses toxic chemicals on their lawn to stop using them for the sake of the environment.
5. Mowing is not clipping the long-stalked white heads.
6. A plea for HELP must be extended. Lots of kinds of HELP!

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### We need feedback!

1. What non-toxic things can be used to feed the lawn and harm nothing? Manure? Peat moss?
2. Is there anything which will deter dandelions and harm nothing else? (The impossible dream?)
3. Shall we gradually fill in the area with ground cover, perennials, and shrubs?
4. We need more weekly weeders to keep digging until another solution is found! You can "adopt" the grounds for a week of weeding this summer by signing up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/summer-weeding/>.

Please funnel any thoughts, suggestions, information, etc., to the Green Sanctuary Committee (you can reach them all by sending an email to [gsc@uusg.org](mailto:gsc@uusg.org)). Watch the Mini-Pioneer for updates on the comments we receive and notices of weeding days.

## Religious Education Announcements

### Upcoming LRE Events

May 25, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
June 5, 11:30am	Elementary Grades Picnic & Playdate at Island Park
June 5, 12:30pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
June 8, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
June 17, 7:00pm	Friday Flick: "Silent Screams"
June 18, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
June 21-26, 2011	Swedish Days

### Weekly Adult RE Opportunities:

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

### Coming of Age

Youth who have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade take part in this program where each student, with the help of a personal mentor and class facilitators, develops his/her personal statement of what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.

The *Coming of Age* program typically runs from June through October, culminating with a church service honoring these young adults and giving them the opportunity to speak their ideas and beliefs to the congregation.

The LRE Committee is currently working to gather an additional volunteer facilitator and as many mentors as we have students participating. Parents of eighth graders are asked to watch for communication regarding the program.

Please direct questions or other helpful information to Sandy Anderson-Cordogan (LRE), Elba Karim (LRE), or Jim Jenkins (CoA facilitator).

### High School Senior Recognition

On June 5, our graduating high school seniors will be recognized during the Inter-generational Flower Service at 10am. Be sure to attend this first service of summer!

### Picnic Playdate

for PreK – 6th Grade Youth and Families

On June 5 after the Flower Service, our PreK through 6th grade youth and their families are invited to join Karen Laukaitis and Sandy Anderson-Cordogan and their families for some fun and community-building at Island Park in Geneva, 11:30am-12:30am.

If you can participate, contact Karen or Sandy. If you would like to walk to the park with them, meet in the entryway to the Common Room at 11:15am. Pack a picnic lunch and come join us!

### LRE Fall Teacher Sign-Up

Because summer plans often make it difficult to be at UUSG consistently before the fall classes for our young people begin, volunteers are asked to sign up now to teach in the fall.

The first teachers' meeting, for all volunteers, will be on Monday, August 29, 7-8pm. The coming year's classes begin Sunday, September 18, 2011 and run through Sunday, May 27, 2012. Please add these dates to your calendar.

Please go to the LRE bulletin board or online at <http://content.uusg.org/teacher-sign-up/>, look at the classes which still need teachers, and sign up for this most important responsibility and opportunity to pass on Unitarian Universalist values, teachings, and ideas to our youth.

## More LRE Announcements

### LRE Summer Spirit Play

Summer religious education for our young people, PreK-Grade 5 (ages 4-11), takes the form of *Spirit Play*, a Montessori-style religious education curriculum that teaches UU values through stories, self-directed activities, and group discussion.

This program begins July 3 and continues for 10 weeks, through September 4.

### Spring Special Project Thank You

A special thank you goes to Jean Pierce, who wrote, coordinated, and led the 7-week curriculum for PreK through 6th graders this past April and May.

Jean's program involved a weekly study of each of the seven UU principles. Each week included learning about a famous UU from the past who acted on one of the principles, an interview of a current UUSG adult who acts on one of the principles, classroom activities, and periodic puppet shows. Further, several service projects were offered to the youth, giving them the opportunity to act on UU principles. See page 7 for more details.

### LRE Committee Meeting Dates

June TBD, 7:30pm  
July 11, 7:30pm  
August 1, 7:30pm

### LRE Summer Spirit Play Teacher Sign-Up

*Spirit Play*-trained congregants are asked to sign up on the revised sign-up sheet for the Sundays on which they can lead the class (there are 10 Sundays, July 3 through September 4). One assistant, who does *not* need to be *Spirit Play*-trained, will also be needed each of the 10 Sundays. Please sign up on the LRE bulletin board or online at <http://content.uusg.org/teacher-sign-up/> by Friday, June 24.

### Munch & Learn Lecture Series

The Munch & Learn Series is on hiatus for the summer.

We will start up again with a talk on September 18th with Kate Frazier teaching us about "Attracting Birds to Your Backyard." Our famous UU author, Deb Brod, will be the guest speaker on Oct 9.

### YRUU Habitat for Humanity Trip

This year's youth Habitat for Humanity trip, July 9-17, will involve 22 teens and 8 adults from our congregation.

Check the UUSG Facebook page during that week for updates on the build project and how our youth are ministering to those in need.

## Swedish Days Pizza Booth



Geneva's Swedish Days are Tuesday through Sunday, **June 21-26**. Our UUSG Pizza Booth will be in full swing all six days, **but only with your help**.

Sign up for a two-hour slot to serve up pizza & pop, or consider joining the elite rank of Day Managers! This is one of our largest fundraisers of the year, and we need everyone's help to make it a success.

Sign up online **TODAY** at <http://content.uusg.org/swedish-days-pizza-booth/>.

## Clip 'n' Save: Summer Services

We have a full schedule this summer—here's what happening when!

- June 5            During this Intergenerational Flower Service, we'll recognize our graduating seniors.
- June 12          Pam Rumancik's last day in our pulpit and as our Intern!
- June 19          Fathers' Day service led by the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates.
- June 26          SWEDISH DAYS, so no service at church. But please do come and help out (or buy some pizza from) our Pizza Booth at the corner of Third & James!
- July 4            Lindsay will speak on "Patriotism Revisited."
- July 10          Lindsay will speak on "Drifting" and the importance of "not-doing."
- July 17          A special guest, the Rev. Lynne Garner, will be in the pulpit.
- July 24          Folk musicians Susan Urban and Phil Cooper will bring the delights of February Sky to our Sanctuary.
- July 31          Lindsay will speak on "Curiosity" and ongoing education.
- August 8         Dean Malambri & Friends will lead a musical celebration.
- August 14       Our Board President, Bill Pokorny, will be in the pulpit.
- August 21       Lindsay will speak on "More Big Ideas."
- August 28       Monica Jenkins will lead the Poetry Service.
- Sept. 5          Lindsay will have the pulpit for the Sunday before Labor Day and will speak on "When I Grow Up."
- Sept. 11         This is the weekend of Geneva's Festival of the Vine, a weekend when downtown parking is abysmal and our attendance has matched it! So we're moving Homecoming Weekend and instead will have an informal potluck brunch at the church (9:30am-12pm) and our Homecoming Picnic at Wheeler Park at 12pm.
- Sept. 18         Homecoming Sunday! We're back to 9:30am and 11:15am services.

## Summer Summary

### Worship Services

Sunday, May 29: our last 2-service weekend until September

June 5 through September 4: summer schedule of one service on Sundays at 10am

Remember: no services on June 26—it's Swedish Days!

September 11: Intergenerational Potluck and End-of-Summer Celebration Picnic at Wheeler Park

September 18: return to our regular church year schedule—2 services on Sunday at 9:30am & 11:15am

### Church School

June—Intergenerational Worship Services (childcare available for children infant through 1st grade)

July 3—September 4, Spirit Play curriculum for grades PreK - grade 5 (ages 4-11).

### Staff Travels & Vacations

All staff will be off on Monday, May 30 in honor of Memorial Day.

Lindsay: on Study Leave June 20-26, on vacation August 1-9, at Hypnotism Convention August 10-18

Katie: on vacation June 3-6 (and other dates to be decided)

## Social Justice News

### June Friday Flick: “Silent Screams”

On June 17 at 7pm, the Friday Flick will be Karla Hansen’s *Silent Screams*.

The film explores the social costs of America’s war in Afghanistan through the experiences and words of American peace activist, pacifist, author, and three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee Kathy Kelly and others. Particular attention is paid to the aftermath of drone attacks.

Mary Dean, Kelly’s colleague who recently returned from a trip to war zones, will join us to share her experiences.

Warning: This film is short, but it does show some graphic images of injuries to civilians who were hurt by drone-guided bombs. Part of the message is summarized by an activist who observes, “The drones can’t hear the groans of people dying on the ground. Do we?”

### Making a Difference

Many thanks to our April Lazarus House volunteers: Melissa Auer, Judith Calleja, & William Elbert made dinner; Giana Felish and the Bryant family made lunch; and Jeanne Neltner stayed overnight.

UUSG is committed to providing Lazarus House with lunch, dinner, and an overnight person on the 1st Saturday of every month.

If you haven’t considered this volunteer opportunity, please check out the information located at <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/> or talk to one of the volunteers listed above.

You can also check the Social Justice bulletin board for more information about volunteering for this important local ministry—you can make a difference!

### Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

**Thank you** to everyone who volunteered with us at Feed My Starving Children on May 21: Kevin Beyer; Eric Bodwell; Doreen & Grace Christiani; Alisa & Declan Creaney; Monica Gephart; Kirstin Johnson; Laura Kivisto; Vohny Moehling; Jean Pierce; Rej & Riley Rooney; and Greg, Lois, & Ray Ulreich. We packed 8208 meals, enough to feed 23 children for an entire year!

#### June and August 2011: Batavia Community Garden

Join others from UUSG who are learning sustainable gardening techniques while assisting with the Community Garden in Batavia. See what is happening on the *Batavia Community Garden* site on Facebook. At 9am on June 18 and August 20, people of all ages are welcome to come to 311 W. Main Street in Batavia. We will also be signing up to return to the garden at various times during the weeks of June 18-24 and August 20-26. To find out what tools you should bring, please contact Jean Pierce or Betsy Zinser. Produce from the garden will be contributed to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Thank you for your continued support!

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
June 18 9:00am	Batavia Community Garden	All ages	See above	Gardening for the Interfaith Food Pantry
August 20 9:00am	Batavia Community Garden	All ages	See above	Gardening for the Interfaith Food Pantry

## More Social Justice News

### Action Alert: Local Water

Help keep your water under local control—tell your representative to vote "YES" for public water!

Water is an essential human resource that belongs under public control—it shouldn't be treated as a commodity that can be bought and sold for corporate profit. Many communities in Illinois have been burned by privatization, facing water rates 300% higher than the rates their neighbors pay.

To add insult to injury, communities that have privatized water systems often face poor service while still paying exorbitant prices for their water.

We have a chance to pass a bill that will give communities the power to buy back their water systems from private water companies. This bill has already passed in the Illinois Senate and will come up for a vote in the House this session. If passed, this bill will allow communities to locally control their own water systems, likely resulting in lower rates and a water system that is focused exclusively on delivering safe and clean water instead of the bottom line for private water companies.

**Contact your legislator to vote "YES" on SB 0083. Please go to the following website to easily send a message to your representative:**

<http://salsa.democracynaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=grtUM6h3HrRdaxnseaOnR3ULIYAqyCoz>

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

### Save the Date!

On July 23 at 8pm in the UUSG Sanctuary, the musical duo February Sky will present an all-ages benefit concert for the St. Charles Youth Center for Boys. Tickets will be family-friendly priced and available for purchase the end of May. A folksy fair of crafts, displays, food/snacks, a costume contest, and a raffle is scheduled from 6pm to 8pm. Please email Vohny Moehling if you'd like to sell your crafts at the fair.

**About February Sky** February Sky (<http://www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk>) is traditional singer and Celtic guitarist Phil Cooper with songwriter and singer Susan Urban. Phil sings and plays his own arrangements of traditional songs and tunes on six-string guitar and cittern. Susan Urban is a writer of story songs and humorous "slice of life" songs. Phil and Susan present a combination of old and new songs addressing the widest possible range of experience, complete with vocal harmony, intricate instrumentation, and thoughtful stagecraft.

**About the Illinois Youth Center (IYC) in St. Charles** The IYC-St. Charles is a high/medium security facility for 432 boys, average age 17. The Center provides GED and high school diploma academic services, an in-patient substance abuse treatment program, vocational programs, mental health services, clinical services, leisure time activities, and family reunification programming. UUSG supports the IYC in a variety of ways. UUSG volunteers carry out an annual winter holiday party of lunch, games and activities for 32 residents. Each boy receives a gift bag of a warm hat and gloves, books, and candy.

### Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In May, we collected \$972 for Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

At the end of June, all the money in the "Change for Change" Jar will go to the Red Cross for their work with those in Alabama affected by the recent tornados.

## **RE Children Act on UU Principles While They Engage in Social Justice**

The spring unit for Religious Education had a social justice theme. The children were engaged in several activities through which they were challenged to live the UU principles.

Worded in child-friendly terms, the first principle is “Each and every person is important.” The children interviewed Nancy Goodfellow and Hal Schulman about their work with Habitat for Humanity, and then they created posters making people aware of the need for volunteers to assist on June 18<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> with planting and harvesting the Batavia Community Garden which benefits the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry (please see the article on page 5 for more details). In addition, Anna Hickey recorded a public service announcement for WSPY radio station, telling people about the Fox Valley Green Construction Scholarship.

The second principle is “All people should be treated fairly.” The children interviewed Jeanne Neltner, who told them about opportunities to assist the Lazarus House homeless shelter in St. Charles. To act on this principle, RE children conducted a book drive for the Olney C. Allen Elementary School in Aurora, which had lost much of their library to mold. Special thanks is extended to George Hickman, who arranged for a large number of books to be contributed by a former principal of Allan School, Dave Frerichs. Altogether, 300 books were donated to the school.

The third principle is “Our churches are special places where we learn and grow together.” Bev Coe told the children about how church members helped her deal with a hearing impairment. In honor of this principle, RE children conducted a REadathon. Alexander Cordogan, Stephan Cordogan, Ryan Thornton, and Zoe Vicker submitted lists of books they had read during the last week of April. The REadathon raised \$238 for the Red Cross efforts to assist people devastated by tornados and storms in Alabama.

The fourth principle, “We are free to search for answers about what is right and true,” featured UUSG puppeteers telling the children about Timothy Berners-Lee and an interview with Lou Pierce about his work with the Fox Valley Literacy Volunteers.

The fifth principle, “People need to take part in deciding about things that concern them,” involved another puppet show—this time about Thomas Jefferson. Tracey McFadden told the children about his efforts to provide Action Alerts to the congregation. The RE children voted that the UNICEF Clean Water project should be the “Change for a Change” recipient for next year.

In recognition of the sixth principle, “We believe in working for a world with peace and fairness and freedom for all,” UUSG puppeteers presented a third puppet show, describing the efforts of Linus Pauling. The children interviewed Sharon Hansen, who has been at the forefront of UUSG’s peacemaking efforts, and they created “Kindness Posters” like those which Sharon used with her former students.

On Memorial Day weekend, the children will learn about the seventh principle, “We believe we must take care of the earth.” They will interview Betsy Zinser about her work as an environmentalist and learn about ways in which they can help conserve water.

In addition to these efforts, RE children are creating a DVD which records their talents. It is anticipated that the DVDs will be completed and sold for \$1 each in the fall, with all of the proceeds going to the “Change for a Change” Jar.

## Volunteer Headquarters

### Teacher Recognition

On Sunday, May 22, our LRE Committee recognized everyone who's been involved our Religious Education Program over the last church year:

Hillary Accarizzi	
Mark Alleman	
Sandy Anderson-Cordogan	
Melissa Auer	
Jenny Benjamin	Deb Leoni
Jennifer Briggs	Jessica Littlefield
Amy Brink	Lisa McCarthy
Mylane Bryant	Kim McDuffee-Dotson
Judith Calleja	Jenny Montgomery
Nancy Christensen	Jeanne Neltner
Steve Cordogan	Tracy Paszkiet
Mandy Cornell	Diane Peters
David de Coriolis	Thomas Peters
Wendy Evans-Glazier	Jean Pierce
Yuri Ferrell	Bill Pokorny
Debra Finnegan	Jen Reiner
Nancy Goodfellow	Julie Riffle
Diane Handler	Rhonda Robinson
Louise Haslett	Lesley Ronson Brown
Nell Haslett-Brousse	Tracy Rosenkrans
Christy Hickey	Tom Russo
George Hickman	Jeannie Scown
Becky Hruby	Bob Swanson
Sean Hruby	Mary Swanson
Wendy Jaggard	Diane Thornton
Marilyn James	Shawn Thornton
Jim Jenkins	Ben Walker
Monica Jenkins	Julie Wegerich
Steve Justis	Ryan Wheeler
Elba Karim	Anne Wilson-Dooley
Zia Karim	Kat Zimmerman
Laura Laughlin	Tom Zimmerman
Karen Laukaitis	John Zinser

If you were involved in the LRE Program over the last church year and didn't pick up your plant (a gift from the LRE Committee) on Sunday, you can pick it up on the southeast porch of Pioneer House before June 1.

Once again, thank you to everyone who takes part in this important ministry to our youth!

### Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Michele Hoecker, who coordinated the Blood Drive

Cindy Vacek, Judith Calleja, Elba Karim, Kate Frazier, Gail Tattersfield, Jim Jenkins, and everyone else who helped out with Lisa Dapas' memorial service

Our May Greeters: Shawn Thornton, Jennifer Ortiz, Kate & Jim Frazier, Gail & George Tattersfield, and Pat & Jim O'Malley

Our May Social Hour Hosts: Bill & Jeannie Scown, Jim Jenkins, Deb Johnson, Dick & Shirley Yingst, David & Renée Tomell, Jim Toland, Vohny Moehling, Ellie Radvanovsky, Pat Vary, Trish Beckjord, Lynn & Llona Steele, Sandy Bottoms, Sherri Casterline, Julie Riffle & Thom Thomas, Shawn Thornton, and Nancy Goodfellow

### Spring Spruce-Up & Smorgasbord

A huge Thank You goes out to everyone who helped with our annual Spring Workday on Saturday, May 21. An enormous number of dandelions were pulled (3 or 4 yard waste bagfuls at least), huge piles of mulch were moved and spread around the grounds, annuals were planted, and the Sanctuary channels cleaned out. Our awesome crew included:

Melissa Auer	Sally Jones
Trish Beckjord	Karen Moore
Sandy Bottoms	Karin Kemp
Dan Bottoms	Bill Scown
Nancy Goodfellow	Jeannie Scown
George Hickman	Llona Steele
Becky Hruby	Lynn Steele

Karen Moore and Karin Kemp coordinated the workday and did an outstanding job!

Many thanks also go to the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee for providing a delicious breakfast and lunch! Glenda Peck, Sandy Bottoms, and Cindy Vacek provided breakfast and made coffee; Gail & George Tattersfield brought lunch and iced tea.

## 2011-12 Board of Directors

President	Bill Pokorny
V.P., Program Council	Doreen Christiani
V.P., Admin. Council	Pam Tilbrook
Secretary	Pat Ward
Treasurer	George Tattersfield
Assistant Treasurer	Jim O'Malley
Director	Don Brod
Director	Jenny Stewart
Director	Barry Knerr
Director	Ben Walker

The Board meets at 7:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

To reach the Board, send an email to [bd\\_list@uusg.org](mailto:bd_list@uusg.org).

## Circles of Life

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following UUSG members who have lost loved ones in the last month: Kate Frazier, whose sister Judy Mabus died on April 29; Geoff Pynn, who recently lost his grandfather; and Eileen Berman, whose mother Gertrude Berman passed away on May 5.

We also send our love and sympathy to Lisa Dapas' husband, Marc, and their children, Matthew and Natalie. Lisa's memorial service here at UUSG on May 22 was truly a celebration of her life. The many UUSG folks who helped with the service & reception are listed in the Volunteer Thank You section on page 8.

We're pleased to report that Ruth Cavanaugh's daughter Olivia Flanigan graduated last weekend from the University of Illinois in Champaign with an undergraduate degree in vocal jazz. She has a graduate assistantship their this fall in vocal jazz. Congratulations!

Our next pieces of good news come from our Intern Minister, Pam Rumancik: Pam graduated on May 15th from Meadville Lombard Theological School with a Masters of Divinity and she will be serving a Chaplain residency next year at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. And if that wasn't enough, she also learned this week that she won an award for a sermon she wrote! The award is from the St. Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education for students preparing to enter the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

## Annual Meeting Summary

On Sunday, May 15, we had our Annual Congregational Meeting. Many thanks to everyone who attended. We accomplished a lot in a short time:

- Heard from our Board President, Bill Pokorny.
- Approved the minutes of the 2010 Annual Congregational Meeting
- Approved on the 2011-12 Board of Directors
- Approved the 2011-12 Budget
- Approved the Revisions to our Bylaws
- Recognized those members who have joined in the last year
- Welcomed 3 new members: Bill Scown, Jeannie Scown, and Jim Toland
- Heard an update from the Long Range Planning Committee

## Dedication of Memorial Stones

Please join us on Sunday, May 29 at 2pm as we dedicate new stones in our Memorial Garden. New stones are being installed for:

Muzaffer Atac (Bob Atac's dad)  
 Marion Starr Dall  
 Joanne Erickson  
 Ruth Fitzpatrick  
 Brian Galligan  
 John & Ina Jensen  
 Virginia Lipman (Brad Lipman's mom)  
 Gene & Vohny Moehling (even though they're very much still alive!)  
 Robert & Mary McManus (Kathie Noll's parents)  
 Maude Woods (Vohny Moehling's mom)

We'll also be replacing some stones that are showing a lot of wear:

Augustus Conant  
 Ann Nordengren  
 Audrey Bjorseth  
 Conrad Bjorseth  
 Pearl Bjorseth.

A reception in the Common Room will follow the service.

## Thoughts from Our Intern Minister, Pam Rumancik

Goodbyes are difficult. Even when you've known for a long time they are coming, even when they are planned in advance. Whether it's moving to a new town, watching kids set out for college, leaving for a new job, or the final goodbye of mourning someone who has died, all goodbyes involve some sadness—especially when the relationships have been warm and supportive and the time together good.

George Carlin observed that the day you get a new puppy you are sowing the seeds of a small tragedy. In the normal course of events you will outlive that adorable bundle of fur and have to say goodbye to it. Your heart will hurt.

Even in raising children, you know the goal one day is to part, to watch them begin a life of their own which looks out at the world instead of back at you. Successful parenting involves separation and loss, it involves saying goodbye.

All of this musing about saying goodbye stems from the fact that I have to take leave of this wonderful community and say goodbye to all of you. I have had a great experience here. I've gotten to know many of you well and met a lot of folks I wish I could have gotten to know better.

My time here has been rich and fruitful. I've learned that it is possible to have productive, concise, laughter-filled meetings on a regular basis. (I'd always suspected it might be true but this is the first place I've seen it demonstrated!) I've watched long-range planning, short-range planning, emergency response planning, and I've observed a real spirit of people associating themselves together "not as agreeing in opinion, but as seekers after truth and goodness." I've watched people come together and find solutions to difficult problems.

I have been blessed to share all the major touchstones of the year and watch the grace and kindness with which you treat one another and encourage each other on the way. I've experienced the depth and breadth of spirituality which lives in Unitarian Universalists through my spiritual direction practice, and it has opened my eyes to new understandings of our faith.

And I've been the grateful recipient of Lindsay's generosity and care in sharing her accumulated wisdom and experience. I have benefited from her successful model of ministry, from the example of a woman passionately devoted to her congregation and dedicated to ensuring their long-term success.

I am grateful beyond words for my time with this community and know the lessons here will enrich and inform my ministry long into the future. While I am constrained to abstain from contact for the next year, know that you will remain in my thoughts and prayers and that I will hold you in my heart always.

For the near future I will be serving a Chaplain Residency next year at Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare and continuing to work toward bringing our (my partner Karen and I) vision of Emmaus, a spiritual community café, to fruition. Have no doubt that I will keep in touch as that project progresses and ask for your prayers and support as we move into the future.

Yes, goodbyes are hard, but as Kahlil Gibran observes: when you are sorrowful, look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

This internship experience and my relationships here have indeed been my delight—and I will carry the memory with me always. Farewell & be filled with the blessing of peace.

Pam

## What's Happening During Swedish Days?

Katie & Sasha will be in the office their regular hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm) during the week of Swedish Days, but Lindsay will be on Study Leave June 20-26.

Remember that there will be no worship service on Sunday, June 26.

Meetings during that week have been canceled, rescheduled, or moved off-site. Check with the group leader or the online calendar to find out if, where, and when your group is meeting.

And lastly, don't forget to sign up for one of our biggest fundraisers of the year: the Swedish Days Pizza Booth!

Turn to page 3 for more info or go to <http://content.uusg.org/swedish-days-pizza-booth/> to sign up.

### Women's Guild Luncheon

Women of all ages are invited to attend the Women's Guild Luncheon on Monday, June 13 at 12pm at Odyssey Restaurant in St. Charles.

If you'd like to attend, please contact Katie (630-232-2350 or [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).

### UUSG on Facebook

Have you "liked" us on Facebook yet? Check out our page by going to [www.facebook.com/uusg1](http://www.facebook.com/uusg1).

We encourage everyone to comment on the page!

If you have something you'd like posted, send it to Ben Walker.

## Memorial Service for Eileen Berman's Mom

This Thursday, May 26, 4-8pm, UUSG will host a wake, memorial service, and reception for Eileen Berman's mom, Gertrude, who passed away this month.

The wake/visitation is open for anyone to drop in from 4pm to 8pm. There will be a short service at 6:30pm. Food and drinks will be available in the Common Room throughout the evening.

If you can help by staying on top of the drinks during the evening, cleaning up, and bringing light cookies, fruit, small finger foods, etc., please let Katie know today.

## May & June Music

Thank you to our May musicians: Pat Vary; Rhonda Robinson; Dawn Pokorny; Susan O'Neill; Pam Birch; Trish Beckjord; Lynn Fisher McCanne; Laura Bartoszek; Katie & Emma Baar; Doria, Elena & Cynthia Spiegel; Kelly Herz; & Dean Malambri.

Wondering who's up in June? Come hear Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, Jane Welsh, Dave & Jennifer Briggs, Lily Phillips, and Tracey & Kristin McFadden.

Please contact Tracy Rosenkrans if you or someone you know would like to sing or play—we are such an appreciative audience! Thank you all for sharing your gifts!

## UUSG Personnel Committee

We'd like to build a complete, 3-person Personnel Committee—so far, 1 person is interested, but we need 2 more people to make a fully-functioning Committee.

If you're interested (or want more information), talk to Katie (630-232-2350, [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).

## Where's Augustus?

Have you been taking your Flat Augustus on trips? Has he been to Europe, helped in your garden, or taken a ride on the bike path?

Wherever he's been, send your pictures to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)!

This Sunday, May 29, will be our last 2-service Sunday until September. Beginning June 5, we'll move to our summer schedule of one service at 10am on Sundays. See page 4 for more info about what's happening this summer!

### Updating the YRUU Room

Have you been the YRUU Room in the basement lately? If not, take a look—we recently purchased 2 new futons and they look terrific!

Keep an eye on the room for future improvements.

### Save the Date

On Saturday, June 30, the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee will host the Super Summer Salad Supper.

Mark your calendars now and look in next month's Pioneer for more details.

### UUSG Art Wall

Are you interested in showcasing your artwork on our Art Wall? If so, talk to Katie ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org), 630-232-2350).

We're looking for people to display their work this summer, so if your pictures are already framed and ready to go, let Katie know right away!

### Senior Flute Recital

Eric Luminais shared his flute skills with us at a worship service in May, but you can also hear him again in June!

Eric's senior recital will take place in the UUSG Sanctuary on June 4 at 1pm.

### Lay Ministers

As our church is growing in numbers, we have established a program to expand the reach of our pastoral ministry. Our Lay Ministers are selected, trained and supervised by our Senior Minister, Dr. Bates, and by Peter and Bev Coe (licensed psychologist and counselor, respectively), who also serve as advisors to our program.

Lay ministers DO NOT provide therapeutic counseling. They offer active listening and presence for those who might feel abandoned, confused or frightened during life's more difficult times (serious illness, death, divorce, job loss, etc.) - or who simply need someone outside the immediate circle of family and friends with whom to talk confidentially.

You can reach our Lay Ministers by sending an email to [LayMinisters@uusg.org](mailto:LayMinisters@uusg.org).

### Attention Parents!

Is your college-age student graduating this spring? If so, let us know by sending an email to Katie at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org). We'd like to honor them by reading their names on June 5, when we'll also be honoring our high school graduates.

### Shopping for UUSG

If you shop at Dominick's, you could earn money for UUSG! Next time you're there, ask to have your Dominick's card attached to the UUSG scrip account and UUSG will get a 1-4% rebate on all your purchases. Or register your Dominick's card today by grabbing your card and going to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

Since we joined this program last year, UUSGers shopping at Dominicks have earned us \$168.39!

### Got Coins?

Bring your loose change to church before the end of June and put it in the "Change for a Change" Jar in the Common Room. All of the money will be going to the Red Cross for Alabama tornado victims.

# JUNE 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10:30 AM & 12:15 PM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>2:00 PM</b> Memorial Garden Service	<b>30</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>31</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>1</b> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>2</b> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>3</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Luminais Recital
<b>5</b> <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> <b>8:45 AM</b> Choir Warm-up <b>10:00 AM</b> Intergenerational Worship; Social Hour at 11am <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:30 AM</b> Elementary Grades Picnic & Playdate at Island Park <b>12:30 PM</b> UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group <b>1:00 PM</b> Spiritual Direction Meeting (registration required)	<b>6</b> <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>8</b> <i>Intern Minister's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>9</b> <i>Intern Minister's Sabbath</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:30 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>7:30 PM</b> Write Time Writers' Group	<b>10</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>5:00 PM</b> Pierce Wedding Rehearsal	<b>11</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting <b>4:00 PM</b> Pierce Wedding
<b>12</b> <i>Ministerial Intern's Last Day in Geneva</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Intergenerational Worship; Social Hour at 11am <b>11:00 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:15 AM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Social Justice Committee Meeting <b>2:00 PM</b> Lay Ministers' Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	<b>13</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Women's Guild Luncheon at Odyssey in St. Charles <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group	<b>14</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors	<b>15</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>16</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>17</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks: "Silent Screams"	<b>18</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Leadership Long-Range Planning Meeting <b>9:00 AM</b> RSVP: Batavia Community Garden <b>3:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry
<b>19</b> <b>Fathers' Day</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting <b>10:00 AM</b> Intergenerational Worship; Social Hour at 11am <b>11:00 AM</b> Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share	<b>20</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>Swedish Days</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>Swedish Days</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>23</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>Swedish Days</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Write Time Writers' Group	<b>24</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>Swedish Days</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>No Services This Weekend</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>Swedish Days</b>
<b>26</b> <b>No Services This Weekend</b> <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> <b>Swedish Days</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>28</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>6:00 PM</b> Pioneer Mailing Prep <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>30</b> End of 2010-11 Church Year <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	<b>1</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>

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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.*

### **Our Staff**

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, *Senior Minister*  
[minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org)

Pam Rumancik, *Intern Minister*  
[internminister@uusg.org](mailto:internminister@uusg.org)

Katie Phillips, *Congregational Administrator*  
[office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)

Michael McElvain, *Music Director*  
[music@uusg.org](mailto:music@uusg.org)

### **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 June 27, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) AND [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org).