



# THE PIONEER

October-November 2009

## Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

Not a Paper Pulpit this time so much as the Minister’s Bulletin Board, with some odds and ends that folks have asked about.

**Why is there no music on the worship service CD? Where are the readings?** At the Ministers’ Fall Retreat, our guest speaker, UU musician & minister Jason Shelton, clarified the realities of current copy-right law. It’s pretty simple: if something has been published, in print or CD or any other form, we may not copy it again without explicit permission. Not even for shut-ins. The only parts of the service that have not been previously published and so can be recorded/duplicated would be the sermon, the benediction (generally extemporaneous), often the prayer, sometimes the For All Ages. So from now on it’ll be just the sermon, and the CDs that were in our library are being removed and reburned to meet copyright restrictions. Sorry – if you love the music or the readings, you’ll have to come to church to hear them!

**OK, so what books do we need to find if we want to follow up on a reading or reference?** I’ve promised several of you that I’d list the titles & authors I’ve recently recommend – anything by Thich Nhat Hanh; The Power of Less, by Leo Babauta; Positivity: Groundbreaking research reveals how to embrace the hidden strength of positive emotions, overcome negativity, and thrive, by Barbara Frederickson; Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me): Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts, by Carol Tavis & Elliot Aronson; Why We Believe What We Believe: Uncovering Our Biological Need for Meaning, Spirituality, and Truth, by Andrew Newberg, MD. I’d also recommend Seeking Peace: Chronicles of the Worst Buddhist in the World, by UU Mary Pipher; Choruses from ‘The Rock,’ by T. S. Eliot. For starters. For other readings or sermons, just ask me where I found it.

**I still don’t understand why Adam left and what you’re going to do about it...** No one else fully understands why Adam left, either, but you’re all invited to join in conversations about how you’re feeling about his departure, how it’s affected your ties to the UUSG community, and what questions you still have. I won’t be at those gatherings, but I’ll be available, as will Board members, after those conversations have happened and we know what questions still need to be addressed. More information is on page 3 of this newsletter, in the Mini-Pioneer and at the church in the Common Room. Please do take part – even if

you’re not sure you need to (or want to), your perspective may be just what someone else needs to hear.

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**Are we sliding back into nickel-&-dimeing each other to death? There seem to be a lot of requests for donations this fall!** Does it help (I hope) to regard those not as requests but rather as invitations? We’re a diverse community, with many different interests, and we want to offer each other a wide range of opportunities to support programs and groups that match our core values. But we fully understand that few folks can (or even would want to) support each and every cause. These truly are invitations, and “No, thank you” is a perfectly appropriate response. The intention is just to help our UUSG community learn about some of the places where we already know we can make a real difference and some new projects and opportunities that might be of interest.

I hope your question got answered ~ Thank you for asking, and see you in church!  
Peace ~ **LB**

## Religious Education Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Our Lifespan Religious Education Program is off to a fantastic start! Attendance at church school this year is strong and steady. Our curricula at all grade levels promote thoughtful conversation among teachers, advisors, and youth as they explore the religions, cultures, and ideas of the world. Children in Preschool through Grade 6 are enjoying their music lesson at the beginning of each class and are preparing for their musical performance in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 15. Chime Ensemble, for youth in Grades 7-8, began practicing their music, which will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, December 13.

**Special events**, like the Junior High Youth Group and Games Night, are excellent opportunities to connect with others and have fun. The youth group meets on the second Saturday of each month. Games Night is scheduled every third Saturday of the month. Discussion groups and study groups of all sorts give adults and teens the opportunity to explore their own interests and spiritual beliefs. Please visit the LRE Board for a list of all upcoming events.

This summer's Coming of Age Program is wrapping up. Thank you to the program's advisors, Amy Brink and Jim Jenkins, as well as the wonderful mentors and youth who participated in the program this year!

**Coming of Age Worship Services are on Sunday, November 1.** Youth will be leading both services. Please join them in the Sanctuary for their brilliant finale!

#### **NEW Munch and Learn Monthly Lecture Series Starting in December!**

Join us as a lecturer or attendee at our new program of factual talks on a variety of topics from "How to shoot pool" to "My trip to Italy." Each talk will last approximately 90 minutes. *Would you like to present an informal factual talk about something you know? Would you like to share the experience of your visit to somewhere wonderful? Would you like to teach others your talent?* The only restriction is that the content of the talk must be factual and not opinion (no ideology, religion, politics, or anything that provokes rancorous debate!).

#### **Upcoming Adult & Youth LRE Events**

Oct 21, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Oct 24, 6:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Oct 28, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Nov 1, 1:00pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
Nov 4, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
Nov 8, 12:30pm	New UUs Orientation Program
Nov 11, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Nov 12, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Nov 14, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
Nov 15, 12:30pm	New UUs Orientation Program
Nov 18, 7:30pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Nov 20, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks: "Peace Is Every Step"
Nov 21, 6:30pm	Games Night!
Nov 22, 12:30pm	New UUs Orientation Program
Nov 25, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Nov 28, 6:30pm	Small Group Ministry

#### **Weekly Adult RE Opportunities**

Mondays, 7pm, "Still Living in the Present Moment"  
Weds, 7pm, UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

**Our first talk, "The Principle of Relativity for the Non-physicist," presented by Barry Knerr, will take place on Sunday, December 6 at 1:00pm.** The Principle of Relativity (POR) plays a prominent role in Einstein's 1905 paper on Special Relativity. This talk takes up the challenge of explaining the POR using only simple mathematics and without diluting the content. We will do this by applying the POR to some classical problems. For example: What is the optimal way to hit a ball in sports like billiards, golf, baseball, and tennis? Using the POR and simple math, we will explore why pro athletes say things like "Follow through," "Just try to meet the ball, don't try to kill it," and "Think speed, not power." We will explore a few other interesting problems as well.

You can express your interest in attending this talk or facilitating a future talk by adding your name to the sign-up sheets on the LRE Board in the Common Room. If you have any questions, please contact Sandi Sumner at [lre@uusg.org](mailto:lre@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350 x224.

## Congregational Conversations

The UUSG Small Group Ministry, Lay Ministry, and Committee on Ministries would like to invite you to participate in a facilitated small group discussion about your connections to the UUSG community and how they have been affected by Adam's departure. Our Small Group Ministry discussion groups have found this conversation helpful to them and would like to extend the same opportunity to the larger congregation.

We're currently offering five different meeting times for you to choose from: Tuesday, 10/27, 7:30-9pm; Wednesday, 10/28, 7:30-9pm; Saturday, 10/31, 3-4pm; Sunday, 11/1, 10:30am-12pm and 12:30-2pm. Each session is limited to 12 people. Sign up in the Common Room this weekend or by contacting Trish Beckjord. We are committed to providing a variety of ways to support the needs of the congregation in this time of transition. If you prefer, you may also contact Lindsay, a member of the Board, or a member of the Committee on Ministries for a private discussion.

## The 2009 Cookie Walk

It started as a small bake sale and now our Cookie Walk is in its 28<sup>th</sup> year! This year's Cookie Walk will be held **Friday, December 4**, and as always, we need bakers and helpers. If you are new to the community and aren't familiar with the Cookie Walk, talk to someone who's been around a while. It's a cherished tradition here at UUSG—in one evening, we sell over 500 dozen beautiful holiday cookies!

The first week of November, **sign-up sheets** will be located at "Clipboard Central," next to the Volunteer Opportunities bulletin board in the Common Room. You may also sign up online through our website (<http://content.uusg.org/cookie-walk/>).



You can help by doing any of the following:

- \* Bake cookies (6, 12, or 18 dozen)
- \* Help prepare for the event on Thursday, December 3, 6:30-8:30pm
- \* Work at the event itself. Two shifts are available: 3:45-5:30pm and 5:15-7pm.

### If you plan to bake cookies

If you elect to bake, we ask that you make festive holiday cookies (the plain ones, as tasty as they may be, just don't sell as well). As in prior years, please bring your goodies in disposable containers (shirt boxes, disposable plates, etc.— things that you do not want back and are recyclable). And, since we now have two duplicate tables of cookies for the Cookie Walk (to reduce the wait time for the cookie walkers), we ask that you provide two identical sets of whatever you bring so that we can put one on each table.

**Cookie drop-off** will take place on Thursday, December 3rd, from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

### If you plan to help set up

We set up on Thursday evening before the walk from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The set-up includes assembling boxes, setting up tables, arranging the cookies, etc. The tasks are simple, we go at a leisurely pace, and talk a lot. You may sit or stand as you prefer. Broken cookies may be sampled this night only.

### If you plan to help at the event

Helping at the event itself is a little more hectic, but something everyone should experience at least once! There are a couple of sitting jobs, but for most of them you must stand. This includes a variety of tasks such as keeping the cookie tables filled with cookies, taping boxes, recycling containers, and handing out gloves. It's great fun!

**Two shifts are available: 3:45-5:30pm and 5:15-7pm.** Note that parking can be difficult for the second shift. You might want to arrive earlier to ensure you can find a place to park.

**Questions? Need a Recipe?** Contact Elba Karim or Sherri Casterline.

## A Program for the New UU in You

The new UU Orientation Program will begin on Sunday, November 1. This program is designed to introduce newcomers to UUSG and to Unitarian Universalism in general. A light lunch is served at 12:30pm, followed by a program which ends at 3pm. If you are new to UUSG, or have missed individual sessions in the past and want to catch up, or if you're a long-time member or friend and are curious, 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 is provided, so let us know if you will need it.

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

- November 1 *Our Spiritual Journeys -- How Did We, You, and I, Get Here?*
- November 8 *History of Unitarian Universalism and Your Spiritual Journey*
- November 15 *Story of UUSG and our Historic Building*
- November 22 *Church Institutional (or How Does Anything Get Done Around Here?)*

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



Daylight Saving Time Ends  
on November 1 at 2am! Remember  
to "Fall Back" on Saturday Night!

## Circles of Life

It was a great sadness to learn of the death of Larry Kotula on October 4. Larry joined UUSG in November 1998, and we will miss him greatly. We offer our condolences to his family and friends, and will welcome them to UUSG for a memorial service to celebrate Larry's life. The service will be held on Thursday, October 22, at 2pm (if you can help out as an usher or with the reception following the service, please let Katie know).

We were also saddened to learn of the death this past summer of Michelle Kongsuwan, a frequent visitor to UUSG. To all her friends and family, our condolences.

We also send our loving sympathies to Kathie Noll, Debbie Willhite and Judith Calleja. No matter how "normal" or "expected" it may be, saying good-bye to a beloved parent is never easy. Kathie and Debbie recently lost their fathers. Judith's mother passed away on October 19; visitation is scheduled at Hultgren Funeral Home (304 N. Main Street in Wheaton) on Thursday, October 22, 3-7pm, with a brief memorial service at 7pm. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the Rosenkrans family—John's mother Kay is in her final days.

We're saying safe travels and best wishes for a wonderful new life in Iowa to Howard Holcombe, who's leaving West Chicago soon to be closer to his family. We'll miss you, Howard - and hope you'll be back to visit now and again.

The turning circle also brings good news ~ it's been wonderful to see Mary Schweitzer back in church, and Gloria Mansfield with her new knee. Joan McInnes is recovering with a new knee herself, and (is there a trend here?) Barry Knerr will be getting a new set of knees soon. Best wishes to all for strong recoveries!

Congratulations to Alex Jenkins, playing his first (of many, we trust!) concert at Carnegie Hall!

We celebrate with Diana Wesley (now Diana Carr), who married Michael Carr in September!

And with much joy we welcome William Wesley Pokorny, born September 28! Mom Dawn and Dad Bill and Big Brother Jack are all adjusting well to the new baby, and we're looking forward to meeting him as soon as the pediatrician says he's ready to meet the public.

## Social Justice News

### Two Opportunities for “Beyond Our Walls” Contributions in November

In November, people will be invited to contribute to one or both of two worthy organizations.

The Veterans' service, on November 7-8, will present information about **Fischer House**, a facility being built for families of veterans who are receiving treatment at Hines Hospital.

Then, during the Thanksgiving services (November 21-22), we will have an opportunity to contribute to the cost of 115 care packages which will be assembled for **indigent seniors served by the Humanitarian Service Project**.

### Helping Out at Lazarus House

We're making the Lazarus House Dinner preparation a friendlier experience by turning it into a group affair! We have begun preparing the dinner at the church in our kitchen at 3pm on the 1st Saturday of the month. So if you have wanted to help prepare dinner but felt intimidated, please think about joining the group this fall and winter. We still need volunteers for lunches, dinner, and overnight in the upcoming months—sign up in at Clipboard Central in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/>.

### “Some Like It Hot” Chili Supper

**When:** November 14, 6:30pm

**Where:** Common Room

**Why:** Fun and Fundraising for Feed My Starving Children

Excitement for the Chili Supper on November 14 is heating up! Be sure to sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board to bring a dish (chili, salad, dessert, or bread & chili toppings) or to help with set up/clean up. Childcare will be provided.

If you would like to drink something other than coffee or water, you are invited to bring your own beverages.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Chili chefs are asked to sign up by 11/1! Sign up at <http://content.uusg.org/chili-supper/> or in the Common Room.

Prizes will be awarded for

- \* the spiciest
- \* the best example of "universalist" (having universal appeal)
- \* the one with the most unique ingredient(s)
- \* the best vegetarian entry

Currently, there is only one vegetarian entry, so in the interest of fairness, we are sharing our not-so-secret recipe for preparing tofu that has the texture of meat: Leave tofu in original package and place in freezer for 72 hours. Bring a pot of water to a simmer. Place package of tofu in water and allow to thaw, approximately 20 minutes. When thawed, remove from package, place in a piece of cheesecloth, and squeeze out liquid. Shred tofu or dice in small pieces and add to other ingredients. (You may try lightly frying tofu before adding.)

Check the Social Justice bulletin board for a sign-up sheet. Chili chefs are asked to sign up before November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will contact you to request a copy of your recipe to distribute on November 14.

### Illinois Youth Center Party: Sunday, December 20

It's never too early to begin making plans for our Illinois Youth Center Holiday Project! This year there is a change in the day of the week when the party will be held – it is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, December 20. Please start thinking about how you will get involved with this holiday tradition. Please contact Jean Pierce ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350) or sign up on the Social Justice bulletin board to:

- \* Provide items for the Youth Center sales, which will begin on the last weekend in November.
- \* Sell ornaments, chocolates, nuts, peace pins, etc. during social hours beginning November 28.
- \* Purchase hats, gloves, socks, cards, puzzle books, or candy for 35 gift bags.
- \* Attend the party on December 20 (must be 21 or older).

## A Little More Social Justice News

### Friday Flick Updates

Plans for October's Friday Flick were pre-empted by an opportunity to hear guest speakers describe their use of Marshall Rosenberg's approach to international peace-making in Sri Lanka and in Guatemala.

Therefore, on **November 20** the Social Justice Committee will screen "Peace is Every Step," a film that depicts how Thich Nhat Hanh has learned to cope with adversity. Described as a Zen master, teacher, scholar, and poet, this quiet-spoken Buddhist monk has been hailed as one of the great peace activists of our time. The film introduces us to a wise spiritual leader who lived through the Vietnam War and fought back with love. Noting that "[t]he best way to take care of the future is to take care of the present moment," Thich Nhat Hanh shares his techniques for finding peace within ourselves and subsequently with others.

#### Friday Flicks are now available in UUSG Library!

A number of the Friday Flicks which have been shown in the past are now catalogued in the UUSG Library. Members and friends of the congregation can now check out the following:

18 in '08	Rethink Afghanistan
Afghan Stories	Sicko
Beyond Our Differences	The Day after Peace
Heroes of the Spirit	Uncounted
My Country, My Country	Where is the Rage?
No More Victims	Witnessing Darfur

### Working on the Congregational Peace Pledge in November

This year's focus on peace was launched during October. A number of members of the congregation have already stepped forward to share suggestions for the Inward and Societal parts of the Congregational Peace-making Pledge. In November, we will have an opportunity to consider two more of the parts of the Pledge:

**November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** The Veterans' service will address International Peace

**November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** Lindsay will address Congregational Peacemaking

Following each of those services, the congregation will be invited to edit the relevant sections of the pledge and to write answers to "What can/does UUSG do to promote this type of peace?" These ideas will be collected in the Common Room, but people are also welcome to submit their input directly to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

Then, on November 29th at 10:15am, Social Justice will again host a Fourth Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary – this time we will discuss the International and Congregational sections of the Pledge.

### Action Alert: Let's Rebuild the Gulf Coast with Good Green Jobs

Four years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast, the recovery needs of communities in the region are still great. Good "green" jobs would help people rebuild their lives and restore the environment.

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act (H.R. 2269) is a bipartisan bill with broad community support that would create 100,000 living-wage jobs and training opportunities for local and displaced workers. This bill was introduced in May 2009 – and so far, only 31 House members have cosponsored it. Please urge your Congressperson to cosponsor the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act of 2009 by going to the following website: [www.uusc.org/content/respond\\_urgent\\_action\\_alerts](http://www.uusc.org/content/respond_urgent_action_alerts).

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

**Giving "Beyond Our Walls"** In October, we collected \$888 for First Book, an organization that provides new books to children in preschools, after-school programs, mentoring programs, shelters, day care centers, and other groups serving youngsters in need.

## Another Social Justice Opportunity

### October and November RSVPs for Families

Thank you to our last-minute October volunteers who helped with painting and interior finishing at the Habitat for Humanity house in St. Charles: Kevin Beyer, Lisa Gades, Anne Moultrie, Kat Zimmerman, and Tom Zimmerman.

On October 24, 8:45-11:00am, we will be participating in a special "Youth Shift" event at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Many of our regular NIFB volunteers have expressed interest in making this a family activity; now is your chance! Students ages 8 and up are welcome to volunteer with a parent (1 adult for every 5 students). More information can be found at <http://www.northernilfoodbank.org/>

On November 28, for 30 minutes right before the holiday decorating party, we will be assembling gift bags for needy seniors in the Kane County and DuPage County areas. Volunteers of all ages are needed to decorate the gift bags for a "personal touch" and to fill them with items that will be useful and comforting during the winter months. We are purchasing cough drops, lotion, Kleenex, greeting cards, ear muffs, and tea bags, which will nearly fill the gift bags, but you are invited to contribute small items to tuck in the corners of the gift bags. Suggested items include: chapstick/lip balm, travel-sized tissues, postage stamps, hot chocolate, puzzle books, gift cards to Walgreens, Jewel, Target, Walmart, etc.

If you are able to provide any of the above items, please place them in the labeled basket in the Common Room. Gift bags are distributed through the Humanitarian Service Project. More information can be found at <http://www.humanitarianservice.org>

Sign up for these 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
Oct. 24 8:45-11am	Northern Illinois Food Bank 600 Industrial Dr. St. Charles, IL	8 & older	Closed-toed shoes; parent to accompany students under 14	Sort and package food for distribution to food pantries
Nov 28, 30 minutes before the Holiday Decorating Party	UUSG Common Room	All ages		Pack gift bags for seniors

### A Local Opportunity to Help a Family in Need

We recently received word from Sharon & Dave Hansen that the current Habitat for Humanity house in St. Charles is in serious need of volunteers to get the project completed (and the family moved in!) before winter.

Dave, who's the supervisor for this project, hoped to have the house done by the end of the summer, but there have been so few volunteers that they've just finished painting. The family (parents & 3 kids) are ready to move in whenever the house is completed.

Please consider giving your time to this important local project. You don't need any special skills to help-- just a willingness to work. Come to the corner of Dean and 15th Street in St. Charles on any Saturday (works starts at 8:30am) and offer your help.

For more information, contact Dave Hansen.

## Green Corner

### Survey Says...

The Green Sanctuary Committee would like to thank all of you for your wonderful response to our congregational survey. As promised, here are the results. We can be proud of being a very green congregation and look forward to working together to continue to improve. This information will be quite valuable to us, as were your suggestions and encouragement.

#### Do you recycle paper, plastic, and cans?

97% usually do this                      1% will try this  
2% say that it isn't practical for them

#### Do you use compact fluorescent light bulbs?

62% usually do this                      32% sometimes do this  
1% will try this                              6% say that it isn't practical for them

#### Do you participate in a wind energy program?

21% usually do this                      4% sometimes do this  
15% will try this                              60% say that it isn't practical for them

#### Do you have a rain barrel?

24% usually do this                      1% sometimes do this  
23% will try this                              52% say that it isn't practical for them

#### Do you have a compost bin or compost pile?

33% usually do this                      6% sometimes do this  
18% will try this                              43% say that it isn't practical for them

#### Do you have a garden or go to local farm markets?

47% usually do this                      40% sometimes do this  
5% will try this                              8% say that it isn't practical for them

#### Do you plant native plants?

37% usually do this                      33% sometimes do this  
9% will try this                              21% say that it isn't practical for them

#### Do you wash your clothes in cold water?

57% usually do this                      28% sometimes do this  
7% will try this                              8% say that this isn't practical for them

#### Do you line dry your laundry?

6% usually do this                      20% sometimes do this  
6% will try this                              68% say that this isn't practical for them

#### Is your water heater on the low setting or 120°?

63% usually do this                      4% sometimes do this  
14% will try this                              19% say that this isn't practical for them

#### Do you properly dispose of household hazardous waste?

82% usually do this                      13% sometimes do this  
3% will try this                              2% say that this isn't practical for them

#### Do you avoid bottled water?

69% usually do this                      22% sometimes do this  
5% will try this                              4% say that this isn't practical for them

#### Do you bring your own bags when you shop?

49% usually do this                      40% sometimes do this  
3% will try this                              8% say that this isn't practical for them

#### Do you unplug or use a powerstrip to turn off electronics and chargers?

13% usually do this                      50% sometimes do this  
20% will try this                              17% say that this isn't practical for them

(results continue on the next page)

## Green Corner

### Do you read the Green Corner in the Pioneer?

56% usually do this

11% will try this

25% sometimes do this

8% say that this isn't practical for them

### Do you visit the GSC bulletin board in the Common Room?

27% usually do this

19% will try this

47% sometimes do this

7% say that this isn't practical for them

### UUSG vehicle tally:

Motorcycles/scooters 6

Sedans 60

Trucks 3

Vans 4

SUVs 24

Hybrids 26

Minivans 8

Other 10

### Green things you do that we've not mentioned here

Take a look at the Green Sanctuary Committee's bulletin board (in the southeast corner of the Common Room) to see all of the wonderful things you and your fellow UUSGers are doing.

### Would you like to join or become a friend of the Green Sanctuary Committee?

For those of you interested in joining the committee, THANK YOU so much! We'll be in contact with you very soon. For those of you interested in serving as a friend of the committee, you also have our heartiest thanks. HOWEVER, all but one of you chose not to put your name in the optional name blank. This will make it difficult for us to let you know when we need your help. So, we implore you to follow up on your generous offer of help by sending an e-mail to us at [gsc@uusg.org](mailto:gsc@uusg.org) or by calling the office and leaving a message with Katie.

### How to Have a Green Halloween

1. Email party invites rather than snail-mail them.
2. Serve healthy and seasonal foods.
3. Buy pumpkins, apples and other seasonal items from a farmer's market.
4. Make use of all pumpkin parts. After carving a pumpkin, save the seeds to bake.
5. Use re-usable plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and tablecloths.
6. Make your own costume or buy one at a second-hand shop.
7. Give out healthy treats.
8. Instead of using paper or plastic disposable bags to collect treats, use a recyclable bag.
9. Teach your children not to litter with their candy wrappers.
10. Experience nature.

### Have a Greener Thanksgiving

1. Reduce your waste, reuse shopping bags, and recycle as much as possible!
2. Buy and eat locally-grown food
3. Make your meal organic.
4. Celebrate at home.
5. Or travel smart.
6. Invite the neighbors.
7. Plant a tree.
8. Make your own eco-friendly decorations.
9. Make it a spiritual day.
10. Say "Thank you."

## Saturday Night Worship...With Snacks!

OK, we've agreed to a compromise. For Saturday services to continue, we need an average of only 40 people. We're at an average of 34, so we don't have too far to go. And we'll give it an additional month - up through December 12. That gives everyone time to come try out the Saturday services. AND - just to make it more interesting - we're declaring the moratorium on snacks at social hour LIFTED on Saturday evenings! This does not mean there always will be food. It doesn't even mean that there will usually be food. But it *\*does\** mean that if someone wants to share some freshly-baked pies or a pot of homemade soup or some wine & cheese & crackers in addition to the coffee & tea, **the option is open for Saturday social hours ONLY.**

So if you've missed the opportunity to share your culinary skills, please sign up to host on a November or December Saturday - and if you think Saturday Services are good idea, come join us on Saturday at 5pm and see what happens!

## Interested in Hypnotism?

The final Hypnosis Informational Intake session of this church year (time restraints being what they are) will be Monday, November 2, from 7 to 9pm. If you would like to be able to attend our Last Tuesday Hypnotism programs, you *\*must\** do an Intake - so we hope you can join us! Please let Lindsay know ([minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org)).

## Steeple Walk

UUSG is one of four churches participating in the **Geneva Steeple Walk** on the afternoon of **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. There will be an opportunity to hear different kinds of music at each church. Michael McElvain will be performing with two fellow musicians at UUSG. Ruth Cavanaugh will present music with her group "Ensemble Ad-Hoc" at the United Methodist Church.



Please watch for tickets to be available by late October at UUSG or at the Geneva History Center. Tickets are priced at \$12 each and there are only 250 tickets available. Contact Gail Tattersfield for more info.

## Focus on: The Nominating Committee

The Nominating committee is a group of two or three members of the congregation plus the most recent past Board President. The committee's task is to identify UUSG members with an interest in church leadership. This process usually begins each January with a meeting with the Senior Minister. She helps identify interested individuals. The Committee Chair then has conversations with the existing Board Members to determine their interest in remaining on the board and if anyone has expressed to them an interest in serving. Next, the committee meets to begin the process of calling prospective candidates. Interested candidates can also identify themselves to the office or any Nominating Committee member.

At the end of the process, a slate of nominees is generated for all of the Board positions and offices (including next year's nominating committee), and that slate is published in the Pioneer. Our final responsibility is to distribute and count ballots at the annual meeting. The results are announced at the meeting and published in the Pioneer. The committee has no regular meeting time and only meets as needed in the Winter/Spring to do its work. This is a relatively low-profile committee that performs a vital task for our community.

If you're interested in helping this committee, please talk to Katie in the office.

## Disaster Preparedness Training

Two staff members (Katie and Sandi) are attending this important training and they'd love a few more people to get involved. It's on Monday, November 2, 2009, from 6 to 9pm, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 101 S. Sixth Ave., in St. Charles, IL. A light supper will be provided at 5:30pm.

To register, please provide your full name, address, phone, email address, home church, and city to: [parishnurse@StMarksSTC.org](mailto:parishnurse@StMarksSTC.org) or 630-584-8638 **by THIS FRIDAY, October 23.**

## Calling All UUSG Singles Age 25+

Join us on Friday, November 6 at 7:30pm in the Common Room for an evening of socializing, music, wine, and cheese. This is a chance to get out of the house, strengthen friendships, and make new acquaintances in a relaxed atmosphere. Childcare will be provided. (LGBT UUSG members & friends, even though you had a potluck just a few weeks ago, we'd love it if you'd join us for this event, too.)

If you're interested, sign up in the Common Room or by contacting Katie at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350. NOTE: We need at least 10 people signed up by Monday, November 2 for this event to happen, so please get in touch if you'd like to join us!

## A Change in Plans

CONGRATULATIONS to Katie Phillips, our Congregational Administrator! Katie is one of only 8 people accepted into a Master Poetry Class taught by Irish poet Eamon Grennan in Sleepy Hollow, NY (which is 40 miles north of Manhattan and where Washington Irving is buried) this fall— a wonderful, exciting opportunity that we're thrilled she can have.

This will affect Katie's vacation and office schedule, so if you need to make plans for dropping by the UUSG office, please note these changes: Instead of the planned October 23 - November 7 block of vacation time, Katie will be:

**Gone:** Friday, October 23 through Sunday, November 1;

**Back to work:** Monday, November 2 through Thursday, November 12;

**Gone:** Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 22

## Come Sing with Us!

Teens and adults are invited to join any or all of the following UUSG Choir opportunities:

Sing Christmas Eve, 12/24 at 8:00pm (warm-up at 6:30 PM); Rehearsals--Sundays 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, 12:30-2:00 PM

Sing Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 9am & 11am (warm-up 8:15 AM); Rehearsals--Sundays 1/17, 1/24.

Sing Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010; at 9am & 11am (warm-up 8:15 AM); Rehearsals--Sundays 3/7, 3/14, 3/28, 12:30-2:00 PM

To RSVP or to be added to the contact list, please contact Ruth Cavanaugh at [choir@uusg.org](mailto:choir@uusg.org).

## 2010 Circle Supper Sign-Up

Deadline -- November 29, 2009

Circle Suppers involve revolving groups of participants who take turns hosting or providing a part of the meal for each of four monthly Suppers. Participating pairs or singles will be grouped with different participants for each of the four Suppers, which are held in January, February, March, and April. The designated guests at each Supper will be pre-assigned the tasks of bringing salad, entrée, or dessert. Designated hosts may provide hors d'oeuvres, bread, or vegetable, etc., as well as china, glassware, flatware, and a place to dine. If you wish to have wine or other adult drinks, BYO.

"When I was a new member, the Circle Suppers provided a great way to meet fellow UUSGers," said one participant, "I've gotten to know so many people and made several dear friends as a result."

If you would like to participate in the Circle Supper 2010 Program, as either a "single" or a "pair" (multiple singles may sign up together), and as either a regular or an alternate participant, please complete a sign-up form at church, sign up online at <http://content.uusg.org/circle-supper-sign-up/>, or contact Jim Burke.

## New Directory Available Soon!

The Fall-Winter 2009 Directory of UUSG Members & Friends will be available on Mon., November 2.

A PDF version will be emailed to everyone who is in the directory. If you're not in the directory yet, but would like a PDF copy, you can get one by sending an email to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) and Katie will send one to you when she returns from her vacation.

Paper copies will also be available in the Common Room, starting November 2.

## Lost? Found!

Please check the Lost & Found table in the Common Room for any items you may have lost. Any items not claimed by November 1 will be donated or otherwise disposed of.

## Enhancing our Shared Worship Space

A Report of the Sanctuary Aesthetics Committee

The first stage of improvements to our sanctuary space has been completed. The walls, ceiling, and windows have been painted in warmer and brighter colors. The valance has been rebuilt and includes a hanging system with three rods. New crown molding has been added. Sheer panels have been hung in front of the red curtain. Metal sculptures with a branch and leaf design are hanging on each side of the curtains. These improvements were designed to enhance the traditional elements of our historic sanctuary while providing a focal point with an updated look. While the valance and crown molding are permanent features, all other elements are designed to provide flexibility. The fabric panels can be changed or placed in different arrangements for seasonal or special occasions or just for variety.

Kudos go to Jim Jenkins and Lee Bernard for their excellent skilled workmanship in designing and installing the valance, hanging system, crown molding, and metal sculptures. Jim will be designing and building a new stand for the rin gong as well as two other stands (similar to the chalice stand) to be used in front of the curtains. These stands, along with the new hanging system, will allow for flexibility with possible displays of symbols, sacred texts, and visually appealing items related to the seasons, the focus of the worship, or other events taking place in the space.

The committee will be making plans for the next stages. When possible, a special panel will be created to hang behind the chalice and its stand to provide a backdrop that highlights these special elements.

As soon as possible, the chancel chairs will be recovered and new pew cushions will be installed. Eventually the carpet will be replaced and the floor will be repainted or finished as natural wood.

The changes will happen in stages over time as we continue to grow in our understanding of how our shared space enhances our shared experiences and as the funding sources become available for each planned stage. Special donations provided the funding for the improvements to the valance, hanging system, and crown molding. The painting was part of planned facilities maintenance from the Building Improvement Fund (BIF).

The goal of these improvements is to enhance the historic simplicity of the sanctuary, while emphasizing the warmth and thoughtful engagement of our time together in this sacred space. The committee welcomes comments about the completed changes and ideas to help in planning for the future improvements. Please contact a committee member, send an e-mail to Sharon Hansen or Sherri Casterline, or drop your written comments in the box provided in the Common Room.

The Sanctuary Aesthetics Committee: Sherri Casterline, Sharon Hansen, Jim Jenkins, Elba Karim, Maureen McKeough, Beth Wray, and Deann Alleman.

## Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt appreciation to these volunteers:

**Our September Chaffeurs for the very busy Helen Hawkins:** Lou Pierce, Norlyn Dimmitt, Mary Jonke, Beth Johnson, Anne Veague, Page Poris, Kathy Meier, Jenny Montgomery, Joan McInnes, and Jim O'Malley. If you'd like to help, contact Kathy Meier.

**Our October Hosting Experts:** Doreen Christiani, Lou Pierce, Sherri Casterline, Ellie Radvanovsky, Pat Ward, Melissa Auer & Patrick McGleam, Kate & Jim Frazier, Donna & Tony Giamberdino, Laura Bartoszek, Linda & Kevin O'Neill, Bob Atac & Lucy Thelin Atac, and David & Renee Tomell.

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/>.

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of October 21, 2009. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our Website Calendar – go to [www.uusg.org](http://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, November 20, at 9:00 a.m.**

# NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>Daylight-Saving Time Ends</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> &amp; 11 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM &amp; NOON <b>10:30 AM</b> Congregational Conversations <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> Congregational Conversations <b>12:30 PM</b> New UUs Orientation Program <b>1:00 PM</b> UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" <b>7:00 PM</b> Hypnosis Info-Intake Session <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Bilingual Special Education Program <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program &amp; Administrative Councils</p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>12:00 PM</b> "Healthy Habits" Group <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA <b>7:30 PM</b> UU Paganism Study Group</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>6:00 PM</b> Haslett/Lind Wedding Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Haslett/Lind Wedding <b>7:30 PM</b> UUSG Singles Wine-and-Cheese Gathering</p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>3:00 PM</b> Lazarus House Food Preparation <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM</p>
<p><b>8</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> &amp; 11 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM &amp; NOON <b>10:00 AM</b> Commit to Knit <b>10:30 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>12:30 PM</b> New UUs Orientation Program <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</p>	<p><b>9</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>1:30 PM</b> Women's Guild <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group</p>	<p><b>10</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>5:00 PM</b> Bilingual Special Education Program <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors</p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</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</p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry</p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Blue Papaya Meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Yellow House Artists Membership Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM <b>6:30 PM</b> "Some Like It Hot" Chili Supper <b>6:30 PM</b> Junior High Youth Group</p>
<p><b>15</b> <i>Acting Director of Religious Education Off Today</i> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>8:15 AM</b> Teen/Adult Choir Warm-Up <b>9:00 AM</b> &amp; 11 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM &amp; NOON <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> New UUs Orientation Program <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share</p>	<p><b>16</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"</p>	<p><b>17</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>5:00 PM</b> Bilingual Special Education Program <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing</p>	<p><b>18</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA <b>7:30 PM</b> LRE Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>19</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</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 Thanksgiving Silent Dinner (set-up at 5pm)</p>	<p><b>20</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER deadline <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks: "Peace Is Every Step"</p>	<p><b>21</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>3:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM <b>6:30 PM</b> Games Night!</p>
<p><b>22</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> &amp; 11 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10 AM &amp; NOON <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> New UUs Orientation Program</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"</p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Bilingual Special Education Program <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis</p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>6:00 PM</b> Pioneer Mailing Prep <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</p>	<p><b>26</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Special Holiday Celebration: Gathering the Decorations <b>3:00 PM</b> Decorating UUSG for All Winter Holidays! <b>5:00 PM</b> A special Intergenerational Service of songs and stories for the early Winter Holy Days (childcare available for young children) <b>6:00 PM</b> Holiday Stone Soup Potluck! <b>6:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry</p>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

<p><b>Advent</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> &amp; 11 AM Worship &amp; Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM &amp; NOON  <b>10:15 AM</b> Fourth Sunday Forum: International &amp; Congregational Peace  <b>10:25 AM</b> Chime Ensemble Rehearsal  <b>11:00 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group</p>	<p><b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA Group Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"</p>	<p><b>5:00 PM</b> Bilingual Special Education Program  <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing  <b>7:30 PM</b> Program &amp; Administrative Councils</p>	<p><i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i>  <b>12:00 PM</b> "Healthy Habits" Group  <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group  <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA  <b>7:30 PM</b> UU Paganism Study Group</p>	<p><i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>  <b>6:30 PM</b> Cookie Walk Set-up  <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)  <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising (meeting off-site)</p>	<p><b>4:30 PM</b> Cookie Walk</p>	<p><b>1:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting  <b>3:00 PM</b> Lazarus House Food Preparation  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM</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.*

### **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 November 20, 2009 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) AND [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org).

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