



A Newsletter of

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

THE PIONEER

October-November 2011

Special Announcement

Singer-songwriter Tish Hinojosa is Coming to Geneva to Support Mutual Ground!

On Wednesday, November 30 at 7pm, UUSG will host an amazing concert—international recording artist Tish Hinojosa will perform in our Sanctuary at 7pm, and a portion of the proceeds will go to Mutual Ground, an organization in Aurora that provides services to victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence and their families.

Popular with kids and adults alike, Tish's music crosses borders between cultures, languages, and musical genres. Tish is well-known in the Hispanic community, so we're very excited to be able to offer this event to our Spanish-speaking neighbors.

As the youngest of thirteen children born to Mexican immigrant parents in San Antonio, TX, Tish grew up listening to the traditional Mexican songs on her parents' radio as well as to the pop and folk stations of the 60's. Inspired by these diverse influences, she began playing and singing, first for her family and then later in local clubs and coffee houses. In 1979, she left her hometown for the mountains of New Mexico, where she discovered her love for pure and heartfelt country music. She started performing with legendary country musicians Michael Martin Murphy and Bill & Bonnie Hearne, which inspired her to begin writing her own songs, both in English and Spanish.

Since then, a continuous stream of recordings and numerous American and European tours have brought Tish's music to the attention of an ever-growing audience. To date, she has released 15 albums, all of which beautifully display her ability to distill her diverse musical influences and colorful life experiences into a sound which is distinctively her own. Her releases explore a wide variety of styles: from the perfect balance of country, folk and Latino elements on the award-winning *Culture Swing* (1992) or the collection of Mexican love ballads and border songs on all-Spanish *Frontejas* (1995), to the delicate mysticism of *Dreaming From The Labyrinth* (1996) or the joyful optimism on her bilingual children's record *Cada Niño/Every Child* (1996).

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We're thrilled to be able to host such a talented artist and we're hoping to pack the Sanctuary with music-lovers. To make this event a success, we're asking for a few people to step forward to help with:

- Selling tickets at the door the night of the concert. (Tickets will also be available in advance through the church office.)
- Translating a flier into Spanish so we can promote this concert with our Spanish-speaking neighbors.
- Taking fliers to libraries, coffee shops, etc. We're especially looking for people who can take fliers to Aurora, West Chicago, and Elgin.

If you can help with any of the above, please talk to Katie (office@uusg.org, 630-232-2350).

Tickets are \$15 for adults and FREE for children. We expect this will be a popular show, so contact Katie to buy your tickets early.

Religious Education Announcements

Intergenerational Services

The first Intergenerational services for the fall are coming up this Sunday, October 30.

*** All ages are encouraged to wear a costume as we celebrate Halloween, All Hallows, Samhain, and the Day of the Dead! ***

(There are no church school classes on this date; nursery care will be available for infants and children through kindergarten or age five.)

Coming of Age Program

On October 23, Coming of Age graduates led both worship services. The youth and their mentors shared their statements of faith with the congregation. These services honored the youth and gave them the opportunity to express their beliefs. Rev. Bates formally welcomed them into the congregation and YRUU welcomed them into the high school group.

These youth have impressed all of us with their participation and commitment, depth, and spiritual exploration during the Coming of Age Program. Facilitators and mentors feel honored and privileged to have worked with them.

Youth, Mentors, and Facilitators

Aron Bartoszek	Jim Jenkins
Audrey Jonke	Judith Calleja
Dane McKittrick	Tom Peters
Mary Owen	Lisa Rittenberry
Sophia Spiegel	Marilyn James
Jeremy Swanson	Lou Pierce
Diane Peters	Thom Thomas
Elba Karim	the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

Junior High

The Junior High group is currently exploring the Jewish faith tradition, one of many to be studied throughout the year. Students have prepared questions to ask a guest speaker and teachers are planning a visit to a synagogue.

This group is still looking for interested adults to coordinate social activities. Please contact Jenny Montgomery if you could serve our youth in this capacity.

“Munch & Learn” in November

Our monthly lecture series continues on Sunday, November 13 at 1pm with a presentation from Larry Bartoszek entitled “The Arguments For and Against the Coming Singularity.”

What is the Singularity? The Singularity is conceived to be a time very soon in history when smarter-than-human intelligences will be created. These Artificial Intelligences (AI) will have the ability to program themselves and to accelerate their own intelligences in ways that today’s computers cannot. The reason this time is referred to as the Singularity is that just as the physics model breaks down near the center of a black hole, our model of history and society will also break down. If humans do not take the step of augmenting our own brains, we risk becoming irrelevant to future history. As a friend of Larry’s likes to ask, “Will we make good pets?”

This talk will present the arguments for and against believing the Singularity is near. After you hear the arguments, you can make up your own mind where you will stand on the cusp of history.

Childcare will not be provided for this event. If you plan to attend, please let us know by signing up in the Common Room or sending an email to office@uusg.org.

YRUU

On Sunday, October 9, the YRUU group enjoyed a visit from Rev. Lindsay during their morning class time.

During services on Sunday October 23, the group officially welcomed the incoming ninth graders who completed their Coming of Age program.

On Saturday, November 5, YRUU plans to have an informal potluck meal and make lunches for Lazarus House. Also, 18 youth are planning to attend CON on November 11-14. Chaperones are Zia Karim, Anne Heavey, and Nancy Christensen.

A Message from George Hickman

In response to being recognized for his years of commitment to the children's religious education program, George writes:

"To all of you who revealed such love and affection for me today, and to you whose faces remain a blur, after such a beautiful surprise and wondrous honor: my contributions to our church are due first to Mary S. Hickman, who brought me here, and then who guided our deliberations in pledging and other contributions. She was our guiding light.

"My own efforts within the UUSG, and often beyond our walls, has usually been governed by two requirements: first, "Was it useful?", second, "Was it fun?" It is easy to see why I often went in certain directions and left the difficult challenges to other willing members. They are the ones who deserve to be honored by all of us.

"For you who extended your love and honors to me today, I shall always be grateful. Many thanks.

My love to every one of you,
George"

Grade School & Preschool

Grades 3-5 are happily celebrating holidays from various cultures weekly, while grades K-2 enjoy exploring various ways to think about God.

Weekly instruction for our preschoolers continues to be available at both services. Students begin their morning either in the Sanctuary or the Nursery, whichever works best. Interested preschoolers then participate in RE Music, after which they go with their teacher to the Nursery room for their lesson.

The first social activity for the year for families with children in preschool and grade school was held on Sunday, October 4. Eleven families attended a picnic at Island Park, blessed with a sunny day and coordinated by Karen Laukaitis.

These students have also done an excellent job learning to sing "A Place in the Choir" during their weekly music time. They look forward to sharing it with the congregation on Sunday, November 13, having enjoyed the silliness of the lyrics, explored what these lyrics might mean for us humans, and made connections to upcoming service topics.

September Financial Summary

In September, we recorded \$34,604 in income and \$23,290 in expenses.

Overall, at 25% through the year, our income is at 28% while our expenses are at 18% of what we budgeted for the year. We hope to continue this trend in the upcoming months!

Other items of note for September:

- We paid \$1,803 for our annual carpet cleaning.
- The Communications Committee spent \$150 to advertise in a brochure for Youth Outlook, an LGBTQ youth group that meets weekly at UUSG.
- We paid \$50 for our Congregational Administrator's dues in a UU professional organization
- Our mortgage balance (for the western property) is \$109,270.

If you have any questions about our income or expenses, or would like to see a copy of our monthly financial report, please talk to Katie in the office (office@uusq.org, 630-232-2350).

The most recent monthly report is also available on the "Board News" display in the southwest corner of the Common Room.



Daylight
Saving Time
Ends on
November 6
at 2am!

Remember to
"Fall Back" on
Saturday
Night!

The 2011 Cookie Walk

It started as a small bake sale and now our Cookie Walk is in its 29th year! This year's Cookie Walk will be held **Friday, December 2**, and as always, we need bakers and helpers. If you are new to our 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 in the Common Room. You may also sign up online now by going to <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 1, 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 plate or box on each table.

Cookie drop-off will take place on Thursday, December 1, 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.

Social Justice News

CROP Walk Summary

Thank you to everyone who participated in Tri-Cities CROP Walk!

Walkers included Hillary Accarizzi, Kevin Beyer, Lisa Gades, Jennifer & Tim Graham, Elizabeth Johnston, and Velma Powers.

Donors included Rev. Lindsay Bates, Kevin Beyer, Jason Boggs, Sherri Casterline, Karena Chapman, David & Susan Crader, Forstar Landscaping, Dan & Peggy Gades, Lisa Gades, the Graham Family, Greg Halder, Vicki Harrison, David & Kristin Johnston, Mike Lee, Generosa Loomis, Eleanor Lukazewski, Troy Lutes, the Nash Family, Gary & Kathie Noll, Jean Pierce, Jason Popp, Velma Powers, Lisa & Nick Sereno, Glenn & Kathy Sonntag, Dave & Wendy VanWingeren, Chris & Sarah Weithers, and Cris Woods.

We raised a total of \$1,275 to help alleviate hunger locally and worldwide!

Care Packages for the Troops

As part of our Veterans' Day effort to honor those who serve our country, we will again be packing care packages for troops serving overseas. This year, we are pleased to support soldiers serving in Afghanistan with UU Minister and Chaplain (CPT) George Tyger. In addition, we welcome names and addresses from UUSG members and friends who have family members or friends serving overseas (send names and addresses to Lisa Gades).

We will be packing boxes on **Saturday, November 19, 2:00-3:30pm**, in the Common Room.

In addition, we will be collecting items over the next few weeks to put into care packages. Chaplain Tyger has suggested that the following items are most requested:

- Hygiene Supplies
- Candy
- Beef Jerky
- Black Boot Socks
- Note cards and pictures, especially from kids
- New shoes for children, to be distributed in Afghan villages
- Sports Magazines (due to overseas location, please avoid prominent pictures of women)

Please note that due to the overseas location, care packages must not contain alcohol (including mouthwash). Please bring items to the drop-off box in the Common Room before November 19. To sign up, please contact Lisa Gades, visit the UUSG website at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or see the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room.

Thank you for your continued support!

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
Saturday, November 19 2-3:30pm	UUSG	All ages		Pack care packages for troops

More Social Justice News

November Friday Flick

On Friday, November 18 at 7 pm, *We Still Live Here: As Nutayunean* will be shown.

As Americans prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, people in the Tri-Cities will have an opportunity to screen this documentary about the cultural revival of the Wampanoag tribe, the "Indians" who helped the Pilgrims survive 4 centuries ago.

This prize-winning 2010 film tells the amazing story of the return of the Wampanoag language and, with it, the traditional culture. This is the first time a language with no native speakers has been revived in this country.

Lazarus House Volunteers

Many thanks to the following volunteers who gave their time and resources to our neighbors at Lazarus House over the past few months:

August

Overnight: Bill Baar
Dinner: Jeanne Neltor
Lunches: Llona Steele

September

Overnight: Jeanne Neltor
Dinner: Sherri Casterline, Jenny Benjamin
Lunches: Glenda Peck, Doreen & Grace Christiani

October

Overnight: Shawn Thornton
Dinner: Betty Bristol, Patsy & Steve Carrow
Lunches: Jeanne Neltor & Dave Meehan

If you would like to help with this local ministry, please contact Jeanne Neltor or find more info at <http://content.uusg.org/lazarus-house/>.

Become Part of UUSG's Social Justice Network

Would you like to get up-to-the-minute notices about social justice opportunities? Are you looking for people to join you in attending an OCCUPY rally or preparing a dinner for Lazarus House? Would you like to get updates on the progress on the local Habitat for Humanity project? Do you have a great idea for a Social Justice project—like writing letters in support of Medicare?

While you're thinking about it, become part of the UUSG Social Justice Network by calling or emailing Jean Pierce right now!

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In September, we collected \$1,098 for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

IYC Party

It's time to volunteer for the Illinois Youth Center holiday party and crafts!

Please tell Jean Pierce if you would like to attend this year's holiday party on Saturday, December 17, 12:30-3:15pm.

Also, please contact Jean to tell us if you would like to sell craft projects at the IYC sales, which will begin the final weekend of November.

Social Justice Action Alert: Keep Our Air Clean

Senator Paul Rand (R-KY) has introduced a bill (S.J. 27) that would block a clean air rule which is used by the EPA to keep downwind states free from pollutants released by upwind states. This rule, called Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), would be thrown out and, under Senator Rand's resolution, would prevent the EPA from ever issuing a similar rule again without a new authorization by Congress.

Please go to this link to send a message to your Senator to stop this bill which endangers the health of our nation:

https://secure2.edf.org/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=1891&autologin=true&utm_medium=email&JServSessionIdr004=ayyhjv43i4.app305b

Art Wall

Have you seen the current display on our Art Wall in the Common Room? Vanessa Wheeler created an amazing collage and she invited the congregation to become part of the artwork by adding their own trinkets or thoughts to the display. This Sunday is the last day this collaborative art project will be up, so take a look and see what we made together.

In November and December, we'll enjoy the beauty of Deann Alleman's oil pastels.

2012 Circle Supper Sign-Up

Deadline: November 27, 2011

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.

If you would like to participate in the Circle Supper 2012 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.

Interested in Church Leadership?

This time of year, our Nominating Committee begins to go to work finding out which Board members plan to continue in the upcoming fiscal year. Then they start to think about who in the congregation to approach to fill any openings.

If you're interested in getting involved in the Board of Directors or you'd just like more information, please send an email to nominating@uusg.org or talk to any member of the Nominating Committee: Diane Peters (chair), David Tomell, Sally Jones, Gail Tattersfield.

Welcoming Congregation Potluck and Discussion of Transgender Identity

With a Special Presentation by Guest Lori Fox

Friday, November 11, 6pm

All members and friends of UUSG are invited to attend this special program as part of our fall series of discussions on LGBTQ issues. Bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck dinner. After we have eaten, Lori Fox will lead a program and discussion on the topic of transgender identity.

Lori Fox is president and founder of Lori Fox Diversity Consulting. She works as a diversity business consultant and personal coach, consulting with individuals and corporations on workplace diversity issues. Lori served as a Director of Human Resources and Business Partner with McDonald's Corporation for over 20 years, consulting in unique cultures with unique people.

She has worked in leadership, training, and coaching roles in a number of local and national organizations and is currently serving as the national chairperson of the Transgender Workplace Advisory Board of the organization Out & Equal Workplace Advocates.

Lori is a frequent speaker and facilitator on LGBTQ issues on university campuses, churches, and non-profit organizations all over the USA. As a transgender woman, she truly lives her life with a passion for authenticity and excellence. We will be very honored to have her as our guest presenter and discussion leader.

If you're planning to attend, please sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/welcoming-congregation-event/>. Please let us know if you will need childcare to attend and we will try to make arrangements.

We hope that there will be much interest in this unique opportunity to hear Lori and learn more about transgender identity. Participation in our programs will be included in our reports to UUA as we strive for official recognition of UUSG as an official Welcoming Congregation.

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Our October Greeters: Gail & George Tattersfield, Eleanor Hamilton, our YRUU youth, Betty Bristol, Jim & Pat O'Malley, Eric & Mary Jonke, Dane McKittrick, Audrey Jonke, Lisa Rittenberry, Kate & Jim Frazier, and all our last-minute draftees!

Our October Social Time Hosts: Diane Thornton, Nancy Goodfellow, Bill & Jeannie Scown, Louise Haslett, Ann Drover, David & Renée Tomell, Deb Johnson, and Jim Toland

Jeannie & Bill Scown, for ringing the church bell with local students on a tour with the Geneva History Center. This is a great way to connect with our community and the kids love it!

Jeannie Scown, for cleaning the church oven

Laura Kivisto, for creating the "UUSG News" email blast every week

2nd Social Hour Refreshments

Have you been enjoying lemonade after the 2nd service the last couple of weeks?

If so, take a moment to thank a member of the Membership Committee—they're providing easy-to-make cold drinks (not coffee) to visitors and members alike during the 2nd social hour.

Pioneer Prep

Are you looking for a way to get involved at UUSG without making a big time commitment? Then consider joining our Pioneer Mailing Prep Crew! Most of the newsletters are sent via email, but we still mail about 75 each month.

Preps take place on the Wednesday evening or Thursday morning following the 4th Monday of the month. If you'd like to help out in upcoming months, please contact Katie at office@uusg.org.

The next prep is this week, so if you can help out on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning, talk to Katie—she'd love your help!

Make Your Appreciation Known

Do you know someone who should be thanked? Yes, you do; we all do!

Let Katie know—she can be reached at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

Seamstress Needed

We'd like to replace the shower curtain that hides the AV closet (just outside the Sanctuary) with some regular fabric.

We have the fabric, so all we need is someone to sew the curtain. If you'd like to volunteer for this project, talk to Katie (office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350).

Coffee in November— So Close!

As of today, there is one opening left on Sunday, November 27. This opening must be filled by noon on Monday, October 31 in order for us to have refreshments at any November social times.

Be a coffee hero—sign up today online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

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

Greeters Needed

To rephrase a famous quote: "Be the smiling face you want to see at the Sanctuary door."

Sign up to welcome church members, friends, and visitors in October and November by going to <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.

Green Corner

Meeting Date & Time Change

Beginning November 6th, the Green Sanctuary Committee will meet at 12:30pm (after the 2nd worship service) on the first Sunday of each month to better accommodate schedules.

Please note the change, and we welcome anyone interested to come and check out what we are planning.

Thank you!

The Green Sanctuary would like to thank all of our "GSC Friends" (those who help out upon occasion when a special need arises). The "From the Earth" Harvest Supper on Saturday, October 15 wouldn't have been possible without your generous involvement. That wonderful variety of dishes for the supper was largely provided by the following:

Laura Bartoszek	Jeanne Neltor
Trish Beckjord	Kathie & Gary Noll
Deb Brod	George Tattersfield
Alesa Burbach	Diane Thornton
William Elbert	Renée Tomell
Lisa Gades	Marilyn James
Sandy & Steve Justis	

Much appreciation for those who contributed to the Student Conservation Association fund during the evening. And still more thanks to others who pitched in to announce; clean up; and move chairs, tables, dishes, and decorations; and also to Jeff Stibal, Alan Drover, Gail Tattersfield, Judith Calleja, & Katie Phillips for their helpful advice getting started and with publicity.

With all that expert help, it just had to be a success! Thank you!

Fun with Baking Soda

Some tips you may not have heard yet:

- Make fluffier omelets by adding ½ teaspoon of baking soda for every three eggs used.
- Soak dried beans in a baking soda solution —try a teaspoon to a pint of water—to make them more digestible (and people-friendly).
- Sweeten your fresh tomatoes by occasionally sprinkling baking soda on the soil around your tomato plants.
- Keep cut flowers fresh longer by adding a teaspoon of baking soda to the water in the vase.
- Place an open box of baking soda alongside your stacks of sheets and towels to stave off mustiness—just as you do for your fridge.
- Polish silver: Wash items, then place on aluminum foil in the bottom of a pot. Add a baking soda solution (¼ cup soda, 2 tsp. salt, 1 qt boiling water) and cover for a few seconds. Rinse and dry thoroughly.



Celebrate Thanksgiving with the UUSG Choir

Choir Director Ruth Cavanaugh and the current choir membership welcome YOU to sing with us in the upcoming church year! Here is what we have planned for Thanksgiving weekend, our first performance of the church year:

Sunday, November 27: Join us in singing works by Vivaldi, Schubert, and Handel, accompanied by a professional string quintet. You won't want to miss this special opportunity!

Rehearsals: November 6, 13, & 20, 12:45-2:15pm

We also have a vocal warm-up/dress rehearsal prior to services. Please contact Ruth Cavanaugh at choir@uusg.org if you'd like to be added to our email contact list or want more information.

Supporting NPR, Supporting UUSG

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

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

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

The Communications Committee will be matching contributions again (up to a maximum total match of \$250), so donate today and see your money go twice as far! We'll collect donations through October 31.

Put the New YOU in the New UU!

Attention all new UUs and those of you who are not-so-new but would like to learn more about our denomination and our congregation!

The three-part "New UUs" program will be held on November 6, 13, and 20 after the 2nd service. Sessions will be facilitated by Membership Committee members, church members, and our Senior Minister.

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

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.

New UUs is mainly designed to introduce newcomers to UUSG and to Unitarian Universalism in general. Even if you have been here awhile, if you're interested in a session, please attend.

Please sign up on the clipboard in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/new-uus/> so plans can be made for the right number of attendees.

November 6

Your Spiritual Journey
History of Unitarian Universalism

November 13

The Faith Continuum
Our Senior Minister's Spiritual Journey
The Story of UUSG and our Historic Building

November 20

UUSG Ministers Throughout History
Church Institutional (or How Does Anything Get Done Around Here?)

Staffing Update

Two well-qualified candidates were interviewed recently for our Church School Administrator vacancy. The LRE Committee, the Personnel Committee, and the Board continue to work through the process of finding the right person to help run our religious education program.

Musical Happenings

Thank you to all the musicians at our October services: Nadia, Mara, & Diane Handler; Anna Rosenkrans; Audrey Jonke; Mary Owen; Sophia Spiegel; Tom Zimmerman; Lynn Fisher McCanne; Sandra Anderson-Cordogan; & Dean Malambri.

And just look at this musical lineup in November! We'll hear from Ben Walker, Grace Christiani, Trish Beckjord, Tom Zimmerman, Brian Jooose, John Towell, Tracey & Kristin McFadden & the Card-board Hearts, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Cynthia Spiegel, Steve Hansen, and the RE Music Kids (led by Sandra Anderson-Cordogan).

This year, we've also planned a special Thanksgiving performance by the UUSG choir, directed by Ruth Cavanaugh, and accompanied by the UUSG String Quintet (Kathryn Siegel, Elena Spiegel, Wendy Evans-Glazier, Larry Glazier, & Tracy Rosenkrans).

If you are interested in performing at UUSG, please be generous and share your gifts! Contact Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans at music@uusg.org.

PBS Film "My Lai" to be Shown

On Sunday, November 13 at 7pm, we'll offer church members & friends as well as community members an opportunity to watch the PBS documentary "My Lai."

My Lai is remembered as the most famous atrocity of the Vietnam war. It was shocking to the American public that ordinary young men could kill so many helpless civilians.

This documentary interviews many of these men and their current memories and feelings about the slaughter.

After the movie is shown, a discussion about moral issues in warfare will take place. The discussion will be led by three Vietnam veterans who are members of our church—Peter Coe, Lynn Steele, and Don Smith.

The film is about 90 minutes long and is for an adult audience only. Childcare will not be provided for this event.

Circles of Life

We send our loving sympathies to Mark Alleman, whose father died on October 3 at the age of 92. Our condolences also go to Renée Tomell on the death of her uncle in Vienna.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of long-time UUSG member Vera Wiss in Florida.

On Friday, November 11 at 3pm, we will celebrate the life of Dinka Chambers, church member and beloved friend of many. The memorial service will take place in our Sanctuary and a reception will follow at Dinka's home in St. Charles. Please contact Katie in the office if you'd like more information.

New Website

The creation of our new website has begun!

With Laura Kivisto's design, Sara Hoerdeman's copy, and Eric Bodwell's technical assistance, we expect to go live by the end of 2011.

In addition to having a password-protected "Members Only" section, the new site will also have pages for each of the church's many committees and groups.

If you are the chair of a church committee or the facilitator of a church group and you haven't yet sent your requests for your webpage to Katie, please do so by the end of October. (And if you don't, we'll let Sasha the Church Malamute write your copy by laying on the keyboard!)

Report from the Welcoming Congregation Team

We were pleased with the participation of 18 members and guests at our first potluck and discussion event held on October 7. Those gathered had a great time at the potluck followed by a lively discussion of bisexuality and the specific problems facing those who self-identify as bisexual.

Our next event will be a November 11 potluck and special presentation by guest speaker Lori Fox on the subject of Transgender Identity. For more info, see the article on page 7.

NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Long-Range Planning Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Parents' Group Meeting 1:00 PM Personnel Committee Meeting	31 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Class: "Choices for Sustainable Living"	1 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	2 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	3 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	4 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	5 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 11:00 AM YRUU Potluck & Lazarus House Lunches
6 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Session 12:30 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 3:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting	7 6:30 PM Private Memorial Service 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	8 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors	9 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	10 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	11 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 3:00 PM Memorial Service for Dinka Chambers 6:00 PM Lipman Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM Welcoming Congregation Conversation: Transgender Identity	12 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 3:00 PM Lipman Wedding
13 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Session 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series: ""The Arguments For and Against the Coming Singularity" 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group 7:00 PM DVD Showing: "My Lai" 7:00 PM Holiday Hypnosis	14 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting	15 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Steeple Walk Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	16 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	17 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	18 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 4:00 PM Heritage Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Friday Flicks: "We Still Live Here: As Nutayunean"	19 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 9:00 AM Private Event 2:00 PM RSVP Volunteer Project: Packing Care Packages for Troops 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 6:00 PM Games Night!
20 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 10:00 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 10:30 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM New UUs Orientation Session 12:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Reiki Share	21	22 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting	23 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	24 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> Thanksgiving	25 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>	26 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday
27 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:45 PM Sandel's "Justice" Study Group	28 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	29 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting	30 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM Tish Hinojosa Concert 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	1 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 6:30 PM Cookie Walk Set-up 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	2 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 4:30 PM Cookie Walk	3 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity Workday 10:00 AM Music Rehearsal

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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 28, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.