



# THE PIONEER

September-October 2011

## Paper Pulpit

## The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

One of my many reasons for making a twice-yearly silent retreat is to get away from the news. Ignoring world, national, and local events on a daily basis is neither responsible nor rational. One does need to know, after all, what's having an impact on our shared lives. But that five- or six-day break from information overload is a great help. It allows reflection, perspective, calming, and rest. It's hard to respond well when the adrenaline level is on High Alert. And instinct-level reactions are rarely helpful in the short or the long term. Intentional distancing makes (at least for me) a huge difference in how I handle the stresses of the world.

I wish I could take you all with me on one of those retreats ~ maybe some day there'll be enough interest to arrange something like it for our UUSG community. (It would take a **lot** of planning; let me know if you might one day like to be part of a Retreat Planning group!) In the meantime, we look for our own alternatives. A camping weekend. A regular ride along the bike path. Making music when no one else is listening. Weaving. Painting. Meditation. Allowing the Self to rest.

A number of my friends tell me that role-playing games do it for them. They get out of their own selves and into Someone Else for a while, with a combination of seriousness and playfulness that becomes both entertaining and reviving.

That's also one of many ways of addressing those world realities that we take our assorted "retreats" to get away from – engaging with one another and with important issues in encounters both serious and playful.

So, who'd like to play a game?

It's based in part on the work of the late philosopher John Rawls. His theory of a just society posits that the basic features would be those agreed upon by rational individuals making decisions together to create systems in which they would themselves be happy/content/fulfilled no matter where in those systems they might find themselves. Coming to those agreements – creating in some alternate universe our own Just Society – is challenging. It's also creative, and as a game gives one a chance to play with perspectives and possibilities that might not seem at all likely in our "real" world.

### Inside this issue:

<i>LRE News &amp; Events</i>	2
<i>LRE Social Activities</i>	3
<i>Welcoming Congregation Event</i>	4
<i>"Lost Boys" at October Friday Flick</i>	5
<i>Fighting Hunger with the CROP Walk</i>	6
<i>Making Progress With Peace</i>	7
<i>Local Habitat Project Begins</i>	8
<i>"From the Earth" Harvest Supper</i>	9
<i>Join the Choir</i>	10
<i>Save Coffee in October!</i>	11
<i>Bikes &amp; Roasters...It's Lost &amp; Found</i>	12
<i>Lawn Care Update</i>	13
<i>October Calendar</i>	14

As part of our exploration together of our Covenant's "not as agreeing in opinion" phrase, I'm inviting everyone (all ages included!) to join in the New World Game. We start with agreeing on rules – creating a game covenant – and on some of the "roles" to be played. Depending upon the number of players, we'll then start exploring how we would set up our own world, starting from scratch. Liberals, Libertarians, Objectivists, Idealists, Progressives, Pragmatics, Anarchists, Ecologists, Monarchists, Socialists, Creationists, Conservatives – all points of view are welcome. The only requirement being that everyone must be satisfied, no matter where in the society/world they might find themselves.

Interested? We'll start exploring the New World during Games Night on November 19 and will play through the winter. If you'd like to be in on the planning or, later, in the game, let me know! (Don't miss Games Night and Green Sanctuary's Harvest Supper on October 15– good food, good program, good ideas that might be quite useful in our New World).

Peace! **LB**

# Religious Education Announcements

## Upcoming LRE Events

Wednesday, September 27

7:30 pm Compassionate Communication Group

Sunday, October 2

12:30 pm Coming of Age Program

12:30 pm Elementary Grades Picnic & Playdate

12:30 pm UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group

Friday, October 7

6:00 pm Welcoming Congregation  
Conversation: Bisexuality

Thursday, October 12

7:30 pm Compassionate Communication Group

Thursday, October 13

7:30 pm Small Group Ministry

Saturday, October 15

3:30 pm Small Group Ministry

6:00 pm Games Night

Sunday, October 16

12:30 pm Coming of Age Program

12:30 pm Parents' Group Meeting (tentative)

1:00 pm "The Bible for UUs" Study Group

Monday, October 17

7:00 pm "The Bible for UUs" Study Group

Friday, October 12

7:00 pm Friday Flicks: "The Devil Came  
on Horseback"

Sunday, October 23

12:30 pm Sandel's "Justice" Study Group

1:00 pm "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series with  
Local Author Deb Brod

Thursday, October 26

7:30 pm Compassionate Communication Group

Wednesdays, 7pm: Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

## LRE Committee Update

As we begin this new year, your LRE Committee remains committed to providing dynamic classroom experiences for our students, opportunities for parents and adults to observe and enjoy our children in action, and ongoing support for our teachers.

As we have been functioning without a staff person dedicated to the Lifespan Religious Education Program, LRE Committee members, Katie Phillips, and Lindsay Bates have all taken on additional duties to keep programs running. Teachers, advisors, facilitators, mentors, and social group coordinators have also taken on additional responsibilities for running their classes and programs.

Further, some volunteers have taken on large tasks typically assigned to staff. Without their support, programs would not have been able to run as smoothly as they have. Special thanks go to Marilyn James, for taking on administrative duties within the Coming of Age program. And to Jeannie Scown, for volunteering her administrative skills in preparing teacher binders, organizing the supply room, supplying pews with visitor registration forms, and creating a contact information list of neighboring faiths. And to Linda Burke, who graciously accepted the tasks of processing registrations and of making herself available to families at church to assist with the registration of their youngsters for church school.

We have identified needs within our committee, including that of an assistant chair, a pre-school representative, and an adult RE representative. Please contact Committee Chair Sandra Anderson-Cordogan ([remusic@uusg.org](mailto:remusic@uusg.org)) regarding your interest in becoming a committee member. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, 7:30-9:00 pm.

We continue our search for a Church School Administrator and conducted three interviews on Monday, September 26. Finding the right person for this position will be critical to our church's ability to continue its programming at our current level of functioning.

**Homecoming Sunday**

Our church school's first Sunday of the "new year" was a success with sixty-nine children and youth in attendance and nineteen adults committed to teaching in this program. Classrooms were filled with happy faces and enthusiastic participants. Parents, thank you for your commitment to your child's religious education and attention to completing registration forms.

The new class groupings of three grades per class appear to be accomplishing the goals of providing larger numbers of students per class for the enjoyment of both the students and the teachers, and both conserving and efficiently using our adult volunteer hours.

George Hickman, who taught in our program for seven years, was honored on this Sunday during services, as he officially retires from teaching. His commitment to our UU children is much appreciated, and his harmonica playing a delight to all.

**Coming of Age Program**

This program for eighth grade graduates began in July and continues through October. Youth participants Aron Bartoszek, Audrey Jonke, Dane McKittrick, Mary Owen, Sophia Spiegel, and Jeremy Swanson, with the guidance of adult mentors and facilitators, have been deepening their understanding of what it means to be Unitarian Universalist and examining their personal beliefs.

Be sure to be present at services on Sunday, October 23 when these youth share their beliefs and perspectives with the congregation during both services, as they complete the program and are officially welcomed into the YRUU high school group.

**YRUU High School Group**

Twenty-four high-schoolers attended YRUU on Homecoming Sunday to begin their year. In addition to Sunday morning classes, YRUU presented a summary of its Habitat for Humanity trip during services on September 25, they are making plans to attend a fall conference, and they will be preparing to officially welcome the ninth graders during the Coming of Age services on October 23.

Advisors for this group are Elba Karim, Zia Karim, Laura Laughlin, and Bill Pokorny.

**Social Activities**

**for Families of PreK-Fifth Grade Children**

We are happy to officially begin offering social activities for the children in our congregation, thanks to Karen Laukaitis, who has volunteered to lead this program.

She plans to organize one program for each of the seasons, with the first outing on Sunday, October 2—a picnic play date at Island Park after services, 12:30 pm. Pack a lunch and plan to enjoy relaxing and playing games. We're hoping to give younger school-aged children a chance to build community and get to know each other better.

For more information, please contact Karen Laukaitis.

**Junior High Youth Group  
Adult Volunteers Needed**

As Jenny Montgomery has completed her term for organizing social activities for our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, adult volunteers are needed to continue providing these opportunities.

Activities have typically been planned for the second Saturday of the month, October through May, beginning at 6:30 pm. Please contact Jenny Montgomery regarding this opportunity to serve our Junior High Youth.

**Search Your Closets!**

The LRE Committee would love to have the two missing copies of the curriculum "Holidays and Holy Days" located and returned. Currently, we have seven teachers and only five copies of the curriculum for our 3rd-5th grade classes.

The two missing copies have been misplaced for at least 2-4 years, so past teachers should consider whether they were teaching the middle elementary grades at that time.

While it may be unrealistic to hope to find them, they will cost approximately \$100 each to replace, so it would really be nice if they would turn up!

**Welcoming Congregation Conversation**

Please join the Welcoming Congregation Team for a conversation on bisexuality and bi-phobia on Friday, October 7.

We'll begin with a potluck at 6pm, and the program will begin at 7pm.

All church members and friends are invited to participate as we seek to complete the process to become a UUA-recognized Welcoming Congregation.

Please sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/welcoming-congregation-event/>.

If you need childcare to attend this event, please let us know so we can try to make arrangements.

**“Munch & Learn”  
Lecture Series**

The “Munch & Learn” Lecture Series will continue on Sunday, October 23 at 1pm with a presentation from our very own mystery writer Deb Brod.

Many thanks to Kate Frazier, who taught us about how to attract birds to our yards in September.

**Circles of Life**

On August 5, UUSG member Paul Humphreville passed away after a long illness. We send our love and condolences to his family: Deb, Charlie, Erin, and Greg. On August 27th, Paul's family and friends gathered to celebrate his life.

It's with great sadness that we pass on the news that Dinka Chambers, long-time UUSG member and beloved friend of many, died on August 30. Our hearts are with Jenny, Andy, Jake, David, Ellie, and Max Montgomery, and all of Dinka's family. On Friday, November 11 at 3pm, we will celebrate Dinka's life in our Sanctuary. A reception will follow; if you'd like to help, please sign up in the Common Room or talk to Katie in the office.

**Staff Time Off**

Our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, will be off work on Thursday, September 29.

Our Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, will be on retreat immediately after the worship service on Sunday, October 2 and will return to work on Sunday, October 9.

In case of an emergency while Lindsay is gone, please contact our Lay & Care Ministries Coordinator, Mark Alleman.

**August Financial Summary**

In August, we recorded \$16,201 in income and \$19,878 in expenses. The end of summer is typically a slower pledge time, but we expect donations will come roaring back as everyone gets back into the swing of things with the new church year!

Overall, at about 17% through the year, our income is at 18% while our expenses are at 12% of what we budgeted for the year.

Other items of note for August:

- We received a targeted donation of \$200 to go toward improvements on our western property—look for new plants next spring!
- We spent \$390 to advertise our Church School Administrator position on Monster.com.

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@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.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.

## Social Justice News

### October Friday Flick

#### Two Former “Lost Boys” Share Good and Bad News from the Sudan

On October 21 at 7pm, we'll show the prize-winning documentary *The Devil Came on Horseback*, which traces how the Arab-run government of Sudan engaged in ethnic cleansing in Darfur. Malith Ariik and William Mou will join us to share their experiences and give us an update on how their region of the Sudan obtained governmental representation—at the same time as the President Al-Bashir has shifted his focus to South Kordofan.

### Giving “Beyond Our Walls”

In September, we collected \$1231 for Lazarus House.

Located in St. Charles, Lazarus House serves the homeless and at-risk in mid-Kane County. Last year, Lazarus House served 331 people (61 children, 97 women, and 173 men).

UUSG supports this work with financial contributions as well as volunteer efforts from members and friends.

### Action Alert: Beware of Roundup-Ready Corn

Information provided by members of the UUSG Social Justice Committee.

Monsanto has developed a Genetically Modified corn, intended for the frozen and/or canned corn market, which may contain a toxic pesticide. But the corn will not be labeled. Monsanto's new variety of corn has been genetically modified for three different traits: to resist two different insects and to withstand heavy spraying with the toxic Roundup herbicide. Because there are already untested varieties of other insect-resistant and Roundup-Ready varieties on the market, federal regulators are not requiring ANY approval process—which means NO public comment on its introduction into our food supply.

The Center for Food Safety and the Center for Environmental Health are urging major companies that make frozen and/or canned corn to take action to avoid Monsanto's new crop. They are urging people to tell Del Monte, Bird's Eye, and other major food makers to reject this new corn. General Mills (Green Giant, Cascadian Farms) and Trader Joe's have already indicated that they will not use Monsanto's new Roundup-ready sweet corn in their products—so can the other top companies!

Additional notes and background:

- The above wording was adapted from the website of the Center for Food Safety. The Center for Food Safety is NOT the same as the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. The Center for Food Safety promotes organic food and sustainable agriculture.
- This action alert is not intended to be an indictment of all genetically-modified foods. Indeed, we have been genetically engineering food since agriculture began.
- All non-organic foods are treated with pesticides.
- In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Center for Food Safety in a case in which they challenged Monsanto's Roundup-Ready Alfalfa. The Justices' decision meant that the selling and planting of Roundup Ready Alfalfa is illegal until a full and adequate study is prepared by USDA and they officially deregulate the crop. The Court further recognized that the threat of transgenic contamination is harmful and onerous to organic and conventional farmers and that the injury allows them to challenge future biotech crop commercialization in court.

You may click on the following website to send food makers a message you don't want Monsanto's Roundup-Ready Corn:

<https://secure3.convio.net/cfs/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=385&JServSessionIdr004=sy60slw7g2.app304a>

## More Social Justice News

### Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

**Thank you!**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at Northern Illinois Food Bank on September 24: Jim and Linda Burke; Ruth Cavanaugh; Jeanne Neltner; Gary and Kathie Noll; Jean Pierce; Anna Rosenkrans; Llona Steele; Nancy Steinke; Joyce Whitehead; and Alyssa, Chloe, Don, & Emma Williams. We packed 3,500 pounds of frozen meats for distribution to families in need!

**October 2011: Tri-Cities Crop Walk**

On Sunday, October 16, we'll volunteer for Tri-Cities CROP Hunger Walk, a 3K walk raising money to alleviate hunger and poverty throughout the Tri-Cities area and beyond. Part of the proceeds will go to local organizations including Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry, Lazarus House, Northern Illinois Food Bank, and the Salvation Army. The remainder supports the work of Church World Service worldwide. Walkers will meet at the Batavia United Methodist Church at 1:30pm to register for the walk, which begins at 2pm.

***How can you help?***

Volunteer to **walk in the event**. Walkers are encouraged to ask friends and neighbors for donations supporting the walk. We will be sharing information with walkers about using a donation webpage for Team UUSG, so please sign up early by contacting Shawn Thornton or Lisa Gades.

**Donate to a walker.** If you would like a list of walkers, or would like to make a donation directly, please contact Shawn Thornton or Lisa Gades.

For more information about Church World Service and CROP walk, or to donate online, please see: [http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR/2011FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2011?pg=entry&fr\\_id=13479](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR/2011FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2011?pg=entry&fr_id=13479)

**November 2011: 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 away from home. We need your help in advance! **Please pass along the name and address for a family member or friend in the military serving away from home**, and we'll include them in our efforts. Contact Lisa Gades or Jean Pierce.

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
October 16 1:30pm	Batavia United Methodist Church	All ages with a parent	None	Raise pledges and/or walk
November 19 2:00-3:30pm	UUSG Common Room	All ages	None	Pack care packages for troops

**Please 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 in the early afternoon on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Even More Social Justice News

### Report from 2011 International Day of Peace

On Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17, members of UUSG met with people from other faiths for a celebration entitled "Voices from the Middle: Bridging the Interfaith Divide."

The event was marked by a screening of a movie, the dedication of a peace pole, a workshop, two panels, and puppet shows for children.

As with most Friday Flicks, *Divided We Fall* will be available for individuals through the UUSG library.

The workshop and panels were videotaped by Batavia TV. They will be shown on cable and may be purchased through BATV for \$15.

Thom Thomas did a masterful job of presenting a workshop on nonviolent communication.

This was followed by outstanding panel discussions, one featuring Lindsay Bates, a Jewish Rabbi, a Christian professor, and a Muslim spokesperson, and the other featuring young adults from different faiths, including Ben Walker from UUSG.

Although the time allotted proved to be too short, the discussion has begun and it promises to continue.

Special thanks are also due to planning committee members: Lindsay Bates, Nancy Goodfellow, Sharon Hanson and Vohny Moehling; sound: Tracey McFadden and Jeff Stibal; and Puppeteers: Nancy Goodfellow, Monica Jenkins, Jeannie Scown, and Hal & Chris Schulman.

### UUSG Earns Recognition as a Peacemaking Advocacy Congregation

UUSG has been recognized as a Peace Advocate Congregation, an honor awarded by the Peace Ministry Network of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

To earn this certification, members of the Social Justice committee reported programs which the church has sponsored during the past three years in the areas of International Peace, Domestic & Congregational Peace, Peace Lobbying & Activism, and Military Personnel Support.

At the May 2010 congregational meeting, a Peacemaking Commitment was unanimously passed. It is posted online at <http://content.uusg.org/peacemaking-pledge/>.

The introduction to the Commitment states: "As a force for compassionate social justice in the community, members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva endorse a variety of principles and values. Among these values, we recognize that social justice is essential for peace."

Accordingly, all of the activities sponsored by the Social Justice Committee during the past three years were included in the application. These included: social justice curricula created for Religious Education; volunteer opportunities (Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants); Friday Flicks; "Beyond Our Walls" and "Change for a Change" collections as well as drives to collect food, coats, and other items; partnerships with outside organizations providing service; International Day of Peace celebrations; Action Alerts, social justice sermons; Commit to Knit; Fair trade sales; etc.

The application was strengthened by describing work by the Committee on Ministries, Lay Ministers, the Compassionate Communication Study group, the Green Sanctuary Committee, UUSG veterans, YRUU's Habitat teams, the Buddhist Meditation & Study Group, WomenSpirit Rising, Reiki Share, LRE, Social Activities, UUSG's Puppeteers, and others.

In other words, we all shared in this honor. Please take a minute to look at the certificate, which is framed and sitting on a chest as you enter the Common Room from the Sanctuary.

## Even More Social Justice News

### Local Habitat for Humanity Rehab Project Commences

We are excited to announce that the Pottawatomie HFH project for 2011 has begun!

The existing house is in the Valley View neighborhood of north St. Charles just off of Route 25. The ranch house is just under 1,000 sq.ft., has a separate garage, and backs up to Park District grounds (previously the State of IL Correctional facility). The house address is 34W806 N. James Drive, St. Charles, IL, 60174.

Roughly, the work to be performed over the upcoming months includes demolition of pre-existing structures, removal of some interior materials, upgrades to the electric and plumbing, a possible small footprint expansion, painting, and more.

The primary work period is Saturday, usually from 9am until 3pm. Lunch is typically provided for the workers. The goal is to attack the outside details early so we can focus inside as winter approaches.

Clearly no progress is made without weekly volunteers for both work chores and lunch making. We have a handful of UUSG folks that have expressed interest. However, we could use more people so the burden is not excessive on any one individual.

Please let Nancy Goodfellow or Hal Schulman know of your intentions or questions. Absolutely no prior experience is required. Our commitment is to keep you informed and to help create a fun, valuable experience.

This past Saturday's UUSG participants who get a "thank you" include Nathan Clevenger, Betty Bristol, Dave Hansen, John Rosenkrans, Nancy Goodfellow, and Hal Schulman.

Last, but not least, a delicious hot lunch was provided by Yuriko Ferrell. A lot was accomplished, sparking excitement for more to come.

### Sassy Fox Fundraiser

UUSG is partnered with The Sassy Fox Resale Shop to raise funds for the Green Construction Scholarship (GCS).

This is an on-going project where a portion of consignments and some purchases is contributed to the GCS. Donate your consignments and SHOP!

Please say "UUSG" every time you visit the Sassy Fox. It's located at 323 Walnut in St. Charles. You can also visit them online at <http://thesassyfox.net/>.

Shop & Share info coming soon!

### Supporting Local Artists

Artist Joe Gagnepain displayed two of his sculptures at the July 23 UUSG Folky Fair. He creates murals, ice and snow sculptures, wood carvings, signs, and welds recycled materials into eye-popping structures.

Look for his work on the Jalapeno Grill and Hansen Baking Company, in the Odyssey Restaurant, and on the lawns of the Geneva Library and City Hall. Or visit his website at [www.artbyjoseph.com](http://www.artbyjoseph.com).

### 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.

The 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.

### Social Justice Events on Facebook

The Social Justice committee has created a Facebook page (UUSG Social Justice). Please search for the group then click on JOIN to get the latest information about upcoming events.



## Green Corner



### “From the Earth” Harvest Supper

It's time to sign up!

On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Common Room, we'll celebrate the earth's Fall bounty of superb food & beverages and enjoy a scintillating guest speaker.

Dishes will be provided by Green Sanctuary Committee Members and Friends, and will include homemade breads, Crockpot soups, creative salads, a variety of dessert bars & cookies, and beverages.

Our speaker is Jennifer Jarland, with Kane County's Department of Environmental Resources. Jennifer is Coordinator of Kane's Recycling and Resource Conservation Program. She hails from Boulder, Colorado, where she was Zero Waste & Resource Conservation Specialist. An accomplished speaker and educator, Jennifer will share stories and her plans for Kane County.

Please sign up on the Green Sanctuary Committee bulletin board in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusq.org/harvest-supper/>.

A free-will donation that night to the Student Conservation Association (<http://www.thesca.org>) will be *much* appreciated. More information about this organization will be posted on the GSC bulletin board. See you on the 15th!

### Natural Household Cleaning Tips

Borax: deodorizes, disinfects, kills mold and mildew, and great for laundry

Baking Soda: place around your home in small bowls to absorb odors; also cleans sinks.

White Vinegar: Cleans windows, counter tops, chrome, grease, floors, etc. Cuts greasy residue.

Make-Your-Own Furniture Polish: 2 parts any vegetable oil and 1 part lemon juice.

To get stuck-on food off a pot or pan: sprinkle salt, add cool water, leave for one hour, and then wipe clean.

### Hooray for the New Lawn Care Plan!

Green Sanctuary Committee is excited that a professional lawn care plan is now in place! Our lawn service began on Tuesday, September 27th. For more information, please read the important explanatory article on page 12.

The Green Sanctuary Committee and the church family are much indebted to those who have arduously weeded the lawn all during the summer and fall while waiting for this outcome!

If you've enjoyed our grounds this year, thank our weeders—Trish Beckjord, Ann & Al Drover, Nancy Goodfellow, Jude Hoecker, Sally Jones, Ro Mariarz, Kathy Meier, Julie Riffle, Llona Steele, Mary Swanson, and Shawn Thornton.



## More Green Cleaning Tips...Versatile Vinegar

There are many surprising & inexpensive uses for distilled white vinegar.

Cutting Board Deodorizer: Spray vinegar on used cutting board. Let set for at least 1/2 hour. Rinse.

Window Cleaner: Combine 1/2 cup of vinegar to 2 cups of water. Add 1/2 teaspoon of liquid soap/detergent. Pour into a spray bottle & shake to blend for easy, streak free window cleaning.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner: Spray vinegar directly on the toilet bowl rim & wipe.

Poison Ivy Killer: Spray vinegar directly on poison ivy leaves.

Clean Off Mineral Deposits on the Shower Head: Fill a plastic sandwich bag with undiluted white vinegar. Tie this around the shower head and leave overnight. In the morning, remove the bag, scrub the head with a brush, and it's ready to use.

## Celebrate Thanksgiving with the UUSG 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](mailto:choir@uusg.org) if you'd like to be added to our email contact list or want more information.

## 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.

## New UUs Orientation Sessions

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 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Sessions will be facilitated by Membership Committee members, church members and our minister. Lunch and childcare are provided.

Check the Welcome table, October Mini-Pioneers bulletins, and your email for the specifics of each session and sign-up options.

## New Directory

The Fall-Winter 2011 Directory of UUSG Members & Friends will be available in early October.

Please check the display in the Common Room by Sunday, October 2 to make sure that we have your correct contact info.

## Volunteer Headquarters

### Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Our September Greeters: Nancy Goodfellow, Gail & George Tattersfield, and Llona & Lynn Steele, the Stibal Family, and all our last-minute draftees!

Our September Social Time Hosts: Glenda Peck, Jim & Linda Burke, David & Renée Tomell, and Deb Johnson

Katie's Office Crew, who took care of so much while she was on vacation: Brad Lipman paid the bills, Gloria Mansfield picked up and sorted the mail, Jim Jenkins kept on eye on the bathroom supplies, Deb Brod sent the weekly email blasts, and Becky Hruby updated the calendars and handled the garbage and recycling

Jim Jenkins, for dealing with a soggy wall in the basement

Jeannie Scown, for updating the church school forms and classroom binder

Linda Burke, for processing incoming church school registration forms

Vohny Moehling, for taking a collection of poptabs to be recycled

Doreen Christiani, for serving on the Communications Committee for the last year or so—her wonderful ideas and hard work are greatly appreciated!

Sara Hoerdeman, for writing a press release about UUSG's recent approval as a Peace Advocacy Congregation

Our Summer Waterers: Shawn Thornton, Llona & Lynn Steele, Jeannie & Bill Scown, Karin Kemp, and Karen Moore

George Hickman, who does such a great job of keeping things neat and tidy and beautiful on our church grounds

Do you know someone who should be thanked? Let Katie know! She can be reached at 630-232-2350

### Coffee in October?

As of today, there are still 5 openings left, and these all need to be filled by noon on Wednesday, September 28th in order for us to have refreshments at any October 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.

### 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](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350).

### Helping with Church Linens

We're looking for someone to wash some linens--the washing part is easy, but it will require taking down and putting up some curtains, and pulling all the tablecloths used in the classrooms.

If you can help or would like more details, talk to Katie ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350).

### 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 following the 4th Monday of the month. If you'd like to help out in upcoming months, please contact Katie at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).

### Well-handled Hymns

Notice a new attention to the hymns we've been singing on Sunday mornings? It all goes to Cynthia Spiegel's careful studying, choosing, and coordinating—she loves our hymn books and volunteered to plan hymns for all services!

Thank you, Cynthia, for your time and talent picking just the right hymns for our worship themes, teaching us some great new ones, and bringing back our old favorites.

### Lost & Found

Are you missing a 16-quart roaster oven, a slow cooker, or a child's green bicycle? These items have been hanging around the church for months and we'd like to reunite them with their owners!

Check the Lost & Found table in the Common Room this weekend for these items and others that need to go home.

Items not claimed by October 23 will be thrown out or otherwise disposed of.

### September Music

Thank you to all the musicians at our September events—Quinn Welsh, Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, Cynthia Spiegel, Katie Baar, & Lynn Fisher McCanne. We had a great showing of musicians at the picnic, too! Tracey McFadden, Brian Joosse, and John Towell started off the 9/11 picnic with a tribute song, "The Bravest." Then the teens took over—awesome job, Grace Christiani, Abby Zacker, & Kristen McFadden's Trio "The Cardboard Hearts"!

Looking forward to more music in October? Come hear Nadia, Mara, & Diane Handler, Tom Zimmerman, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, & Dean Malambri.

If you are interested in performing at UUSG, please jump in and share your gifts! Contact our Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans at [music@uusg.org](mailto:music@uusg.org).

### Report from the Welcoming Congregation Team

This fall the church will present two programs with a focus on sexuality and sexual identity as part of a process to be recognized by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation.

In 1999 UUSG voted to be designated as a Welcoming Congregation. This was at the finish of a process of programs and discussions following the guidelines of the UUA. However, the committee at that time did not forward to the UUA the documentation of the activities in order to be designated as a Welcoming Congregation by the UUA. We now would like to complete that process for the official designation by the UUA. One of the advantages of official designation will be our listing as a Welcoming Congregation on the UUA website which will be accompanied by a rainbow chalice symbol by our name.

The UUA would like for our congregation to update our program by having presentations and discussions for adults on two subjects: bisexuality and transgender. The UUA thinks we are doing very well with presenting LGBTQ materials in our youth OWL program, but want us to show that we also have these issues discussed by adults as well. They also would like to see an ongoing process of presenting LGBTQ issues to the congregation via Sunday services and an ongoing series of programs during the church year.

As a start, our group is planning two programs this fall to comply with the UUA suggestions. These 2 events will begin with a potluck supper starting at 6pm followed by a discussion about one of the topics suggested by the UUA.

The first "Welcoming Congregation Conversation" will be on Friday, October 7 and will focus on bisexuality and bi-phobia. The second will be on Friday, November 11 and will focus on transgender. It is important that we have good attendance at these programs so we can report a successful turnout as we document this process. The programs will be interesting and informative as well as having time to socialize with church family and friends. So we urge members, friends, and guests to attend if they are free those evenings as we follow our quest for the rainbow chalice together.

## Lawn Care at UUSG: An Update

After careful consideration of the options, the Facilities and Green Sanctuary Committees have determined a strategy for dealing with the weed problem in our lawn. A lawn care service (Chem-Wise Ecological Turf Management) has been arranged to provide fertilization and weed control treatments. There will be two treatments this fall and three during the 2012 season, using the smallest necessary amount of chemicals. The goal is to improve the health of the grass and take steps to control the weeds.

Based on past experience, it is not reasonable to expect that volunteers will be available to handle the care needed to control the current level of weeds nor to improve the overall health of the lawn. If a few years of using a lawn care service can achieve that goal, we will then look at whether we can develop a plan using volunteers to maintain healthy, weed-controlled grass in the future and to use only environmentally safe products. Currently we struggle to schedule enough volunteers to maintain the beds and plantings on our property. It is not likely that an additional set of volunteers could be expected to come forward to take on another major task. However, any volunteers who are willing to commit to the effort will be welcomed to supplement the weed control.

Meanwhile, other landscaping choices will be explored. The Facilities Committee has asked for input from church committees and groups about the need and desire for lawn areas on our property. That input, as well as aesthetic and historical considerations, will guide the process of looking at other options. But even if a plan were to be developed to replace portions of the grass, those changes could not be accomplished for several years. It would take time to develop a plan, to seek bids, and to provide funding. There is currently a long list of needed projects already in place that would take priority over optional projects such as landscape changes. Therefore, it will be necessary to improve and maintain our lawn areas for several years regardless of our future plans.

An attractive, well-kept lawn is an important and necessary asset to our property with its prime location and historic significance. Our own pride in our church home along with our reputation of being responsible stewards of this important historic property require that we make thoughtful decisions and develop reasonable plans that support our respected image while living out our values.

The Facilities Committee is grateful for the research done by the Green Sanctuary Committee to assist in this decision. Questions, comments, and suggestions are welcome. Contact Katie ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).

Deann Alleman, Facilities Committee  
Ann Drover, Green Sanctuary Committee

## 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!

# OCTOBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>11:00 AM</b> Personnel Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:15 AM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>12:30 PM</b> Coming of Age Program <b>12:30 PM</b> UUSG Parents' Group Kickoff Lunch <b>12:45 PM</b> Sandel's "Justice" Study Group	<b>26</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <b>7:00 PM</b> CSA Interviews <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Class: "Choices for Sustainable Living"	<b>27</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>28</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> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>29</b> <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	<b>30</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>
<b>2</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Coming of Age Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Elementary Grades Picnic & Playdate at Island Park <b>2:00 PM</b> UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group <b>2:00 PM</b> Private Piano Recital	<b>3</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Class: "Choices for Sustainable Living" <b>7:30 PM</b> Technology Committee Meeting	<b>4</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing <b>7:30 PM</b> Program & Administrative Councils	<b>5</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>6</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:15 PM</b> WomenSpirit Rising	<b>7</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> <b>6:00 PM</b> Welcoming Congregation Conversation: Bisexuality	<b>8</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i>
<b>9</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>11:00 AM</b> Finance Committee Meeting <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Membership 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>10</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> Women's Guild <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Class: "Choices for Sustainable Living" <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Discussion Group <b>7:30 PM</b> LRE Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Board of Directors	<b>12</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>13</b> <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>14</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>4:00 PM</b> Heritage Committee Meeting	<b>15</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>3:30 PM</b> Small Group Ministry <b>6:00 PM</b> "From the Earth" Harvest Supper <b>6:00 PM</b> Games Night!
<b>16</b> Augustus H. Conant Born in 1811 <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>10:00 AM</b> Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>12:30 PM</b> Coming of Age Program <b>12:30 PM</b> Parents' Group Meeting (tentative) <b>12:45 PM</b> Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session <b>1:00 PM</b> "The Bible for UUs" Study Group <b>1:30 PM</b> CROP Walk to End Hunger <b>2:00 PM</b> Lay Ministers' Training & Review Session <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> "The Bible for UUs" Study Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Class: "Choices for Sustainable Living"	<b>18</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Reiki Share <b>7:00 PM</b> Sacred Harp Singing	<b>19</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>20</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>21</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Friday Flicks: "The Devil Came on Horseback"	<b>22</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <b>8:00 AM</b> Funding & Equity: The Federal Role in Education
<b>23</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>11:15 AM</b> Communications Committee Meeting <b>12:45 PM</b> Sandel's "Justice" Study Group <b>1:00 PM</b> "Munch & Learn" Lecture Series: Local Author D.C. Brod <b>3:00 PM</b> Committee on Ministries Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Class: "Choices for Sustainable Living"	<b>25</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>26</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> Compassionate Communication Study Group <b>7:30 PM</b> GAS AA	<b>27</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> <b>9:15 AM</b> Simple Living Circle <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) <b>7:30 PM</b> Write Time Writers' Group	<b>28</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>
<b>30</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Time at 10:30 AM <b>11:15 AM</b> Big Ideas Covenant Group <b>1:00 PM</b> Personnel Committee Meeting	<b>31</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Green Sanctuary Class: "Choices for Sustainable Living"	<b>1</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>2</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>3</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>4</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>

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### Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, *Senior Minister*

[minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org)

Office Hours: by appointment

Katie Phillips, *Congregational Administrator*

[office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)

Office Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

### 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 October 24, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) AND [minister@uusg.org](mailto:minister@uusg.org).