

The Uniter



*Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church
of Urbana-Champaign*

June 24, 2009

Our Mission

*Build community.
Seek inspiration.
Promote justice.
Find peace.*

Our Vision

*We dedicate ourselves
to:*

- Expanding religious,
educational, and social
activities that serve
our
congregation and the
larger community.*
- Acting on our indi-
vidual and collective
commitment to pro-
mote social justice.*
- Enhancing the diver-
sity of our liberal reli-
gious community.*
- Improving the acces-
sibility and function-
ality of our facilities,
and ensuring that
they are an asset to
our community.*

June 28

10:00 a.m.

“Whole Stories, Whole Lives”

The Rev. Elizabeth Harding

Reverend Harding will give a sermon on anti-racism. Following Coffee Hour she will lead a movie showing and discussion of the movie “Traces of the Trade.”

July 5

10:00 a.m.

“Patriotic Voices”

Beth A. Cobb, Assistant for Services

Our Worship Service this morning will be a montage of patriotic readings and songs.

July 12

10:00 a.m.

“ The Poetry of Summer”

Beth A. Cobb, Assistant for Services

Bring a poem about the summer season to share.

Guest Minister's Corner

Are You Saved?

Occasionally, I am stopped on the street and asked the question, "Are you saved?" Even though I am a minister, I am never sure how to reply. Then I remember a story from my own childhood. When I was a child, four or five years old, I took my brother's pocket knife and began carving some words into the wooden headboard of my bed. When my mother discovered my creative work, she was justifiably angry. I think normally vandalism of furniture would have gotten me into deep trouble. But my mother was a minister's wife, and the words I had carved into the bed were "Jesus Loves Me." In this kind of situation it is true that "Jesus saves."

Of course I was saved not only by Jesus. I was saved by a mom who knew how to balance accountability with forgiveness. I imagine it is difficult to know how to discipline your children when their religious expression does damage to the furniture. But through a gentle talk, my mom was able to help me see the error of my ways and I changed my behavior for the better.

Another time I was saved when I was swimming in the ocean. I went out into water way over my head and was caught in the undertow. Fortunately my brother Sam noticed that I was struggling. He jumped into the water and came out to get me. He hauled me in to shore. Once again I was saved by a grace, both human and divine.

When I hear the word *saved*, I think of being rescued from danger, delivered from evil, protected from harm. And in many ways I have been saved. Sometimes this experience of salvation has a human hand and a person's face. At other times I encounter it when I am alone in the woods and there is no sound except the whispering of the wind playing in the leaves or water flowing over rocks in a stream. And as I remember these things I know the answer to the question, "Are you saved?" "Yes," I reply, "I am definitely saved."

(This piece was written by Rev. Chris Buice, who currently serves the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, TN.)

R.E. Matters

– *Renée Cogil*

Summer beckons and it is time for me to depart for a time of rest and renewal. While I will be away from church until August, there will be a religious education class available most Sundays throughout the summer. There our kids will learn about famous UU Super Heroes and what inspired them to make a difference in the world. Kids will also look at the many ways they are and can be heroes too. If you have children in your family or visiting you on a Sunday, be sure to visit church for a fun morning. There will be a few Sundays when the order of the day is playing on our awesome playground.

This year my summer plans include lots of long walks, bike riding and traveling to explore the state of Tennessee. Gardening and a few house projects will receive some of my attention as will a few good books and a comfy chair. I hope your summer plans include time for some fun and relaxation. Wherever you may be this summer I hope your spirit is renewed.

As I leave for my summer break I leave you with this thought:

A Time to Be Silent

There must be a time when we cease speaking
to be fully present with ourselves.
There must be a time when we exclude clamor
by listening to nothing whatsoever.
There must be a time when we forgo our plans
as if we had no plans at all.
There must be a time when we abandon conceits
and tap into a deeper wisdom.
There must be a time when we stop striving
and find the peace within.
Amen!

-David O. Rankin

Until August, happy trails,



From the Board Chair

– *Cindy Loui*

On the beautiful morning of June 6 your illustrious board of trustees met for our annual retreat. Over the course of the day we spent time getting to know each other, the church and board responsibilities. From learning how to read financial reports to an intimate tour of the church building and grounds, to considering a new model of church governance, it was a full and meaningful day for all of us. Our church is a vibrant, busy community with an ambitious mission and vision. It is a privilege to be working together with so many dedicated staff and volunteers in our congregation to make our church the place of inspiration and meaning it is. It's exciting to see so many people making a difference with their contributions to our church community. Thank you to everyone who says yes when a committee, the board or a staff person asks you to join them in the opportunity to be a part of making our church what it is. Ours is a shared ministry; all the gifts of our members and friends make a difference.

Calling all (unused) Keys! The board would like to ask anyone who has a keychip who doesn't need it any longer to please return it to the office. Unfortunately our door chip technology is out of date and we can no longer get an unlimited supply of key chips. As we are very low on our supply of key chips we'd really like to round up any key chips that are not being used. If you have one, please return it to our office administrator, Janis Meeseey. Thank you!!!

Volunteer Corner

- *Peggy Patten*

Thanks to our volunteers!

During the worship service on May 31 we recognized our lay leaders, those who provide direction and leadership to the committees, task forces, and special projects that are ongoing at church. Express your gratitude to the following individuals for their leadership during the past year. Consider saying "yes" next time you are asked to assist with a committee or project at church.

Thank You Lay Leaders!



Chris Hannauer, chair, Finance Committee
Karen Folk, chair, Stewardship Committee
Jennifer Green, co chair, Social Action Committee
Eileen Zemlin, co chair, Social Action Committee
Brigitte Pieke, co chair, Partner Church Committee
Peggy Steele, co chair, Partner Church Committee
Bob Strauss, chair, Personnel Committee
Doug Jones, co chair, Membership Committee and Denominational
Affairs Coordinator
Elaine Gehrman, co chair, Membership Committee and chair,
Web site Committee
Peri Ceperley, chair, Care Core
Tom Gillespie, chair, Property Committee
Mary Kay Solecki, chair, Religious Education Committee
Sam Beshers, chair, Worship Committee
Adelaide Aime, chair, Capital Improvements Task Force
Anne Sharpe, chair, High Street House Task Force
Claudia Gross, chair, Committee on Ministry
Cathy Cunningham, co chair, Service aUuction
Emily Sanders, co chair, Service aUuction
Marsha Clinard, chair, VAHEST (Victor Hoersch Elderly Services Trust)
Emily Laugesen, chair, Green UUs
Karla Peterson, chair, Transition Task Force
Doris Jones, facilitator, History Writing Committee
Marty Williams, chair, Facilities Assessment Task Force
Sally Babbitt, coordinator, Church Archives
Holt Babbitt, coordinator, UNITER Folder Party
Ryan Thomas, Web site Project Manager
Peggy Patten, facilitator, Triple Anniversary Commemoration Committee
Marty Williams, chair, Facilities Assessment Task Force

Short Term Project Volunteer Opportunities

Want to help out at Church, but you have limited time for meetings or long-term commitments? Consider one of the following short term volunteer projects. Questions should be directed to the contact person listed below.

** **Assist with our church garden over the summer months.** If you can work independently or want to be included in a Garden Work Day contact Jerry Carden, jcarden@illinois.edu.

** **Coordinate 2-3 UU summer picnics at area parks.** Elaine Gehrman has done this a number of ways in recent years & can explain options. Contact: Elaine Gehrman, gehrmanns@aol.com.

** **Fold the Order of Service** (OOS) on Friday mornings at Church between 9:30 – 10:00 am. This important weekly task takes approximately an hour. If you can help regularly or periodically contact our Office Administrator, admin@uuc-urbana.org.

** **Facilitate a new adult RE class on world religions.** There are plans to offer a class on world religions sometime next year. Curricular resources will be provided. Contact Renee Cogil, re-director@uuc-urbana.org or 384-8862.

** **Assist with our new Church Web site.** If you can help with one or more of the following tasks, contact Ryan Thomas, our Web site Project Manager, rthomas@mac.com.

- **Content Coordinator:** point person for all interested groups or individuals wanting to contribute content; checks site regularly for freshness and accuracy of content; works closely with the Editor.
- **Editor:** good writer with voice of the Church for prospective members; provides quality control for photos and written content.
- **Photo Manager:** manages photo galleries including management of consent; helps others get photos to right place; should be a little tech savvy & a good organizer.
- **Photographer:** takes lots of photos especially of people engaged in family, church, spiritual and social activities at Church.
- **Image Editor:** edits & uploads photos for use in Web site; needs to be skilled in image-editing software.
- **Consent Facilitator:** gets consent for photos selected for Web use; a non-technical role requiring good interpersonal skills.
- **Audio Recorder:** records worship services; this is a relatively non-technical role that requires a consistent presence for Sunday services.
- **Audio Editor:** creates mp3s of sermons & special music performances & uploads them to Web site; this role requires some skill with digital audio-editing software.

Church Announcements

June Shared Offering

The June Shared Offering is designated for PFLAG Champaign/Urbana. Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) is a national non-profit organization with over 200,000 members and supporters and over 500 affiliates in the United States. This vast grassroots network is cultivated, resourced and serviced by the PFLAG national office, located in Washington, D.C., the national Board of Directors and 13 Regional Directors. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. The shared offering will support the local Champaign/Urbana chapter of PFLAG.

History Book 1982-2007 Unveiled

On May 31 at the 150th celebration of the founding of the Universalist Church in Urbana, the new history book was unveiled. It is now available for purchase, and a second print order has arrived. Have you bought your copy? The history coordinating committee is very proud of the book. If you have not seen a display copy, here are some teasers that might pique your interest:

- * Beautiful cover with an original drawing of the Green Street Church by Jeffrey Poss
- * Forward by the Rev. Axel Gehrman
- * Twelve chapters, 23 Appendices, limited index of names (never before included in a history of our church)

The introduction describes the program at the 1982 Silver Jubilee; the script and photos are in Appendix A.

"Ministry," chapter 3, includes correspondence with former ministers.

"Membership," chapter 2, includes timelines of events of past 25 years and pictures of Charter Members at 30th Founder's Day Reception and a memorial listing of those who are no longer with us. It also reports on a demographic Survey.

Institutional Structure," chapter 1, has a picture of past board chairs and a summary of events during the tenure of each, including the Annual Budget for each year.

"Music," chapter 5, includes correspondence with and pictures of each past music director and organist plus the choir. It also includes a description of the events involved in moving Kilgen organ from CM to Green Street under the Organ Task Force.

"Worship," chapter 4, focuses on changes to the service by each new minister and describes the wall hangings which represent Religions of the World.

"Religious Education," chapter 6, includes interviews with or descriptions of the tenure of each RE director plus listing of all RE teachers during the past 25 years. There are also lots of pictures of our kids in pageants, in Halloween garb, and individual classes.

"Social Action," chapter 9, chronicles an area of great interest to our membership with description of community, national, and international groups to which we give half of our plate collections.

"Financial Affairs," chapter 8, describes the fundraising for new construction in Fellowship Hall and Lower Level; Annual Auctions, and canvass fundraisers. Karen Folk included many charts in Appendices comparing various budgets and how they changed through the years.

"Channing-Murray Foundation," chapter 10, was coordinated by Dick Harvey and is dedicated to the memory of John and Jane Anderson, who had been so active in both the church and the foundation; Jane wrote most of recent CM history.

"Communications" available in our lounge, printed sermons, the Uniter and the church web site are discussed in chapter 12.

"The UU Pine Tree," chapter 11 brings together and describes all the many social, service, and intellectual groups that serve a variety of interests and needs within the church, such as the adult discussion group, the garden group, the Green UUs, and the minister's book discussion groups.

And did we mention pictures? Pictures, pictures, pictures--there are over a hundred in all. Most are listed in the limited index. The book is the work of more than 50 church members and friends. We think you will enjoy the finished product.

Only \$20! Buy one for yourself, for out of town children who may have grown up here or your friends who have moved away. And consider donating an extra copy for a new member. Call the church office at 384-8862, or contact Gail Hueting at ghueting@sbcglobal.net or 367-7858.

Church Library

Did you know that we have a lending library here at church? In the room we call “the library” and in Fellowship Hall are bookshelves displaying books that are available for you to check out. Books may be checked out for 2 weeks. Our library includes titles for kids and adults covering a wide range of subjects from UU history and meditations, to parenting and aging, from being green to finding a UU Bed and Breakfast. Browse our shelves and perhaps you’ll find an intriguing summer read. An important part of what makes our *lending* library a success involves returning borrowed books. Please return your library books promptly so someone else may enjoy them.

Help Close the Books!

The Church fiscal year ends June 30. Help us close the books by sending in your final pledge contribution this week. As always, please make a note on the memo line to let us know which year (2008/2009 or 2009/2010) you want the contribution applied to. If you have any questions about paying pledges or making contributions to the church, including gifts of stock, please contact Amy the new Financial Secretary at 398-6154 or amy.robison@comcast.net.

Remembering our May 30th UU Coffeehouse!

Want to see more photos from the May 30th UU Coffeehouse?

Go to: <http://gallery.me.com/emil52#100304>

Thank you Emil Cobb for taking and posting the UU Coffeehouse photos!



A Summer Reminder

If you are traveling this summer, please remember to bring back a vial of water or a small stone from your destination, which you can share at our traditional Water and Stone Communion in August.

Upcoming Events

June 28 Sermon and Movie Showing "Whole Stories, Whole Lives"

The Rev. Elizabeth Harding, who will give a sermon on anti-racism. Following coffee hour she will lead a movie showing and discussion of the movie "Traces of the Trade". In this feature documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain a powerful new perspective on the black/white divide. You can learn more about the movie at <http://www.tracesofthetrade.org/synopsis/>.

Rev. Elizabeth A. Harding is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School and the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, 2006. She grew up at Second Unitarian Church in Chicago, being a life-long UU, and was ordained in 2007. Elizabeth is a member of Allies for Racial Equity, a UU partner organization to DRUUMM. She is a member of the connections team of ARE, whose members have made it their mission to share the movie Traces of the Trade. She currently is serving Prairie Circle UU Congregation, a fellowship north of Chicago as their half-time consulting minister.

Lay-Led Summer Services

Beth Cobb, Assistant for Services

During the months of July and August, we will continue our tradition of lay-lead summer services. With the help of the responses that I received from the questionnaires distributed earlier this spring, I finish up putting together the calendar of these services. Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it to me.

The first two, July 5 and July 12, will require some active participation from members of the congregation. On July 5, we will revisit Patriotic Voices, with readings and songs. I am looking for some volunteers to both contribute readings and be readers. Please contact me in person while at church or by e-mail (bethac54@comcast.net).

On July 12, we will be sharing the Poetry of Summer. For this service, I invite you to write a poem, bring a poem, or offer to be a reader. This service has become a favorite. Bookmarks will be distributed to help you remember to prepare for this service

Denominational News

Watch General Assembly 2009 on Streaming Media at www.uua.org!
Can't be at General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City this year? The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) 2009 GA will come to you via live streaming media. Here are the events we'll cover, live. Additional programs may be captured for later video broadcast; these will be added to our schedule as they are made available.

Note: All times listed are Mountain Daylight Time. All programs will be delivered in Flash (get.adobe.com/flashplayer/).

Wednesday, June 24

Banner Parade & Plenary I 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Opening Worship featuring Rev. William G. Sinkford's President's Speech 8:30 - 9:45 p.m.

Thursday, June 25

Plenary II 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Candidates Forum I 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Synergy Worship 8:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

Friday, June 26

Plenary III & Candidates Forum II 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Article II: Moving Forward: Assembly on the Proposed Covenant for the UUA Bylaws 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.

Service of the Living Tradition: Rev. Mary J. Harrington, preacher
8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 27

Sermon Award Worship 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Plenary IV 8:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Plenary V 1:15 - 3:00 p.m.

Worship 8:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ware Lecture featuring Melissa Harris-Lacewell
8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 28

Morning Sing 8:45 - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship: Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, preacher 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Plenary VI 1:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Closing Worship 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Church Groups

Adult Discussion Group meets Sunday in the library for a lively discussion of topics ranging from political to religious and beyond. The group meets **Sunday morning at 11:00 after services** during the summer schedule. All are welcome! Led by Chuck Cooper.

Bridge Group meets from 1 to 3 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month in the Children's Chapel. Next meeting: **July 13th**. All levels of players are welcome. Contact: Barb Mann: barber_mann@yahoo.com.

Gastronomical Society Group hosts themed potluck dinners once a month at a member's home or at a restaurant. This group is open to anyone wishing to come. It isn't fancy or overly gourmet - just good food and good conversation. Announcements of upcoming dinners are listed in the Uniter and on the Church gastro-l listserv. Contact Emily Sanders (emily@sanders-home.net) for more info.

U.U. Play Group For children from birth to 5 years of age. Join us Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 in the nursery. Can't find us? Look for us on the playground. It is a chance for young children to play and socialize, and for adults to meet other UUs. Contact: Renée Cogil, 384-8862 or redirector@uuc-urbana.org.

Women's CommUUnity An informal discussion group for women and an opportunity for quieter, more in-depth discussion and connection. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. in the Library. Next meeting: **July 22**. Join us! Contact: Maryly Crutcher: maryly7@comcast.net

Community Events

Campus Ministry at Channing-Murray Foundation

Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Group

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm (for the summer) Fireside Lounge

Join us for a free meal at 6:30pm and the group meeting at 7pm. Come join us for food for your stomach and food for your soul! Facilitated by Doug Jones, Channing-Murray Director of Outreach and Development, we'll meet to build a community focused on topics of interest to curious and forward-thinking young adults. All are welcome! For questions or comments, please contact Doug@channingmurray.org.

Join a Chalice Circle

Chalice Circles are an opportunity for friends and members of the church to develop deeper connections and wider service within our community through small-group involvement.

Chalice Circle - first and third Thursday of the month, Contact Geoff Levin (384-1827, glevin47@comcast.net)

Next Meeting: **July 2**, 7:00 p.m.

Chalice Circle – second Monday of the month, Contact Elaine Gehrmann (344-2335, Gehrmanns@aol.com).

Next Meeting: **July 13**, 7:30 p.m.

Caring for Aging Parents and Elders Circle – third Monday of the month, 7 p.m. Contact Cindy Loui (344-9151, cloui@comcast.net)

Next Meeting: **July 20**, 7:00 p.m.

Writer's Circle – third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Contact Pat Nolan (384-7477, pnolan96@aol.com)

Next Meeting: **July 16**, 7:00 p.m.

Chalice Circle - fourth Thursday of the month. Contact Emily Laugesen (384-5921, Emilyslaugesen@yahoo.com)

Next Meeting: **Will not meet this month.**



Would you like to subscribe to our weekly E-News letter? If so, please send your name, phone number and email address to admin@uuc-urbana.org. If you would like to announce your church related events in the E-News, please send your submission to admin@uuc-urbana.org. no later than Thursday, noon.

The Uniter is published every two weeks from September through May and every three weeks during the holiday season and summer months. Please submit announcements by email to admin@uuc-urbana.org.

We are now on the three-week summer schedule. The next submission deadline is Noon, **Thursday, July 9, 2009.**

Calendar of Church Events - 2009

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 6/25	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
Sunday, 6/28	10:00 a.m.	Reverend Elizabeth Harding "Whole Sto- ries, Whole Lives	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, 7/2	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
	7:15 p.m.	Chalice Circle	offsite
Sunday, 7/5	10:00 a.m.	Patriotic Voices	Fellowship Hall
Monday, 7/6	7:30 p.m.	Chalice Circle	YRUU
Tuesday, 7/7	7:30 p.m.	Social Action Commit- tee	Library
Wednesday 7/8	5:30 p.m.	Safe School Meeting	Children's Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Chalice Circle	YRUU
Thursday, 7/9	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
	7:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee	Library
Sunday, 7/12	10:00 a.m.	Poetry of Summer	Fellowship Hall
Monday, 7/13	1:00 p.m.	Bridge Group	Children's Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Chalice Circle	YRUU
Tuesday 7/14	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Children's Chapel

**The Unitarian Universalist Church
of Urbana-Champaign**

309 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801-3221
(217) 384-8862 <http://www.uuc-urbana.org>

Elected Officers (BOT = Board of Trustees member)

Cindy Loui, BOT	Chair	May, 2010
Teresa Jones, BOT	Treasurer	May, 2010
Anne Newman, BOT	Clerk	May, 2011
Brian McNurlen, BOT	Worship Committee Liaison	May, 2010
Pamela Van Wyk, BOT	Finance Committee Liaison	May, 2012
Anne Sharpe, BOT	Property Committee Liaison	May, 2011
Peggy Steele, BOT	Social Action Committee Liaison	May, 2012
Cynthia Hoyle, BOT	Personnel Committee Liaison	May, 2011
Cindy Ingold, BOT	Vice Chair, Ministry Liaison	May, 2010
Chris Carlson, BOT	Membership Committee Liaison	May, 2011
Jesse Spencer-Smith, BOT	Moderator	May, 2010
Amy Robison	Financial Secretary	May, 2011

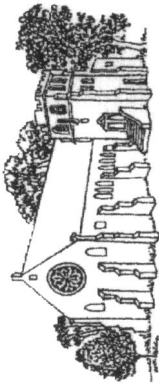
Committee Chairs

Chris Hannauer, Finance
Bob Strauss, Personnel
Sam Beshers, Worship
Emily Laugesen, Green UUs
Tom Gillespie and Angela Thomas, Property
Jennifer Greene and Eileen Zemlin, Social Action
Claudia Gross, Ministry
Anne Brodsky, Religious Education
Elaine Gehrman and Doug Jones, Membership
Brigitte Pieke and Peggy Steele, Partner Church
Peri Ceperley, Care Core: gethelp@uuc-urbana.org

Staff

Axel Gehrman, Minister minister@uuc-urbana.org
Tues, Wed, Fri: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Renée Papini Cogil, re-director@uuc-urbana.org
Director of Religious Education
Tues-Thurs: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., call ahead
Janis Meesey: Office Administrator admin@uuc-urbana.org
Mon-Fri: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Fred Stoltzfus, Choir Director fstoltzf@illinois.edu
Kent Conrad, Music Director kconrad@rocketmail.com
Beth Cobb, Assistant for Services bethac54@comcast.net
Maddy Levin & Mitali Purkayastha,
Childcare Coordinators
Myron Winkler, Sexton

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