

The Uniter



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

July 15, 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.*

July 19

10:00 a.m.

"A UU Home Companion Ponders 'Never'."
The Writing Chalice Circle
music by The Black Velvet Band.

July 26

10:00 a.m.

"Elements of Worship: Let Me Meditate on That"
Beth A. Cobb & Members of the Congregation
What goes on when we "join in the spirit of
prayer and meditation?"

August 2

10:00 a.m.

"Our Spiritual Journeys"
Beth A. Cobb & Members of the Congregation
Through individual and small group
exploration, we will "map" the journeys that
brought us to church this morning. All
congregants will be able to choose when and
what to share.

*Our congregation has a tradition of lay-led services
during July and August. The final summer lay-led
service will be August 23.*

Guest Minister's Corner

-- by the Reverend Elizabeth Tarbox (1944-1999), a piece entitled "Kaleidoscope"

Through a kaleidoscope the world becomes fractured, divided twenty-four ways in symmetrical pieces. A single candle flame becomes twenty-four flickering candles, each a perfect replica of the other. The mundane is made exquisite when it is placed in a pattern of identical squares; the ordinary becomes the mystical when it is seen through a prism.

Is this how life is, if only we step back far enough to see it all - a kaleidoscope of events joining, merging, dancing in rhythmic harmony? Could we appreciate the order of life, if we were not one of the fragments? But we are in it, of it, not observers of the pattern but part of the very texture of which it is constructed.

There may be a plan, but we will never be able to stand back far enough to appreciate it. Somewhere life may make sense to a great cosmic someone, but not to us here; not to us, splintered in a struggle to do what is right in a world that presents us with complex, competing options. We may never see the larger picture, creation's perfected whole; we may be forever flickering fragments, fractured by the raw reality of immediacy from which there is no escape while we are alive.

Well then, let us dance in the flame that we see. Let the arc of our creativity embrace our moments of time, and let us add our light to the kaleidoscope, trusting in the unity of the whole even as we seek symmetry with the part.

From the Board Chair

— *Cindy Loui*

"True service is not a relationship between an expert and a problem; it is far more genuine than that. It is a relationship between people who bring the full resources of their combined humanity to the table and share them generously."Rachel Naomi Remen

These words make me think of all the wonderful people who give so much to our church. Many of them have done so year in and year out, so much so that it just seems that it's "their job". So many people are

doing things out of the goodness of their heart, because the church means so much to them and they find honor and meaning in sharing themselves and their talents.

At our most recent Board study session, the inestimable Karen Folk reviewed the church's insurance coverage with us. Karen is one of those people who have regularly been doing a "job" at church over the years. She has identified gaps in coverage and helped keep track of what coverage we need. Recently when our liability coverage was up for renewal we learned that without this policy we would not have been able to continue this coverage. We have Renee Cogil, our DRE to thank for getting the ball rolling on developing a safety policy as well as seeing the project through to its lengthy and successful completion. T. J. Wilson provided invaluable consultation with his legal expertise. Adelaide Aime and Mary Barrineau also generously contributed their professional expertise. These people are just the tip of the ice berg. We have a generous multitude of committee members, choir members, RE teachers and other valuable volunteers who continue to show up and do their "jobs" year in and year out. Please know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

Volunteer Corner

- Peggy Patten

Thanks to our Sunday Crew volunteers!

Many thanks to those who have volunteered for Sunday Crew tasks during the months of March, April, and May. As you can tell by the long list of names below, many individuals are needed to carry out the Sunday Crew tasks that are part of our weekly worship services (e.g. ushering, welcoming, announcing, providing decorations and hospitality). Let me know if I can add your name to the Sunday Crew email list. The tasks are simple to do. Contact: Peggy Patten, Sunday Crew Coordinator, at 337-5668 (home) or m-patten@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks to: Lauren Anderson-Klein, Sally Babbitt, Barb Bair, Peri Ceperley, Beth and Stephanie Cobb, John Coppess, Maryly Crutcher, Cathy Cunningham, Bob Deichman, Laurie and Roch Ducey, Paul Duncum, Bettina Earl, Nan Ehrlich, Colleen Fitzgerald, Kathy and Leon Frizzell, Kelly Halcom, Glen Hartman, Jim and Sandy Hannum, Marcia Hayes, AJ Hertzog, Kathleen Holden, Mary Hosier, Gail Hueting, Cindy Ingold, Barb Jahola, Marcy Joncich, Barb Jones, Lalita Kalita, Todd Kinney, Debbi Meyers, Cindy and Michael Loui, Georga

O'Connor, Peggy Patten, Karla Peterson, Karen and Mike Retzer, Pamela Rochford, Sue Schumacher, David and Anne Sharpe, Anine Singhde Grood, Mary Kay Solecki, Peggy Steele, Pamela Van Wyk, Jessica Watson, The Williams Family, and Eileen Zemlin.

Church Announcements

July Shared Offering

The July Shared Offering is designated for Wuqu' Kawoq. Wuqu' Kawoq was founded in 2007 by a group of health care professionals, linguists, anthropologists, and development workers partnering with indigenous communities in Guatemala with the intent of addressing health care and other needed development issues. Although new as an organization, the founding members of Wuqu' Kawoq have a demonstrated commitment to indigenous Mayans, with 20 years of combined experience in Guatemala and proficiency in several Mayan languages.

Guatemala is one of the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere. Decades of violence, corruption, and racism have condemned much of the population to poverty with uncertain prospects for the future. Although nearly 75% of the population in Guatemala is Mayan, and speaks one of over 20 different indigenous languages, there are no health care or development programs which provide services in these languages.

Wuqu' Kawoq has worked in a multidisciplinary fashion by:

- Collaborating with indigenous communities.
- Facilitating better health care through language fluency.
- Revitalizing Mayan languages.
- Empowering communities to take control of their health and their future.
- Utilizing grassroots movements and connecting to national and international organizations.

Please support this work which was begun by folks on the UI campus!

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.

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.

** 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.

Big Change at South Entrance

The next time you come in the south entrance of the church you will notice a brighter, cleaner appearance. You can actually see the entrance! It's ready for re-landscaping to create a safer and more accessible approach.

The walnut tree is now a part of our UU history. Large and small limbs had been falling sporadically, often in the parking lot. The tree was evaluated by an independent arborist (thank you to Thom Fehrmann). Thom said that walnut trees are not recommended for city planting, and due to its age this tree could be expected to continue to break apart over time. Walnuts stained the concrete. Walnut tar tracked into the church. Walnuts fell and damaged vehicles and could easily have hit persons in the path. The roots had suffered damage when sewer work was done, which would weaken the tree even more. The decision was made to take the tree down (see the Uniter 6/3/9, p. 8).

Several people deserve recognition for their research and hard work to make this happen. Jerry Carden researched tree companies and secured bids. Rice Tree Service was selected. Their work was excellent and we'd recommend them if you're looking for tree work. Dave and Anne Sharpe deserve much credit for helping on the day of the felling. They are also spearheading a project to save some of the lumber for a yet to be determined piece of furniture for the church. Dave's experience in forestry helped to determine the best pieces to save. A welcome table is a strong possibility. Watch for more on this endeavor.

Property chair, Tom Gillespie deserves a hand for coordinating the work day with Rice Tree Service, for hauling sections of the tree to a small mill in Monticello to be sawn and dried as lumber, for transporting wood to be split, and for re-grading the back yard of the High Street house. Jerry Carden

Upcoming Events

Lay-Led Summer Services, Beth Cobb, Assistant for Services

During the months of July and August, our Sunday morning services are lay-led. So far, we have marked the Fourth of July with "Patriotic Voices," shared "The Poetry of Summer," and on July 19th we look forward to "A UU Home Companion Ponders 'Never'." from our Writers Chalice Group. These services have been enriched by the participation of many members and friends. Their contributions to our religious community are greatly appreciated.

Coming up, you will have more opportunities to actively participate in our services. On July 26, our topic will be "Elements of Worship: Let Me Meditate on That." If you would like to contribute to the July 26th service by sharing a meditation practice or sharing why you value meditation, please e-mail me at bethac54@comcast.net. August 2 will give us an opportunity to share "Our Spiritual Journeys."

Our August services will include the ever-popular Hymn Sing on August 9. On August 16, Claudia Gross will be presenting "Some Thoughts on Friendship", and we will end the summer services with and a UU Revival on August 23.

Gastronomical group: Summer picnic, July 17th

The Gastronomical group's July event will be Friday, July 17th, 6pm at Tim and Jerry's. The theme will be a summer evening picnic in their backyard and screen house with participants bringing a favorite summer picnic food. Food will be loosely coordinated, so be sure to RSVP. Anyone interested in joining the Gastro group is welcome to attend. Contact Jerry by e-mail: jcarden@illinois.edu. or call the house phone number listed in the church directory to get more information.

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 a.m. 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 27th**. All levels of players are welcome. Contact: Barb Mann: barbera_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. Next meeting: **July 17th**.

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 re-director@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 16**, 7:00 p.m.

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

Next Meeting: **August 10**, 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 in July.**

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 30, 2009.**

Calendar of Church Events - 2009

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 7/16	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
	7:00 p.m.	Writer's Chalice Circle	Library
	7:15 p.m.	Chalice Circle	Offsite
Sunday, 7/19	10:00 a.m.	"A UU Home Companion Ponders 'Never'."	Fellowship Hall
Monday, 7/20	7:00 p.m.	Caring for Aging Parents and Elder	Library
Tuesday, 7/21	7:00 p.m.	UU Feminist Book Group	Library
Wednesday 7/22	5:30 p.m.	Safe School Meeting	Children's Chapel
	7:15 p.m.	Women's CommUnity Group	Library
Thursday, 7/23	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
Sunday, 7/26	10:00 a.m.	"Elements of Worship; Let Me Meditate On That"	Fellowship Hall
Monday, 7/27	1:00 p.m.	Bridge Group	Children's Chapel
Tuesday 7/28	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Children's Chapel
Thursday, 7/30	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
Sunday, 8/2	10:00 a.m.	"Our Spiritual Journeys"	Fellowship Hall
Monday, 8/3	7:30 p.m.	Chalice Leaders	YRUU
Tuesday, 8/4	7:30 p.m.	Social Action Committee	Library
Wednesday, 8/5	7:00 p.m.	Membership Committee	Fellowship Hall

**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	May, 2010
Pamela Van Wyk, BOT	Finance Committee	May, 2012
Anne Sharpe, BOT	Property Committee	May, 2011
Peggy Steele, BOT	Social Action Committee	May, 2012
Cynthia Hoyle, BOT	Personnel Committee	May, 2011
Cindy Ingold, BOT	Vice Chair, Ministry	May, 2010
Chris Carlson, BOT	Membership Committee	May, 2011
Jesse Spencer-Smith, BOT	Moderator	May, 2010
Amy Robison	Financial Secretary	May, 2011

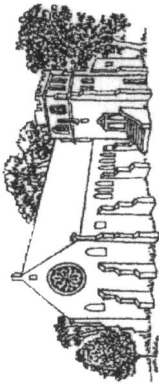
Committee Chairs

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 Tues, Wed, Fri: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	minister@uuc-urbana.org
Renée Papini Cogil, Director of Religious Education Tues-Thurs: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., call ahead	re-director@uuc-urbana.org
Janis Meesey: Office Administrator Mon-Fri: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	admin@uuc-urbana.org
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 currently vacant; Sexton Blake Williamson, Sunday Sexton	

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