

The Uniter



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

August 26, 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.*

August 30

10:00 a.m.

"Ingathering Service"

Water and Stone Communion

An Intergenerational Service

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

Please remember to bring along a vial of water
or a small stone from your summer experiences.

September 6

10:00 a.m.

"Finding Work"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

Reminder: We are returning to our
two-service format on September 13.

September 13

9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

"Living the Questions"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

Second Sunday Potluck

Minister's Corner

-- Axel H. Gehrmann

Summer vacation for the Gehrmanns this year developed differently than we had planned. As it turns out, we did not spend several weeks in Germany visiting family and friends. The day before our intended departure Elaine needed to receive emergency surgery for a condition called "volvulus" (a twisting of the intestines, which required the removal of a section of her colon). Thanks to Elaine's youth and good health, and a skilled surgeon, all went well. She spent six days in the hospital and can expect a few more weeks of recovery at home.

While this change in plans was initially cause for serious concern and some disappointment, we soon realized how fortunate we had been that the medical emergency occurred at home, swiftly diagnosed and addressed, and not just a bit later on a plane or a different continent altogether.

As those of you know, who have had unexpected health issues arise - whether a family member's or your own - the logistical readjustments are hardly the most significant of consequences. More far-reaching are the mental readjustments. Suddenly we realize that good health cannot be taken for granted, is, in fact, fragile, a gift. Our bodies are a mystery, working amazingly well most of the time, comprised of a multitude of biological processes we couldn't understand if we tried. And even with all our medical experts and all our medical equipment, the vast majority of what goes on inside of us can be neither predicted nor controlled. These are humbling thoughts.

After the surprise and the worry have passed, after friends and family have been informed, and been offered updates on the gradual recovery, what remains is a renewed sense of our loving relationships. Most of the time we don't recognize the caring network amidst which we live. But it is there, sustaining us, whether we realize it or not.

Our summer vacation has turned out differently than we had expected. But I, for one, have deeply appreciated the time spent with my closest family, especially Elaine. While perhaps not in the exotic locales we would have preferred, nevertheless, I have thoroughly enjoyed the hours we have spent cultivating a more gentle domestic routine. We have had to slow down, together, on walks around the neighborhood, through the aisles of the supermarket, preparing and enjoying simple

meals, sitting side-by-side on the living room sofa. This has been time well spent.

Whatever your summer held, I hope you, too, have found a renewed sense of gratitude for the wonders and blessings of life.

See you in church,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Axel". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent 'A' and 'l'.

R.E. Matters
– *Renée Cogil*

This summer my husband and I traveled through areas new to us -- exploring, drinking in the beauty of the hillsides and rivers, sampling the local culture from time to time. We chose to travel almost exclusively on back roads that took us through rural areas, with small towns and farms, through well forested mountains, crossing over narrow bridges and even a ferry that happily welcomed us with our truck and camping trailer. Having headed generally south from Champaign/Urbanda we were often reminded how different we are from the local people-our spoken cadence and accents are sorely lacking for a southern drawl (although with a bit of practice I think I could pick it up), I never once thought of marinating or basting a piece of meat with whiskey (an interesting trend in a state with so many dry counties) which seemed to be customary there and where people seem to prefer horses to canines as pets.

Traveling through small towns and along country roads we passed by many small churches, most of them Baptist or Methodist, and near all Christian except for one UU church that called a converted house their church home. As is true of our church many of these rural churches maintain a wayside pulpit or marquee with a message for passersby to ponder. It was those signs that reminded me of the commonality we all share. Whether it is people with southern drawls or the "mid-western non-accent", Baptist, Methodist or Unitarian Universalist, we all speak a common language and have common aspirations. Those wayside pulpits reminded me of how we are all trying to be people of

good faith, be kind to our neighbors, lend a hand to those in need. In a way I felt that while we had traveled far enough from home to feel like we were in a VERY different place, we were really still among neighbors and truly not far from home at all.

I look forward to us being together again soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renie". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent loop on the 'R' and a long tail on the 'e'.

From the Board Chair

– Cindy Loui

Welcome: to gladly receive.

As we start another church year we traditionally see an influx of new people visiting our church so on behalf of the board of trustees, I'd like to invite everyone in the congregation to be especially mindful of our efforts to truly be a "Welcoming Congregation", to ask you to make an extra effort to greet newcomers and help people feel comfortable in our church community. I realize for many people, myself among them, it means going outside our comfort zone to do this. While I'm generally a social person, like many people, I'm not so comfortable talking to strangers and the idea of walking up to a stranger and introducing myself out of the blue-Horrors! Learning to do this has not been easy. I share the familiar fears of being embarrassed by maybe introducing myself to a long time member that I don't recognize or wondering what on earth I'm going to talk to a stranger about or being outright snubbed by a stranger. Yes, I have introduced myself to a couple of people who have been around the church longer than I have, and they were entirely gracious and appreciative of my welcoming efforts rather than demeaning me. Yes, I have had a couple visitors make it clear they were not interested in any further conversation. Yes, I have struggled on occasion, to make a conversation happen with extremely reticent people. However, overwhelmingly, I have found people open, receptive and very appreciative of being greeted and welcomed. It has indeed been an honor and a privilege to introduce newcomers to our faith and our church community. I hope you will all look for opportunities to greet visitors to our church home; I think you'll be glad you did.

Volunteer Corner

-Peggy Patton

Foundations of Fellowship Volunteer Form: 2009-2010

We invite you to deepen your connections to the Church and share in its ministry by volunteering to help our Sunday morning worship and fellowship events run smoothly, and help ensure our facility is well cared for. We refer to these tasks as our "Foundations of Fellowship." We ask each member to volunteer for one or more of our "Foundations of Fellowship" tasks each season of the coming year. These tasks are described on the "Foundations of Fellowship Volunteer Form" included with this Uniter. We ask everyone to complete this newer, shorter "Foundations of Fellowship Volunteer Form." Questions? Talk to Peggy Patten whose contact information is included on the form. Thank you for participating in our Foundations of Fellowship!

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.

** Facilitate a new adult RE class on Turning Off the Christmas Machine. If this title intrigues you, perhaps you would like to lead a class on this title. A book and study guide will be provided. Contact Renee Cogil, re-director@uuc-urbana.org or 384-8862.

** 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.

** 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



September Shared Offering

Frances Nelson Health Center provides primary medical services, a prenatal program, immunizations, health education, and social services to medically underserved and uninsured adults and children of Champaign County. Priority is given to pregnant women, infants, children, adults and children with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, heart disease, etc. The clinic accepts Medicaid (including Kid Care and All Kids), Medicare, Township, most private health insurances, and Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer and Stand Against Cancer programs. No patient desiring to be seen is ever turned away for an inability to pay. A sliding scale fee is offered to clients without insurance, which was utilized by 40% of their patients last year. This sliding scale is based on income, sometimes with a discount as large as 90 percent. Site Director Andrea Goldberg says that many patients, even those who receive a large discount, cannot pay the bill. Approximately 30% of patients are Spanish-speaking and translators are available. Frances Nelson Health Center is a valuable resource in our community.

Come, Sing a Song with Me!

All boys and girls in grades 2 through 6 are welcome to participate in the Children's Choir. No knowledge of music is necessary. We will practice in the southeast classroom from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. on Sundays beginning September 13. New singers may join at any time. Throughout the year we will sing about every two weeks at 9:30 services. For more information, call Michael Loui at 344-9151.



"The Bucket List" (Save the Date)

Join us for a screening of The Bucket List and the first meeting of a group, the "Bucket-Listers", to provide mutual support and encouragement for creating and working on our ultimate to-do lists. **Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 6:30PM.** Stay tuned for further details.
Renee Papini Cogil, Director of Religious Education

Our Whole Lives: Parent Orientation

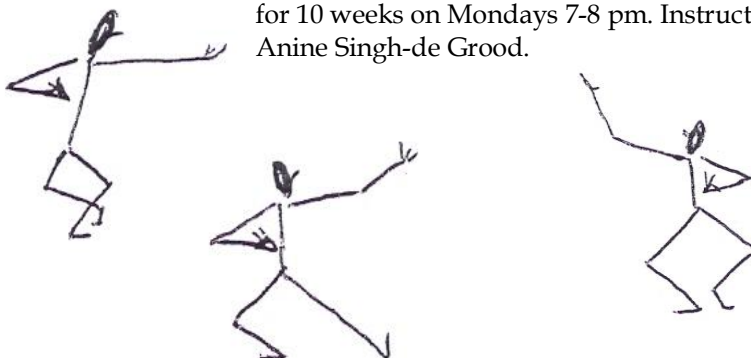
Our Whole Lives, a class for 8th grade students, uses a comprehensive approach to teaching human sexuality in an age-appropriate manner. It is based firmly on the values of respect, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. Young people will learn to apply these values to their behavior, and will learn information and skills they can use throughout life. As always, Our Whole Lives enrollment is open to the wider community, in addition to church members and friends. If your child knows classmates, friends, neighbors, or other youth who might benefit from this class, please pass on an invitation to enroll.

Because of the nature of the topics we discuss in Our Whole Lives, a parental permission slip is required for participation. Additionally, parents are encouraged to attend a parent orientation before they grant permission, to better understand what their children will be learning. Parent Orientation is schedule for **Thursday, September 3rd, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

New RE Classes for Adults

A new adult religious education course is being offered this year; "The World's Religions -An Introduction". In ten sessions, participants will learn about the world's main religious traditions, including primal religions and spirituality. The course will be presented by Anine Singh-de Grood, Sarah Nixon, and Sandy Hannum. Classes are held Thursdays from 7 to 8 pm at the Church, starting September 24. Come for the sessions of particular interest to you. Sign up by contacting Renee Cogil or the sign up sheets outside the office in the Fellowship Hall

This Fall a Bharat Natyam South Indian dance class will be offered at our church. Think 'classical ballet meets T'ai Chi'. Interested? Classes start Monday September 28 and will continue for 10 weeks on Mondays 7-8 pm. Instructor: Anine Singh-de Grood.



RE Classes For Children and Youth

RE Classes for children and youth begin September 13th. We are looking forward to welcoming new and returning young friends to our religious education classes. There will be a registration table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays from August 30th – September 27th. Please be sure to register your children attending classes or using the nursery.

To be ready for your children we still need two teachers. At the first service, one teacher is needed in the kindergarten-1st grade class and one teacher is needed in the 4th-5th grade class. Join us for an interesting year of guiding our children as they develop their faith.

Contact Renee Cogil if you can help. And, if teaching isn't what makes your heart sing join the Religious Education Committee that helps shape our program. Many hands will make light work of this large task. The next RE Committee meeting will be a dinner meeting September 16 at 6:30 at the Rainbow Garden. If the truth be told, this group has some fun as they do the work of this committee. Contact Ann Brodsky or Renee Cogil for more information

A Summer Reminder

Please remember to bring back a vial of water or a small stone from your summer travels to share at our traditional Water and Stone Communion on August 30th.

UUs Helping UUs

Do you have a service (e.g. music lessons, babysitting, sewing, carpentry, plumbing or landscaping) or a resource (e.g. used furniture, equipment or bicycles) to share or to request of others at our Church? Are you interested in car pooling on Sunday mornings? Check out the "UUs Helping UUs" bulletin board in Fellowship Hall -- the bulletin board next to the minister's office. Questions: Contact Peggy Patten at m-patten@sbcglobal.net or 337-5668.

Attention Committee Chairs

Please join us for the first meeting of the Committee Council on Thursday September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Children's Chapel. I will be leading this meeting to go over information for committees including nuts and bolts; the budget process for committees; what committees can expect from the Board of Trustees; and communication. If you cannot attend please try to send a representative from each committee. Cindy Ingold, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees.

Upcoming Events

Questions and Answers on UUism

On **September 6**, following the worship service, the minister will offer a brief orientation to Unitarian Universalism and this church in his office. The session is informal and designed to answer your questions, whatever they may be. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to the church or have been attending for a while.

Second Sunday Potlucks are back!

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 13**, the first of our Second Sunday Potlucks of the church year. Bring a dish to share at the potluck brunch following the first service or a dish to share at the potluck lunch after the second service. Contact Peggy Patten if you can assist with set up or clean up at either potluck event. m-patten@sbcglobal.net or 337-5668.



Snack and Chat Committee Fair: September 20

Religious Education, Social Action, Worship, Membership, Finance, Personnel, Care Core, Property, Personnel, Green UUs, Partner Church. Find out how you can get involved with these committees' important work and be of service to others in our church community. Attend the Snack and Chat Committee Fair taking place after each service on Sunday, September 20.

New Web Page Coming Soon!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana will be going live with its brand new website very soon! One of the new features you will see is the church calendar in "real time." Any changes to the calendar will be immediately available for you to see. Those of you that need to schedule an event can view the schedule for a particular date and time and room, and plan accordingly. Watch the Uniter and E-News for more information on this exciting new venture!

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: **September 7**. All levels 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.

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 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: **September 23**. Join us! Contact: Maryly Crutcher: maryly7@comcast.net.

Feminist Book Group. An opportunity to read works by women and to discuss them in a friendly and supportive environment. Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm in the Library. **Next meeting is September 15.** The book for discussion is "The Patron Saint of Liars", by Ann Patchett. For more information, contact Karen Folk, fox-folk@aol.com or 367-9723.

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: **September 3, 7:00 p.m.**

Chalice Circle – second Monday of the month, Contact Elaine Gehrmann (344-2335, Gehrmanns@aol.com). Next Meeting: **September 14, 7:30 p.m.**

Caring for Aging Parents and Elders Circle – third Monday of the month, 7 p.m. Contact Karen Retzer or (352-9482) or Carol Osgood (344-2440) Next Meeting: **September 21, 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: **September 17, 7:00 p.m.**

Chalice Circle - fourth Thursday of the month. Contact Emily Laugesen (384-5921, Emilyslaugesen@yahoo.com) Next Meeting: **August 27th**



"Cooperation is simply religion being worked out in life."

— *J. Henry Carpenter*

Community Events

UU Young Adult Group

Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00pm Red Herring at Channing-Murray
Honest conversation about the journey of life. A time to reflect, to listen and to be heard. All are welcome... UUs and Non UUs. Enjoy a free vegetarian dinner at 7pm followed by the meeting at 7:30. Meetings open with a reading and chalice lighting. Then a check-in... sharing a little about what is going on in our lives. Then the evening's topic is introduced with a reading followed by discussion questions. The meeting concludes with a check-out and closing words. Other meetings we play a game, go for a walk or do volunteer work. It is up to the group to decide the direction we go. minister@channingmurray.org

Channing-Murray is Now Hiring

part-time positions available... apply now! Our **Office Manager** will be leaving us in September, so we are currently searching for a new friendly face to run our humble abode in this half-time position. More info at channingmurray.org/apply.html. We are also looking for a in half-time to 3/4 time position, front of **house manager** for the Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant! Applicants must have restaurant experience and a passion for healthy food. Duties will include accounting, recruiting and scheduling volunteers, and operating the restaurant in conjunction with the full-time manager.

Singletons; UU Adult Singles Group

UU adult singles are invited to attend weekly meet-and-greet events sponsored by Singletons : Dinner at a different restaurant each week on Wednesdays and a TGIF "happy hour" at Crane Alley on Fridays. For information: Ron, 367-7329 or r-szoke@illinois.edu.

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. The next submission deadline is Noon, **Thursday, September 3, 2009**.

Calendar of Church Events - 2009

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 8/27	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
	7:30 p.m.	Chalice Leaders	YRUU
Saturday, 8/29	9:00 a.m.	RE Teacher Orientation	SE & SW Classrooms
	10:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 8/30	10:00 a.m.	“Ingathering Service” Water and Stone Communion	Sanctuary
Tuesday, 9/1	7:30 p.m.	Social Action Committee	Library
Wednesday 9/2	5:30 p.m.	Safe School Meeting	Children’s Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Membership Committee	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday, 9/3	9:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee	SW Classroom
	7:30 p.m.	OWL Parent Orientation	Children’s Chapel
Sunday, 9/6	10:00 a.m.	“Finding Work”	Sanctuary
Tuesday, 9/8	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Children’s Chapel
Wednesday, 9/9	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

**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

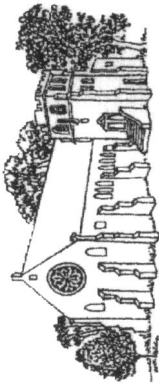
Committee Chairs

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
 Ann 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
 Currently vacant, Sexton
 Blake Williamson, Sunday Sexton

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