

# *The Uniter*



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

*December 30, 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.*

## **January 3**

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

"Standing on the Side of Love"

Association Sunday

The Rev. Linda Berez and  
The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

## **January 10**

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

"A Place to Call Home"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann  
\*Second Sunday Potluck\*

## **January 17**

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

"Dreams of a Post-Racial World"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

## *Minister's Corner*

*-Axel H. Gehrmann*

I am not a big believer in New Year's resolutions. I know my long-established habits all too well. Among the most persistent is the habit of letting good intentions fall by the wayside within a day or two of their ceremonious inception.

Yes, it would be great if I could resolve to exercise more rigorously and regularly. There is much to be said for flossing every evening, and heeding USDA advice to eat five servings of vegetables each day. But, in my experience, radical life-style adjustments - no matter how sensible - are only rarely maintained. Not even the propitious promise of a New Year is likely to improve the odds for favorable results.

Nevertheless, I am a big fan of New Year's celebration. Not a raucous party, mind you, but a mild, low-key observance. It doesn't require staying up until midnight, nor firing off rockets, or watching a crystal sphere descend over Time Square.

My New Year's rituals begin weeks before the day itself, with the purchasing of new calendars, and marveling at the crisp and unblemished pages. Then, when the time seems right, carefully carrying over information from old calendar to new - addresses and birthdays, and future dates already scheduled. And then, every once in a while, taking time to leaf through the worn pages of the year gone by, recalling events - some trivial and some profound - many memorialized with a few words scrawled in pencil.

Flipping through the pages, I see the whole year flash before my eyes, and am baffled by a wealth of memories of the days gone by. And I wonder, what was accomplished? What was learned? What was lost? And what remains? The time seems to have slipped through my fingers.

Turning my attention to next year's pages, in spite of myself, I feel something like a resolution forming in my mind. Not the intention to do anything in particular differently, but simply the silent desire to seize the days ahead more fully. To savor each moment.

I am poignantly reminded that the days of our lives are limited. And yet a life well-lived is not a matter of duration, but of depth. A single

moment, if approached just right, can offer us a doorway into a kind of eternity. This is my resolution: to savor more single moments like this.

See you in church,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Axel".

## ***From the Board Chair***

*-Cindy Loui*

To plan for when Axel will be on sabbatical leave from January to June 2011, the board has established a Sabbatical Committee to oversee the process of a smooth, effective and meaningful sabbatical experience for our congregation. They will work with staff and committees to ensure that the church continues to function in an effective and healthy fashion during Axel's absence.

A Governance Study Group will be exploring different forms of church governance and making a recommendation to the BOT in early 2010. If you'd like to explore this important opportunity, please contact Peggy Steele ([steele1@illinois.edu](mailto:steele1@illinois.edu)). A sub-group of the board is also looking at the concept of "Shared Ministry", as part of a larger discussion on Volunteer Culture in our church. We have appreciated the creativity and enthusiasm David Sharpe has brought to our dialogue and definition of Stewardship. He has helped us think and talk about our relationship to the church and our individual involvement with the church in new ways. Moving beyond thinking of the traditional definition of gifts to the church in financial terms; we are also giving gifts to the church by all the ways we engage in church life. Shared Ministry asks us what gifts we have to share with the church?

Then there is the matter of and proceeding with the next step for a "Financial Review". There are good questions to be answered by a professional review of our financial practices, but we want to be fiscally responsible in soliciting bids from accounting firms. We are also considering the creation of a church, "audit committee".

With a short handed board and so many other projects ongoing, the board has decided to put the next steps for a Capital Campaign on hold until perhaps Axel returns from sabbatical.

## ***Volunteer Corner***

*-Peggy Patten*

### ***Recognizing our Unsung Stewards***

There are many individuals who volunteer their time at Church, often behind the scenes in quiet, invisible ways. **Anine Singh-DeGrood** became the regular volunteer accompanist for the Children's Choir in September 2009. **Anine** practices the piano music at home and attends the weekly rehearsals of the choir at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays (in addition to teaching an adult Religious Education class and teaching Religious Education to youth on Sunday mornings.) Let **Anine** know you appreciate her service. If you know someone deserving our "unsung steward" recognition, let Peggy Patten know at: [m-patten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m-patten@sbcglobal.net) or 337-5668.

### **Thanks to our volunteers who assist with Sunday Crew!**

*Many thanks* to those who have volunteered for **Sunday Crew tasks** during the months of **September, October and November**: Sally Babbitt, Sam Beshers, Virginia Brubaker, Beth Carbonneau, Beth and Stephanie Cobb, Maryly Crutcher, Cathy Cunningham, Paul Duncun, Sandy and Joe Finnerty, Karen Folk, Elaine Gehrmann, Jennifer Greene, Jim and Sandy Hannum, Marcia Hayes, Kristy Higgs, Kathleen Holden, Mary Hosier, Gail Hueting, Cindy Ingold, Lalita Kalita, Jan Kalmar, Todd Kinney, Geoff Levin, Cindy and Michael Loui, Debbi Meyers, Peggy Patten, Karla Peterson, Karen and Mike Retzer, Ursula Reuter-Carlson, Bill Sanders, Gail Schiesser, Sue Schumacher, David and Anne Sharpe, Anine Singh-de Grood, Mary Kay Solecki, Peggy Steele, Chet and Virginia Strohecker, Pamela Van Wyk, Jessica Watson, Lynn Wiley, and Eileen Zemlin.



### **You can sign up to help with Sunday Crew too!**

The Sunday Crew tasks – ushering, welcoming, announcing, providing decorations and hospitality – are easy to do and essential to our Sunday worship services. We are now using VolunteerSpot, a new web service, to help us organize our weekly sign up for Sunday Crew tasks. You can find the VolunteerSpot link on our Church's new Web site at: <http://uucuc.org/sunday-crew>

Once you link to VolunteerSpot you will be asked to enter your email address so the system can send you a link to your personal volunteer page. Once you get that email, you can use the link in it to actually sign up for Sunday Crew. (You'll want to save that email when you get it so that you can use the link whenever you want to sign up in the future.) We have reviewed the site's privacy policy and you do not have to worry about your email address getting shared with anyone. The site uses a calendar format which we think is pretty intuitive, but let Peggy know if you have trouble. Peggy can be reached at: [m-patten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m-patten@sbcglobal.net). Thanks

## ***Our Church Family***

*Joys and Concerns*

**This material is not included on the web version of the Uniter.**



## ***Church Announcements***

**New date for next UU Coffeehouse: Saturday, March 13, 2010**

Mark your calendar for the next UU Coffeehouse: Saturday March 13 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm (not February 20 as previously announced). The UU Coffeehouses provide an opportunity for UU members and friends of all ages to deepen our fellowship through the performing arts – music, dance and the spoken word. If you would like to be included on the list of performers talk to Peggy Patten, [m-patten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m-patten@sbcglobal.net) or 337-5668.

### **Bucket Listers Meet Again**

Afraid you might get to the end of your trail before doing all you had hoped to do in your life? If so, maybe you'd like to join the Bucket Listers for their **next meeting, Sunday, January 17th, 7-9pm.**

Members of this church group provide a supportive environment for discussing dreams and goals and strategies for achieving them.



### **Shared Offering for January: UUA and UUSC**

The Unitarian Universalist Association's mission is to serve congregations and the wider community.

This is accomplished in many ways that those of us who identify simply with our own congregation do not realize.

The UUA helps Unitarian Universalists (UUs) connect with each other beyond their congregation's walls with excellent on-line and in-print resources. The organization supports professional and volunteer leadership in congregations and the community (ministers, religious educators, church musicians, administrators). This includes the development of lifespan religious education curricula and continuing education programs for religious educators. The UUA helps start new congregations and works with district and local leaders to provide resources as they grow. Unitarian Universalist values are brought to members of congregations, their leaders, elected representatives, and the wider world through public witness work conducted by member congregations, districts, and UUA appointed and elected leaders.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis. UUSC is an associate member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), but receives no general financial support from the UUA. Drumbeat for Darfur and Gulf Coast Advocacy are examples of recent campaigns. Ongoing programs are JustJourneys (unique educational travel experiences that focus on human-rights and social-justice issues) and JustWorks (camps in which participants work directly with people in local communities on direct-service projects, learning about human-rights issues firsthand). The annual Guest At Your Table project sponsored by our RE youth is a program of the UUSC.



### **Questions and Answers on UUism**

On **January 3**, 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

### **Guest Speaker on January 3rd**

Unitarian Universalists from across the country are standing together on the side of love and living out what it means to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Come hear the Rev. Linda Berez speak about the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Standing on the Side of Love" Campaign on this Association Sunday and what it means in our communities.

Rev. Linda Berez recently completed two years as consulting minister of Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church of Hartland, Wisconsin. She and her partner, the Rev. Marcia Marino recently relocated to Bloomington/Normal, Illinois where Marcia serves the congregation there as their interim minister.

### **From the Health Department**

With a drop in the number of cases of the H1N1 flu, the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District cautions us about becoming complacent about taking precautions to stop the spread of the disease. To help prevent the spread of the virus please remember to:

- cough and sneeze into your sleeve instead of your hand
- wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer.
- stay home if you are sick

Contact the public health department if you are interested in receiving an H1N1 vaccine. Vaccinations are available.

### **Something New for the New Year**

You are invited to more personally join in our Sunday morning rituals by signing up to light the chalice or lead the unison chalice-lighting reading. Sign-up as a family or individual for these two important Sunday service jobs and be a UU ritual leader. How would it feel to lead the ritual of our chalice lighting - our sacred light? A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall on the religious education table. If you leave a phone number or email address you will receive a reminder call or email a few days ahead of time. Sundays when the children are present for the beginning of our service will be noted on the sign-up sheet. Please save these dates for families.



## *Upcoming Events*

### **It's Back**

A Spiritual Practices Workshop Sampler is back. Mark your calendar for the second annual Spiritual Practices Workshop Sampler, Saturday, **January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 - noon.**

Together we will learn about spiritual practices and have a chance to experience three different practices. This year we are pleased to have Jason Mierek leading our meditation workshop, Barbara Jauhola will introduce us to a walking meditation using a labyrinth, and Sally Bab-bitt and Dave Sharpe will introduce us to Tai Chi. One of the great parts about this workshop is you can bring the whole family, grandma, the kids, your friend or neighbor next door. These three workshops are meant for all ages and will repeat three times throughout the morning, so you can try all three. Mark you calendar. You won't want to miss this.

### **"SAC-at-the-Movies"**

Every few months the Social Action Committee will be presenting a film followed by discussion on social justice topics. The first of this series will be the award-winning documentary, *The Least of These*. This film explores conditions at an immigrant family detention center in Texas and how the ACLU and local residents act to promote change at the facility. Discussion on immigration reform following the showing will be facilitated with the help of Celeste Larkin from La Colectiva, a campus organization promoting immigration reform. Bring your popcorn and pull up a chair! **Date: Monday, January 25th, 7PM, Children's Chapel** Submitted by Pat Nolan ([pnolan96@aol.com](mailto:pnolan96@aol.com))

## *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 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Led by Chuck Cooper.

**Bridge Group** meets from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Children's Chapel. Due to the holidays, their next meeting date is **January 11**. All levels are welcome. Contact: Barb Mann: [barber\\_mann@yahoo.com](mailto: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 who loves to cook various ethnic and regional cuisines and to try new things. Contact Emily Sanders ([emily@sanders-home.net](mailto:emily@sanders-home.net)) for more info.

**U.U. Play Group** For children from birth to 5 years of age. Join us **Fridays from 10:30–12:30** 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](mailto: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: **January 27**. Join us! Please contact Maryly Crutcher if you would like to be a newcomer to the group: [maryly7@comcast.net](mailto: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 January 19.** The book for discussion is "Female Trouble: Stories" by Antonya Nelson. For more information, contact Karen Folk, [fox-folk@aol.com](mailto: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, 7:15 pm. Contact Geoff Levin (384-1827, [glevin47@comcast.net](mailto:glevin47@comcast.net))

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

**Caring for Aging Parents and Elders Circle** – third Monday of the month, 7 p.m. Contact Karen Retzer or (352-9482).

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

**Sustainable Living/Deep Ecology Chalice Circle** Third Friday of the month, 7 - 9 p.m., with optional 6:30 dessert potluck. Contact Amy Hassinger: [amyhass@gmail.com](mailto:amyhass@gmail.com); 384-7735 or Emily Laugesen: [emilys-laugesen@yahoo.com](mailto:emilys-laugesen@yahoo.com); 384-5921.

## Calendar of Church Events - 2010

Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday, 1/1		Office Closed	
Sunday, 1/3	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Worship Service	
Monday, 1/4	7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee	Library
Tuesday, 1/5	7:00 p.m.	Property Committee	SW Classroom
	7:30 p.m.	Social Action Committee	Library
Wednesday, 1/6	7:00 p.m.	Membership Committee	Flwship Hall
Thursday, 1/7	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee	Child. Chapel
	7:15 p.m.	Chalice Circle	YRUU
Friday, 1/8	10:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
Saturday, 1/9	6:00 p.m.	Game Night	Flwship Hall
Sunday, 1/10	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.		
Monday, 1/11	1:00 p.m.	Bridge Group	Child. Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Chalice Circle	YRUU
Tuesday, 1/12	7:00 p.m.	RE Committee	Felwship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Child. Chapel

**Would you like to subscribe to our weekly E-News letter?** If so, please send your name, phone number and email address to [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org). If you would like to announce your church related events in the E-News, please send your submission to [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.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@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org). The next submission deadline is Noon, **Thursday, January 7, 2010.**

**The Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Urbana-Champaign**  
309 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801-3221  
(217) 384-8862      uucuc.org

**Elected Officers (BOT = Board of Trustees member)**

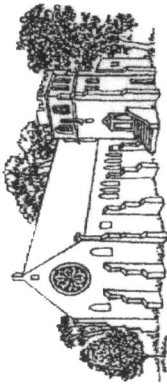
Cindy Loui, BOT	Chair	May, 2010
Teresa Jones, BOT	Treasurer	May, 2010
Anne Newman, BOT	Clerk	May, 2011
Brian McNurlen, BOT	Worship Committee	May, 2010
Pamela Van Wyk, BOT	Finance Committee	May, 2012
Anne Sharpe, BOT	Property Committee	May, 2011
Peggy Steele, BOT	Social Action Committee	May, 2012
Cynthia 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 Jerry Carden, Property  
 Jennifer Greene and Pat Nolan, Social Action  
 Geoff Levin, Ministry  
 Ann Brodsky, Religious Education  
 Doug Jones, Membership  
 Brigitte Pieke, Partner Church  
 Peri Ceperley, Care Core: [gethelp@uuc-urbana.org](mailto:gethelp@uuc-urbana.org)

**Staff**

Axel Gehrman, Minister      [minister@uucuc.org](mailto:minister@uucuc.org)  
 Tues, Wed, Fri: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
 Renée Papini Cogil,      [re-director@uucuc.org](mailto:re-director@uucuc.org)  
 Director of Religious Education  
 Tues-Thurs: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., call ahead  
 Janis Meesey: Office Administrator      [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org)  
 Mon-Fri: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
 Fred Stoltzfus, Choir Director      [fstoltzf@illinois.edu](mailto:fstoltzf@illinois.edu)  
 Kent Conrad, Music Director      [kconrad@rocketmail.com](mailto:kconrad@rocketmail.com)  
 Beth Cobb, Assistant for Services      [bethac54@comcast.net](mailto:bethac54@comcast.net)  
 Elsa Holden, Childcare Coordinator      [eholden2@illinois.edu](mailto:eholden2@illinois.edu)  
 Myron Winkler, Sexton  
 Jacob Sicinski, Sunday Sexton



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