

The Uniter



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

April 21, 2010

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.*

April 25

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

"The Muse Comes to UUs"

Led by Fred Stoltzfus
and the UUC choir

May 2

"The Authority We Share"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann
Annual Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

May 9

"Of Fundamentals and
Fundamentalism"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann
Second Sunday Potluck

Minister's Corner

-Axel H. Gehrmann

Our church is all about openness and inclusivity. This is evident in the flavor of our worship services, in the kinds of groups and classes offered for both young and old, and in the friendly spirit of hospitality found during coffee hour and at our social gatherings. But it goes beyond that. Our aspirations of openness and inclusivity extend to the nuts and bolts of congregational organization and governance.

As minister, I am privileged to be involved in many different dimensions of church life. In one-on-one conversations I hear of the joys and struggles of members. I also meet with our Care Core - those of us who collectively strive to address the pastoral needs of our church family. I have the opportunity to meet with folks who are finding ways to put their religious convictions into action through various initiatives in the church, and I meet with committees in which we collaborate to develop new and ongoing programs. I work closely with the Board of Trustees, to whom committees are accountable, and which creates the over-arching policies of congregational life, as well as keeps us moving toward our stated goals, our vision, and our mission to build community, seek inspiration, promote justice, and find peace.

Plugged into all these different aspects of church life, I have a clear sense of what a thriving, active and inclusive congregation this is. To me, it is perfectly clear that there is always room for others to get involved, and that doing so is often very rewarding.

Unfortunately, for those less familiar with the workings of the church, the question how to participate fully, and how to get things done, can sometimes seem like an enigma. Fortunately, a few opportunities are coming up, through which you can learn more about the exciting activities of our congregation, and our plans for the future.

In the days ahead we will be publishing our Annual Report, which contains an abundance of information provided by the many people who have been active this year, and what they have been up to. Be sure to pick up a copy (or contact the church office to have one sent to you). On **Sunday, April 25th, at 10:40 a.m.** there will be a budget forum in the Children's Chapel, at which you can learn about some of our proposed programs and funding. On **Sunday, May 2nd, at 12:30 p.m.**

we will have our annual meeting, at which officers are elected, a budget approved, and other business conducted by the congregation.

Don't miss these important opportunities to become more meaningfully engaged in the life of our religious home.

See you in church,



R.E. Matters

-Renée Cogil

Each year at this time those on the RE Committee and I turn our thoughts to plans for next year. Which curricula will we use in each class and who will teach our children and youth, are our greatest concerns. It is an exciting time, though – I've been pouring over new curricula, reading reviews my colleagues have posted and considering our own mix of children and families. It is a time to envision the very best for our children and youth, a time to dream and ponder all that can be.

It has been 11 years now since I've been in the classroom weekly with our kids as an RE teacher. Remembering back I recall many an evening spent on the phone with my then co-teacher, Margaret Lewis, making plans for what would happen in our classroom come Sunday morning, divvying up who would lead each part of the lesson, imagining how the kids would respond, considering the best way to convey an idea or provide an experience that would nurture our students spiritually. Some of our evening phone calls involved much more than planning for Sunday morning, though. I remember sitting on the floor in my kitchen (tethered to the kitchen phone by a cord – remember those?) leaning against the cabinets, phone to my ear discussing deep spiritual issues that went far beyond the scope of what we were teaching our 1st and 2nd graders. The curriculum was the catalyst that got us contemplating. Then come Sunday morning the children with their fresh ideas and unbiased perspectives fed my spirit further. It was a time of great spiritual growth for me and personal discovery, and I look back to that time fondly. Little did I know then that I would become so involved with nurturing the spiritual lives of children or myself. This was also where my storytelling began to blossom. The curriculum we used that year, was based on a series of stories, all without pictures. I needed to bring the stories to life somehow, if they were going to be useful to anyone. Thus my style of storytelling began to take shape.

Teaching RE classes has been part of a wonderful journey for me. It has been rich with valued relationship with children and adults, enriching of my spirit, and has expanded my knowledge and challenged me. I invite you to include teaching RE to be a part of your spiritual journey, too. You won't regret making the commitment to our kids, our church or yourself.

See you at church,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renie". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent "R" and "e".

From the Board Chair

-Cindy Loui

Like many people, I was a little nervous about serving on the board of trustees. Yet, I have to say, that this has been a pretty amazing experience. Serving on the board is really interesting. It is so important and incredibly inspiring. Being on the board brings the privilege of learning about all the really cool stuff going on "behind the scenes". We have many people who are hard at work on a variety of task forces and committees, others who are exploring neat ideas in Adult RE classes; there's the growing and learning going on in RE classes we saw in "The Taste of RE" and the YRUU led worship service, the fellowship of Circle Suppers, the connections being made in Chalice Circles, the excitement and organization of the Service AUuction, the impressive machinations of the all the Committees throughout the year, and the way staff members and volunteers generously step up to help each other out. As all of you who have come home to messages from me know, I have asked a lot of people to contribute in various ways this year. I have been so touched and inspired by your replies of: "I'd be glad to", "this church is so important to me", "I'll do whatever the church needs me to do", "I can do that", "I really want to contribute", "I'll help", "Do you need anything else?" or simply, "yes, I'll do that". Some of you have said yes before I even had a chance to finish asking!!! Wow. I'm so impressed. We are all busy people and it's truly heartening to see how much you value our church community and how eager you are to "serve in the spirit of love". Thank you all.

Volunteer Corner

-Peggy Patten

We are all Welcomers!

Whether you stand behind the Welcome Table in the official role of “Welcomer” or not, we all help to make newcomers and visitors feel welcome on Sunday mornings. Here are ways we can do so:

- * Hospitality starts in the parking lot; reserve our limited parking lot spaces for visitors, those with mobility issues, or those with young children.
- * Wear your name tag; it helps us get to know one another better.
- * Greet those you know and introduce yourself to those you do not know.
- * Assist with the elevette; “Elevette Operating Instructions” are hanging at each door of the elevette.

You can sign up to help with Sunday Crew too!

All are invited to assist with Sunday Crew tasks (announcing, welcoming, ushering, providing decorations and hospitality). These important tasks require many volunteers to enrich our Sunday morning worship and are easy to do.

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 sign 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.). The site uses a calendar format which we think is pretty intuitive, but let Peggy know if you have any trouble. Peggy can be reached at: m-patten@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!

Our Church Family

Joys and Concerns

This material is not available online.



Church Announcements

Shared Offering for April: A Woman's Fund

A Woman's Fund (AWF) supports survivors of domestic abuse through its program, A Woman's Place. This program began in the early 1970s as a small grassroots organization growing out of a commitment to provide women with safety and support in crisis situations. The program later expanded services to include any survivor of domestic violence, male or female.

A Woman's Place provides safe emergency shelter and transitional housing, help with legal issues, medical advocacy, counseling and support groups as well as children's counseling and programs. This differs from other homeless shelters in the area because the focus is on helping adults and children in crisis to seek a healthy environment free from abuse and violence.

Stewardship Matters: Our church Is On Sound Financial Footing

Thank You for your pledge! It is two gifts in one. The obvious gift is that it helps to fund all the activities throughout the year that fulfill our church's mission. Not so obvious is that the fact that you pledge makes it possible to count on your contributions and actually plan for next year. Without pledges it would be impossible to have a reliable budget that expresses our churches priorities.

And if you used the Fair Share Giving Guide to decide upon your pledge - another BIG "Thank You." As you read the description of the Fair Share Giving Guide you probably discovered that it is intended to assure that our church has adequate funding to achieve its mission, AND at the same time recognize that each of us has different resources to devote to our church. It is one way that we give to each other through our church. If each member supports the church at the Supporter level, our church will have adequate resources to fulfill its mission as a "public" church.

And a special welcome and "Thank You" to those who are pledging for the first time. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Together, we have pledged \$278,200 for next year, received via 155 pledges including ten new pledges. Last year's figures were about \$284,500 via 166 pledges. While the total and number of pledges are down, many were able to increase their pledge to bridge the gap. Thanks to all who pledged, our church is indeed on a sound financial footing. Submitted by David Sharpe, Stewardship Committee

Walnut Welcome Table

The Walnut Tree Utilization Task Force has contracted with John Sweitzer of "Sweitzer and Sweitzer, Makers of Fine Furniture" in Champaign to build a welcome table using the wood from the walnut tree harvested last summer. After considering several designs, the task force, made up of Anne Sharpe (BOT), Tim Temple, John Coppess, Jean Gillespie, Jerry Carden (Property), and Dave Sharpe (Membership), approved a trestle table design with four drawers for storage of brochures and other welcoming materials. We look forward to having the table in place for the beginning of the church year in the fall. Thanks to all who purchased items made from the walnut tree to defray the cost of the table, with no impact on the church budget.

From the Board of Trustees

A portion of the April 27 BOT Study Session will be an official Business Meeting. All are welcome.

Safe Haven Update

April 25 will be our last day to collect items for Safe Haven. As of May 1 the Safe Haven Homeless Community will no longer be housed at Restoration Urban Ministries. You can still help in one of the following ways:

Safe Haven residents with construction/home improvement skills are seeking property owners willing to exchange use of their property for work to maintain/improve it "sweat equity". Please contact: 217-530-6468 or safehavencu@gmail.com, or 217-979-1272 or painter-donnie@live.com.

Volunteers willing to help residents improve their job search skills--assist with resumes and job applications, coach for interviews, etc. Approximately 10 Safe Haven residents have expressed interest in benefiting from such assistance. [Interested volunteers may respond to this email or email Abby Harmon at abbilyn@gmail.com

Annual Meeting May 2nd

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign will be held Sunday May 2nd, at 12:30pm. The agenda will include approval of the church budget for the coming year and a vote on elected positions.

Canaan Credit Union

At the Green UU's service on the 28th of March three representatives from the Canaan Credit Union came to introduce us to their mission. Afterwards they setup a table in Fellowship Hall to answer questions, enjoy our fine coffee and sign up new members.

By the end of the day it was clear that we are a good fit! Twelve members of our congregation joined the Credit Union and are now part-owners of this community bank. Members of the Social Action Committee attended the Credit Union's ninth annual General Members Meeting in the chapel at Canaan Baptist Church later that afternoon. The owners heard reports from the various committees that oversee the Credit Union.

We heard about ways the Credit Union works with its members to help them establish credit. If someone doesn't fit the typical profile that banks prefer they will try to get to know them and understand their particular situation. In some cases they recommend members take out a small loan and repay it over several months. This will help them generate a positive credit rating which as we all know is very important in our society.

One popular service they offer is low-interest unsecured loans which members can use to consolidate credit card debt. Now that we are in the Canaan Credit Union field of membership this is now available to all members of our congregation as well as our relatives. If you know someone who is paying interest to banks for their credit cards you should let them know about this opportunity to escape the debt trap and help their community out at the same time!

If you would like more information about the Credit Union or want to become a member drop by their office at 404 W. Main Street in Urbana Monday thru Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm, or call 367-2158.



Now THAT'S Amore!

What a belle note (beautiful night) it was on Saturday, April 17th! Over 120 church members and friends showed their "amore" by purchasing donated items and services at the annual service auction, raising over \$19,500 to support the church. Delicious appetizers prepared by Bettina Earl and Emily Sanders were served starting at 4:30 and guests mixed and mingled while looking over the silent and fixed auction items set up around the back of the Sanctuary. Karen Asquith, with help from her family prepared mouth-watering Italian dishes and Ursula Reuter-Carlson baked all the bread for the tables. To set the mood for the live auction at 6:30, Sam Beshers and company serenaded the hall with a clever spin on the song "That's Amore!", changed to "That's the Auction!" Emcees Dan Brady and Alicia Trezise ably assisted Auctioneer Don Denny for a rousing live auction of goods and services generously donated by church members. And at the end of the evening, Chris Hannauer and crew kept up with everyone's purchases. Barbara England, Cindy Loui, Anne Sharpe, Debbi Meyers, Lalita Kalita and Sue Schumacher also contributed their time to make the auction go so well. Thank you EVERYONE who helped make this event possible. Volunteers provided essential help in setting up the event on Friday and Saturday, assisted in the kitchen, provided oven space, brought a dessert, donated and/or purchased items for the auction and helped with cleaning up at the end of the night.

If you missed the auction on Saturday, there are still some items available for sale listed in this Uniter. Be sure to stop by the auction table after services on Sunday, April 25 to purchase remaining items and services.

Q: Why did the Unitarian Universalist cross the road?

A: To support the chicken on his own path!

Butterfly Garden Work Party

One of the finishing touches for our playground will be the creation of a Butterfly and UU Principles Garden. If you like to garden, dig in the soil, plant, haul mulch and pavers along side your fellow UUs than this is a job for you. Please sign up for our Butterfly Garden work party scheduled for Saturday, May 22nd, 10:00 a.m. - mid- afternoon. A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall on the religious education table. A second work party will be planned for a weekday evening in June.

Thank you for your help!

Renee Papini Cogil

Annual Report Available for Pick Up or Mail to your Home

The Annual Report for the year 09-10 is now finished. Thank you to all who submitted, and to all who worked hard in your groups and committees in the past year! For those of you who are interested, the document is available in the Fellowship Hall on the literature table for you to pick up. If you would like me to mail a copy, or send it to you via email, please contact me at (217) 384-8862 or admin@uucuc.org. I will be happy to place one in the mail to you. Thanks again to all those who made this process as smooth as it possibly could be! Janis Meeseey, Office Administrator

Sunday Morning Decorations

Have you considered providing decorations at the front of the sanctuary? You could do so as a way of marking a special day in your life or in memory of someone important to you. You can also submit a written announcement about the significance of the decorations by noon on the Wednesday before the service. The decorations do **not** have to be floral arrangements. Displays of pottery, photographs, special books, etc. that are beautiful or meaningful are appropriate as well. We also have items to enhance your decorations: table runners, baskets, silk flowers, and a few vases. If you would like to see what's on hand, please see Beth Cobb on a Sunday morning.

Decorations must leave at least one-third of the table's surface for the joys and concerns candles, and should not obstruct the line of sight between the musician, choir, and choir director. Limit fragrant decorations as much as possible. Plan to have the decorations on the decorations table in the front of the sanctuary fifteen minutes before the service begins, and remove the decorations after the service, particularly if you are using live flowers or plants.

If you would like to bring decorations for a Sunday morning worship service, please contact Peggy Patten, m-patten@sbcglobal.net,

Church Groups

Adult Discussion Group meets Sundays in the library for a lively discussion of topics ranging from political to religious and beyond. The group meets Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Led by Chuck Cooper.

Bridge Group meets second and fourth Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Children's Chapel. Their next meeting date is **April 26**. All levels are welcome. Contact: Barb Mann: barber_mann@yahoo.com.

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 May 18**. The book for discussion is "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova. For more information, contact Karen Folk, foxfolk@aol.com or 367-9723.

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) for more info.

Green UUs Meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month in the YRUU at 7:30 pm

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@uucuc.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. Join us! Please contact Maryly Crutcher if you would like to be a newcomer to the group: maryly7@comcast.net.

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.

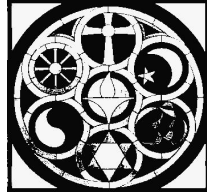
Chalice Circle - first and third Thursday of the month, 7:15 pm. Contact Karen Ruhleder for more information (ruhleder@hotmail.com 356-8190.)

Chalice Circle— second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Contact Elaine Gehrmann (344-2335, 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)

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; 384-7735 or Emily Laugesen: emily-laugesen@yahoo.com; 384-5921.



Subscribe to our weekly E-News letter. Send your name, phone number and email address to admin@uucuc.org. To make last minute announcements regarding church related events in the E-News, please send your submission to 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. The next submission deadline is Noon, **Thursday, April 29, 2010.**

Community Events

Mentoring

April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week. One way to have a direct impact on children in our community is to volunteer as a mentor. This gives adults the opportunity to build a relationship of trust with a young person to provide support, encouragement and guidance. And we have hundreds of students who need a caring adult in their life.

You could be the caring adult.

The C-U One-to-One Mentoring program is a school-based mentoring program in both Champaign and Urbana. Mentors are matched one-on-one with a student of their own gender when the student is in 4th-7th grade. Mentors meet with their mentees for one hour a week during the school day on school grounds. They may read together, play games, go for a walk, workout in the gym, discuss current events, work on a school project or just talk.

What do students in our community say about their mentors?

- * She understands me...I can talk to her about anything!
- * "I try not to be absent on the day he comes."
- * "She's helped me see that what I do in school will affect my life."
- * "I thought that I wouldn't pass, but I did thanks to her encouragement."
- * "She's given me hope."

You can be a mentor if you have: a genuine interest in youth, flexibility & patience, and good listening skills. Mentors commit for one year at a time. The UI, as well as many other local organizations, allow an hour of release time per week for mentoring in local elementary and secondary schools.

Contact Patti Pattison (ppattison@usd116.org) or Barb Linder at (blinder@usd116.org) or check out the website <http://cu1to1.org/>

Calendar of Church Events - 2010

Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday, 4/23	10:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
Saturday, 4/24	9:00 a.m.	Tai Chi	Ch. Chapel
Sunday, 4/25	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.		
	10:40 a.m.	Budget Forum	Children's Chapel
	12:15 a.m.	Camp Unistar Meeting	Library
Monday, 4/26	1:00 p.m.	Bridge Group	Ch. Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Bad Girls of the Bible	SW Classroom
Tuesday, 4/27	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Library
Wednesday, 4/28	7:15 p.m.	Women's Community	Library
Thursday, 4/29	12:00 p.m.	Uniter Deadline	
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Children's Chapel
Friday, 4/30	10:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
Saturday, 5/1	9:00 a.m.	Tai Chi	Ch. Chapel
Sunday, 5/2	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.		
	12:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting	Sanctuary
Monday, 5/3	7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee	Library
Tuesday, 5/4	7:00 p.m.	Property Committee	SW Classroom
Wednesday 5/5	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 uucuc.org

Elected Officers (BOT = Board of Trustees member)

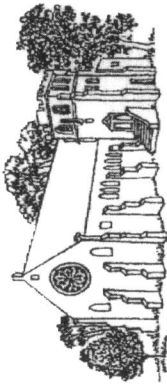
Cindy Loui, BOT	Chair	May, 2010
Teresa Jones, BOT	Treasurer	May, 2010
Anne Newman, BOT	Clerk	May, 2011
Gail Heuting, BOT	Worship Committee	May, 2010
Pamela Van Wyk, BOT	Finance Committee	May, 2012
Anne Sharpe, BOT	Property Committee	May, 2011
Peggy Steele, BOT	Social Action Committee	May, 2012
Cynthia 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

Staff

Axel Gehrmann, Minister minister@uucuc.org
 Tues, Wed, Fri: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Renée Papini Cogil, 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
 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
 Elsa Holden, Childcare Coordinator eholden2@illinois.edu
 Myron Winkler, Sexton
 Jacob Sicinski, Sunday Sexton



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