

The Uniter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign



June 2, 2010

Worship Services

June 6

10:00 a.m.

“Flower Communion”

An Intergenerational Service

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

Please bring a cut flower to share

June 13

10:00 a.m.

“Picnic in the Park”

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

Join us for a brief worship service and extensive fellowship at Ambucs Park. See page 4 for more information.

No worship at church today.

June 20

10:00 a.m.

“Of Fathers and Lesser Gods”

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

Our Mission

Build Community.

Seek Inspiration.

Promote Justice.

Find Peace.

Minister's Message

- Axel H. Gehrmann

For me, summer involves a distinct change of pace. After Father's Day I will be out of the pulpit and the office, and engaging in a variety of activities that will hopefully provide both fresh perspectives and creative inspiration.

In late June I will head to Minneapolis, MN, for General Assembly (June 23-27), joining thousands of delegates from UU congregations around the country, enjoying an abundant offering of workshops, lectures, worship services, social gatherings, and displays, as well as plenary meetings at which our affirmation of the democratic process will be put to the test. The gathered delegates will vote on proposed bylaw changes, a statement of conscience on “Creating Peace,” as well as one of five issues proposed for ongoing congregational study. The issues nominated this year include “Energy, Peace and Justice,” “National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative,” “Immigration as a Moral Issue,” “Ending Slavery,” and “Revitalizing American Democracy.” I encourage you to check out further information about our annual General Assembly, as well as live streaming of events, at www.uua.org.

In early July, I will be spending nine days in Germany, visiting family and friends in the Rhein/Main area, above all my mother and grandmother who share a house in Frankfurt.

Later in the month I am taking a course on “Interfaith Public Theologies” at Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago, as part of the Doctor of Ministry program I am planning to wrap up during my sabbatical next year. Thus I am looking forward to a summer reading list that includes theological works by contemporary Unitarian Universalist, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Native American, Humanist, Feminist and Womanist authors.

In the midst of these activities, I will occasionally take time to sit in a shady spot, sip an icy beverage, and contemplate the passing of the clouds and the turning of the earth. Whether your summer takes you out of town, or not, I hope you find time for similar summer reflections. (If you do travel,

(cont.)

remember to bring back a small vial of water or stone from your destination, which you can share at our Ingathering Service on August 29th.) Whatever it is you enjoy most about summer, I hope you find it in the weeks ahead.

See you in church!

From the Board Chair **-Bill Childers**

If you had told me a month ago that I would be the Board Chair, I would have likely told you that you were delusional. However I find myself in the position. Many of you only know me from seeing me at church, some of you know me as Bill, some as Barb's husband, and probably even more as Gwen or Willie's dad, so I thought it might be best to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

I am one of the few church members that were actually born in Urbana. When I was eight years old, my father, who was in search of a place where he could openly discuss his spiritual ideas and hear those of others, discovered this church. He joined the church and began bringing me along every Sunday to hear the sermons. As I grew older and left home, I stopped coming to church as frequently, though I was married in the church in 1985.

After Barb and I had children we were confronted one day by our 5-year-old daughter asking "who is this Jesus guy?" We quickly decided that RE was the best solution to providing a spiritual education for our children and we began attending regularly and volunteering for a variety of Sunday tasks. As the kids grew older, we became less involved and started missing more and more Sundays. So I was somewhat surprised when Cindy called and asked if I would serve on the board. After giving it some thought, I decided that this would be a good way for me to reconnect with the church and give back for the many things it has provided for me over these last 45 years.

As I assume the role of chair, I want to assure everyone that I will do my best to help the church grow and prosper. I know that our vice chair, Lynn Wiley, and our other board members will be of great assistance to me in the coming year and I am confident that we will serve the church well in the coming year. I would also like to thank David Barr for agreeing to act as an advisor since he has previous board experience. I welcome all of your comments and suggestions and please feel free to contact me at church or by e-mail at whilder@illinois.edu.

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.

This spring **Beth Carbonneau** and **Cindy Loui** have been attending the Faith Coalition Supporting Safe Haven meetings twice monthly. Safe Haven is a local self-governed homeless community. Beth and Cindy have staffed the Safe Haven donation box at our Church and delivered collections to Safe Haven every week. Let Beth and Cindy know you appreciate their service to our Church!

If you know someone deserving our "unsung steward" recognition, let Peggy Patten know at: m-patten@sbcglobal.net or 337-5668.

Our Church Family

Welcome new Members

Joys and Concerns

This information is not available online.

Church Announcements

Shared Offering for June: Delta Society

The Delta Society is dedicated to improving human health through therapy and service animals. They work to increase awareness of the positive effects of animals, reduce the barriers that prevent the involvement of animals in everyday life, and expand

the therapeutic and service role of animals in health, service and education.

Delta Society was founded in 1977 by members of both the human health and veterinarian fields, focused on funding the first credible research on why animals are important to the general population, and how they affect health and well-being.

Core initiatives of the society include: 1) advancing knowledge about the science which proves that human-animal bonds improve people's health; 2) empowering individuals by helping them connect with a service animal; 3) helping to heal people through the pet partners program.

One program of Delta Society is the National Service Dog Center, which advocates for the acceptability of service dogs in public places and provides tools to help those with disabilities find a service dog trainer and understand their rights. Delta also developed the Pet Partners program, which is the first comprehensive standardized training in animal-assisted activities and therapy for volunteers and health-care professionals.

Order a UU t-shirt and show that you belong to the UU Church!

The Social Action Committee is taking orders again for more of the popular t-shirts that we sold 2 years ago. One is the "Anne Sharpe" design and the other is the "Ellen Rockett" design, named after the graphic artists. If you would like to order a t-shirt, come to the SAC table after the service before mid-June. T-shirts come in either white or gray and in all sizes. Cost is \$10/shirt, payable at the time you place the order. Those of you who have signed up for the Habitat work crew- this would be a perfect event to wear your UU t-shirt. We need to have a minimum of 13 orders for each design in order to go ahead with the printing. Contact Jim Hannum for more information.

Summer Schedule for Uniter Begins

As summer approaches, church activity begins to lessen. With this in mind, publication of the Uniter will become a three week cycle from this point forward, until the August 25th edition. E-News will continue to come out with weekly updates and information that is urgent. If you would like to sign up for E-News, please contact the office administrator at admin@uucuc.org.

Religious Education Teachers Needed

"Every adult needs a child to teach, it's the way adults learn," said Frank A. Clark. You are invited to learn along side the most wonderful, curious, and extraordinary children and youth. Sign up today to

be a religious education for next year. Using a mix of some of our favorite curricula and several new ones hot off the press, we will be offering interesting classes for our youngest to oldest students. A sign up poster is available in Fellowship Hall and Renee Cogil can answer your questions. Your help with teaching is needed and greatly appreciated.

From Maryly Crutcher, Interim Chair for Care Core

When I visit California, I attend the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto (near Stanford). They have similarities and dissimilarities to our church. One strikingly different custom is that for Joys & Concerns (they call it Sharing & Caring), the minister walks among the congregation, giving the mike to anyone with something to share. I spoke with a woman who is directly involved with their Care Core, and asked about congregational participation. She responded that since the whole church is a "caring congregation," they assume all members and friends are part of Care Core. I thought this information over, and believe we, also, are a "caring congregation". With this in mind, I would like to encourage any member or friend who has not signed up yet to become a member of Care Core. It is easy to volunteer for a one-time event. I believe the ideal Care Core is one where we all are members. If you read an e-mail and see that a member or friend needs help, you can decide to volunteer right there and then. This makes our whole congregation even more of a "caring congregation" than we are right now. If you would like to be a part of our large Care Core, perhaps once or twice a year (more is fine, too), please email your information to Peri Ceperley, Care Core Chair, at peri@ceperly.com, or contact me with any questions at maryly7@comcast.net, or 344-7754. Thanks from all your church family.

Questions and Answers on UUism

On **Sunday, June 6**, following the worship service, the minister will offer a brief orientation to Unitarian Universalism and this church in his office. The sessions are 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 awhile.

Burn the Mortgage!

For the past several years the Church has been paying for two mortgages. The older, smaller mortgage is down to about \$1800, and we would love to pay it off when we refinance the mortgage in late June. You can help to make this happen! Members of the Finance Committee are selling \$10.00 coupons after services, which are then

burnable at the all church picnic on June 13th. Buy one (buy twenty!) and bring them with you to the picnic where we will bid a fond farewell to this bit of debt. (From the Finance Committee)

Butterfly Garden Work Party - June 12

Thanks to all who helped at our first Butterfly Garden Work Party. You did an amazing job and accomplished a great deal. Thanks to you our butterfly garden is off to a great beginning. With one more work party we will finish constructing the butterfly garden. Join us Saturday, June 12th at 10:00 a.m. to put in the brick edging, spread the mulch, and finish the planting. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall on the religious education table.

Summer RE Helpers

Awesome summer fun! - that is what is in store for kids this summer in religious education. Each week our kids will explore a different earth-centered idea. A lead teacher will be provided, but an assistant teacher will help make this class go smoothly. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall for one or more Sundays and come join the fun! Thanks for helping! Renee' Papini Cogil

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found box overfloweth. It is under the coat racks to the right as you enter the Sanctuary. If you are missing hats, a jacket or other clothing, a pencil box, hand cream, etc., please collect them from the Lost and Found. Items not claimed by June 27 will be donated or discarded. Thanks! Maryly Crutcher

Picnic in the Park

On **June 13** we will have a worship service and picnic at Ambucs Park in Urbana. There will be no worship service at church that day. The service begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by a potluck picnic lunch. Ambucs Park is located on University Avenue, just east of Cunningham Road. We will meet at the Jean Driscoll Pavilion. For the potluck, please bring your own table service and beverages, and a dish to share. Suggested dish assignments are based on the first letter of your last name: A-G salads, H-N main dishes, O-Z desserts. Lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on are welcome. See you there!

Attention all socially responsible shoppers!

You may be interested in getting a copy of *The Better World Shopping Guide*, a pocket-sized listing of popular products and the companies that make them. For each product and company, the guide also provides grades (A+ to F) that are based on

ratings of that company's status on human rights, the environment, animal protection, community involvement, and social justice. The ratings are derived from multiple sources and can be comprehensively viewed at www.betterworldshopper.org. This is also where you can order the pocket guide for only \$10. The products rated include the following: appliances and hardware, baby care, banks and credit cards, beer, coffee, electronics, frozen dinners, milk and alternatives, office supplies, pizza, popcorn, shoes, soap, tea, vitamins, and many more. There will also be a copy of this pocket guide in the church library for you to peruse. For more information, contact the Social Action Committee.

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 11:00 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 June 14th. 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 June 15. The book for discussion is "The Floor of the Sky" by Pamela Joern. 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. 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 CommUnity 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 (ruhleder@hotmail.com 356- 8190.)

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

Caregiver's Chalice Circle—third Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Contact Karen Retzer (352-9482) or Mary Kay Solecki (688-2931).

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, 7:00 p.m., Contact Amy Hassinger: amyhass@gmail.com; 384-7735 or Emily Laugesen: emilys-laugesen@yahoo.com; 384-5921.

Publications & Deadlines

Subscribe to our weekly E-Newsletter. 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 e-mail to admin@uucuc.org. The next submission deadline is Noon, Thursday, June 17, 2010.

How to Reach Us

Office Hours- Mon. - Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Telephone - (217) 384-8862
Mail - 309 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801-3221
E-Mail - admin@uucuc.org
Web - uucuc.org

Contacts

Staff

Axel Gehrmann, Minister
(minister@uucuc.org)
10:00 –1:00 T, W, F
Renée Cogil, Director of Religious Education
(re-director@uucuc.org)
9:00 –1:00, T- Th., call ahead
Janis Hooper, Office Administrator
(admin@uucuc.org) 8:30 - 2:30, M-F
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

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Doug Jones, Membership
Brigitte Pieke, Partner Church
Peri Ceperley, Care Core: gethelp@uuc-urbana.org

Calendar

Thursday, June 3

10:00 a.m. LREDA, Children's Chapel
7:15 p.m. Chalice Circle, YRUU
7:30 p.m. Finance Committee, Children's Chapel

Friday, June 4

10:30 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

Sunday, June 6

10:00 a.m. Worship & Childcare
11:00 a.m. Discussion Group, Library

Tuesday, June 8

5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee, Library
7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees, Children's Chapel

Thursday, June 10

7:30 p.m. Green UUs, YRUU

Friday, June 11

10:30 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

Sunday, June 13

10:00 a.m. Worship & Potluck
Ambucs Park

Monday, June 14

1:00 p.m. Bridge Group, Children's Chapel

7:15 p.m. Social Action Committee,
Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Chalice Circle, YRUU

Tuesday, June 15

12:00 p.m. Care Core, Library
7:00 p.m. Feminist Book Group, Library

Wednesday, June 16

7:00 p.m. Chalice Leaders, YRUU

Thursday, June 17

7:00 p.m. Writer's Chalice Circle, Library
7:15 p.m. Chalice Circle, YRUU

Friday, June 18

10:30 p.m. Playgroup, Nursery
7:00 p.m. Sustainable Living/Deep Ecology Chalice Circle

Sunday, June 20

10:00 a.m. Worship and Religious Ed.,
Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. Discussion Group, Library

Monday, June 21

7:00 p.m. Caregiver's Chalice Circle,
Library

Tuesday, June 22

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees, Library

Wednesday, June 23

7:15 p.m. Women's Community, Library

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Urbana-Champaign
309 W. Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801-3221

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