

# The Uniter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign



June 23, 2010

## Worship Services

**June 27**

10:00 a.m.

“The Poetry of Summer”

The Worship Committee, Led by Beth Cobb

*Please bring a poem about the summer season to share. Come to hear the poetry and music of summer.*

**July 4**

10:00 a.m.

“Our Patriotic Voices”

The Worship Committee, Led by Beth Cobb

*Start the day off with readings and music from our nations' history.*

**July 11**

10:00 a.m.

“Spiritual Voyages”

The Worship Committee, Led by Beth Cobb

*Come to hear how some of our elders have navigated through life.*

### **Our Mission**

*Build Community.*

*Seek Inspiration.*

*Promote Justice.*

*Find Peace.*

## Minister's Message

- Axel H. Gehrman

When you receive this issue of the *Uniter*, I will be in the midst of several thousand Unitarian Universalists, attending our annual General Assembly, which this year is in Minneapolis, MN.

From afar, I send you some words written by a former minister of this church, the Rev. Jack Taylor, from his book *Notes on an Unhurried Journey*:

“I have never known a bored moment in my life.” It was a statement spoken with such honesty and conviction that it could not be doubted. She continued by listing examples of the vitality and variety of life about her. She spoke of the beauty of frost on window panes and the charm in her garden. For her, life had not become stale, and it was clear that the doldrums which strike others would not claim her.

She was not bored, because she had learned to see. At early ages we all learn to look, but few of us learn to see. Looking requires only eyes; seeing demands an effort of the whole being: the eyes, the mind and the memory. It is easy to become tired of looking, but one who sees is constantly refreshed.

The alternative to boredom is not more excitement. Such will be found in the ability to grasp, and be grasped by, the wonder of each moment. To recognize the delicate artistry of frost, the elegance of the garden's most modest flower or the beauty in kindness is to live the full and rich life. How much time and energy we waste in our constant search and preparation for an expected good life. It is not “somewhere,” it is here. The good life awaits us, if we will simply take the time to see.

Here, or nowhere, we find the significance of living, and the answer to those whose limited view forces them to accost friends and strangers alike with the empty question: “Isn't life a bore?”

- Axel

## ***RE Matters***

-Renée Cogil

I am torn. While I am ready for a break from my usual routine of church work, there are so many things I want to do – not just a “to do” list of tasks, but ideas I want to explore, books I want to read, experiences I want to pursue that would be helpful in my church life. As in much of life though, we are faced with choices. So as I will soon head off for some vacation and time with my extended family, I will bring a few of those books I’ve wanted to read with me, but not all of them. As I walk the beach feeling the sand between my toes, the breeze on my cheeks, and the bright sun on my skin, once I have savored the present moment, the company I am with, and the memories these once familiar places stir up in me, I hope to also feed my curiosity and explore some of those currently closed books. My goal is to find balance in my days – time for renewal and rest, time for fun, and time for exploration to feed my mind and soul.

Whatever you do this summer may it include a rich balance of things to renew your soul and rest your body.

And, if you plan to attend services over the summer, be sure to bring your children. There will be plenty of activities going on for them as they explore some awesome things about the world around us.

With wishes for a peaceful summer,

Renée

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

-Bill Childers

Well it has been a busy month and I certainly have learned a lot about the church that I didn’t know. Now that I have two business meetings, a study session, and the annual BOT retreat under my belt, I realize just how many things are going on “behind the scenes” at our church.

The BOT retreat was very informative. We reviewed a lot of information about how the church operates and thought through some procedures we would like to follow for the board this year. We are still forming our goals for the year but we have already identified a few that we think are important.

One recurring idea is that we would like to make it easier for the congregation to find procedural information about the church. Currently, one has to go through the churches by-laws and procedures which can be a cumbersome task at best. We

haven’t had a chance to fully look into alternatives, however we all agree it would be a worthwhile goal for this year.

We would also like to increase the visibility of the volunteers that help keep things moving at the church. To this end, we will be including a short “bio” for a board member or committee chair at the end of each of these articles during the year so you can get to know everyone a little better.

Meet Dave Barr – BOT Co-Chair

Howdy – I’m Dave Barr. Been a UU for about 18 yrs. I can be spotted in the back of the Church at the 9:30 service. My bride of 25 years is Leslie and two offspring are Kelsey – age 21 -senior (by years attended – she’s on the extended stay program) at University of Colorado and Chris – also at CU - Junior (also on extended stay program). I’m co Chief Cook and Bottle Washer at Barr Real Estate. I’m a friendly sort so say hey next time you see me – UU’s are interesting folk and I’d love to meet you if I don’t know ya already!

## ***Volunteer Corner***

-Peggy Patten

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

**Many thanks** to those who have volunteered for Sunday Crew tasks during the months of **March, April, and May:** Willa Abelson, Sally Babbitt, Virginia Brubaker, Beth and Stephanie Cobb, Maryly Crutcher, Cathy Cunningham, Karen Folk, Jennifer Greene, Jim and Sandy Hannum, Marcia Hayes, Jerry and Frances Hunt, Mary Hosier, Gail Hueting, Cindy Ingold, Barb Jahola, Marcy Joncich, Todd Kinney, Lauren Klein, Emily Laugesen, Geoff Levin, Cindy and Michael Loui, Debby Meyers, Peggy Patten, Ursula Reuter-Carlson, Mike and Karen Retzer, Andy Robinson, Emily and Bill Sanders, Gail Schiesser, Sue Schumacher, Peggy Steele, Charlotte and Patrick Stewart, Barb Strauss, Chet and Virginia Strohecker, Lynn Wiley, and Eileen Zemlin.

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

The Sunday Crew tasks – ushering, welcoming, announcing, and 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.) 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 for helping out!

## ***Our Church Family***

### **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.

### **Childcare Safety**

Safety with our children is essential - that is why we developed a safety policy and procedures for the church. To insure the safety of both our children and our childcare workers we require that two childcare workers be present in the nursery at all times (except for bathroom breaks for children and workers.) Parents, if when you arrive in the nursery there is only one childcare worker present, please remain in the room until the second worker arrives, or find me and I will help as soon as I can. Thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe.

### **A Reminder for Checks**

Just a reminder to notate any pledge payments with the pledge year you would like the payment to be applied to (e.g. 09/10 or 10/11). Thanks! Janis Hooper and Amy Robison

### **Summer Schedule for Uniter Begins**

The Uniter publication schedule is now on a three week cycle. Look for the next Uniter to come out on July 14th. Deadline for submissions is July 8th.

### **Fiscal Year Ends June 30th**

All requests for reimbursements must be submitted to the treasurer as soon as possible but no later than the 30th of June in order for these expenses to be applied towards the FY 09-10 budget. Anything submitted after that point will apply to next year's budget. If you have questions, please contact Sue Schumacher, Treasurer, at [schumacher61@comcast.com](mailto:schumacher61@comcast.com). Thanks!

### **Children's Choir**

Michael Loui and Anine Singh-DeGroot wish to thank the singers and their parents for participating in the Children's Choir during the 2009-10 year. In the spring, our regular singers were Hannah Davis, Lana Fitzgerald, Emma Herzog, Jonah Herzog, Mariah Laugesen, Liana Reichlin, Jordan Simons, and Rowan Trilling-Hansen. We also thank others who have helped with the choir this spring: Lisa Bouillion Diaz, Amy Hassinger, Kate Heinricher, Jeremy Loui, Joe Reichlin, Kathy Richards, Shawna Stich, and Jessica Watson.

### **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](http://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.

### Summer Travel Reminder

On August 29, we will have our traditional Ingathering Service, which will again include a Water and Stone Communion. Please remember to bring a small vial of water or a stone, which you collect in the course of your summer - whether you have traveled afar or stayed at home - and which you can share in the service.

### Shared Offerings

The Social Action Committee is pleased to offer this brief report on our shared offerings in recent months. This report lists the month, the recipient organization, and the amount we were able to donate to that organization.

Month	Organization	Amount donated
11/09	Hospice-Carle	\$553.60
	Hospice-Provena	\$553.60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1107.20</b>
12/09	Partner Churches	\$2042.31
1/10	UU Association (UUA)	\$318.90
	UUA-Standing on the Side of Love	\$318.90
	UU Service Committee	\$318.90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$956.70</b>
2/10	Kiva	\$1568.00
3/10	NAACP of Champaign	\$1020.95
4/10	A Woman's Fund	\$1286.25
5/10	Land of Lincoln Legal Fund	<i>stay tuned</i>

We should be proud of our generosity (donations totaling nearly \$8000), as it well enacts our beliefs and principles.

### June 26 Gastro is at the Carlson's

We would like to invite you all to our house - 6 pm  
401 Sunnycrest Court West, Urbana 328-5774  
Theme: Favorite Food Bring what you do best or

like the most in your cooking repertoire! Ursula & Chris

### Memorial Service, Bob Anderson

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held for Robert "Bob" Anderson, Karen Folk's father, on Saturday, July 17th at 3pm in Fellowship Hall. Church friends are welcome to attend.

## 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 28th. 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 July 20. The book for discussion is "A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found my Heart in the Middle of the Ocean" by Tori M. McClure. 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 every other month 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 9:00 to 11:00 in the nursery or out 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 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 Thursday of the month, 7:15  
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)

## ***Publications & Deadlines***

**Subscribe to our weekly E-Newsletter.** Send your name, phone number and email address to [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org). To make last minute announcements regarding 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 e-mail to [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org). The next submission deadline is Noon, Thursday, July 8, 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](mailto:admin@uucuc.org)  
**Web** - [uucuc.org](http://uucuc.org)

## ***Contacts***

### **Staff**

Axel Gehrmann, Minister  
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Call 384-8862 for office hours  
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Call 384-8862 for office hours  
Janis Hooper, Office Administrator  
([admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org)) 8:30 - 2:30, M-F  
Fred Stoltzfus, Choir Director  
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Elsa Holden, Childcare Coordinator  
([eholden2@illinois.edu](mailto:eholden2@illinois.edu))  
Myron Winkler, Sexton

### **Board of Trustees**

Bill Childers, Chair  
Dave Barr, Co-Chair, Membership Liaison  
Lynn Wiley, Vice-Chair, Ministry Liaison  
Sue Schumacher, Treasurer  
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Pamela Van Wyk, Finance Liaison  
Marilyn Ryan, RE Liaison  
Anne Sharpe, Property Liaison  
Peggy Steele, Social Action Liaison  
Cynthia Hoyle, Personnel Liaison  
Scott Hays, Moderator

### **Committee Chairs**

Chris Hannauer, Finance  
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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  
Gail Schiesser, Membership  
Brigitte Pieke, Partner Church  
Peri Ceperley, Care Core: [gethelp@uuc-urbana.org](mailto:gethelp@uuc-urbana.org)

## Calendar

### Friday, June 25

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

### Sunday, June 27

10:00 a.m. Worship & Childcare

11:00 a.m. Discussion Group, Library

### Monday, June 28

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

### Friday, July 2

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

### Sunday, July 4

10:00 a.m. Worship & Childcare

11:00 a.m. Discussion Group, Library

### Tuesday, July 6

5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee, Library

7:00 p.m. Property Committee, SW Clsrm

### Wednesday, July 7

7:00 p.m. Membership Committee,  
Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, July 8

Unitar Submission Deadline

7:15 p.m. Chalice Circle, YRUU

### Friday, July 9

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

### Sunday, July 11

10:00 a.m. Worship and Childcare

11:00 a.m. Discussion Group, Library

### Monday, July 12

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

7:30 p.m. Chalice Circle, YRUU

### Tuesday, July 13

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees,  
Children's Chapel

Unitarian Universalist Church  
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