

The Uniter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign



July 14, 2010

Worship Services

July 18

10:00 a.m.

“Somewhere:

Places of the Heart and the Spirit”

Reflective Writing Chalice Circle and the

Black Velvet Band

July 25

10:00 a.m.

“Who’s Your Favorite UU?”

Beth Cobb, Worship Leader

August 1

10:00 a.m.

“Community Sing”

Led by Karen Retzer and Joe Reichlin

Our Mission

Build Community.

Seek Inspiration.

Promote Justice.

Find Peace.

Minister’s Message

- Axel H. Gehrmann

When you receive this issue of the *Uniter*, I will be immersed in summer study and travel. From afar, I would like to share this poem by my colleague the Rev. Lynn Ungar, entitled “Shoes.”

Shoes

When Moses met God on the mountain
the first thing the Divine spoke of
was shoes. How are we to interpret this?
Where do you find God when
you have no mountain? Some say just
stand in the lowlands and call;
but you must be willing to take
whichever god might answer.

“Whoever would save his life
will lose it,” said the prophet,
who was harsh, but never cold.
Once, driving across the steaming
lake, something beckoned, but I
was too impressed by the possible
to follow. Sometimes, in the
low light it haunts me. It will
share neither face nor direction.
It mutters through its hot breath
something that sounds like “shoes.”
When I gave up high heels I heard
it fluttering around the window
for a month. Some nights I think
I will live into this obsession. Go
barefoot long before spring.

Some nights the voice blows in
from the Sound:

“Take off what binds you.

You are standing on holy ground.”

- Axel

From the Board Chair

-Bill Childers

Hello Everyone,
Well summer is here in full force and the heat and humidity are enough to make us all a bit crazy. As a new Chair I realized quite soon and with some trepidation that Axel would be on sabbatical for a large part of my time as chair. In order to feel more at ease I asked Sam Beshers if I could sit in on one of the meetings of the Sabbatical Task Force. I would like to thank him and the rest of the Sabbatical Task force for allowing me to attend their June meeting.

I was quite encouraged to hear their plans for covering the church's needs while our minister is on sabbatical. They are actively searching for not only folks to fill the pulpit and deliver interesting sermons on Sunday, but also well qualified ministers to help with administrative duties and pastoral care when needed. We are truly in good hands and I want to commend them for their good work and the care and effort they are putting into this very important task.

I would like to introduce you to another board member. Please read about our Vice-Chair Lynn Wiley.

Hello all. I'm Lynn Wiley - new to the BOT and vice chair for this year. I joined the UU Church in 1998 with my husband Sam Beshers and children Max and Caroline. We came here in 1995 from Boston when Caroline was five weeks old. Friends told us about the wonderful community of our UU church and we have since found this church to be our family in Illinois. I was raised Catholic (Sam is third generation UU) and I used to question my Catholic grade school teachers (all nuns) on doctrine that alas used to get me in heaps of trouble. Questions don't seem to be a problem in our church! I am a librarian at the UI and finally have an opportunity to give some more time to help support the church by serving on the BOT. I am looking forward to hearing from you on any church issue. Have a wonderful and cool summer.

Volunteer Corner

-Peggy Patten

Why sign up for Sunday Crew? This is what others have to say:

"It's a great way to meet people."

"It helps me learn the names of church members."

"It's a way to volunteer my time while I'm at church on Sunday mornings."

"It's SO easy!"

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.) The site uses a calendar format which we think is pretty intuitive, but let Peggy know if you have trouble. She will be happy to sign you up.

Peggy can be reached at:

m-patten@sbcglobal.net. Thanks for helping out!

Our Church Family

Joys and Concerns

Joys and concerns do not appear in the web version of the Uniter.

Church Announcements

Shared Offering for July: Grand Prairie Friends

Grand Prairie Friends is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit, conservation organization composed of people from many walks of life who share a commitment to preserving and restoring tallgrass prairie and woodlands in east-central Illinois. Our mission is to preserve and restore natural communities in east-central Illinois and to promote an understanding and appreciation of natural resources. Since its formation, GPF has been actively involved in preserving and managing about a dozen natural prairie remnants, totaling approximately 70 acres of natural prairies. Many of these areas are registered Illinois Nature Preserves, giving these natural areas permanent legal protection. In addition to preservation, GPF has been actively involved in several prairie plantings. We help manage 3 prairie plantings, totaling about 40 acres. In 1994, GPF launched an ambitious project to propagate and sell native plants in order to provide funding for an internship program. Every spring and summer, we hold several native plant sales, selling hundreds of native prairie plants to the community, which provides citizens with plants for their prairie gardens, and promotes the use of native plants in landscaping.

Unsold plants are donated to local schools for prairie plantings, or used in GPF's own prairie plantings. All proceeds from the plant sales are used to fund two summer internship positions.

The address for Grand Prairie Friends online is <http://grandprairiefriends.org>. Spokesperson Rob Kanter states that there are many people in our community who believe they are members of GPF, but who have actually let their membership lapse. If you would like to check on your membership status, or sign up as a new member, contact Brenda Molano-Flores at molano@inhs.illinois.edu.

A Little Information about Worship Services

Hey, who figures out what's going on when it comes to worship services around here?

The answer is a little complicated. The worship calendar is usually filled by three people, our minister, Axel Gehrmann, the chair of the Worship Committee, currently Sam Beshears, and the Assistant for Services, Beth Cobb. From the Ingathering Service in late August through the end of June, the minister and the Worship Committee plan the worship services following a calendar that is set in the preceding spring by the minister in

consultation with the Director of Religious Education and the music staff. The Worship Committee generally is assigned one Sunday a month. During the months of July and August, we follow the tradition of having lay-led services. As Assistant for Services, I coordinate these eight services held before the Ingathering Service.

But, the music staff selects all the music except the hymns (these are selected by the worship leader). The various different Matters (Community Matters, Stewardship Matters, and so on.) come from committees and are placed in the Order of Service with the okay of the worship leader for a particular morning.

See, I told you it was a little complicated. The good news is, though, that there is still room for you as a member of the congregation to participate in making decisions about the worship services. One of the ways that you can do this is to become a member of the Worship Committee. The committee meets once a month and occasionally takes a month off if things are falling into place nicely. If that sounds like more than you were ready to do, you can respond to the many offers made to you by the Worship Committee to take part in the planning or leading of one service. Examples of this would be to contribute a reading or read something contributed by someone else. If summer is a less busy time for you, you can do the same things for one of the lay-led services in July or August or even offer to plan and lead an entire service.

So, watch *The Uniter*, the electronic announcements sent out by our Office Administrator, the announcement printed in the Order of Service for opportunities to be a part of the decisions about what happens on a Sunday morning and then offer what you have to share with our congregation.

Beth A. Cobb, Assistant for Services

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.

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.

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.

Bridge Table Missing

If someone borrowed the small white plastic-topped table the bridge group uses, please return it to the Children's Chapel as soon as possible.

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 Gehrman (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. 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, July 29, 2010.

How to Reach Us

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Peri Ceperley, Care Core: gethelp@uuc-urbana.org

Calendar

Thursday, July 15

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

Friday, July 16

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

Saturday, July 17

3:00 p.m. Memorial Service, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 18

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

Monday, July 19

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

Tuesday, July 20

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

Friday, July 23

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

Sunday, July 25

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

Monday, July 26

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

Tuesday, July 27

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

Wednesday, July 28

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

Thursday, July 29

Uniter Submission Deadline

Friday, July 30

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

Sunday, August 1

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

Tuesday, August 3

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

Wednesday, August 4

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

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