

UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
An Emerging UUA Congregation

April 2007
Vol. 2 No. 4

MVUUF To Welcome Special Guests in April Dr. M. Burroughs on April 1st & Rabbi Joshua Taub April 29th

Renowned artist, educator, poet, and institution-builder Dr. Margaret Burroughs will wrap up a week-long visit to the Mt. Vernon area as the guest of honor at a reception held at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 1, 2007 at our fellowship.

Paul Oakley will lead the 10:00 service on this morning with a special message for Passover. Dr. Burroughs will also speak briefly at the morning service, prior to her reception. During the reception, Dr. Burroughs will share some of her work, and will be available to answer questions about her life and work.

Dr. Burroughs made the first of her many contributions to African American arts and culture when she founded – at age twenty-two – the South Side

Community Arts Center in Chicago, a community organization that serves as a gallery and workshop studio for artists and students. Dr. Burroughs continues to serve on the board of the Center, which remains active more than sixty years after its formation.

Dr. Burroughs and her husband Charles Burroughs made their best-known contribution to African American posterity in 1961 when they founded the DuSable Museum of African American History on the ground floor of their Chicago home. The museum, which has since moved to its own buildings in Chicago's Washington Park, has become an internationally recognized resource for African American art.

Although Dr. Burroughs has worked in sculpture, painting and many other art forms throughout

her career, it is her exceptional skill as a printmaker that has earned her a place within the history of art. For many years, she has worked with linoleum block prints to create images evocative of African American culture. Dr. Burroughs' work has been featured in exclusive shows at the Corcoran Art Galleries in Washington, D.C., and at the Studio Museum in New York. She has served as art director for the Negro Hall of Fame and has illustrated many books, including *What Shall I Tell My Children Who are Black?*.

Dr. Burroughs has also published several volumes of her own poems, illustrated a number of children's books, and exhibited her own artwork all over the world. In 1975 she received the President's Humanitarian Award and in 1977 was named one of Chicago's Most Influential Women by the Chicago Defender.



Rabbi Joshua Taub to Speak At April 29th Service

Rabbi Joshua Taub is the senior rabbi at Temple Emanuel in Creve Coeur (St. Louis). Temple Emanuel is a synagogue of the Reform denomination of Judaism. Rabbi Taub has graciously accepted our invitation to speak at our April 29th Service.

Reform Judaism is now the largest Jewish movement in North America, with more than 900 congregations and 1.5 million people. Reform Judaism affirms the central tenets of Judaism - God, Torah and Israel - even as it acknowledges the diversity of Reform Jewish beliefs and practices. Reform Jews believe that all human beings are created in the image of God, and that they are God's partners in improving the world. *Tikkun olam* — repairing the world — is a hallmark of Reform Judaism, striving to bring peace, freedom, and justice to all people.

Reform Jews are committed to the principle of inclusion, not exclusion. Since 1978 the Reform

Movement has been reaching out to Jews-by-choice and interfaith families, encouraging them to embrace Judaism. Reform Jews are committed to the absolute equality of women in all areas of Jewish life. They were the first movement to ordain women rabbis, invest women cantors, and elect women presidents of their synagogues. Reform Jews are also committed to the full participation of gays and lesbians in synagogue life as well as society at large.

Temple Emanuel has 375 member families. 40-50% of members are married to non-Jews. Temple Emanuel has a support group for interfaith families, and Rabbi Taub supports these families with, among other things, lectures on intermarriage and the inclusion of the non-Jewish family members within the Temple Emanuel community. Rabbi Taub is involved in cooperative study, lecture, and social justice activities with congregations of other Jewish denominations.

Temple Emanuel is also actively involved in interfaith activities. Rabbi Taub with other

members of Rabbis for Human Rights North America has been a signatory of several joint letters protesting or arguing for social justice, opposing torture, etc.

Please join us on this special morning to hear Rabbi Taub speak at our congregation!

Annual Membership Meeting Scheduled for May 6

Our annual membership meeting will be held shortly after the morning service and coffee hour on May 6, 2007. Members will be asked to elect a new Board of Trustees for the fellowship and to approve our first official budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

If you want to vote in this election, you must be a member of the fellowship for at least one week prior to the election.

Membership forms are available at the back of the church. Turn forms in to a Board of Trustee member no later than April 29, 2007.

Upcoming Services

All Services begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please Join Us!

- ☼ **April 1:** Paul Oakley will lead this service with a sermon for Passover. Special Guest Dr. Margaret Burroughs will also speak at the service. Following the service, MVUUF will host a special reception for Dr. Burroughs in which she will be available for questions.
- ☼ **April 8:** Shannon Green will lead a special Intergenerational Service for Easter. Bring the whole family for some fun, inspiration, and knowledge gathering!
- ☼ **April 15:** Angela Czapiewski will lead this Open Reading Service. Please bring short readings or other relevant material to share with the congregation on this morning.
- ☼ **April 22:** Adam Stone will lead this service. The topic will be announced later in the month.
- ☼ **April 29:** Rabbi Joshua Taub from Temple Emmanuel will be a special Guest for this service. Paul Oakley will lead and coordinate this service.
- ☼ **May 6:** Nina Peacock will lead this service entitled, "Patterns on a Trestleboard."
- ☼ **May 13:** Luke Crawford will lead this service with a topic to be announced next month.
- ☼ **May 20:** Shannon Green will lead this Open Reading Service.
- ☼ **May 27:** Angela Czapiewski will lead this service with a topic to be announced next month.

If you are interested in leading a service during June or July, please tell Shannon Green or Paul Oakley.

Other Upcoming Events...

Meditation Group

This meditation group, led by Nina Peacock, plans to meet at the fellowship every other Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. April meeting dates are April 12th and 26th.

Nina most utilizes the method of guided meditation. Other methods of meditation may be included as well, and Nina is very welcoming of new ideas and new meditation techniques for the group to try.

Chalice Group

The Chalice group will meet again on April 11th at 6:30 p.m.

In April the group will discuss the possibility of future meeting dates and whether or not to fulfill its small group covenants. Come ready to discuss what Small Group Ministry has meant to you, and what kinds of covenant work you might be interested in pursuing!

Open Minds

The next Open Minds Discussion Group meeting will be Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. "Media Reform" will be the topic for April's discussion. Suggested issues for the discussion are media consolidation and Internet neutrality. Bill Moyers' keynote address at the recent National Conference on Media Reform will be shown.

Board of Trustees Meetings

The MVUUF Board of Trustees meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The board will meet again on April 4th and May 2nd. The board will be discussing many important issues in April including the next budget proposal, the upcoming May Membership meeting and the Board of Trustees Election.

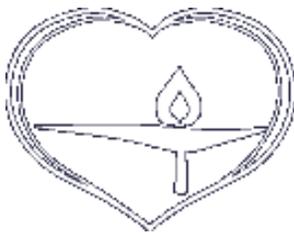
Minutes from past meetings and treasury reports are available in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend the Board Meetings!

MVUUF to Collect Pet Food and Cash Donations for Local Animal Shelters

We will be accepting donations, through Sunday, April 15th, for the Jefferson County Animal Shelter and/or the Lobo Animal Rescue Shelter.

Please feel free to bring donations of pet food to the fellowship, or you may place cash or check donations in the envelope on the bulletin board. Checks may be made out to either "Jefferson County Animal Shelter" or "Lobo Animal Rescue Shelter". Any cash received will be divided between the two organizations unless you specify a preference.

If you have any questions, please talk to Vito or Beth. Thank you on behalf of our animal friends in need!



Keep Mt. Vernon Beautiful Recycling Program, Your Help Is Needed.

Recycling volunteers are needed at the Keep Mt. Vernon/Jefferson County Beautiful recycling center. The center is open from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday.

Vito and Beth volunteer on the third Saturday of each month, if you would like to volunteer to work with them. Additional volunteers are needed most during the busiest time each Saturday, from about 10:30 a.m. to noon. Even a half hour of help would be very valuable and most appreciated. It would be great if we could get some regular help from the members of our fellowship to support this important community service!

For more information, please see Vito Mastrangelo or Beth Brennan.

MVUUF Member Adam Stone's Musical, *Little Egypt is My Home*, to be Produced

The King City theater Company is putting on the children's production of *Little Egypt is My Home* on April 27, 28, and 29. Friday and Saturday night show times are 7:00, with a Sunday Matinee at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Come out and support both a local writer, and local children's theater!

Would You like to serve on the Board of Trustees for the 2007-08 Fiscal Year?

Serving on the Board of Trustees is a great way to be involved in the decision making processes of the fellowship. Next Year's board will be elected at the May 6 Congregational meeting, so if you are interested in running, please let Beth or Adam from the Nominating committee know!

Treasury Matters

Financial contributions can be made at the fellowship building in the offering basket located at the church entrance. If you would like to mail contributions instead of putting them in the offering basket, you may mail them to:

MVUUF
c/o Paul Oakley
39 Webster Hill Est.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Or to:

MVUUF
1600 Isabella Ave.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Please make checks payable to MVUUF.

Notice: If you are a member of the fellowship and have not already turned your pledge or good faith estimate forms in to Paul, please do so as soon as possible! Thanks!

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our members for making this fellowship what it is. Specifically, we would like to thank the following people:

- ☺ Vito Mastrangelo for spending hours of his weekend painting and setting up the new bulletin board in the sanctuary!
- ☺ The Building and Grounds Committee for all the maintenance work that has been going on. It's a big job!
- ☺ Luke Crawford for agreeing to do some advertising research for the fellowship. We appreciate the help towards growth!
- ☺ Everyone who met up at the church to take down the old lighthouse painting for the new bulletin board, and to clean up before the anniversary service.
- ☺ Nina Peacock for organizing another equinox celebration!

Fellowship Contact Information

If you are looking for more information about the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or would like to be added to our mailing list, you can do so in the following ways:

- ▶ By Mail: The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1600 Isabella
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
- ▶ By Phone: (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
- ▶ By emailing a member of the board:
 - Shannon Green, Cochair
moonstander@charter.net
 - Glenda Eubanks, Cochair
gatherings@mvn.net
 - Vito Mastrangelo, Cochair
bethnvito@mvn.net
 - Paul Oakley, Treasurer
poakley0615@charter.net
 - Dennis Arnold
dennisarnold2@gmail.com

UU KIDS MATTER

Spring Has Sprung!

What is your favorite thing about Spring?
Can you write a poem or draw a picture about it?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for children to write a poem or draw a picture about spring.