

# UU MATTERS



The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 (618) 241-9644  
An Emerging UUA Congregation

August & September 2008  
Vol. 3 No. 6



*Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's 10:00 AM service on Sunday, August 3 will be dedicated to Linda Kraeger and Greg McKendry, who died in the shooting Sunday, July 27, 2008 at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, TN, and to the other victims of that shooting. The service will be led by Paul Oakley, who will read a sermon titled "Being Compassion," written by the Rev. Michael McGee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA. The service will include a time of silence in respect for the victims of the shooting and a time for sharing our personal responses to the tragedy, as well as an inspirational reading from Buddhist teacher Pema Chödrön's book "When Things Fall Apart," "The Prayer of a Dying Man" from the Dinka people of the Sudan, Thich Nhat Hanh's poem "Please Call Me By My True Names," "Victory is Ours" a litany by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a blessing from the Vedic scriptures of ancient India, "Ode to Silence" by Mark Belletini, and the poem "I Am No Longer Afraid of Death" by Julia Esquivel. The congregation will sing the hymn "Spirit of Life." Recorded music will include Ian Anderson's "In Defense of Faiths," Zola Van's "Trail of Tears: Kyrie at Brownfield," and "The Lord's Prayer" as sung by Isaac Cates and Ordained.*

**Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship services begin at 10:00 a.m.  
on Sunday mornings. Please join us!**

MVUUF is a lay-led congregation. Fellowship services are planned and/or led by fellowship members. If you are interested in planning or leading any future service, please contact a member of the programming committee (Glenda Eubanks, Shannon Green, or Paul Oakley). We have many dates still open in upcoming months. Thank you!

**Upcoming Services:**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>: *Being Compassion.*** Paul Oakley will lead this service, dedicated to the victims of the Tennessee Valley UU Church Shootings.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>: *Musical Guests, Clap em' Wild Barn Trio.*** Angela Czapiewski will lead this service as we welcome back the classical trio for a morning of music.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>: *Open Readings.*** Adam Stone will lead this open reading service. Please bring short readings, thoughts, music, or artwork to share. Open Reading Services take place on the third Sunday of each month.

**August 24<sup>th</sup>: *The Sacred Path of the Warrior.*** Luke Sanford Crawford will draw on the writings of contemporary Buddhist teacher Chogyam Trungpa in describing the ancient Tibetan idea of Shambhala, an enlightened society. Particular emphasis will be placed on the inward journey to enlightened warriorship, which leads to total self-mastery and fearlessness. Examples of the enlightened warrior include the Japanese Samurai, Arjuna of the Bhagavad Gita, King David of the Old Testament, and some Amerindian tribes.

**August 31<sup>st</sup>: *We are still in need of a volunteer to lead this service, which is over Labor Day weekend.***

**September 7<sup>th</sup>:** *Special Guest Rabbi Joshua Taub will speak on the subject of Racism Eradication.* Paul Oakley will lead this service as we welcome Rabbi Taub back to our fellowship. Rabbi Taub has worked extensively in his community on eradicating racism, and will speak to us about his experiences.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>:** *We are in need of a volunteer to lead this Open Reading Service.* Please bring short readings, thoughts, music, or artwork to share. Open Reading Services normally take place on the third Sunday of each month, but because of our special guest on September 21<sup>st</sup>, this one is on the second Sunday.

**September 21<sup>st</sup>:** *Special Guest Rev. Daniel O'Connell.* Rev. Daniel O'Connell of Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, Missouri will speak on this morning. Shannon Green will lead the service.

**September 28<sup>th</sup>:** *The Shofar (Jewish New Year).* Paul Oakley will lead this service, which takes place during the Jewish High Holy Days.



## Upcoming Events:

All listed events are held at the fellowship building and are open to the public unless otherwise stated. Please email [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org) for information about any service or event.

**August 6<sup>th</sup> & September 3 @ 6:30 p.m.: *Board of Trustees Meeting.*** Board of Trustees members: Nina Peacock: Cochair; Luke Crawford: Cochair; Glenda Eubanks: Cochair; Adam Stone: Secretary. The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30. Open to anyone interested in fellowship business.

**August 1<sup>st</sup> & September 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.: *Drum Circle.*** Drum circle gatherings will be held on the first Friday of each month.

**August 13<sup>th</sup> & September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.: *Welcoming Congregation Workshop.*** Topic for August: *The Common Elements of Oppression.* The Taskforce for LGBT Concerns will host Welcoming Congregation Workshops on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday evening of each month. These workshops are a cooperative effort by the members of the congregation to make our fellowship better at welcoming all members of the community to our fellowship, specifically those people who are also sexual minorities. Even if you haven't been to a workshop before, or don't plan on attending every month, please make an effort to attend at least one or two of the upcoming workshops.

**August 20<sup>th</sup> & September 17 @ 6:30 p.m. *Open Minds Discussion Group.*** This group meets for discussion on third Wednesday of each month to discuss a variety of topics. Everyone is welcome. Contact Vito Mastrangelo for more information about this discussion group and topics. In August, we will welcome Vennie Anderson, a member of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, who will join us to discuss her recent trip to Antarctica. In September, the group will view the film "The Corporation."

**August 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.: WINTERFAITH Planning Meeting.** The programming committee is actively working towards planning for Winterfaith, an Interfaith Series of Services that will begin in December 2008 and continue through January 2009. For more information about Winterfaith, please visit our website at [www.mtvernonuuf.org](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org).

**August 28<sup>th</sup> & September 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.: *Meditation Group.*** Emphasizes the use of guided meditation and visualization with time for reflection and discussion following the meditation. Meditation Group meets the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. See Nina Peacock for more details.

### **Other MVUUF Matters:**

**Are you considering MVUUF membership?** Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder.

**Treasury Matters:** Financial contributions may be made in the offering basket located on the round table at the back of our sanctuary. If you would like to mail contributions instead of putting them in the offering basket, you may mail them to: MVUUF, 1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL, 62864. Please make checks payable to MVUUF. If you would like your offering to be used for a specific purpose, please clearly mark that purpose on the memo line on your check or on the envelope in which you place your offering.

**UU Matters Newsletter Submissions:** *If you have news or notices that you would like placed in upcoming editions of UU Matters, please send them to [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.*

**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:

1. By Mail: The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 1600 Isabella  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
2. By Phone: (618) 241-9644. Please leave a voice mail message.
3. By visiting our website:  
[www.mtvernonuuf.org](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
4. by emailing our fellowship:  
[information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)

(MVUUF Board of Trustees members can be reached using the fellowship voice mail or email)

**We want to offer a special welcome to the many new visitors we have greeted lately, and to all of those who have recently become members of our fellowship! Your participation in fellowship activities is essential! Thank you also to the many members and friends who work tirelessly to keep our community thriving!**