



UU Matters

(April 2011: Vol. 6 No. 4)

The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

~A Welcoming Congregation~

1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864; (618) 241-9644

Sunday Morning Service Schedule

(All Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m. at the fellowship building and are open to the public. If you are interested in leading a service or delivering a sermon, please use the Service Sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.)

27 March: Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead a service focused on Women's History & Spirituality - exploring a personal journey of beliefs.

3 April: Mike DeVilbiss will lead this Open Readings service.

10 April: Justice Sunday service, led by the Social Justice Task Force, with the theme "Justice is Aid with Dignity."



17 April: 'The Power of Giving,' led by Gail DeVilbiss. Gail will examine the impact of giving to both yourself and the recipient. April 17th begins National Volunteering Week—come to fellowship and learn about the Power of Giving.

24 April: Vicky Doetsch, Angela Czapiewski, and Glenda Eubanks will read excerpts from the writings of Eckhart Tolle and speak about the impact it has made on their lives.

~Services with no designated leader will be Open Readings services.

Other Upcoming Events

(All Upcoming Events, held at the Fellowship Building, are open to the public.)

1 April: Drum Circle
-First Friday of Each Month-
-7:00 p.m.-

Bring a drum or other percussion instrument to play at this relaxed and informal drum circle, or simply come to listen and enjoy the good vibrations.

6 April: Board of Trustees Meeting
-First Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Meeting open to anyone interested in MVUUF business.

Board of Trustees: Nina Peacock, co-chair; Kelly Taylor, co-chair; Diane Schwitz, co-chair; Adam Stone, secretary; Angela Czapiewski, treasurer.

10 April: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

A Buddhist meditation group is being formed to meet on one Sunday a month at 9 a.m. at the Fellowship. You need not be Buddhist to attend.

10 April: Social Justice Action Taskforce
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-Following Social Hour-

Join this group to learn about and discuss social justice concerns and actions. This group discusses issues that affect local, national, and global communities. This group seeks out various projects and issues to take action on as individuals, as a group, and/or as a congregation. (You may want to bring a sack lunch.)

27 April: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

15 May: Annual Membership Meeting
-Immediately following Sunday Service-

A Word About UUSC

This month, the Social Justice Action Task Force will lead Mt. Vernon UUF's second Justice Sunday service. Justice Sunday is one of several Unitarian Universalist Service Committee core projects, intended to raise awareness of and build support for UUSC activities. The focus this year is "Justice is Aid with Dignity."

The UUSC is an independent human rights organization, supported through the volunteer efforts and financial gifts of its members and supporters, and linked to UU congregations through local representatives. Its mission statement is: "The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies." Its vision statement is "The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights." UUSC is an organization that puts UU values into practice for human rights.

If you would like to learn more about UUSC, check out the website at www.uusc.org, participate in Justice Sunday on April 10, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Action Task Force, and watch this space in UUMatters.

Donna Beaumont, UUSC Local Representative



Buddhist Meditation

A Buddhist meditation group is being formed to meet on one Sunday a month at 9 a.m. at the Fellowship, preceding the weekly service. Join us on April 10th for our first gathering. You need not be a Buddhist to attend.

Call for Volunteers!



Conch Shell Trumpet
(*Dung Dkar*),
Tibet, 20th Century
[http://orgs.usd.edu/nmm/
Tibet/7204/
ConchShel7204.html](http://orgs.usd.edu/nmm/Tibet/7204/ConchShel7204.html)

Dear fellow MVUUF members,

All five positions on the Board of Trustees are up for election at the May 15, 2011, annual membership meeting. As many of you know, Shannon and I will be moving this summer, so I will not be running again under any circumstances. After four consecutive, one-year terms, I think it is best to bring in newer members to serve anyway. I encourage any member who has never served on the Board of Trustees to seriously consider doing so now!

The term of anyone elected to the Board at the May 15, 2011, meeting will begin on July 1, 2011 and will last until June 30, 2012. Anyone interested in running should look over Articles VII and VIII of the Bylaws, which deal specifically with the Board.

In short, and in general, the Board meets once a month and handles any fellowship issues that arise, as well as regular business. Currently, the Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, though that could be changed by the new Board, as long as members were kept informed ahead of time (at least 5 days, per the Bylaws) of when meetings were to occur. Here is a brief description, from the Bylaws, of the responsibilities of each Board position:

Co-chairs (3): preside at all membership meetings and all meetings of the Board of Trustees. Any one of the three Co-chairs may sign, with the Secretary or Treasurer, instruments on behalf of the Fellowship and, in general, shall perform all the duties incident to the office of chief executive officer and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Fellowship or the Board of Trustees from time to time.

Secretary (1): keep the minutes of the meetings of the membership and of the Board of Trustees, see that all notices are duly promulgated, be the custodian of the Fellowship records, and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.

Treasurer (1): have charge and custody of and be responsible for all the funds of the Fellowship, receive and give receipts for the monies of the Fellowship from any source and deposit all such monies in the name of the Fellowship in such financial institutions as agreed by the Board of Trustees, shall pay from available funds the obligations of the Fellowship, and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Trustees.

Between meetings, the current Board sometimes communicates about issues via email. By doing this ahead of time, meetings tend to run more smoothly. Typical recent Board meetings last between 45 minutes and 1 hour per month. Three or four emails per month is the current typical amount of between-meeting traffic.

If you have any questions about Board service, please contact me or another Board member.

If you wish to be placed on the ballot for a position on the Board, please contact me, indicating whether there is a particular position in which you would like to serve, or if you are willing to serve in whatever way is available.

Thanks!

Adam E. Stone Secretary, Board of Trustees, MVUUF

May 15 Annual Membership Meeting



Dear fellow members of MVUUF,

At the January meeting, the Board of Trustees agreed, by consensus, to set Sunday, May 15, 2011, immediately following the regular Sunday service, as the date and time for the Annual Membership meeting. We hope each of you will be able to attend!

At the meeting, the following agenda items will be acted upon:

1. Election of a new Board of Trustees, which will take office on July 1, 2011 and serve until June 30, 2012. All 5 spots on the Board are available and I highly encourage all members to consider serving a term on the Board - it is a great way to serve the fellowship, and to learn about fellowship functions. If you are interested in serving on the Board, or just would like to know more about what serving on the Board entails, please contact me for more information.

2. Approval of a budget for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1, 2011 and ends on June 30, 2012.

If anyone has additional items to add to the agenda, please inform me as soon as possible.

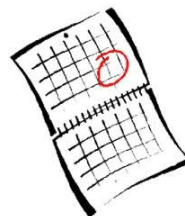
As a note to those of you who chair and/or serve on committees, budget requests must be submitted to me no later than April 15, 2011, for your request to be considered by the Board when formulating the budget for membership approval.

Thanks! Adam E. Stone Secretary, Board of Trustees, MVUUF

Other UU Matters

Newspaper Announcement Submission Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are due on the Wednesday morning prior to the service or event. If you are leading a service, or planning a fellowship event, please email your information to Beth at: bethnvito@mvn.net by (at the very latest) 8 a.m., on the prior Wednesday. It need not be complicated--a few sentences would be fine. (Also, please let Beth know if you do not wish for your name to be included in the press release.) Many new attendees have told us that they found MVUUF through these articles in the newspaper, so this is an important way to let people know what is happening.



Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Please email submissions for UU Matters to marji.gibbs@gmail.com. Submissions for the May edition are due by **Monday, April 25**.

If you are leading a service or speaking in a service, please submit the title, date, and synopsis of your service/sermon. If you are coordinating a special meeting or event that is open to the public, please submit the date and description of the event.

UU Matters is an opportunity for you to share your personal work relating to Unitarian Universalism, to the MVUUF congregation, or to liberal religious thought in general. Please consider sharing your photography, poems, short stories, "deep thoughts," favorite quotes, etc.

Considering MVUUF membership? Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder, or a membership form.

Treasury Matters

Financial contributions may be made in the offering basket located on the round table at the back of the 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.

Library Matters

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online. The catalog can be accessed at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF .

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
4. By emailing our fellowship: information@mtvernonuuf.org

