



# UU Matters

(May 2011: Vol. 6 No. 5)

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.)

**1 May:** Debbie Czarnopys-White and Angela Czapiewski will lead this service focusing on Beltane/Earth Day. *Plant swap* after the service. No need to bring a plant in order to take one home.

**8 May:** Shannon Green will lead a service with a theme based on the Hindu concept of Darsan, to see and to be seen, as expressed in "To Be Seen" A Sermon Offered by the Rev. Tim Kutzmark Sunday, September 20, 2009 • Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading.

**15 May:** Sam Smith will lead a meditation on quotes from the Vedanta guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. He will also perform related musical selections with members of the Unitarian Folk Orchestra.

**22 May:** Vicky Doetsch will lead our Flower Communion service. Please bring a flower to share, if you can.

**29 May:** A volunteer is needed to lead this service.

~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.)

**6 May:** 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.

**4 May:** 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.

**8 May:** Buddhist Meditation  
-Second Sunday of Each Month-  
-9:00 a.m.-

Buddhist meditation group meets downstairs. You need not be Buddhist to attend.

**8 May:** Social Justice Action Taskforce  
-Second Sunday of Each Month-  
-11:30 a.m. following Social Hour-

Join this group to learn about, discuss, and take action on social justice concerns-- issues that affect local, national, and global communities. The group seeks projects and issues to take action on as individuals, as a group, and/or as a congregation.

Please see Debbie Czarnopys-White for details on an ongoing project to make dolls for distribution to some of those in need in our area.

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

**25 May:** Meditation Group  
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-  
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.



*Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands*

## ***The UUSC Link***

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. The four focus areas of its work include: *Rights in Humanitarian Crises; Civil Liberties; Economic Justice; Environmental Justice*. On Sunday, April 10, the Mt Vernon UUF celebrated Justice Sunday, highlighting the *Rights in Humanitarian Crisis* work of the UUSC. This month, I would like to inform you about one facet of UUSC's work in the *Environmental Justice* focus area.

Perhaps you heard about the “fracking” (hydraulic fracturing) accident that occurred in Pennsylvania in April? The controversial practice, essential to the extraction of natural gas from shale, involves pumping up to a million gallons of water treated with biocides, lubricants, surfactants and stabilizers a mile or more into the ground at pressures exceeding 9000 psi. The April spill is the latest and possibly the most serious fracking accident in the controversial seven-year hunt to unleash natural gas from the Marcellus Shale, the biggest natural gas fracking target in the U.S., which underlies large parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York.

UUSC is supporting legislation to repeal the exemption from regulation of hydraulic fracturing that is contained in the Safe Water Drinking Act. The exemption, passed in 2005, ignores mounting evidence that fracking poses a serious threat to drinking-water sources and to human health. The *Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act of 2011* would make it law that corporations involved in hydraulic fracturing must disclose all chemicals used in fracking operations, with the exception of proprietary information. As part of its shareholder-advocacy program, UUSC has co-filed shareholder resolutions with ExxonMobil and Chevron, requesting that they disclose known and potential environmental impacts of their fracturing operations to the public. The resolutions also urge that policy options above and beyond regulatory requirements and existing efforts be adopted to reduce or eliminate hazards to air, water, and soil quality from fracturing operations.

If you would like to learn more about UUSC, check out the website at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org), attend a meeting of the Social Justice Action Task Force, and watch this space in UUMatters.

Donna Beaumont, UUSC Local Representative

## **MVUUF Directory**

Debbie Czarnopys-White is compiling a *voluntary* directory of our members. To be included, please submit any of the following information that you wish included to Debbie at [bdcw@Frontier.net](mailto:bdcw@Frontier.net) or by phone or in person on a Sunday:

Name, Address, Phone, Email

For privacy, the Directory will be shared only with Mt. Vernon UUF members who are included in the directory.

# *Nancy J. Crawford*

August 30, 1953 — April 15, 2011

Condolences to Luke Crawford on the loss of his mother, Nancy Crawford. Luke shares her obituary, written by his dad:

My wife, Nancy J. Crawford, age 57, passed from this Life into the Presence of God in Heaven at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2011. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and became a Christian early in life.

The daughter of Joe and Deloris (Warner) Blagg, she was born on Aug. 30, 1953. She was preceded in death by her father (2003). Her Mother and I never left her bedside during the lasts hours of her life.

Nancy and I (Paul D. Crawford) were married on her 21st birthday in 1974. We have one son, Luke Sanford Crawford, age 31. He lives in Mexico with his wife Rebeca, 26, and their son Owen Mateo Crawford Delgadillo, age 3 months and 13 days. They were married on Dec. 31, 2009, and their son born on Jan. 2, 2011.

Nancy has one brother, Steve Blagg. Steve has one daughter, Stephanie, and one son, John. They all reside in Las Vegas.

Nancy's heart was Luke. She greatly enjoyed the hours of visiting with him from Mexico by phone, but recently they were able to talk and see each other live via Internet Skype. This was a real blessing for her to not only hear but see her son and daughter-in-law. Equally and sometimes more important was to see her only grand-son, Mateo. Unfortunately she never had the chance to hold him personally.

I will honor Nancy's wishes for cremation. This will take place on Monday, April 18, 2011. She also asked that there be no memorial service. For those who loved her I ask you to reflect on the memories you have of her and from time to time share them with me and Luke.

Her mother and Luke and I loved her with all of our hearts. To Luke she was his "Best Friend". To me she was my "Little Queenie".

Signed, (her husband of 36 years). "Pope"



## Buddhist Meditation

A Buddhist meditation group is being formed to meet on the second Sunday of the month at 9 a.m. at the Fellowship, preceding the weekly service. Join us for our May 8th sitting. You need not be a Buddhist to attend.



# Call for Volunteers!

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](mailto: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](mailto:marji.gibbs@gmail.com). Submissions for the May edition are due by **Monday, May 23**.

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](http://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](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
4. By emailing our fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)

