



UU Matters

(August 2011: Vol. 6 No. 8)

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.)

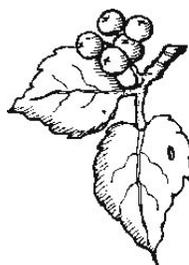
7 August: Donna Beaumont, *Amazing Grace*

14 August: Vicki Doetsch, *Slavery Then and Now*

21 August: A volunteer is requested to lead this Open Readings service.

28 August: Mike DeVilbiss, *Open-Mindedness*. This service will attempt to build a proposal for determining the limits of open-mindedness.

11 September: Donna Beaumont, *Water Ceremony*



~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.)

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

Meeting is open to anyone interested in MVUUF business.

Board of Trustees: Donna Beaumont, co-chair; Debbie Czarnopys-White, co-chair; Sam Smith, co-chair; Gail DeVilbiss, secretary; and Angela Czapiewski, treasurer.

5 August: 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.

13 August: Fellowship Work Day and Potluck
-Saturday 9:00—3:00-
-Potluck Noon— 1:00— Work before lunch, after lunch, or both

14 August: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

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

14 August: Social Justice Interest Group
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-11:30 a.m. following Social Hour-

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

24 August: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Saturday. August 13, Fellowship Work Day and Potluck

It is time for us to roll up our sleeves and clean the fellowship building. We will begin at 9 a.m. for a deep clean we will break at noon for a potluck meal and resume cleaning at 1:00. We will wrap it up at 3:00 p.m. If you can't come all day select either the morning or afternoon. Many hands make for light work. Hope to see you there.



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; and Environmental Justice.*

Each week through the Summer, the UUSC website posts Friday Summer Reads in which a UUSC staff member recommends a favorite book about human rights. This post in particular caught my eye: "*Ariel Jacobson recommends [The Accidental American: Immigration and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization](#), by Rinku Sen with Fekkak Mamdouh. This book tells the story of Fekkak Mamdouh, codirector of UUSC partner the Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC). Mamdouh, along with many of his coworkers, lost his job as a waiter at the Windows on the World restaurant in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. His experiences of injustice as an immigrant and a restaurant worker led him to help found ROC to serve as a voice for workers in one of the fastest growing industries in the country.*"

Restaurant workers are one part of the food system. UUSC's Human Rights from Field to Fork is an effort to raise awareness and to mobilize UUSC members and supporters in support of the rights of workers in the food sector. **From the website:** "Food is an integral part of our lives. With each bite we consume, we are connected to food workers of all kinds on whom we depend daily for our food. Yet five out of eight of the worst-paying jobs in the United States are in the food system, and food workers face some of the most difficult and dangerous working conditions. UUSC's [Economic Justice Program](#) promotes the rights of food workers through efforts to improve the conditions of poultry-processing workers, raise the wages of restaurant workers, strengthen a pecan-processing cooperative run by African-American women in Georgia, and engage UU congregations in [fair trade](#)."

If you would like to learn more about UUSC, visit the website www.uusc.org, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Action Interest Group, and watch this space at UUMatters.

Donna Beaumont, *UUSC Local Representative*

MVUUF Fellowship Committees

The new board had its first meeting in July. One of the first items on the agenda is to reactivate our committees.

- The board will review the descriptions of duties for each committee at the August 3rd board meeting.
- In September we will set out the sign up sheets. If you are interested in being on or remaining on a committee you will have the opportunity to sign up.
- Each active committee is required to have a member act as chairperson.

Please start thinking about what committee you may want to serve on. Everyone is welcome!

The current committees are: Building and Grounds, Music, Welcoming and Hospitality, Publications and Library, Programming, and Religious Education.

Please remember: all board meetings are open to the fellowship.

Dave Christensen Poetry

On Sunday July 10, the 50th anniversary of the joining of Unitarians and Universalists, Mt. Vernon UUF was privileged to have a visit from Dave and Alan Christensen of Carbondale UUF. Dave shared his thoughts and his poetry in a service entitled *Humanism through Poetry*, including poetry from his most recent book, *Ongoing Life, DNA Lottery and Forty-four Other Poems*. Attendees enjoyed Alan's touch on the piano, too.

The Moving Edge

We live on the moving edge of time,
And all that life has to offer
Must be lived in fleeting moments
As each day passes.

The past is done and gone,
unchangeable,
Complete unto itself
for good or ill;
And tomorrow is a mystery,
Beyond the hopes and dreams of today.

Savor each day full of moments
As a lifetime. . . .
From birth at daybreak
To deathlike sleep through the night,
Accepting each moment along the way
As the only true gift of life.

May 14, 1972

Dave Christensen Poetry (con't)

Dave shared this poem, among others, with us during his July 10 service:

DNA LOTTERY

The wheel of fortune spins. . .
Good health or not...
Black, white, tan or other...
Male, female, or other...
Free or fettered...
Penthouse or slum...
Never a choice for oneself.

Everyone born
At time they chose not,
In a place they chose not,
Of parents they chose not,
In circumstances they chose not.

Who wins, who gets by, who loses.
All a matter of chance. . .
Each person a manifest of
Humanity's great DNA lottery.

* * *

Disgusting it is. . .
The air of superiority
Some carry all their lives
To their penthouses,
When half of who we are,
What we come to understand,
And what we may become
Is ours only by chance.

October 27, 1996

Thank you to Mike Miller for donating a copy of Dave Christensen's book, *Ongoing Life, DNA Lottery and Forty-four other Poems* to the MVUUF library. The MVUUF copy will soon be available to check out.



Gathering of the Waters

Please take a moment to collect samples of water from your travels and meaningful experiences this summer, to be used in the Gathering of the Waters Ceremony on Sunday September 11.

Carbondale Bound?

During coffee hour, discussion arose about carpooling to attend special events of interest at the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship.



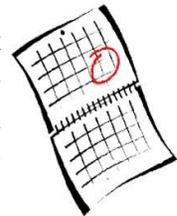
If you wish to be included on the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship's email list , for weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters to learn of events of interest, please email your request and email address to carbondaueuu@frontier.com. If you do not have an email address and you want this information please call 529-2439 and request to be on the "snail mail" list. You may leave your request, name and address on the voice message anytime.

Carpool planning is informal at this time, open to discussion at coffee hour.

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 September edition are due by **Friday, August 26**.

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

For more information about the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us in one of 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