



UU Matters

(October 2011: Vol. 6 No. 10)

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.)

2 October: Gail DeVilbiss will lead a service focusing on companion animals. The service will include an animal blessing. Participants are encouraged to bring their animal friend for the service. Children are welcome. Please think safety while transporting your animals. Please keep on leash or small cage. Gail will explore animals emotions, with questions such as: Do animals feel pain? Do animals communicate with each other? Do animals experience fear? And do animals think? Fellowship members will also have the opportunity to light a candle for a pet that is gone but not forgotten. There will be a memory table for photos.

9 October: The fellowship looks forward to a visit from representatives of *Angels on Assignment* as the centerpiece of our Sunday service . Mt. Vernon UUF designated a special offering to the Angels on Assignment several years ago as part of the Winterfaith celebration, and interest in supporting the Angels has continued. The service, led by members of the Social Justice Interest Group, will focus on the theme of joining hands to build community.

16 October: Mike DeVilbiss will discuss spreading the word: *How to talk Unitarian Universalist*. It is often easier to avoid the question when asked the question, what do UU's believe? Mike will not only break it down but will share the importance of discussing the 'religion of the future'.

23 October: Sam Smith will lead this service.

30 October: A volunteer is requested to lead this Open Reading service. Readings could (but need not) reflect thoughts of Autumn or Halloween.

~ 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.)

5 October: 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.

7 October: 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.

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

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

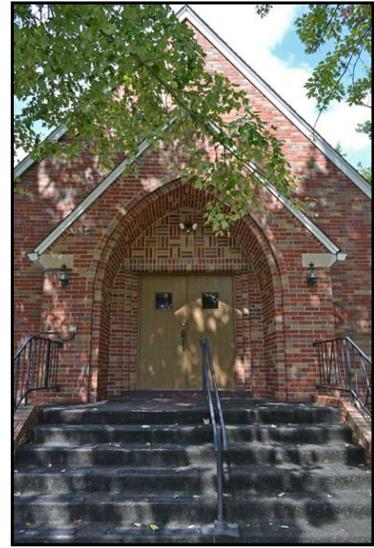
9 October: Social Justice Interest Group
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-11:30 a.m. following Social Hour-

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.

12 October: Movie Night
-7 pm- The Dark Side of Chocolate

26 October: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.



Our Cleaning Day Success: September 17



*Many Hands
Accomplish Much
Work*



Clean kitchen!



Photos by Beth Brennan

Collecting Supplies for Zambian Grannies Groups

Debbie Czarnopys-White



The Hospice at Kabwe has experienced a series of financial crisis. They are under the auspices of Kara Council. The property and buildings of Ranchod Hospice were donated by a man named Bali Ranchod. Word was received that this contract between Bali Ranchod and Kara Council has been legally cancelled. This means the Hospice, with Mr. Ranchod's blessing, can begin to restructure. In the meantime, the Hospice itself and the daycare centers/schools have had to close and the patients sent home, though still cared for under the outreach program by dedicated volunteers. Children continue to receive food supplements, but their school has also had to be closed. Hopefully, all these hardships will be remedied under the new legal guidelines.

In the meantime, three distinct Grannies groups continue to strive to make a living selling hand-made goods crafted from donations of thread, yarn and similar items. The funds received through their crafting help sustain their far-reaching extended families, located in Makalulu, Chililalila and Kabwe.

Collections of the above craft items can be donated to our Mt. Vernon Fellowship and will be sent to the Grannies on a regular basis. Oftentimes, this is their only source of income. Items need not be new but still in good condition. Cloth dolls and similar items can also be made for the children and can be sent once they are permitted to begin schooling. We can arrange several work days at our Fellowship if there is interest.

If you have any questions, please contact me at bdcw@frontiernet.net or 201-3753.

Flaming Chalice: Symbol of Our Faith

A flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot), represents the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and is a symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith.

"At the opening of Unitarian Universalist worship services, many congregations light a flame inside a chalice. This flaming chalice has become a well-known symbol of our denomination. It unites our members in worship and symbolizes the spirit of our work."

—Dan Hotchkiss

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the image. More of the history of our Unitarian Universalist symbol is told in the pamphlet, "[The Flaming Chalice](#)."

The flaming chalice image has changed many times over the past 65 years. Modern chalice designs often have two overlapping circles which, for many people, represent Unitarian and Universalist heritages. Other images include additional elements, some of which are decorative and others which are symbolic. This current [official UUA logo](#) was designed to offer a visual representation of a modern and dynamic faith. Unitarian Universalist congregations are free to use the UUA's logo in their congregational work, but they are not required to do so. Because of this, you may see [many different styles](#) of flaming chalices and other images used by Unitarian Universalist congregations.

The lighting of the chalice is usually accompanied by a brief reading; visit the UUA.org WorshipWeb for [sample chalice lighting words](#).

Adapted from <http://uua.org/beliefs/6901.shtml>



Movie Night, Wednesday, October 12th



The Dark Side of Chocolate: A documentary film that exposes the illegal use of child labor in the harvesting of cocoa that is used to make many of our favorite candy bars. The movie is 45 minutes, to be followed by a brief open discussion .

Free Trade coffee, hot chocolate and treats made with Fair Trade cocoa will be served. Additional non chocolate treats are welcome.

Please tell a friend. *Movie Night* is open to the public (and free).

Committees Build Community

Thanks to everyone who took time to sign up and volunteer for a committee. It is never too late if you want to join a committee. You DO NOT have to be a member to join a committee. The only member requirement is to chair a committee. We welcome and encourage participation from all members and fellowship participants.

Committees are asked to meet once prior to the November Board meeting, so join soon to participate. Remember, *many hands make for light work*. If you have not signed up and would like to sign up, ask any Board member for more info.



A gentle reminder from our Library

A gentle reminder from the library: Beth recently shelf-read in the library to make sure the books were in order. She also went through the check-out sheets, double-checking the shelves for over-due materials. A number of books that were checked out several months ago (or years ago!) have not yet been returned. If you have materials at home that belong to the Fellowship and that you are not currently reading, won't you please return them so that others can use them?

Also, when you return items, please remember to mark the date returned, where indicated on the check-out sheet. Thank you for making the honor-system check-out work!

New Years' Day Fire Ceremony and Potluck

Last year Gail DeVilbiss conducted a fire ceremony that gave attendees an opportunity to burn and release into smoke things they do not want to take with them in the coming year. Gail has been asked to have another Fire Ceremony for the upcoming year. The Fire Ceremony will be an all new ceremony for 2012.

The service will be followed by the Annual New Years Pot Luck. Join Fellowship friends for good food, games, music and, as always, great conversation.

***Mark The Date: January 1st,
'Fire Ceremony'***



Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

The UUSC is an independent human rights organization, supported through 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.*

Over the next few months, our Social Justice Interest group will be introducing to our fellowship some UUSC social justice action traditions. In October, UUSC partners with other organizations to highlight and support fair trade chocolate through the *Reverse Trick or Treat* program. Here is some information from the UUSC website:

On Halloween night, thousands of children and youth — including those young at heart — will unite across the United States and Canada to help do the following:

- End poverty among cocoa farmers
- End abusive child labor in the cocoa industry
- Promote fair trade
- Protect the environment

They will put a refreshing spin on the Halloween tradition by giving fair-trade chocolate back to adults, while trick-or-treating door-to-door in their communities.

This annual event — [Reverse Trick-or-Treating](#) — is part of Global Exchange's Fair Trade Cocoa Campaign in partnership with Equal Exchange. And UUSC is one of more than a dozen social-justice organizations and fair-trade food groups supporting Reverse Trick-or-Treating!

Through Reverse Trick-or-Treating, children and local groups will hand out samples of fair-trade chocolate to candy givers, as they go house to house on Halloween. What makes their sample fair-trade chocolates so special is that they come with a card describing the social and environmental costs of corporate chocolate — and offering fair trade as an alternative.

Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship is participating in these activities through the purchase of fair trade chocolate and cards (see Gail DeVilbiss), and a screening of the documentary “The Dark Side of Chocolate” at the fellowship on Wednesday, October 12, at 7:00 pm. (see *Movie Night*, page 5.) Fair Trade hot chocolate and cocoa will be served.

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*

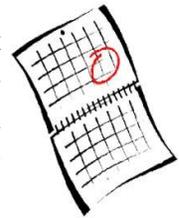


Photo: Beth Brennan

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 November edition are due by **Monday, October 24**.

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