



UU Matters

(November 2011: Vol. 6 No. 11)

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.)

30 October: Angela Czapiewski will lead this Open Readings service.

6 November: Our service will be a shared service, where several members will select parts of the service for that day.

13 November: Nina Peacock will lead this service.

20 November: Members of The Social Justice Interest Group will lead this service. We will acknowledge the Thanksgiving holiday, and introduce a UUSC tradition, *Guest at Your Table*. See The UUSC Link (on page 4) for more information.



27 November: Angela Czapiewski will lead this Open Readings service.

4 December: Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead this service with the theme of Alternative Gift-giving.

~ 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.)

2 November: 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.

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

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

13 November: 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.

30 November: Meditation Group
-Usually the Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-rescheduled in November due to Thanksgiving holiday-
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Poems by Dave Christensen

All Soul's Day

(November 7, 1971)

Even as we look to tomorrow
We are children of the past,
Breathing the same air,
Scuffing the same dust
As all who came before.

We are lifted
By the rising of the same sun,
Shed the same salty tears,
Endure the same pangs
Of childbirth and death.

Each of us lives
Atop a unique world,
Our own "one of a kind" world,
A world built on the
Thoughts, genius, sorrows,
Sweat, blood and lives
Of all who came before.

* * * *
Celebrate the unsung
Five hundred generations!
Celebrate all inspirations
And acts of kindness and love!

Celebrate all souls
Who came before
And prepared the way
For us to follow!

Thanks be to you,
Our departed sisters and
brothers.
Thanks be to you,
Our long-gone fathers and
mothers!
Rest in Peace.

May 15, 1972

from his visit to
Mt. Vernon UUF July 2011,
on 50th Anniversary of UUs

PURPOSE?

Under gray skies
in bitter cold
bending bare before
cutting, biting winds,

March reeds whistle
and whisper
to each other
in the winter.

Each spent wand
guards a new life
for the spring.

December 30, 1941

During Christmas vacation
1941-2, brother Alan and I
were "rabbit hunting" with
our '22 rifles in Camp
Watymca's large march,
tramping for hours through
dry crackling wands,. We
saw no rabbits; any rabbits
in the vicinity would eas-
ily have heard our talking
and crackling footsteps!

Many Thanks to Terry Schwitz!

For working so hard this week to
make sure the basement didn't
flood. We appreciate you hauling
hundreds of gallons of water up the
stairs.



New Years' Day Fire Ceremony and Potluck

Mark This Date: January 1st 'Fire Ceremony'

Last year Gail DeVilbiss conducted a fire ceremony to give 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. Gail will present an all new ceremony for 2012.

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

Fair Trade Buyer's Club

The Fair Trade Buyers club is selling some great items. Order by Sunday, November 6th. Delivery will be around the 13th, just in time for the holidays. Stop by the Fellowship soon to check it out, or contact Gail DeVilbiss vegaddict1@aol.com 533-4705

Thanks go to our librarian Beth for her skillful touch updating photos for our Fellowship on the Carbondale UU Fellowship web site www.cuuf.net/programs/UUMt.Vernon.html



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.*

On November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Social Justice Interest Group will introduce another UUSC tradition, Guest at Your Table. Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which fellowship members take home a box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your "guests," and you are asked to share your blessings with them. As you give to your guests, you can learn about them by reading the Stories of Hope booklet. Guest at Your Table is UUSC's longest running program, since 1975. The program now raises more than half a million dollars a year to help support UUSC's human rights work. Every donation of \$100 or more is eligible to be matched thanks to a matching grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.

Boxes and Stories of Hope booklets will be offered as part of our service on November 20. Our gifts will be returned during the Fire Ceremony to be led by Gail DeVilbiss on January 1, 2012, and will be forwarded to UUSC to support its work.

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

Donna Beaumont, *UUSC Local Representative*

Treasurer's Corner

From Angela

In September, as I'm sure most of you are aware, we had a large expense. Our air conditioning replacement came to a total of \$2385.00. So I would like to take this opportunity to amend my rather brief account of the state of our finances at the last membership meeting.

To start with, I came up with our budget by going over last year's contributions with an eye to how the contributions were trending. That figure, \$6079.18, was what we used as a budget. It was smaller than last years, \$7388.00, which was significantly smaller than the year before, \$11,629.86. And, it was smaller than what was actually in the checking account at the time that I delivered the report, \$8336.60. So, I was guardedly optimistic about the funds for the next fiscal year. I still am.

Here's how our treasury is set up: We have some encumbered funds. Some, like *Angels on Assignment* aren't ours to start with; and most, like the Randy Farrar Memorial, are insignificant and/or have mostly been discharged or accomplished their purpose (notice the plaque at the entrance to the sanctuary); but the largest one is the rainy day fund, which has, or rather had, \$3551.20. This is where the money came from to pay the repair bills. To do the math, we now have \$1166.20 in what is essentially our building renewal fund. As our heating system is as old as our air conditioning was, this is cause for concern. We need to replenish here but we aren't in any eminent danger of catastrophe.

If anyone is interested in learning more about how our finances work, I will be willing to get together with them, preferably after church some Sunday.

New Air Conditioner

After a breezy fan-cooled Sunday of natural air, a grateful "Thanks" to the Building Committee for replacing our air conditioner.



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: bethvito@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 **Wednesday, November 23**.

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