



UU Matters

(December 2011: Vol. 6 No. 12)

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.)

4 December: Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead this service on Alternative Gift-giving and will light the second Advent candle, Peace.

11 December: Donna Beaumont will share a service of lessons and carols for Advent and light the 3rd Advent candle, Joy.

18 December: Shared Service-On the third Sunday of each month: Our service will be a shared service, where several members will select parts of the service to present. Choose selections at the 12/4 & 12/11 Services. Contact Gail DeVilbiss if you want to sign up early or want to take part in this service. We will light the 4th Advent candle, Love.

23 December: Paul Kent Oakley will lead a special Friday evening candlelight service at 7:00PM, featuring Taizé chants, readings, and a silent meditation. At this service we will recognize the Winter Solstice that was the day before and the end of the Advent season on the next day, Christmas Eve. We will light a Chanukah menorah and look forward to our individual and family winter celebrations.

25 December: There will be NO SERVICE at Mt. Vernon UUF.

1 January: Gail DeVilbiss will lead 2nd annual Fire Ceremony followed by New Year's Potluck.

Other Upcoming Events

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

2 December: 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.

7 December: 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.

10 December: Religious Education Trip to St. Louis (see p. 3)

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

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

11 December: 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.

28 December: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Many Thanks to Terry and Diane Schwitz!
For their generous contribution of materials and labor to install new floor tile in the bathrooms downstairs. It looks great!

Religious Education Road Trip

Saturday December 10, 2011

The Religious Education committee invites you to join Fellowship members for a trip to the *Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts* in St. Louis to view the exhibit “**Reflections of Buddha.**”

In addition to the exhibit we will enjoy lunch together and a shopping experience at *MacroSun*. *MacroSun International* works directly with artists and families throughout India, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan, and refugees of Tibet, Burma, and Afghanistan on a first name person basis. *MacroSun* is a member of the Fair Trade Federation.

Itinerary:

9:45-10:00 am meet at the Fellowship parking lot to car pool to St Louis.

11:30-12: Arrive at *Everest Dinner* on Manchester for a buffet lunch.

1:30: Arrive at *Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts*.

2:00 pm: Experience exhibit. A museum curator will be available to provide a tour of the exhibit.

3:30-4: Drive to *MacroSun* downtown for shopping.

4:30-5:00 pm: Leave for the drive home.

Contact Mike DeVilbiss at 533-4705 or vegaddict1@aol.com for more information.

Fair Trade Buyer's Club

The Fair Trade Buyers Club's first order was a success. Are you enjoying your socially conscious purchases? NEXT orders must be placed by **January 22nd** with delivery on **February 5th**. Look for new order forms in January.

Did you miss out on ordering? We have coffee, tea and chocolates available for sale downstairs, check them out or contact Gail DeVilbiss vegaddict1@aol.com 533-4705

New Years' Day Fire Ceremony and Potluck

January 1st 2012

Our annual New Years Potluck will follow the New Year's Day Fire ceremony, which is an opportunity to burn and release into smoke things you do not want to take into the coming year. Join your Fellowship friends with good food, fun and conversation. **Bring a dish to share, games, music and friends to ring in the new year.** Please join in!



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.*

Lots of social justice activity is going on at Mt. Vernon UUF! In October, the Social Justice Interest Group led a service re-introducing us to Angels on Assignment, as we reconfirm our support of this local helping organization. Thanks to Vito Mastrangelo for renewing our contact with the Angels.

Also in October, we viewed a video describing child labor in the production of chocolate; learned about Reverse Trick or Treat, Fair Trade chocolate, coffee, and tea; and enjoyed Fair Trade chocolate and coffee treats prepared by Gail DeVilbiss. In the days before Halloween, over 1,100 UUSC members wrote messages urging Hershey's to live up to their promise to end the practice of child labor in their supply chain. UUSC will deliver the messages – and some Fair Trade chocolate! – to the president of Hershey's. At Gail's suggestion, a Fair Trade Buying Club, sponsored by the Social Justice Interest Group, was initiated, and our first orders have arrived.

UUSC partner, Southern Alternatives Agricultural Cooperative, run by African American women in Georgia, is offering fair trade pecan and pecan candies this holiday season. Your purchase of these treats helps to support economic justice and the livelihoods of African American small-scale farmers. Order by **12/09/11** for **12/24/11** delivery at www.uusc.org/store/pecans.

Our “Guest at Your Table” project is underway. Through this important annual UU tradition, we learn about and connect with our global family, and help raise awareness and support for our shared mission. If you have not picked up a box and booklet, and would like to participate, see any member of the Social Justice Interest Group.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Opportunities for Service bulletin board, visit the UUSC website at www.uusc.org, attend a meeting of the Social Justice Interest Group each second Sunday after social hour, and watch this space at *UUMatters*.

Donna Beaumont, *UUSC Local Representative*

An Opportunity for Service – YouthBuild

The fellowship recently received a letter from Christy Garner, Mentoring and Vocational Coordinator of the YouthBuild program describing the program and seeking adults who would be interested in mentoring a teenaged student. If you would like more information, you can reach Ms Garner at 618-242-6731 or christym@umchome.org. Her letter is posted on the “Opportunities for Service” bulletin board.

Burroughs Art Works

Several years ago, the fellowship received a very generous donation of art work by African-American artist Margaret Burroughs. The purpose of the gift was to supply the fellowship with a fundraising resource. Therefore, these pieces have been offered for sale at the very reasonable price of \$45, all to benefit the fellowship. As you consider your holiday gift purchases, you might consider one of these very distinctive prints. You can view the art works downstairs in the education/social area. See any of the trustees for more information.

Movie and Meatless (plant-based) Potluck

—January 20, 2012—

Join us Friday evening for a Movie and Meatless (plant-based) Potluck. Potluck begins at 6:00 pm followed a 7:00pm movie that discusses the benefits of a plant based diet for the health and well being of humans and our environment.

Gail DeVilbiss will share the UUA's ethical eating statement for discussion.

www.uua.org/statements/statements/185320.shtml

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(at)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(at)gmail.com. Submissions for the December edition are due by **Friday, December 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 .

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

"I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show."

Andrew Wyeth