



UU Matters

(January 2012: Vol. 7 No. 1)

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 January: Gail DeVilbiss will lead 2nd annual *Fire Ceremony*, focusing on looking back over the year that has ended, reflecting on what we wish to leave behind, and looking forward to the year that is just beginning, reflecting on what we hope to bring into our lives. Participants are asked to write down ideas, thoughts, feelings, events etc. that you want to leave behind in 2011 and light a candle for future ideas and hopes. Participation in the Fire Communion is optional, but if you desire you can leave the negative things in your life behind you. Come to celebrate all of the possibility that this New Year holds!

The Guest at Our Table program will end today. A collection of boxes will be part of the service. The service will be followed by coffee hour at 11:00 and New Year's Potluck at noon.

8 January: Debbie Czarnopys-White will share a service on *Gratitude*.

15 January: Shared Service, third Sunday of each month. In our *Shared Service*, several members select parts of the service to present. Choose selections at Sunday January 1st and 8th Services. Contact Gail DeVilbiss to sign up early or to take part in this service.

22 January: *Open Readings* lead by Angela Czapiewski. Please bring a reading, music, art or thoughts to share with the fellowship.

29 January: Mike DeVilbiss will lead a service entitled '*What's the Matter with Pigs?*' An examination of cultural prejudice.

~ 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.)

4 January: 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.

6 January: 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.

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

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

8 January: 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.

20 January: 'Forks Over Knives Party and Potluck.'
Friday, Meal begins at 6:00 pm

Meal to be followed by the movie *Forks Over Knives*, a documentary that details the benefits of a plant-strong diet for the health and well being of humans and our planet. Gail DeVilbiss will also share the UUA's Ethical Eating Resource Guide for discussion.

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

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Sunday, January 1, 2012 Pot Luck

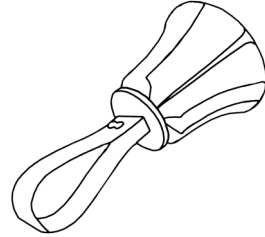
Join your Fellowship friends with good food and fun. Bring a dish to share, games, music and friends to ring in the New Year. Come one, come all!

New Years Day Activities:

10:00 a.m.: Fire Ceremony Service

11:00-12:00: After service Coffee hour. (*Time available to heat up and prepare pot luck items if attending both the service and potluck*)

12:00 noon- Pot Luck meal



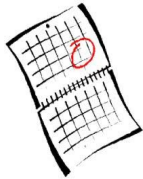
Weekly Volunteer needed

After many years of submitting weekly MVUUF information to the newspapers, Beth Brennan would like to pass along the job to another volunteer. To volunteer to submit MVUUF information to newspapers in 2012, please contact Beth at the email address on p.5 for details, or contact Nina, Publications Chairman, at peacock.nina (at) gmail.com.

Many thanks to Beth for your steadfast work “since the beginning.”

Special February Services

February 5, 2012—Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead a ‘*Souperbowl*’ service. Non perishables will be collected in addition to a soup potluck after the service. FYI-You will be home in time for kickoff!



February 26, 2012 –Mt Vernon UUF will participate in the 23rd National African-American Read-In. Celebrate Black History Month by being part of this service. Over a million readers of all ethnic groups, from 50 states, the District of Columbia, the West Indies, and African countries have participated. The goal is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities.

Fair Trade Buyer’s Club

The opportunity is here again to purchase Fair Trade Coffees, chocolates and teas from Equal Exchange. A new price list will be available on Sunday, January 1, 2012. Place orders with Gail by Sunday, January 22, as she plans to submit the order on Monday, January 23rd. Expected delivery the week of January 29th.

New this time- mix and match to make up a case (details at Fellowship). Remember Valentine’s Day is February 14th, to gift Fair Trade Chocolates to your loved ones; cards included.



NEXT ORDER will be placed May 6th. Direct questions and comments to project coordinator: Gail DeVilbiss at 618-533-4705 or vegaddict1@aol.com.



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.*

This month's Local Reps Bulletin provides updates on several of UUSC's ongoing projects. I would like to share two of these with you.

UUSC is working with pastoralists and farmers in **northern Kenya** who have lost their herds, homes, and livelihoods because of the devastating droughts that are spreading famine and emergency conditions throughout Somalia and parts of Eastern Africa. They are ethnic Somalis but cannot access the aid to Somali refugees fleeing the famine, because they themselves are Kenyan. Having walked for days to find aid, they are setting up makeshift communities around urban centers. UUSC partners with Kenyan organizations to provide practical assistance like wells along with schooling to keep children safe from exploitation. Equally important, we are helping them discover new ways to earn livelihoods, such as arid farming.

In Japan, UUSC recently supported a unique community center in one of the communities badly affected by the earthquake, Minami Sanriku in the Miyagi prefecture. There are many immigrants in this community who do not speak Japanese and have been marginalized by available services. Community members were being treated as victims and want to recover their agency. They have asked our partner, a Japanese social movement, Ijuren, to help them establish and organize their own community center to provide services, food, and a chance to organize around their needs. Radiation is one of their biggest worries and UUSC's support includes Geiger counters and training for a community-run radiation detection program.

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*

Movie and Meatless (plant-based) Potluck

Join us Friday evening January 20 for the movie *Forks over Knives* and meatless (plant-based) Potluck. Potluck begins at 6:00 pm followed the 7:00pm movie, which 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: bethnvito(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 January edition are due by **Thursday, January 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