



# UU Matters

(February 2012: Vol. 7 No. 2)

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.)

**5 February:** Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead today's ' *Souperbowl*' service. A collection of non perishables will be collected in addition to a soup potluck after service.

**12 February:** Mike DeVilbiss and Debbie Czarnopys-White will collaborate on this service on *International Darwin Day*.

**19 February: Shared Service, third Sunday of each month.** In our *Shared Service* , several members select parts of the service to present. Selections can be made at Sunday February 5th and 12th Services. Contact Gail DeVilbiss to sign up early or to take part in this service.

**26 February:** Mt Vernon UUF will join over a million readers of all ethnic groups, from 50 states, the District of Columbia, the West Indies, and African countries, by participating in the *23rd National African-American Read-In* to celebrate Black History Month, in order to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities.

~ 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.)

**1 February:** 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.

**3 February:** 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.

**12 February:** Buddhist Meditation  
-Second Sunday of Each Month-  
-9:00 a.m.-

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

**12 February:** 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.

**18 February:** Fellowship Cleaning Day and Potluck  
-9 a.m.– noon, followed by a Potluck lunch

**22 February:** Meditation Group  
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-  
-6:30 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.



# Religious Education Road Trip

**Saturday December 10, 2011**

*Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts in St. Louis ,  
Everest Dinner on Manchester and MacroSun.*



## 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. Over a million readers of all ethnic groups, from the U.S., the West Indies, and African countries have participated, to make the celebration of African American literacy a part of Black History Month.

## Volunteer needed

A volunteer is still being sought to email the weekly MVUUF information to the local newspapers. The deadline for the Sentinel and Register News "church news" is Wednesday mornings. Most of the information needed is already available in the newsletter. Any questions can be directed to Beth at: [bethnvito\(at\)mvn.net](mailto:bethnvito(at)mvn.net).

## Idea Starters

The Programming Committee is delighted with the response to the *Shared Service* format. We've had so many interesting and inspiring contributions; thanks to all! We plan to continue this service each third Sunday of the month.



To inspire more opportunities to participate in/lead services, the Committee has compiled a list of *Idea Starters*: religious, spiritual, and secular holidays and other observances which could be the focus of a service. The list will be posted near the sign-up clipboard. If you have thought about leading a service, but were not sure how to start, check out the *Idea Starters*. And, of course, the members of the Programming Committee are happy to help with preparations.



*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.***

We wrapped up our first Guest at Your Table effort at MVUUF on January 1. As a result, we begin 2012 with three UUSC members in our fellowship. Participants made gifts totaling \$234.95 in support of UUSC. One gift was large enough to be matched by a gift from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, N.Y.! I hope you enjoyed reading the Stories of Hope and learning more about – and being inspired by – some of the real people who work with UUSC around the world to improve people’s lives.

In January, Gail and Mike DeVilbiss presented “Forks Over Knives,” focusing on healthy eating and introducing the UUA Ethical Eating statement of conscience. The UUSC encourages us to “Dine Out with Your Values in Mind.” Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC), a UUSC partner organization, has released the ROC National Diners’ Guide 2012: A Consumer Guide on the Working Conditions of American Restaurants. You can download the guide at [http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/Diners\\_Guide.html](http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/Diners_Guide.html). I was surprised by what I learned about working conditions in American restaurants.

Violence against women — one of the most pervasive violations of human rights — affects women’s abilities to achieve legal, social, political, and economic equality. As UUSC works with partners around the world to protect women, we need your help to ensure that U.S. policy makers are doing their part. The original U.N. resolution for the day to end violence against women calls for the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). UUSC has the goal to collect 3,000 signed postcards by February 15 to be delivered to Senator John Kerry’s office on International Women’s Day, March 8, 2012. I have ordered free women’s rights postcards to use in gathering signatures in support of CEDAW and will make them available to you as soon as I receive them.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Opportunities for Service bulletin board, visit the UUSC website at [www.uusc.org](http://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*



*January 1,  
2012*

*Fire  
Ceremony*



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# 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, for the time being, to Beth at: [bethnvito\(at\)mvn.net](mailto: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](mailto:marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com). Submissions for the February edition are due by **Monday, February 27**.

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](http://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](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
4. By emailing our fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)