



UU Matters

(May 2012: Vol. 7 No. 5)

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.)

6 May: Gail DeVilbiss will lead a service entitled 'Don't Blame the Mountain,' focusing upon Mt Everest and the many trekkers who choose it as a life changing goal. We won't need to climb Everest to reap the inspirational benefits.

13 May: *Mother's Day Shared Service.* If you have music, art, a special reading, thought or poem to share, please do! Shared services have come to life with a diverse group participating. Selections will be available on April 29 and May 6. Don't miss the opportunity to join your Fellowship friends in creating a truly unique service.

20 May: *Flower Communion*—As no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each makes a valuable contribution. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Please bring a flower to share and exchange in the vase with others, or select a flower when you arrive, if you don't have one handy.

27 May: Angela will lead this *Open Readings* service. Everyone is encouraged to bring readings, art work, music, stories.

Other Upcoming Events

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

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

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

13 May: 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 May: Annual Membership Meeting
-After Sunday Service-

23 May: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month-
-6:00 p.m.-

Members will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Sunday May 20

MVUUF Annual

Membership

Meeting

The Board of Trustees invites you to the annual **Members Meeting** Sunday, May 20th immediately following the service. The board will present a 'State of the Fellowship', to look at our accomplishments and recognize our members. Treasurer Angela will present the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and share the financial status of the Fellowship with us. A slate of officers will be presented and a vote conducted for the 2012-2013 Board of Trustees.

All members and friends are encouraged to attend. However, you must be a member to vote. Coffee and treats will be served upstairs to enjoy together.

Statement of Support

As an expression of MVUUF's continuing support of member Paul Oakley on his journey to be credentialed as a UU minister, the co-chairs of the Board of Trustees have signed a *Statement of Congregational Sponsorship* on his behalf. Paul was admitted to candidacy for UU ministry in March of this year. The Ministerial Fellowship Committee requires that every candidate for UU ministry receive the formal sponsorship of a UU congregation.

Paul met with the Board of Trustees at its regular April meeting to present his request, and to answer questions from Board members. Paul explained that he has lots of work to complete yet before he meets with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, but sponsorship is a necessary step. By signing the Statement of Congregational Support, the members of the Board affirm that we have confidence in Paul's potential and suitability for UU ministry. We are saying that, with further training and education, he has a good chance of developing the traits necessary for successful ministry.

If you have questions about the Statement of Congregational Sponsorship, please feel free to talk with a member of the Board. Learn more about the process of becoming a UU minister at the www.uua.org website.

Member News

MVUUF member Adam E. Stone's spoken-word ballet "A Life Unhappening," which examines the impact of Alzheimer's disease on three generations of one woman's family, will be performed three times in our area.

A special preview performance will be held at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale, Illinois on **Friday, May 4, 2012** at 7:30 pm, with proceeds from the performance to benefit the Greater Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The World Premiere performance will be held at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center in St. Louis, Missouri on Friday, **May 11, 2012**. A wine and cheese reception will begin at 6:30 pm, with the performance to follow at 7:30 pm. The performance will be broadcast live by the Higher Education Channel (HEC-TV) and streamed live on their website. A Mother's Day performance will be held at the Donald C. Bedell Performance Hall in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on **Sunday, May 13, 2012** at 2:30 pm. Proceeds from the latter two shows will benefit the St. Louis Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Each performance will be followed by an intermission, then a question and answer session with representatives of the Alzheimer's Association and key players in the ballet. An American Sign Language interpreter will be provided at each performance. Additional information about the ballet, including ticketing information, is available at Adam's website: www.adamestone.com.



Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

The UUSC Link

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

Restaurant work is one of the fastest growing industries in the US. Yet restaurant workers are among the most poorly compensated American employees. The following is from an email sent by Kara Smith, Associate for Grassroots Mobilizing (UUSC), to UUSC volunteers in April.

Keith Jones is an African American server who was hired at Capital Grille in Maryland when it opened. He was lauded for his excellent service. However, when management changed hands and sought to "clean up" the restaurant, they fired Jones and almost all the other people of color who were servers, saying they did not "meet Capital Grille standards."

These are the working conditions reported by employees of restaurants in the Darden Restaurant group, which owns and operates approximately 1,900 restaurants worldwide, including Capital Grille, Red Lobster, Olive Garden, and Longhorn Steakhouse. Darden's sales total more than \$7 billion annually. Yet Darden restaurant workers are paid as little as \$2.13 per hour for tipped employees and \$7.25 per hour for non-tipped employees, with no paid sick days.

You can learn about the Dignity at Darden campaign, ROC-United's class action suit against Darden, and how to take action in solidarity with restaurant workers who are demanding fair treatment at http://actnow.uusc.org/site/R?i=A8hXo3p_hNyLreB96eRwHw. Consumer pressure can make a difference.

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

Key Changes

In an effort to enhance security and accountability, the Board of Trustees has authorized Terry Schwitz to rekey the locks to the fellowship building front and back doors, and to create a series of new keys, each with a unique number. Keys will be issued and recorded by a Keymaster; Diane Schwitz has agreed to take on this responsibility. (Thanks Diane!)

New keys will be issued to each member of the Board, and to committee chairs and members who have a need to have access to the building at times other than for regularly scheduled activities. Members who have a need for a limited time access to the building (for a special event, for example) will be able to check out a key from the Keymaster for that occasion. The locks will be changed during the week just prior to the yearly meeting (May 20). If you need a key, be sure to see Diane.

If you return your old key, Terry might be able to recycle it to a new key. A big thanks goes to Terry for contributing his time and talent to this project.

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 Gail at: vegaddict1 (at) aol.com 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 Gail 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 May edition are due by **Wednesday, May 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

