



UU Matters

(June 2012: Vol. 7 No. 6)

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.)

3 June: In honor of Allen Ginsberg's birthday, Sam Smith will lead a service entitled "Beat Borders: Expression over Establishment," which explores the poets of the beat movement, and the implications and risks of blazing new trails in the arts.

10 June: Debbie Czarnopys-White will lead this service exploring John P. Milton as Teacher. John P. Milton is a meditation, Qigong and Tai Chi instructor, and pioneering environmentalist. He has developed practices for uniting inner and outer nature through yoga, Buddhist, Taoist, Vedantic (Hindu), Tantric, and Native American spiritual traditions. He inspires Earth stewardship by cultivating natural wisdom and an open, loving heart in the wild.

17 June: *Father's Day Shared Service.* The shared service is an open reading service with a minimal structure. 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 June 3 and June 10. Please join us.

24 June: The LGBT Task Force will conduct this service. Please contact committee chair Debbie Czarnopys-White if you would like to participate in this service or other planned activities.

~July 1, 8, 22 and 29 are all available--please consider leading a service in July.

Other Upcoming Events

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

1 June: 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.

6 June: 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 Walter Lazenby, treasurer.

10 June: Buddhist Meditation
-Second Sunday of Each Month-
-9:00 a.m.-

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

10 June: 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.

24 June: LGBT Welcoming Picnic
-After the Sunday service-
-West Pavilion near 27th St., Mt. Vernon City Park-
Bring a dish to share and a chair.

27 June: Meditation Group
-Fourth Wednesday of Each Month 6:00 p.m.-
For information, check with Nina Peacock.

Glenda and Angela will lead the group in a meditation activity.

Mingling of the Waters

We celebrated a beautiful UU tradition, the Flower Communion, on May 20. Now it is time to prepare for the Mingling of the Waters, which will be celebrated at the end of summer. Just a reminder to gather small samples of water from your travels or special events or places to bring to our water ceremony at summer's end. Enjoy the season!

Sunday May 20 MVUUF Annual Membership Meeting

The annual Members Meeting was held Sunday, May 20th immediately following the service. The minutes will be available at the Fellowship beginning Sunday, May 27, 2012.

The Membership agreed by consensus to accept the following slate of officers for the 2012/2013 fiscal year:

Co-chair: Donna Beaumont,
Co-chair: Debbie Czarnopys-
White

Co-chair: Sam Smith.
Secretary Gail DeVilbiss
Treasurer: Walter Lazenby

Best wishes to the new board as they take office in the new fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The Flaming Chalice A Symbol of Unitarian Universalists



To many, the chalice represents the spirit of compassion. Sharing, generosity, sustenance, and love are some of the meanings symbolized by a chalice. The flame represents to many the light of reason, a metaphor for truth and reason. A flame can also symbolize

witness, sacrifice, testing, courage, and illumination. Or perhaps you could interpret the chalice as the ground of being, and the flame as the universal search for meaning, compassion and purpose. The flaming chalice symbol has no one, official, interpretation. Like our faith, it is a constant well-spring for new meanings and enlightenment, the discovery of new truths, in the spirit of reason, justice and compassion. www.uuvisalia.org/visitors/chalice.html

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, was performed in May at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale and at held at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center in St. Louis, with proceeds to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. The St. Louis performance was broadcast live by the Higher Education Channel (HEC-TV) and streamed on their website, where it may be viewed at www.hectv.org/programs/specials/a-life-unhappening/1657/a-life-unhappening. Additional information about the ballet, including the script, 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.*

Even though we do not have youth attending our fellowship at this time, you might be interested to know about two summer youth programs that UUSC is offering this year.

JustWorks Civil Rights Journey, July 22-29, 2012 is specially tailored to young people ages 15-20. Participants will travel by bus from Atlanta, Ga., to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, AL. Participants will visit historic sites and will meet some of the courageous people who worked to desegregate schools, register new voters, and bring an end to racial discrimination in the US. The trip will be led by Rev. Hope Johnson of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau, in Garden City, N.Y., and UUSC staff member Sam Jones. Along the way, participants will also learn about the progressive, nonviolent organizing techniques used by civil-rights activists and how those techniques are still being used today to advance rights for workers, immigrants, and LGBTQ people; to work for economic justice via the Occupy movement; and more.

National Youth Justice Summit, in Boston, MA, July 7-14, 2012 is for youth who just completed 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to examine social justice through the lens of economic justice and to help participants think about where their unique passions and skills intersect with the greatest needs in society. Dynamic workshops, field trips to exciting local organizations, daily spiritual practices and worship will fill the days. Rev. Nate Walker, at First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia, will be chaplain for the week, partnering with local organizations including Haley House, a Dorothy Day-inspired organization, and the UU Urban Ministry, a historic UU organization working toward social justice for over 150 years. Speakers will include the former UUA President and former Amnesty International executive director, Rev. Bill Schulz.

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*.

Key Changes

To enhance security and accountability, the Board of Trustees asked Terry Schwitz to rekey the locks to the fellowship building front and back doors, and to create new keys, each with a unique number. The locks were changed just prior to the yearly meeting (May 20). Keys will be issued and recorded by a Keymaster; Diane Schwitz has agreed to take on this responsibility. (Thanks Diane!)

Board members, committee chairs and members who have a need to have access to the building at times other than for regularly scheduled activities will have a key. 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. If you need a key, please 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 July edition are due by **Monday, June 25**.

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



The question mark is an inverted plow, breaking up the hard soil of old beliefs and preparing for new growth.

~Saul Alinsky