



UU Matters

(February 2013: Vol. 8 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.)

3 February: Souper Bowl service, led by the Social Justice Interest Group.

10 February: Paul Oakley will lead this service.

17 February: *Shared Fellowship Service.* The shared service is a favorite of many who attend because of the sharing and community that develops.

24 February: *African American Read-In*, led by Gail DeVilbiss.

~ Services with no designated leader will be Open Readings services ~

Open Readings Service. Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share. No need to sign up in advance. The Fellowship looks forward to what you choose to share.

To see a hillside white with dogwood bloom is to know a particular ecstasy of beauty, but to walk the gray Winter woods and find the buds which will resurrect that beauty in another May is to partake of continuity.

-Hal Borland

Other Upcoming Events

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

6 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; Terry Schwitz,
co-chair; Gail DeVilbiss, secretary; and Walter Lazenby, treasurer.

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

Buddhist meditation group meets downstairs. One need not be Buddhist to attend.
For more information: Debbie Czarnopys-White bdcw@frontiernet.net

10 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.

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





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 second annual Guest at Your Table program at the Fire Ceremony on December 30, 2012. I am delighted to report that the response this year surpassed that of last! We begin this year with four UUSC members, a total contribution to UUSC of \$337.83, and more households contributing than last year. Again this year, one household contribution was sufficient to be matched by a gift from the UU congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. To give you an idea what our gift from MVUUF represents: \$75 will support one youth at-risk for labor exploitation and trafficking near the Uganda/Kenya border; \$100 provides one month of art supplies for 10 children in an art-therapy program in Haiti; \$180 supplies materials for five tire gardens in Haiti. See How UUSC Invests your Guest at Your Table Donation on the bulletin board, or on line. Thanks to each of you for your generosity!

In March, we will observe Justice Sunday. The theme this year is 'Justice is Choosing Compassionate Consumption.' In particular, Justice Sunday focuses on seeking better conditions for restaurant workers. In preparation, UUSC is suggesting that supporters purchase a new book, *Behind the Kitchen Door*, in the critical first two weeks of its release in February, in an effort to put this document on the best seller list and garner national attention for the effort to improve conditions for restaurant workers.

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the *Into Action* bulletin board, visit the UUSC website at www.uusc.org or on Facebook, 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

There is a privacy about it which no other season gives you. . . In spring, summer and fall people sort of have an open season on each other; only in the winter, in the country, can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savor belonging to yourself.

-Ruth Stout

Souper Bowl Recipe Collection

Debbie Czarnopys-White is collecting **easy** recipes to share with Angels on Assignment and our congregation. Using SouperBowl Sunday as a catalyst, please send recipes to Debbie bdcw@frontiernet.net

Lap Quilt and Blanket Project

Quilt-making is a continuing service project of the Social Justice Interest Group throughout the year. Seeking donations of:

- quilt batting (full size 81x96" - we cut it down to use)
- quilt backing (white material)
- funds for either of these or postage
- time to help assemble or sew on the lap quilts
- new small blankets/covers (fleece, etc.)

Blankets and quilts are sent to Maria Lovato who lives with her husband on the Pueblo de Cochiti reservation, to help 300 people there. See photos of eight completed quilts on back

African International Foundation

Member Shannon Green – who led a service in September 2012 at MVUUF about what she learned in Africa, "Kenya – Coming Back Changed" – sends this information about a new program for which she invites our interest and support:

"2012 ...brought me the opportunity to travel to Kenya as part of my studies. Since my return, I have been working with Dr. Peter Gitau (Dean of Students for SIU, the faculty who sponsors the SIU trip to Kenya), and others to establish a non profit organization that will continue to support educational development in Kenya. Together, we have created the African International Foundation for Educational Excellence. I wanted to share this information with you because it is important to me, and so are you. I am attaching information about our current efforts, and you can also visit our website: africaninternationalfoundation.org"

More information is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the fellowship hall.

Whale Coast Alaska 2013

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, consider **WhaleCoast Alaska 2013!** Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, a member of the Fairbanks, Alaska UU congregation, an expert in Alaska travel. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Other UU Matters

Newspaper Announcement Submission Guidelines

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are sent on the Tuesday morning prior to the service or event. If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information to Gail at: vegaddict1 (at) aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 p.m., on the prior Monday. 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 MVUUUF 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 **Friday, February 22**.

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 MVUUUF congregation, or to liberal religious thought in general. Please consider sharing your photography, poems, short stories, "deep thoughts," favorite quotes, etc.



Considering MVUUUF 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 round bowl on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to mail a contribution, please mail to: MVUUUF, 1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL, 62864. Please make checks payable to MVUUUF. 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 MVUUUF Library catalogue is available online. The catalog can be accessed at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUUF.

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