



UU Matters

(May 2013: Vol. 8 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.)

5 May: Paul Oakley will lead this service, accompanied by music from cantors Andrew Bollinger and Leslie Caplan of Central Reform Congregation in St. Louis.

12 May: Mike DeVilbiss will lead this service, entitled *Sticks and Stones*.

19 May: *Shared/Open Reading Service, followed by annual Membership Meeting.*

If you have a poem or reading, perhaps an excerpt from a favorite book a special selection of music, a piece of artwork or creative work you have made, considering sharing with us. See the sign up sheet in the back of the fellowship hall, or bring your selection spontaneously. Please join us.

26 May: Donna Beaumont will lead the *Flower Communion*, a traditional Unitarian Universalist Springtime celebration. For this ceremony, members of the fellowship are asked to bring a flower to the Sunday service. Upon entering the sanctuary, each person places his or her flower in a shared vase. The flowers are blessed during the ceremony, and the message reflects upon the flowers' symbolism. At the end of the service, each person brings home a flower other than the one that he or she brought.

Reginald Zottoli wrote "As no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community: it would not be the same without each and every one of us. "



Other Upcoming Events

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

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

4 May: Concert, including original Rock Opera
-Andrew Bollinger and Leslie Caplan-
-*St. Louis and Songs for the Revolution (A Musical Journey through Time)*-
-7:30 p.m.- See details on page 3.

12 May: 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

12 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.

19 May Annual Membership Meeting
-Following Sunday Service and Coffee Time-
Agenda, Minutes from last year, and Budget available on table at back of Fellowship Hall.

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

Rock Opera Saturday May 4, Musicians Sunday May 5

We welcome visiting musicians Andrew Bollinger and Leslie Caplan, cantors at Central Reform Congregation in St Louis. Andrew is a self-taught rock musician. Leslie is a classically trained singer, who has sung weddings, funerals, and with the St. Louis Symphony.

A Saturday evening concert at Mt. Vernon UUF will feature Andrew's own rock opera in solo performance, *St. Louis and Songs for the Revolution (A Musical Journey through Time)*, music and lyrics by Andrew John Bollinger. Included as well will be a mix of music with Leslie and Andrew together. Sunday's service will be led by our own Paul Oakley, with music provided by our guests.

Plan to join us – and bring a friend! - for these special events.

Mark Your Calendar—

Annual Membership Meeting May 19, 2013

The annual Membership Meeting will be held following the May 19 service. Everyone is welcome, and everyone is encouraged to attend. To view the Agenda, Minutes from last year, and Budget, pick up a copy from the table in back of Fellowship Hall.

You must be a member to vote. To be a voting member, you must have completed a membership application by the end of February.

Food Insecurity: Make a Difference

Our SouperBowl of Caring service in February highlighted the concern of food insecurity in our community and the nation. We learned that Feeding America is the largest domestic hunger relief organization in the nation. The following two websites provide information about how to enter a code found on specific food products to contribute to Feeding America and local food banks.

www.ChildHungerEndsHere.com is sponsored by ConAgra Foods. Their brands include Hunts, Healthy Choice, Marie Callender, Orville Redenbacher, and many others. For each code entered, until 8/31/13, ConAgraFoods will contribute the monetary equivalent of one meal.

www.outnumberhunger.com is a partnership between Walmart, General Mills, and other brands with a similar program which ends in Spring 2013.

And, of course, our fellowship makes a contribution to Angels on Assignment each month. You can place your contribution in the wicker basket on the back table.



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, I would like to share a portion of the Humanitarian Crisis program update:

“Keeping March 2013 elections peaceful in Western province of Kenya

“The Western province in Kenya was not marred by the kind of terrible violence that broke out after the 2007 Presidential elections. A UUSC partner, Kakamega Grassroots Initiative, KGI, played a big role in keeping peace in Western Province during the uneasy week leading up to the elections. Pastor Keta, the head of KGI, crisscrossed the province tirelessly on his motorbike or in rented buses with a core of interfaith leaders that he mobilized to stand up for peace.

“In December 2012, Keta trained a core group of leaders from different religions to raise their voices for peace. They in turn reached out to other faith leaders across religions to join their voices in this call. In January and February, they began traveling to villages and towns and eventually to the neighboring provinces, calling people together in the markets, in churches and in other village meeting places, working with people to keep peace with each other and not resort to violence. Seeing so many faith leaders of different religions and ethnic groups work together inspired the people of Western Province. Despite the tensions over the elections, they heeded the call, and peace reigned in Western province during and after the elections.”

Peace is possible!

To learn more about UUSC, take a look at the Into Action 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

The Board of Trustees has reviewed and revised the Policy on Use of Facilities. Here is the new text. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Board.

MVUUF Policy on Use of Facilities:

Approved by the MVUUF Board of Trustees on April 3, 2013

To supersede policy approved by the MVUUF Board of Trustees December 6, 2006

Approval for the use of the Fellowship building is necessary if the building is to be used for activities other than regularly scheduled Board-sanctioned activities (such as Sunday services, committee meetings, discussion or meditation groups). To obtain approval a member of MVUUF must request approval from each Board member and a majority of three Board members must approve the use of the building for the activity.

The Fellowship building shall not be used for any purpose inconsistent with the Fellowship's tax-exempt status. The Fellowship building shall be used in a manner consistent with the Principles and Purposes of the Bylaws of this Fellowship. A member of the MVUUF must be present during this approved activity, and said member must be responsible for the care of the building and any clean-up after the activity has concluded. A refundable deposit may be requested by the Board as a condition of approval of facility use. The deposit will be refunded in full if no damage has been incurred.

Other UU Matters

Newspaper Announcement 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. A few sentences is fine. 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 Guidelines

Please email submissions for *UU Matters* to marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com by **Monday, May 27** for the June issue. If you are leading a service or speaking in a service, please send title, date, and description 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 round bowl on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to mail a contribution, please mail 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