



# UU Matters

(January 2014: Vol. 9 No. 1)

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 January:** Gail DeVillbiss will lead this service for the New Year. *Guest at Your Table* contributions will be collected.

**12 January:** *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share. No need to sign up in advance. Open readings can become very special services; the Fellowship looks forward to what you choose to share.

**19 January:** *Open Reading Service.* 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, please share with us.

**26 January:** *Open Reading Service.* If you can volunteer to select opening and closing music for any of these open reading services, please sign up on the clipboard. Either way, please bring readings, music and creative endeavors to share, same as last week. This might be the best open readings ever!



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# Other Upcoming Events

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

**1 January :** Annual New Years Potluck  
-at Sidwell Friends Bed and Breakfast-  
-12:30 p.m., meal at 1:00 p.m.-  
Bring a dish to share, and feel free to bring along guests.

**8 January:** Board of Trustees Meeting  
-Note change of date-  
-Usually 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; Nina Peacock, co-chair; Terry Schwitz, co-chair;  
Debbie Czarnopys-White, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, treasurer.

**12 January:** 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](mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net)

**12 January:** 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.

**28 January:** Meditation Group  
-Fourth Tuesday of the 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.***

In Kenya and East Africa, a complex viral infection is wreaking havoc on the critically important maize crop, cutting yields as much as 70% in some areas. This is a disaster for Kenya's effort to achieve food self-sufficiency, and is placing enormous pressure on *Hope in Crops*, one of UUSC's most successful program partners in Kenya. The disease devastating the maize harvest is having two major impacts on *Hope in Crops*.

First, to help combat the disease, the government is encouraging farmers to switch from maize to cassava, beans, and other traditional crops. In itself, this is good news – building more diverse agriculture around the use of indigenous crops is one of the central missions of *Hope in Crops*. But with the sudden countrywide demand, the seeds and seedlings that *Hope in Crops* uses are often unavailable or exorbitantly expensive.

Second, the devastation of this year's maize harvest shows the wisdom of the *Hope in Crops* call for small farmers to return to traditional crops. Consequently, UUSC partners on the ground have been overwhelmed with demand from local communities and subsistence farmers for seeds and technical assistance – just when the cost of operating the project is skyrocketing.

The result? *Hope in Crops* is being squeezed between sharply rising costs and an explosion in popular demand. But, as the huge community demand for assistance from *Hope in Crops* shows, this crisis is an opportunity to advance the program's key mission of helping small farmers build economically and ecologically sustainable livelihoods through traditional agricultural practices.

Your generosity through the **Guest at Your Table** fundraiser can have a profound impact in Kenya, and more than twenty countries around the world. Thank you!

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

## Library Matters

The fellowship is grateful for library donations of gently used, general fellowship interest, books and other media. Please leave a note with your name, stating that the items are being donated to the library. Materials can be placed on the bottom shelf of the bookcase nearest to the hallway. Look for the little sign with the arrow. Thank you!

Library users, won't you please double check that you have returned all checked-out materials that you are not currently using? There are a few things that were checked out a long time ago that have not made their way back to the library. Please talk to Beth if you have any questions.

Did you know that the library has a selection of fiction, if you need a little winter escapism? Beth recommends the following two books. "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn. An ad appears in the newspaper stating: "Teacher seeks pupil. Must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in person." Would you be intrigued enough to answer such an ad? Also recommended is "The Plague of Doves" by Louise Erdrich. It is described as "a multigenerational tour de force of sin, redemption, murder and vengeance."

Is there a book in the library that you have enjoyed and would like to recommend or share your thoughts about? The newsletter would welcome your book reviews!

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online. The catalog can be accessed at [www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF).



## Phone No More

The telephone number for MVUUF will no longer be active. Please contact the Fellowship via email or postal mail.



## *New Year's Day Potluck*

MVUUF will gather on January 1, 2014 at Sidwell Friends B & B, 1812 E Richview Rd. for the annual New Years Day Pot Luck. Bring a dish to share. If you have guests, please bring them along. Set up begins at 12:30, meal to begin at 1:00 PM.

Join in to ring in the New Year!



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## *On the fracking front*

The Department of Natural Resources recently published its proposed fracking regulations, and they don't go nearly far enough to make fracking safe. DNR has scheduled five Public Hearings, and a Public Comment period will run until **Jan. 3.**

Public Hearings will be held at Rend Lake College on Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open 5:30 p.m.). There are also public hearings in Chicago (Nov. 26), Effingham (Dec. 5), Decatur (Dec. 17), and Carbondale (Dec. 19). For more information on the Public Hearings and Public Comments, please visit Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment (SAFE) website: [www.dontfractureillinois.net/](http://www.dontfractureillinois.net/) .

Please let your voice be heard. Post your comments. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/OnlineCommentSubmittalForm.aspx> to post comments directly on the DNR website. For more info or for help with writing comments, please visit [www.dontfractureillinois.net](http://www.dontfractureillinois.net) .

A coalition of antifracking groups has also created a new website, and each day until Jan. 3, the website will post a new suggested comment that you can ask to be submitted on your behalf. The comment is easily customized, and you can choose to send it in by email or hard copy or both: <http://www.ilagainstfracking.org/> . Thank you

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## 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@aol.com by (at the very latest) 8 a.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 **Friday, January 24** for the February 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](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 visiting our website: [www.mtvernonuuf.org](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
3. By emailing our Fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)