



# UU Matters

(February 2014: Vol. 9 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.)

**2 February:** Donna Beaumont will lead this service, *What to Do When Nothing Can Be Done*, a meditation on and some thoughts about how to cope with those aspects of life we cannot control. *Guest at Your Table* contributions can still be submitted.

**9 February:** *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.

**16 February:** *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.

**23 February:** *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.)

**5 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; Nina Peacock, co-chair; Terry Schwitz, co-chair;  
Debbie Czarnopys-White, secretary; and Larry Sidwell, treasurer.

**9 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](mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net)

**9 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.

**25 February:** 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.***

**Thanks to members and friends of MVUUF who responded with gifts to UUSC through our Guest at Your Table program. Gifts will continue to be received in the basket on the back table through mid-February; I'll report the total in the next newsletter.**

Thanks to members and supporters, the UUSC-UUA Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund has raised more than \$880,000 to support survivors of the devastating storm. Wendy Flick, interim manager of UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises Program, spent a week on the ground in the Philippines mid-December to assess the situation and determine which communities are left most vulnerable. Many areas of the Philippines are impoverished and plagued by human trafficking, and UUSC's approach to relief work includes protecting those left marginalized. Read about Flick's visit and what UUSC plans to do to help. <http://actnow.uusc.org/site/R?i=2ZGpJbzthosUGtOfnSDU9w>

UUSC's **Choose Compassionate Consumption** initiative has been gaining momentum for over two years, and the minimum wage issue is becoming more visible in the media and in our everyday lives. UUSC takes a two-pronged approach to advancing justice for minimum wage workers: consumer awareness and legislative action.

The joint statement by UUSC President Bill Schulz and UUA President Peter Morales on raising the minimum wage as a moral imperative received over 14,000 signatures, and UUSC hand-delivered hard copies of the statement to key U.S. senators. The message was clear: the minimum wage is a moral issue, not just economic. UUSC also partnered with Raise Up Massachusetts to gather and deliver over 282,000 signatures in support of raising the minimum wage and ensuring earned sick time in Massachusetts. The UUA has selected *Behind the Kitchen Door* (available in our MVUUF library!) as their Common Read book for this year, and **Choose Compassionate Consumption** is on **Standing on the Side of Love's** "30 Days of Love" calendar. Learn more at <http://www.uusc.org/campaigns/choose-compassionate-consumption> and <http://standingonthesideoflove.org/>

**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*

## January 5, 2014: Fire Ceremony Begins



### *Invitation to Lead a Service*

With the winter weather hopefully winding down, we're looking for new ideas, leaders or co-leaders for our upcoming months' services. Following are some ideas for the near months as suggestions. Our big book of ideas for services is always available as well.

All ideas are welcome and encouraged, and if you personally don't want to present a program, contact someone on the Program Committee and we'll help .

~ Theresa Rowe, Donna Beaumont, Gail DeVilbiss, Debbie Czarnopys-White.

#### February

Black History Month  
Susan B. Anthony  
Charles Darwin  
Victor Hugo  
Charles Dickens  
Galileo Galilei  
Nicolas Copernicus  
National Haiku Writing Month

#### March

Women's History Month  
Spring Equinox  
Michelangelo  
Albert Einstein  
Nat "King" Cole  
Cesar Chavez

### *St. Brigid's Day Woven Crosses*

In the ancient Celtic calendar, St. Brigid's Day or Imbolc, falls on February 1, half-way between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox, wheat or reed crosses were woven and a placed over the door of a house or barn for good luck and protection.

Candlemas was celebrated February 2, lighting candles or fires to represent the return of warmth and lengthening days and feasting on foods including milk, butter and bannocks, were also celebratory customs related to pregnancy of ewes, another focus of the holiday.



Celticvoices.blogspot.com

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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 **Monday, February 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)