



UU Matters

(March 2014: Vol. 9 No. 3)

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 March: Mike DeVilbiss will lead this service, "Bill Nye, Ken Ham and the Secret Name of God," reflecting on Ham and Nyes' recent debate. Mike will present what that debate leads him to conclude.

9 March: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share. No need to sign up in advance. . . but if you would volunteer to select opening and closing music for either of the open reading services, please sign up on the clipboard at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

16 March: Kelly and Shawn Taylor will share a service to celebrate the *Vernal Equinox, or Ostara.*

23 March: *Open Reading Service.* Please bring readings, music and creative endeavors to share. Open Readings are sometimes our most special services.

30 March: Deb Czarnopys-White will lead this service, entitled *The Gospel of Peter, The Musical .*

6 April: *Justice Sunday,* led by the Social Justice Interest Group.



Other Upcoming Events

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

5 March: 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 March: 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

9 March: 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 March: Meditation Group
-Fourth Tuesday of the Month 6:00 p.m.-
-Upstairs in the Fellowship Hall-

For those who want to learn and practice a variety of visualization, meditation and relaxation techniques. For information: Nina Peacock at peacock.nina@gmail.com.



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 for your contributions through **Guest at Your Table**. MVUUF has sent a total of \$115 to UUSC to support programs in more than twenty countries around the world.

UUSC's partnerships in Kenya are transforming communities through economic opportunities and investments in children and young adults:

- In partnership with SoilFarm Multi-Culture Group, Hope in Crops teaches students to grow sustainable food crops and trees as part of the school curriculum, reducing hunger in the community, encouraging school attendance, and providing reforestation to the region.
- UUSC's partner Muungano is training young women to work as cooks or run their own catering business. Muugano also rents land to grow organic, traditional crops which are used to prepare meals for people with HIV/AIDS.
- UUSC's partner Rock Women Group, founded by a group of school teachers, provides training in safe, sustainable trades to youth living in Nairobi's slums, and helps parents learn income-generating skills to improve the likelihood their children will stay in school.
- Through its partner Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Trades, UUSC is working to improve conditions for street vendors through organization and government advocacy.
- UUSC has partnered with the Kakamega Grassroots Initiative to help widows and young adults in the region create income-generating small businesses through small loans provided by a revolving loan fund.

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*

Hello and farewell

Long time member Dennis Arnold sends "Hello to everyone in MVUUF." Dennis changed his geographic locations some time ago, but wanted to stay connected with MVUUF. Now, he is permanently settled and active in the UUF in his area, and is moving on from membership in MVUUF. Best wishes to Dennis in this new chapter, and gratitude for his part in getting MVUUF on a firm footing in its earliest days.

UU Chalice Logo News



This spring, the UUA is introducing its new logo, which congregations may also use. Additionally, the *UUA.org* website is being redesigned to focus more on religious seekers. And the UUA is developing other resources for congregations, regional groups, and the national association to use. This effort is about more than a new logo and a new look for the website, Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley, the UUA's Program and Strategy Officer said. "We have to figure out how we live out this faith of ours, not just how to sell it. We need to get clearer about the ways culture is changing and the ways we serve that culture."

The UUA hired Proverb, a brand development company, last year. "We asked them not simply to design a new logo for us, but to help us look at ourselves differently," Cooley said. The consultants, who researched the UUA's image in the larger community, found that the UUA is known for progressive and inclusive behavior. At the same time, non-UUs found it hard to differentiate from other religions because of its Protestant-style worship, unclear messaging, aging membership, lack of clarity about beliefs, and a lack of consistency in congregations.

<http://uuworld.org/news/articles/293197.shtml>

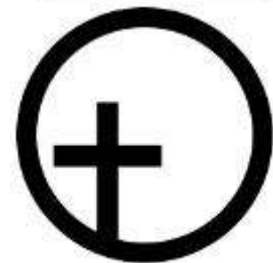
Paul Oakley shared this summary of *Prior UU logos:*

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) was formed in 1961 as a consolidation of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. Before the "merger," both denominations used symbols that were off-center within a circle. The Unitarians used the flaming chalice, which had first been introduced during WWII by the Unitarian Service Committee. The Universalists used the cross, as their theology remained closer to Christian roots than much of Unitarianism had.

After merger, the symbol of two interlocking circles with an off-center flaming chalice, which was designed to be close enough in shape to cross to resemble it without being it, sought to combine the symbolic imagery of the two as an official logo of the new denomination. The logo which officially replaced that image had the flaming chalice at the center but still was built on an image of intersecting circles, a continuing recognition of the merged nature of the organization.

The new red and orange logo includes the double Us of UUism and a torch in place of the flaming chalice - unless you use your imagination to pretend that the Us are the cup of a stemless chalice. In any case, the graphic imagery of merger is gone. Perhaps this is intended to symbolize the hope that after 50 years Unitarianism and Universalism have actually merged rather than mere federated.

The new logo is fodder for discussion and argument about many things: who we are, who we want to be, whom we are trying to reach, what we are trying to communicate, and so on.



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, March 24** for the April 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 visiting our website: www.mtvernonuuf.org
3. By emailing our Fellowship: information@mtvernonuuf.org