



UU Matters

(May 2014: Vol. 9 No. 5)

The Mt. Vernon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

~A Welcoming Congregation~

1600 Isabella, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

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.)

4 May: Donna Beaumont will lead “Our Place in the Animal World,” a meditation on how Unitarian Universalism can help us sort out our place in the animal world. An article from UUWorld magazine, “Our Animal Contradictions” by Kimberly French, is the centerpiece of the service.

11 May: The LGBT Committee will present the service in honor of LGBT artists and authors.

18 May: Blending Mother’s Day with the UUSC year long theme of “Plant Seeds-Harvest Justice,” the Social Justice Interest Group will facilitate an *Open Readings service* around the theme **Nurturing Our Mother (Earth)**. Please bring readings, stories, artwork, music that reflect this theme of caring for our planet.

Annual Membership Meeting will follow the service , and a **potluck celebration to honor retirees** will follow the meeting. Please bring a dish to share.

25 May: *Open Reading Service*. Please bring readings, stories, music, or artwork to share.



Other Upcoming Events

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

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

11 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

11 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.

18 May: Membership Meeting
-Following May 18 Sunday Service-

On the agenda: election of trustees for the 2014-15 year; a financial update, and approval of the budget for 2014-15.

18 May: Potluck Celebration to Honor Retirees
-Following Membership Meeting-
See p. 3 for details.

27 May: 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 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee 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.*

On April 6, members of the Social Justice Interest Group led the service titled “Plant Seeds, Harvest Justice.” This issue – food sovereignty- is UUSC’s focus for the year. It leads to the exploration of issues related to having the resources and opportunity to grow your own food, to establishing food security and sustainability.

In an effort to continue the conversation, members of the group, led by Vito Mastrangelo, presented a showing of the documentary *Gasland II* at the fellowship hall on Friday, April 25 to investigate the long-term impact of the controversial process called fracking. The program was well attended, and the discussion led to suggestions of how to take action. (For more information, see www.gaslandthemovie.com .)

The Social Justice Interest Group would like to present additional programs through the year to expand on the topic. We have a wealth of knowledgeable, informed persons among our fellowship and friends. Topics might include genetically modified seeds, clean water, sustainable gardening methods, use of fossil fuels in the food chain, cooperatives and farmers markets, to name a few. If you would like to present a program on a related topic, members of the Social Justice Interest Group are ready to lend a hand. To encourage sharing, we will facilitate the Open Readings service on Sunday May 18, on the topic “Nurturing Our Mother (Earth).” Please bring a reading, poem, story, piece of art reflecting the theme to share.

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*

May 18 Celebration in Honor of Retirees

Immediately after the congregational meeting on 18 May, we will mark some important milestones, recognizing all those among us who have retired or reached Social Security entitlement since organization of the Fellowship. In addition to the potluck spread, there will be champagne and sparkling grape juice. An annual recognition of retirees could become a tradition.

We will adjourn to the home and garden of Greg and Marji Gibbs for this potluck this year. Bring a dish and lawn chair. Email marji.gibbs@gmail.com for directions. Carpooling if convenient will help with parking.



Lawn Mowing season

Thanks to Paul Eatherton and Eric Garcia for lawn care and planting .

Other UU Matters

Considering MVUUF membership? Please ask a Board of Trustees member for a prospective member folder, or a membership form.



Library Matters

The MVUUF Library catalogue is available online at www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF . Recent donations to the library have been added to the LibraryThing catalog at and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship.

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](mailto:marji.gibbs(at)gmail.com) by **Monday, May 26** for the May 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.

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.

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