



# UU Matters

(September 2015: Vol. 10 No. 9)

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 fellowship hall.)

**6 September:** *Open Readings Service*, facilitated by Theresa Rowe. Please bring readings, music, creative endeavors, anything you would like to share. Open Readings can be some of our most special services.

**13 September:** Donna Beaumont will lead a service on *Creating Peace*, focusing on the UN International Day of Peace, celebrated each year on Sept 21 to recognize the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. The service will have as its centerpiece the UUA Statement of Conscience, *Creating Peace*, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2010.

**20 September:** The Building Your Own Theology group, six of our fellowship participants led by Diane Schwitz, met on Sundays during June, July and August, to explore questions of theology and UU visions. In this service the BYOT group will share some of the readings discussed and parts of the process of examining beliefs and developing one's own credo.

**27 September:** Mike DeVilbiss will lead this service, "Can a 'Leopard' Change its Spots? Observations on the Possibility to Change."

Please check the MVUUF [website](#) for updates to the schedule.



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# Other Upcoming Events

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

## **2 September                      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:** Greg Gibbs, Co-chair, Nina Peacock, Secretary; Terry Schwitz, Co-chair; Larry Sidwell, Treasurer, and Susan Trotter, Co-chair.

## **6 September                      Buddhist Meditation**

- Usually the Second Sunday of the 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)

## **13 September                    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.

## **16 September                  Open Minds Discussion Group**

-Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-

Gail DeVilbiss will will share information and an activity on "Environmental Ethics-Where Do You Stand?" The public is welcome.

## **20 September                  Fellowship Cleaning Day**

-Following the Coffee Hour and a pizza break-

Help us clean for the new season.; we'll stay until we're done.

## **29 September                  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](mailto:peacock.nina@gmail.com).

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## ***Tenth Anniversary of Mt Vernon UUF, Part 8***

The steering committee met on 9/06/05. A date for the music festival had been set and advertised, but there were concerns about low attendance. It was decided to hold a small event, sharing music at the fellowship building in the afternoon after the Sunday service. Vito Mastrangelo and Adam Stone – our in-house attorneys - agreed to resolve the non-profit status by January. Glenda Eubanks agreed to continue to plan film nights for Wednesdays through October.

By September, the founding group had decided to hold Sunday services only, eliminating the alternating Tuesday services. At least three Sunday services were held that month. On 9/04/05, Floyd Hale was the speaker. Diane Schwitz recalls that Rev Hale was a retired United Methodist minister who wrote a newspaper column in Benton IL, “kind of a ‘renegade’ preacher as many ministers and church folks did not agree with his theology.” Vito Mastrangelo recalls that Rev Hale wrote several books; one titled *Everything You Wanted to Know About the Bible but Were Afraid to Ask* caught the interest of our founder Randy Farrar, who invited Rev. Hale to speak. Vito says, “I seem to remember his visit went well.” (Ed note: Google “Floyd Hale” and prepare to smile.)

On 9/18/05, the fellowship received the good news that Shannon Green’s child – Desmond – had been born early that morning. In true MVUUF fashion, Diane Schwitz filled in and read Shannon’s parts in that open readings service. During the Sunday service 9/25/05, Adam Stone gave a reading on the history of UU and social justice. Desmond, at one week of age, attended his first Sunday service. The music event was held in the afternoon.

Pat Martin offered a weaving class, but with Shannon just having had the baby, and other barriers to attendance, the class was cancelled.

Wednesday nights continued as a film series event, with Glenda Eubanks taking responsibility for choosing the films. The films *Amalie* and *Dark Crystal* were offered. With low attendance, it was decided that once a week might be too much – perhaps once a month would be better.

### **Open Minds**

#### ***September Discussion: Environmental Ethics***

The September 16 Open Minds discussion and an activity, led by Gail DeVilbiss, will be on the topic of “Environmental Ethics-Where Do You Stand?”

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series on the third Wednesday of each month **at 7 p.m.** at the fellowship building, to encourage exploration and discussion of social justice and related issues. The series is open to the public.

If you have a topic to discuss, concerning social justice, economic justice, environmental justice – or just being an informed citizen – please contact Donna or Vito.

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# UU Women's Connection Conference



Fall Retreat, October 9-11, 2015  
at the DeKoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin

**The Red Tent: Things We Don't Talk About (Women's Stories from the Red Tent)**

Featuring Special Guest: Dr. Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost

From [isadoraleidenfrost.com](http://isadoraleidenfrost.com): "Inspired by women's communities and textile traditions, Dr. Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost creates documentary films, video productions, websites, and other multimedia. Dr. Isadora is trained as both a filmmaker, a textile historian, and a feminist folklorist. Her mission is to create multi-media to empower women. She holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and a Masters and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition to her educational experiences, Dr. Isadora has owned and operated Soulful Media, her film production company since 2004 and has produced 13 films since she began. Dr. Isadora continues to be inspired by international travel and many of her films have led her to live in and travel in more than 18 countries."

During the weekend with Dr. Isadora, the Women's Connection will see her groundbreaking documentary "Things We Don't Talk About" that shows how the Red Tent, a red fabric space, is empowering women. The film documents the things women hide, the things that bring them pain and joy, and for many it is a place to be honest for the first time in their life. "Things We Don't Talk About" seeks to humanize the stories in the red tent—to put a face on the space. Read more at [redtentmovie.com](http://redtentmovie.com).

The current issue of UU Women's Connection newsletter *Voices of Women*, containing the [conference brochure](#), is available at: [www.uuwomensconnection.org/](http://www.uuwomensconnection.org/)

## Annual Ingathering Water Ceremony Aug. 30



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## Next: UU Cleaning Day

On Sunday September 20 after the Sunday service and coffee hour, bring out the vacuum, brushes and mops, to join in the Fellowship cleaning day. The Board will provide pizza to fortify us before cleaning.

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Unitarian Universalists claim no statement of doctrine. We believe there is no one right way to lead a religious or spiritual life. We value each individual's spiritual journey, and believe in reason, freedom, equality, and love. Join us as we gather in community, seeking peace and justice for all persons.

## [Seven Principles of UU](#)

### **Newspaper Announcement Guidelines**

Submissions for the Friday "church news" sections of both the Sentinel and the Register-News are sent on the Monday morning prior to the service or event. [If you are leading a service, or planning a Fellowship event, please email your information to Debbie at: \[bdcw@frontiernet.net\]\(mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net\) by 8 p.m., on the prior Sunday.](#) A few sentences is fine. Many new attendees have told us that they found MVUUF through 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, September 21** for the October issue. [Please email October dates for the website as soon as available.](#) 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.

### **Committee Matters: *Committee co-chairpersons:***

Contact committee chair via [information@mtvernonuuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuuf.org)

#### **Nominating**

Vito Mastrangelo

#### **Religious Education**

Deb Czarnopys-White

#### **Memorial**

Deb Czarnopys-White

#### **Welcoming& Hospitality**

Theresa Rowe

Glenda Eubanks

April Peyton

#### **Programming**

Donna Beaumont

Gail DeVilbiss

Glenda Eubanks

Roberta Price

Theresa Rowe

#### **Building& Grounds**

Terry Schwitz

Deb Czarnopys-White

Vito Mastrangelo

Susan Davis

#### **Publications & Library**

Nina Peacock

Beth Brennan, Library

Marji Gibbs, Web/newsletter

#### **Music**

Angela Czapiewski

Mike DeVilbiss

#### **LGBT Concerns**

Deb Czarnopys-White

Roberta Price

April Peyton

Diane Schwitz

## 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](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/MVUUF) . Recent donations to the library have been added to the LibraryThing catalog and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship.

## 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](http://www.mtvernonuuf.org)
3. By emailing our Fellowship: [information@mtvernonuuf.org](mailto:information@mtvernonuuf.org)

