



# UU Matters

(November 2015: Vol. 10 No. 11)

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.)

**1 November:** Gail DeVilbiss will lead this service and Day of the Dead celebration.

**8 November:** The Social Justice Interest Group will lead this service, on “Gratitude.”

**15 November:** *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings, music, creative endeavors, anything you would like to share. Open Readings can be some of our most special services.

**22 November:** *Open Readings Service.* Please bring readings, music, creative endeavors, anything you would like to share, and join us for Open Readings.

**29 November:** *Open Readings Service.* Please bring more readings, music, creative endeavors, anything you would like to share to this Open Readings service.

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.)

**4 November**                      **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.

**8 November**                      **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)

**8 November**                      **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 November**                      **Open Minds Discussion Group**  
-Third Wednesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.-

Vito Mastrangelo will lead discussion on the topic "Gerrymandering No More!"  
More details on page 4 of newsletter. The public is welcome.

**24 November**                      **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: November***

On November 1, the steering committee got down to business – the business it would take to form a congregation, a recognized business entity. Adam Stone, one of the founding members who is an attorney, presented a detailed document – four pages of key organizational issues including Mission Statement, Bylaws, incorporation as Not-for-profit, fulfillment of other recurring UUA requirements, premises liability insurance, fulfillment of other state and federal requirements. The steering committee decided to move ahead with Adam’s recommendations. Vito Mastrangelo – also an attorney - agreed to draft the Bylaws, using as a guide those adopted by the Carbondale UUF. On November 30, the bylaws committee (Adam, Vito, Beth, Glenda, and Linda Rowe) went through the draft developed by Vito, and revised it further.

Randy brought up his concern that the roof needed to be replaced. Discussion of selling the pews and buying stackable chairs continued. Social justice concerns led to a change in advertising: The *Register-News* had published an anti-homosexual editorial; the steering committee decided to explore disengaging from the *Register-News*, and instead advertising in the *Sentinel*.

Sunday services were held every week in November except Thanksgiving weekend, with most members taking a turn facilitating or reading. Vito led Open Minds on November 16, 2005.

### ***Date Set for 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Celebration***



Mark your calendar for May 15, 2016. That’s the date set for the Tenth Anniversary Homecoming Celebration at MVUUF. The Program committee has been joined by Susan Trotter, representing the Board of Trustees, to plan the event. There is a lot to do: construct a list of every one who has been a member or friend of the Fellowship since the very earliest meetings in May 2005, issue invitations, come up with ideas for a Sunday service, perhaps special music or other performances. And, of course, something involving food!

The committee would appreciate more help and ideas. Please let Donna B, Susan, or any other member of the Program Committee know how you would like to help. We’ll be meeting once a month after October. Also, the bulletin board at the back of the Fellowship Hall will soon be designated “Ten Years of Fellowship” with room for you to post photos, stories, and other remembrances. Watch for it!

# Open Minds

## **November 18 Discussion: Gerrymandering No More!**

The Independent Map Amendment is a proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution that would change the way Illinois draws the maps for electoral districts (redistricting or "gerrymandering"). The petition to adopt the amendment is currently circulating, and if signed by enough people, it would go into effect. In other words, this is an example of "direct democracy", and politicians do not play a part in the adoption of the amendment, as in almost all other cases of adopting law. Instead, this Amendment would create an independent bipartisan commission to draw the maps.

In 2013-2014, more than 600,000 Illinoisans signed a similar petition, but the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that there were defects in the language of the proposed amendment. So, another try in 2015-2016 with the defects fixed. The effort is led by a statewide nonpartisan coalition; see more at [www.mapamendment.org/](http://www.mapamendment.org/). The League of Women Voters of Illinois is one of the sponsors: [www.lwvil.org/redistricting.html](http://www.lwvil.org/redistricting.html).

Join us to learn more and to sign the petition. Everyone is welcome! 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.

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

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

### **Nominating**

Vito Mastrangelo

### **Welcoming & Hospitality**

Theresa Rowe

Glenda Eubanks

April Peyton

### **Building & Grounds**

Terry Schwitz

Deb Czarnopys-White

Vito Mastrangelo

Susan Davis

### **Religious Education**

Deb Czarnopys-White

### **Music**

Angela Czapiewski

Mike DeVilbiss

### **Programming**

Donna Beaumont

Gail DeVilbiss

Glenda Eubanks

Roberta Price

Theresa Rowe

### **Memorial**

Deb Czarnopys-White

### **LGBT Concerns**

Deb Czarnopys-White

Roberta Price

April Peyton

Diane Schwitz

### **Publications & Library**

Nina Peacock

Beth Brennan, Library

Debbie Czarnopys-White,

Newspaper announcements

Marji Gibbs, Web/Newsletter

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## UU Women's Connection Fall Retreat: *The Red Tent*



Two MVUUF members, Debbie and Nina, were Women of the Red Tent

Deb Czarnopys-White and Nina Peacock enjoyed the fun and unique dorm-like accommodations at the beautiful DeKoven Center on Lake Michigan in Racine, WI. The special speaker Dr. Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost, filmmaker and fabric artist, brought the beautiful red tent and many huge pieces of silk and lace which completely surrounded and comforted us. She presented her movie "Things We Don't Talk About - Women's Stories from the Red Tent," showing Red Tent meetings that are taking place across America and throughout the world. This movement is helping women have 'safe places' to talk and share. The Red Tent Movement's origination was *The Red Tent* novel by Anita Diamont, but it has moved on much beyond that. Check out the Red Tent Movement! Maybe we'll get one going around us! Next fall's UU Women's Connection retreat will be held October 14-16, 2016.

### 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 **Sunday, November 22** for the December issue. [Please email November 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.

## 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)