



UU Matters

(April 2016: Vol. 11 No. 4)

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.)

3 April: Roberta Price will lead this service.

10 April: David Trotter will lead this service, “Humans—Who Are We?”

17 April: The Social Justice Interest Group will lead this service for Earth Day .

24 April: Susan Trotter will lead this service, “Humor in Religion.”

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



*Respect for the
Interdependent Web of All
Life ~ The Seventh Principle
of Unitarian-Universalism*

Tenth Anniversary—April 2006

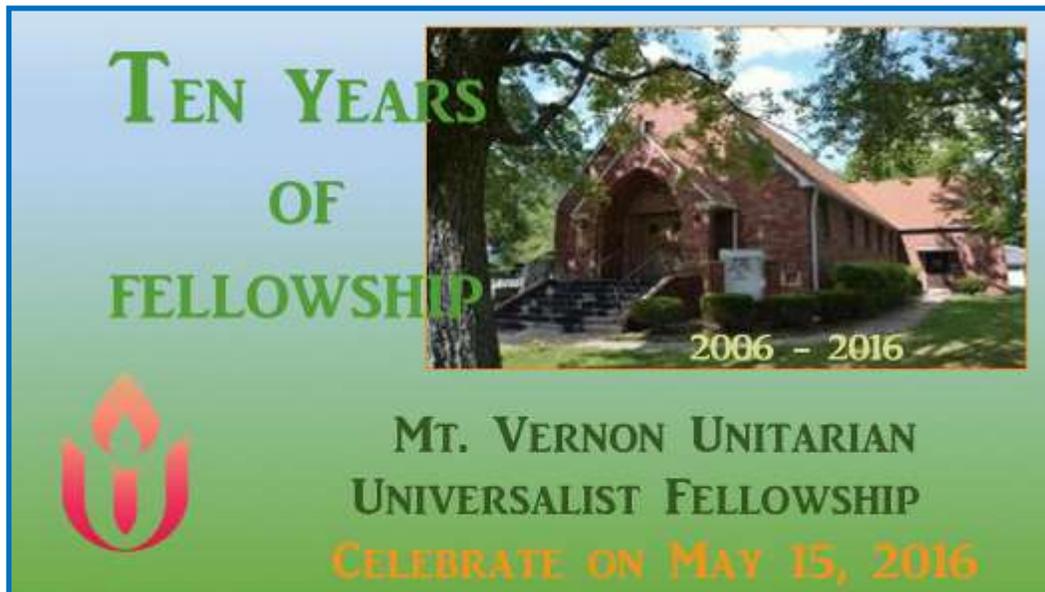
Paul Oakley provides this information about activities in April 2006:

“In April of 2006, we had a meeting of (call us what you will at that point) proto-members who voted to adopt the bylaws and legally organize. There was no legal organization until the week after that meeting so, technically, there were no members yet, although we did sign membership forms immediately after the meeting at which we adopted the bylaws. If you find my membership form, it is dated on the very first day that membership came into being, the same day as the meeting at which we voted to accept the bylaws and legally organize. Then in May of 2006 we had our first regular membership meeting for electing our first Board.”

That “very first day” was April 23, 2006. These are the first to sign membership forms on April 23, 2006:

Randall S. Farrar, founding member, (deceased 7/3/06); Saribenne Evesong (deceased 11/30/09), Dennis Arnold, Beth Brennan, Shannon Green, Vito Mastrangelo, Paul Oakley, and Adam Stone.

The deadline for nominations to the first Board to be included on the written ballot was 5/14/06. Others who signed membership forms on or before that date are Walter Lazenby, Glenda Eubanks, Vicki Doetsch, Nina Peacock, Diane Schwitz, and Kelly Taylor.



Could you help?

- ◆ We seek photos/write-ups for our In Memorium board for the tenth anniversary celebration – for Randy Farrar, Saribenne Evesong, and Charles Jay.
- ◆ We are also questing for digital photos for a photo “loop” for the 10th Anniversary
- ◆ And photos, flyers, special orders of service, and other mementos are needed for the Ten Years of Fellowship bulletin board.

Please share your writing and items with the Tenth Anniversary committee (Donna, Glenda, Theresa, Gail, Roberta, and Susan (Board liaison)).

Open Minds

April 20, 6:30 p.m. Climate Change 102

Open Minds discussion on Wednesday, April 20 will center on Climate Change, as a second part of our two-month discussion. Climate Change 102 offers a more micro view. Leadership on these is Vito, Mike D and Roberta P.

The Social Justice Interest Group hosts the Open Minds discussion series on the third Wednesday of each month **at 6:30 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.

Being Environmental

Being Environmental can start with gardening practices that promote compatibility with nature. One can look at native plants and trees first. It's becoming more difficult not to find an altered plant or cultivar. We're being told to buy the "new and improved" and disregard the old tried and true. Although the cultivars may not be as disease and insect-resistant as the original native plants/trees, they do attract our native insects, all of which play a vital role in continuing the cycle of life. There is still a place for cultivars in our gardens. They are beautiful and can help promote an interest in a special theme or type of plant. However, this increased disease and pest resistance often comes with decreased scent, color and perhaps, in the case of vegetables or fruit, taste. Starting from seed is a labor of love and the use of a good grow light or a favored directional window really help. If interested in buying starter plants, they are also becoming available. It all comes down to choices and there's not a bad one as long as we get to connect with our soil and our sun.

For those who might be experiencing ants inside the home, consider mixing borax crystals with sugar and water and setting around their favorite places with cotton balls or something similar. In a short time, this should hopefully decrease and eliminate the problem. They don't like cinnamon either. It doesn't harm them perhaps as much just drive them back outside. Remember this is for inside the home. If they're outside, that's their natural home.

Debbie Czarnopys-White

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." ~Robert Louis Stevenson



Rev. Scott Aaseng , director of the recently formed UU advocacy Network of IL (UUANI) recently reached out to leaders of 22 Illinois UU congregations to get a sense for the top concerns of UUs around the state. As part of the process, Rev Bill Sasso visited MVUUF in January and met with interested people from our Fellowship.

Later in January, UUANI identified these guiding concerns when selecting areas of focus:

- **Grounding:** Does it reflect the deeply held values and broadly shared interests of people in our congregations?
- **Accountability:** Are we acting in relationships of solidarity with those most impacted, particularly those most marginalized?
- **Fit:** Does it match our capacity to act effectively, and does it strategically build our capacity?
- **Opportunity:** Is there a political opportunity to achieve meaningful results?

The results were clear, and UUANI agreed to focus on the following major issue areas

- **Environmental Justice:** Reflecting our UU respect for the interdependent web, and in partnership with the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (which includes strong representation from low-income people of color), we will continue to push for strong implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan through the [IL Clean Jobs bill](#).
- **Economic Justice:** Reflecting our UU commitment to justice, equity and compassion, and in partnership with the Responsible Budget Coalition (which also includes strong representation from low-income people of color), we will continue to push for a graduated state income tax ([Fair Tax](#)) with higher lower rates for lower incomes and higher rates for higher incomes. We will also continue to support various efforts to fully fund the state budget.
- **Racial Justice:** Reflecting our UU commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we will work to build partnerships between UUs and organizations representing people of color in communities around the state, expressing our solidarity by listening to and following the lead of these organizations. In addition to supporting various local efforts, we will advocate in partnership with the UU [Prison Ministry](#).

UUANI seeks to empower Illinois UUs to do the work of justice in our state. You are invited to join the [Facebook group](#) for action updates and ongoing conversation.

IL Clean Jobs Bill Advocacy

Working with UUANI (UU Advocacy Network of Illinois), MVUUF Social Justice Interest Group has action cards in support of the **Clean Jobs Bill**, addressed to Gov. Rauner and IL EPA director Lisa Bonnett. The cards and **Clean Jobs Factsheet** are on the table at back of the Fellowship hall, for those interested. We will assure that they'll be delivered in time (Continued on page 6)

IL Clean Jobs Bill Advocacy, continued fr. P.5)

to make it to the legislators later in April. The UUANI position:

“The Clean Power Plan—the first-ever federal plan to limit dangerous carbon pollution from power plants—presents an unprecedented opportunity for Illinois to improve our health, environment, and economy. As an Illinois resident, I support a strong and just implementation of the **Clean Power Plan** through the **Illinois Clean Jobs** bill. The benefits of this plan including clean energy development, lower electric bills, and pollution reduction should be made available throughout Illinois, and especially in vulnerable communities that have had to deal with the brunt of fossil fuel pollution.”

The full text, and the fact sheet with detailed positions on clean energy development, lower electric bills, and pollution reduction, are available at the fellowship.

Flint Water Crisis Support

See p.8 for plea for action and for information from Rev. Deane Oliva, UU Congregation of Flint concerning water quality and the water crisis in Flint, MI

Spring Cleaning Day Saturday April 16

Gather your cleaning supplies and some rocking music, and gather at the Fellowship at 10:00 a.m. for spring cleaning!



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 on a variety of subjects have been added to the LibraryThing catalog and are now available on the shelves at the fellowship. New donations bring our total number of books to just over 700.

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.

Committee Matters:

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

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: \[bdew@frontiernet.net\]\(mailto:bdew@frontiernet.net\) 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@gmail.com) by [deadline of Friday, April 25](#) for the May issue. [Please email 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 & web links, etc.



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

FLINT WATER CRISIS INFORMATION

Dear Good People,

First and foremost, the crisis is not exaggerated. The pipes are corroded, the water is contaminated. Distribution of water and water filters is a welcome but totally inadequate response. Fixing the now ruined infrastructure is both necessary and costly.

Importantly, testing has clearly shown elevated levels of lead in the systems of Flint children. Know this: the effects of lead poisoning are permanent and affect the cognitive, physical, regulatory, social, and behavioral aspects of the individual causing, learning, behavioral, attentional, and physiological problems, potentially for the rest of one's life.

For children, treatment consists of immediate riddance of the lead source, healthy diet, increases in Vitamins C, calcium, zinc, phosphorous and iron; educational, language, hearing, behavioral and mental health resources and assistance.

Please spread the word. Test the water in your area. Be mindful of the toxic materials we are placing into our environment as a result of the plastic and chemicals being utilized.

How can you help?

If you would like to donate funds

www.flintkids.org - The Flint Child Health & Development Fund will support the delivery of critical public health, medical, and community-based services and interventions that address and mitigate the short and long term impacts experienced by Flint's children who have been exposed to lead.

www.unitedwaygeneseesee.org - a fund for the purchase of filters, bottled water, emergency support services and prevention efforts. 100% of the fund is used for these projects and no administrative fee is assessed

Michigan Red Cross, Flint Chapter, 1401 S Grand Traverse St, Flint, MI 48503

Phone:(810) 232-1401

For more information:

www.michigan.gov/flintwater

www.epa.gov/flint

<http://bridgemi.com/2016/02/flint-water-disaster-timeline/>

Compiled by: Deane Oliva, Minister, UU Congregation of Flint (Updated February 12, 2016). To contact Rev Oliva: cogenisys@aol.com 270- 779 9222