

Upcoming Worship Services
Sunday Worship begins at 10:30 am

Unless otherwise stated below, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services.

*****Daylight Saving Time begins: Your clocks “spring” forward at 2 am Sunday, March 8*****

March 8 Nodes and Natures: Spiritual Intelligence Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Meet the Minister. Following the service, newcomers, visitors, and the simply curious are invited to grab a cup of coffee or tea and then return to the sanctuary for a brief discussion and question & answer session with Rev. Hilary.

March 15 Spirit and Matter: Making It Real Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

We will take the opportunity to reflect on the integration of our values and the life of our congregation as well as our capacity to put faith into action.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in this morning’s offering will be donated to Kids on Track, a camp for children aged 3 to 13 who live in the backstretch at Arlington Racetrack during the racing season. The goal of Kids on Track is to provide the children both social and academic education. The camp is run by School District 214 and provides a healthy breakfast and lunch for the children. The camp also provides tutoring, arts and crafts, school enrichment activities, computer training, library visits, and field trips for the children.

March 22 Women’s Heritage Service Marianne Solome

A celebration of Liberal Religion’s influence on the Women’s Rights/Suffrage movement as illuminated by individual members of those faiths.

March 29 UUSC Justice Sunday David Cohen and Social Action Ctte

This year’s Justice Sunday service will focus on environmental justice uniting Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide in standing and taking action together on this pressing human rights issue. The human right to water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water, for personal and domestic use. Yet water injustice is a grim reality for millions of people around the globe, particularly for low-income communities. On Justice Sunday, you will learn more about environmental justice issues and the simple steps you can take to have real impact on our world. In addition, our congregation will be presented with 2 awards relating to our social justice work.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in this morning’s offering will be donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Inside This Issue...

- p.2 Minister’s Muse... Path to Membership... Meet the Minister...
- p.3 Spice Cafe... Frosted Windows?... Ladies Night Out...
- p.4 Adult Faith Development News... Invite to Camp...
- p.5 Mentors Needed...
- p.6 Sleep-Out Saturday (SOS)...
- p.7 Seder... Book Groups... Did You Know... District Assembly... SOS Volunteer Form...
- p.8 Upcoming Meetings & Events
- p.9-10: Making the Most of Our Money mentor application

Just Scheduled

Kathy Kelly
from Voices for Creative Nonviolence
(www.VCNV.org)
will speak on her recent trip to Gaza
at Countryside Church UU
on Sunday, March 8, 1 – 3 pm

Upcoming Focus Deadlines
March 16 and 30 @ 9 am

Submissions can be submitted to the church office
or e-mailed to ccuu@ccuu.org.

The Minister's Muse

It's hard to believe that this year is speeding by so quickly. Last Focus I wrote about how fast things come at you and how good it is to have a supportive community in which to find support in such times. It's great to be flexible - to be nimble facing the speed of life.

But in dialogue and in our interior lives things can't really move so fast. They have to slow down - so that we get to know one another and stay in touch with ourselves.

Our religious lives are not meant to be fast. Religious community - centered on a religious life - has to do with people who are drawn together in their shared search for and discovery of meaning. It means people who are - by definition - together to contemplate and deepen their insight into those things that make us profoundly human - and human profoundly. And that's a wide range of things that are in no way quick. It takes time to build community, to strengthen institutions, time to reflect, and time to converse well.

I was drawn to Unitarian Universalism because it is committed to being fresh and unformulaic - because it challenges each of us to be, on some level, both mindful and intentional. How can we build a common faith without each of us knowing ourselves well and being able to articulate and share what we know. None of this requires high falutin' degrees in theology or even higher education - it requires the time and patience to grope for the right and accurate words - knowing they will allude you — and it requires the time and patience to share them and to hear the thoughts of others.

In addition, religious community is meant to carry us through the challenges of our lives. To give us companions on life's journey. Especially in this age of fast paces, working families, mega stresses, and miles between family members - we need the sort of genuine connectedness that religious community can offer. It's not quick either - you have to show up for it - you have to take time with it. Gradually I am getting to know a large community of amazing people - people who have been here for decades and people who have been here for a few weeks or months. I look forward to getting to know you better - but I also hope that you take the risk and the time to get to know each other.

This idea of taking time is partly why I preached one of a number of sermons that we'll share on words. It's so easy and so misleading to label ourselves and one another. Too often we forget that the labels we assign other people have more to do with the ideas that we have than the ideas they have or the reality of their lives.

Many religions have forms of study that enable each person to move more deeply along a religious path. Our path is one of dialogue. Aptly enough I was out at a Thai Restaurant have a rare and precious full staff face to face meeting and, we opened our fortune cookies my fortune said: "Words should be weighed and not measured." Just so, grasshopper! It is not only good to weigh our words but to take time to get to know our congregational brothers and sisters - to understand their theological paths, struggles, and insights. It's good define our words - not so that we all agree but so that, if we do disagree at least we know what we mean by what we say. It will take us further. I am convinced that, while we are each marvelous and unique, we share some common experience and grounding - we just approach it from very different places. It takes time and care to find and stand upon that common ground. It takes words.

But more than that - it takes time to build relationships and to build a strong fabric of community. In the midst of busy lives this is good time to take. It builds what has come to be known as social capital and it's a sure investment.

Path to Membership Classes

This three-session class covers UU history, traditions, Principles, practices and beliefs, as well as Countryside history, society, stewardship, and more. The classes include time for discussion, socializing and refreshments. The next classes will be held from 7-9 pm on Tuesday, March 31; Wednesday, April 8; and Thursday, April 16. It is led by members of the Membership Committee and Rev. Hilary. Sign up on the kiosk near the greeter window.

Meet the Minister

Newcomers, visitors, and the simply curious are invited to grab a cup of coffee or tea and then return to the sanctuary for a brief discussion and question & answer session with Rev. Hilary. Meet the Minister happens monthly; upcoming dates are March 8, April 5, May 3, June 7.



Spice Café

March 14, 1-5 pm

We will have lively conversations about life, meaning, the universe, and our church at the Countryside Church Spice Cafe. We will revisit key elements of our SpICE Long Term Direction goals (Spirituality, Involvement, Communication, and Education). We'll meet and share creative dreams and design programs and plans for now and the future.

Why now? We have had momentous changes at CCUU over the past 7 years. A new minister, vibrant staff, and new leadership have emerged, providing a foundation for making our church more relevant in these interesting times -relevant to our personal lives, our community, and to those people who have yet to discover Unitarian Universalism, but who long for what we have found here.



Come and help SpICE up our future!



Come for exploration, sharing, and getting to know one another better through our ideas of what counts in life and church !

Please RSVP to ccuursvp@gmail.com or 847-359-8440, ext.1
Childcare will be available; please indicate your need for it when you RSVP.



[The Bingo FUNdraiser originally scheduled for the evening has been postponed.]

Frosted Windows?

Are you one of the people who noticed the new frosted window treatment on the Sanctuary doors? If you didn't ask one of the Ushers, then you are probably still wondering about them. If you are asking yourself, "What frosted window treatment?," here's an explanation.

You have witnessed your Worship Council in action. Creating a sense of peace and a reverent space for our Sunday morning service is a sacred priority, and the bright sounds of friends greeting friends and newcomers being welcomed in the Narthex easily transferred into the Sanctuary. Our intent was to create a transition point between exterior noise and interior calm. We think this simple treatment has been an effective way to signal this transition.

Thank you for entering our Sunday morning Sanctuary as the "sanctuary" we hope it is for you. Let us find the still, quiet place where we can prepare to enter deeply into our service and be renewed for the week ahead."

...The Worship Council (Jim Booth, Lisa Christensen, Nancy Cowger, Karen Epps, Marty Farrington, Laura Gadley, Helen Hawthorne, Kristin Huston, Gloria Kinney, Joyce Marks, Leslie Peet, Lois Phillips, Janeane Weprin, Rev. Hilary)

Ladies Night Out

If you would be interested in joining other women for a potluck and viewing of Mamma Mia on Friday, March 6 here at church, contact Juli Cicarelli. It is a really fun movie, good for both mothers and daughters.

focus

Published by Countryside Church

1025 N. Smith Road • Palatine, IL • 60067 • (847) 359-8440

Website: www.ccuu.org • Fax: (847) 359-4728

e-mail: ccuu@ccuu.org

Church Office Hours *Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9am-2pm
Weds: 2-8 pm; Fri:9am-Noon*

Minister *Hilary Landau Krivchenia*
Director of Religious Education *Colleen Vahey*
Music Director & Pianist *Jeffrey Hamrick*
Minister Emeritus *Dr. Ruppert L. Lovely*
Community-Based Minister *Dr. C. Scot Giles*
Music Director Emeritus *John Denny*
Congregational Administrator *Laurie Lantz*

Lay Ministers

Ken Bobbe and Trudy Kleckner, Coordinators
Richard Chay Joyce Swedlund
Larry Frank Kimberly Tilford
Jane Matthews Dan Yokas

For assistance from our Lay or Care Ministries, please call Ken or Trudy.

Adult Faith Development News

Movies with Meaning: March 13, 7- 9:30 pm

Join us the second Friday of each month for enlightening discussion and exploration. This month's theme: *Where ideas come from: insight, intuition, and inspiration*. For more information on coming programs and past topics: <http://citizenstruth.info/afdfilms/>

Visit the NEW! meetup group for film series: <http://www.meetup.com/2nd-Friday-Film/calendar/9738809/>

Dances of Universal Peace: March 22, 1- 3 pm

Simple music, lyrics, and movements touch the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. No musical or dance experience is required. Everyone is welcome!

Health Care Summit: Policy Perspectives & Personal Advocacy -- March 28, 1- 4 pm

Come join us for discussion of the global and local issues on health care. We will give an overview of the current policy positions and proposals being presented by the Obama administration. We will also present alternative perspectives, resources and options for citizens, ways of improving your health care choices, and how to get involved in making improvements. For more information visit <http://www.better-day.info>, or contact Hal Snyder or Dan Wiseman.

Common Ground Lecture: April 26, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

"Suffering and Happiness from a Buddhist Perspective" with Jim Kinney, Executive Director of Common Ground and Co-Editor of *Interreligious Insight: a Journal of Dialogue and Engagement*. Buddha began his very first sermon by describing the nature of human "dissatisfaction" its origins, its cessation, and the blissful end. What is often ignored is the strong Buddhist message about happiness. We will take up both aspects of human experience as we explore the existential ground of Buddhist thought. Suggested donation: \$10 to cover the cost of the session.

Journeys Retreat: May 15-16

Fearlessness: The Ground We Walk On, The Path We Take

Join us on a journey to find strength, clarity and direction in disordered times. Our annual retreat will be held on the beautiful grounds of University of St. Mary's, Mundelein. Lodging is available or you may commute. Led by the Rev. Hilary Krivchenia. For more information or to register, please contact the church office, 847-359-8440.



A CCUU Invite To Come Camping!

When: July 24-26, 2009
Where: Maple Leaf Park in Earlville*, IL (www.mapleleafpark.com)
* A mere 75 miles from church!
Cost/night: Singles- \$15 Doubles or families - \$30



An all-congregation campout!! What could be more fun??

Families-Singles-Doubles-All are invited – your dogs are too!! Maple Leaf Park is a great place for swimming, fishing (guaranteed!), frogging, eating, sporting and over-all community building! There's even a REAL drive-in movie theatre in town! The Unitarian Church of Evanston has invited us to share the small campground with them, so we can make new friends too! All-church activities include a potluck dinner Saturday night AND a beautiful Sunday service outdoors – it doesn't get any better!!

We hope EVERYONE is interested... If you are, please **complete the form below and turn in by April 5!** (Camping fees will be collected later). Drop off in the "camping box" in the office or mail to Margaret Myren, 324 E. Liberty St., Barrington, IL 60010.

??

Family name: _____ # Adults _____ # Kids _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Email Address: _____ # of Nights Staying: _____

[] I am interested in helping organize sports, the potluck or Sunday service details



Mentors need for

Making the Most of Our Money

(a program formerly known as "All My Money")



In these tough economic times, would you like to help another individual or family learn better money management skills? Are you good at working one-on-one with people? We are currently looking for mentors for Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist's *Making the Most of Our Money* program. You do not need to have any background in finance or teaching to participate.

Making the Most of Our Money is a program that meets for nine weeks where volunteers like you act as a mentor to individuals who are trying to learn better money management skills and how to budget. Each class begins with teacher-lead large-group instruction followed by one-on-one activities to reinforce the concepts and assist the clients in improving their financial circumstances. As mentors work with their clients, the teachers are always available for questions and assistance.

In order to be a mentor for the next session of *Making the Most of Our Money*, you need to be available on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. from April 1 through May 27, 2009.

Interested? Come to an informational meeting and training session to learn more about the program and its components, the role of the mentor, and to get a feel for whether or not this program is a good match for your particular skills.

Please bring your completed application to one of the following meetings: Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon OR Monday, March 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Both meetings are held at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, 1025 North Smith Road, Palatine, Illinois. The church is on Smith Road between Rt. 14 (Northwest Highway) and Dundee Road. We are located west of Rt. 53.

For questions or to RSVP for a training session, contact: Dave Cohen at (312) 606-3451, Karen Noorani at (630) 924-9578 or email the program at information@mostmoney.org.

Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist
Making the Most of Our Money Program
1025 North Smith Street
Palatine, Illinois 60067
E-mail: information@mostmoney.org

Sleep-Out-Saturday

March 21, 5pm-March 22, morning

(Rain date: May 9)



On Saturday, March 21, UU churches throughout the Central Midwest District will participate in concurrent "Cardboard City" events, to raise awareness about the growing numbers of people who are homeless, and raise funds for local shelters & support services.

The evening will be full of learning opportunities for all ages. We hope you will join us for as much of the program as possible.

Saturday	5:00	Home Building
	5:30	Soup Dinner
	6:30	Worship
	7:00	Activities & Discussion
	8:00	Movie & Reflection
	10:30	Campfire & Hot chocolate
	11:30	Lights Out
Sunday	8:00 AM	Wake up
	8:30	Breakfast, Discussion & Reflection
	9:30	Prepare for Service, Classes, etc...

Participants are asked to bring their own boxes or tents and to collect pledges to benefit our local PADS program (Public Action to Deliver Shelter).

MAKE SURE YOU ARE DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER

- ◆ **Youth in 8th grade and younger must be accompanied by a parent or designated adult for the night.** Youth from neighboring churches must be accompanied by a youth advisor (6youth:1advisor ratio).
- ◆ No young person may leave early unless:
 - Early departure has been pre-arranged with DRE and youth advisor
 - Written notice signed by a parent was provided
- ◆ No electronic equipment may be with the participants. i.e. cell phones, iPods, etc. This is to help enrich the experience of identifying w/ people who are homeless. Items taken away will be returned after the event*
- ◆ Convey participant health issues to DRE or youth advisor prior to the event.
- ◆ All medications must be turned in and administered by a youth advisor.
- ◆ Please bring your own box; we will have a limited number of boxes available for those who need them.
 - Only one person per box.
 - Box design must be such that with the box closed the entire body will fit in the box
 - No box may be closer than 2 feet from another box.
 - Each participant is responsible for the disposal of his/her own box. Before departing from the event, we ask that **each person break down his/her box and take the cardboard home to recycle.**
- ◆ Atherton Hall will serve as a warming room to anyone who feels they need it.
- ◆ The church will be open for access to the bathroom and drinking fountains.
- ◆ If you need to reach us during the event call Kim Tilford, CCUU youth group coordinator: 847-308-1880.
- ◆ Parents, please note that your youth's cell phone can be kept safely over-night w/ advisors, if you want your youth to have their cell phone in the morning to reach you. **Rain date: Saturday, May 9.** Thank you!

Please complete the Sleep-Out-Saturday volunteer form on page 7 to let us know how you plan to participate! Questions? Contact Colleen Vahey, DRE, 847-359-8440 x4.

Time for the Countryside Seder!

Please join us for a Passover Seder on Sunday, April 5 from 5 - 7:30pm in Atherton Hall. Sign-up on the bulletin board across from the office or after service in Atherton Hall. Seder essentials, soup and roasted chicken will be served. Please bring a vegetable, salad, side dish or dessert to share. All dishes should comply with Passover traditions (i.e. no dairy, flour products, yeasts, etc). Suggested donation: Children under 12 \$5; Individuals \$5 - \$10; Families \$30 - \$40. Have any questions? Contact Debbie Lee.

Did You Know?

Everyone enjoys coffee hour after service. It is a great chance to talk to one another and meet members and visitors alike. And...did you know that there is no line item in the budget to cover the cost of coffee? The thought is that it is a self-sustaining expense, in other words, that the costs are covered by the donations made by those of us who drink the coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Recently, that has not been the case.

A cup of black coffee costs the church about 18 cents. That's not much, but over time, Countryside goes through a whole lot of coffee (and tea too)!

Please help out and contribute what you can to the coffee fund. A basket is always out on the table with the coffee goodies. Your change will make a difference!

Book Discussions

Book Circle

All are warmly welcome to join the current Book Circle discussion of A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn. We will discuss Chapter 13 through the end of the book on Sunday, March 29 at 6:30 pm in room 6.

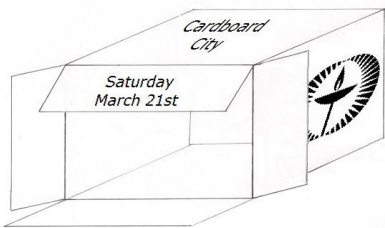
Last Mondays Book Discussion

Please join us at 7 pm in the Stokes Room on the last Monday of the month. On March 30, we will discuss The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson.

Central Midwest District Assembly

District Assembly will be held April 24-26 in Waukesha, Wisc., and it promises to be very engaging! The theme will be *Leadership in Times of Profound Change*. District Assembly is always a profound time of gathering with other Unitarian Universalists from five Midwestern states! Good news: the hotel has lowered their overnight room rate to \$85 per night, and if you reserve by April 7, the rate is only \$79/night - put the code CMMCMMA in the Group Code field of the online reservation form or mention it when calling.

More information is on the district website, www.cmwd-uaa.org. Register online at www.regonline.com/690962.



Sleep-Out-Saturday Volunteer Form

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

How will I participate?

_____ I will attend the meal and vespers/worship from 5:30-7:00 pm on Saturday, March 21

_____ I will attend the activities, movie and discussion from 7:00-9:30pm on Saturday, March 21

_____ I will donate a pot of soup for the meal on Saturday, March 21 (deliver by 4:30 pm)

_____ I will sleep out overnight on the church grounds on Saturday, March 21

_____ I will donate \$ _____ to aid homeless families in our community.
Please make checks payable to *Journeys from PADS to HOPE*.

_____ I will help with set-up to prepare the building and grounds for this initiative – please call me for my assignment (Please be sure to include your name, phone number & e-mail address.)

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the website: www.ccuu.org. If your church meeting is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form and submit it to the church office.

Thu 3/5	7pm	“Thinking Scripture” class	Sun 3/15	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		9am	OWL (Kdgtn-1st)
Fri 3/6	6pm	Ladies Night-Movie and Potluck		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Sat 3/7	TBD	Circle Suppers		12pm	Social Action Meeting
	9am	Making Most of Our Money mentor training		12pm	Bellydancing Class
Sun 3/8	8:30am	Conversations with God Covenant Group		12pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg
	9am	OWL (Kdgtn-1st)		5:30pm	OWL (7-9)
	9:15 am	Open Forum Discussion	Mon 3/16	7pm	Christianity in the Age of Ideology
	11:45am	Meet the Minister		7pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group
	12pm	Bellydancing Class	Tue 3/17	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
	12pm	Curriculum Team Meeting	Wed 3/18	6:30pm	Making the Most of Our Money Ctte Mtg
	12pm	Movement for Fun Group		7pm	Compassionate Communication Support Grp
	12pm	OWL (7-9)	Thu 3/19	7pm	“Thinking Scripture” class
	12 pm	Green Sanctuary Meeting		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	1pm	Kathy Kelly on her Gaza Trip	Fri 3/20	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle
	6pm	Youth Covenant Group (off-site)	Sat 3/21	5pm	Sleep-Out-Saturday
Mon 3/9	6pm	Making Most of Our Money mentor training	Sun 3/22	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	7pm	Christianity in the Age of Ideology		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
Tue 3/10	7pm	CCUU Entrepreneur’s Forum		12pm	Bellydancing Class
	7:30pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle		12pm	Movement for Fun Group
Wed 3/11	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg		1pm	Universal Dances of Peace
Thu 3/12	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Mon 3/23	7pm	Christianity in the Age of Ideology
Fri 3/13	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning	Tue 3/24	7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
Sat 3/14	8:45am	Rise Up and Call Her Name	Wed 3/25	7pm	Wednesday Kinship Circle
	1pm	Spice Cafe		7pm	Worship Council Meeting
Sun 3/15	8:30am	Artist’s Way Covenant Group	Sat 3/28	12pm	Better Day Health Summit

Return Service Requested
Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

COUNTRYSIDE CHURCH
Unitarian Universalist
1025 Smith Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067
(847) 359-8440

GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

You must give complete answers to all questions. If you answer "Yes" to any question, you must list all offenses, and for each conviction provide date of conviction and disposition, regardless of the date or location of occurrence. Conviction of a criminal offense is not an automatic bar to participation in the program. Each case is considered on its merits. Your answers may be verified with appropriate police or other records.

Criminal Offense includes felonies, misdemeanors, summary offenses and convictions resulting from a plea of "nolo contendere" (no contest).

Conviction is an adjudication of guilt and includes determinations before a court, a district justice or a magistrate, which results in a fine, sentence or probation.

You may omit: minor traffic violations, offenses committed before your 18th birthday which were adjudicated in juvenile court or under a Youth Offender Law, and any convictions which have been expunged by a court or for which you successfully completed an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program.

Were you ever convicted of a criminal offense? Yes No

Are you currently under charges for a criminal offense? Yes No

Have you ever forfeited bond or collateral in connection with a criminal offense? Yes No

Within the last ten years, have you been fired from any job for any reason? Yes No

Within the last ten years, have you quit a job after being notified that you would be fired? Yes No

Have you ever been professionally disciplined in any state? Yes No

Are you subject to any visa or immigration status, which would prevent lawful employment? Yes No

Note: If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please provide a detailed explanation on a separate sheet of paper, including dates, and attach it to this application. Please print and sign your name on the sheet, and include your social security number.

Signature _____ Name _____
(Print or Type)

Date _____

Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist
Making The Most Of Our Money Program
1025 North Smith Street
Palatine, Illinois 60067
E-mail: information@mostmoney.org