

## Upcoming Worship Services

*Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:30 am. Unless otherwise stated below, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services.*

**May 4      Affirmations: Coming of Age Service      Colleen Vahey & Coming of Age Group**

Our Coming of Age students will present their affirmation statements, the articulation of their own developing beliefs. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this wondering group of 15 youth! Please know the service will run a little longer than usual. . .we greatly appreciate your support on this important day!

**May 11      Letter to My Daughter      Rev. Beaudreault**

*Senior High Bridging  
Child Dedication*

**May 18      TBD      Rev. Beaudreault**

*Child Dedications  
Affirmation: Laurie Lantz  
Share the Plate: Kids on Track*

**May 25      Memorial Day: Remembering      Rev. Beaudreault**

## The BIG Raffle

Keep an eye open for Greg Blus and his stellar ticket sellers working the crowd on Sundays (and other times too). They are selling tickets for the BIG Raffle. Don't run the other way! One of them has the winning ticket and is just hoping to sell it to you! Only 350 tickets to be sold. Those are great odds for the Grand Prize of a 40" Samsung LCD HDTV-if you already own a big screen TV you may take the \$1300 in cash!

The raffle is a church fundraiser. The 07/08 operating budget has a \$5000 fundraising deficit...hence the BIG Raffle. Your help is needed to take a BIG bite out of that deficit. Please buy a ticket or two or three this Sunday.

The drawing will be Sunday, May 18 during the Congregational Meeting. In addition to the grand prize drawing there will be drawings for a 2nd prize of \$100, a 3rd prize of \$50 and a 4th prize of \$25.

**Upcoming Focus Deadlines  
May 12 & 24 @ 9am**

Submissions can be emailed to [ccuu@ccuu.org](mailto:ccuu@ccuu.org).

## Rev. Don is Candidating

There are no Musings from Rev. Don Beaudreault this issue as he is currently participating in his own Ministerial Candidating Week in Norfolk, VA. He preached there on Sunday, April 27 and will also preach Sunday, May 4, after which the congregation will vote to call him as their settled minister.

We received word from Don on Tuesday that everything is fine despite the tornadoes in Suffolk (20 minutes away); he's just going through his own storm with 41 meetings this week! He said last Sunday went well.

We wish him all the best!

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## From Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Dear Congregation of Countryside Unitarian Universalist Church of Palatine,

Candidating week is over and we have consented to be in covenant with one another. I am deeply honored and truly excited to be called by this great congregation. Every day the week gets clearer rather than more distant and the possibilities of our future together lift my heart. It was wonderful to be with you for the Candidating Week. Our meetings were fruitful. There were so many important conversations and interactions. Sharing in the worship life of the congregation was a superb experience - the music was amazing. It was wonderful to get to know the extraordinary staff. Meeting the diligent and intelligent leadership of the congregation's committees and groups was encouraging and delightful. I am still thinking about many of the questions that you asked and about the ideas that you had. It was a process of discovery - but it's by no means over! We have only scratched the surface with one another.

Many of you asked why I would be leaving the congregation here in Indiana. On one hand - the question makes perfect sense - why does a person leave one place to go to another? In part, I left in order to find better resources with which to do ministry. I had worked with and led the congregation through a time of great transition - into a new building and with all the promise that brings. I know that they can flourish. In part, I left because I had always wanted to be serving in larger congregation, to work with an excellent staff, and to be able to lead worship with all of the resources that a larger congregation promises - the ability to shape truly fulfilling worship in community. I entered search to find those things. People also move from one place to another for new and better professional growth and promise. On the other hand, the question was surprising - you were available - in the Chicago area and a good congregation! I found a congregation that seemed to fit well with me, that was filled with warm folk committed to Unitarian Universalism, and that was strong, healthy, and on a trajectory of self-propelled growth and promise (that would mean that our yearnings would be very much in accord with one another), and that knows how to partner with a minister for the thriving of something that is larger than both of them combined. The most surprising aspect of the question was that it spoke of a modesty or humbleness on your part - because, of course, I ended search because I found you!

You were so warm and made my family feel comfortable and that means the world to me. Today I un

(continued...)

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## Path To Membership Classes

This 3-session series led by Rev. Beaudreault will be held on the following dates:

- Friday, May 9: 7 - 9pm, in the Sanctuary
- Saturday, May 10: 10 am - 12 noon, in Atherton Hall, includes light breakfast
- Sunday, May 25: 12 - 2 pm, in classroom 1, includes lunch
- Sunday, June 8: Joining Ceremony during the worship service with a reception to follow

If you wish to join the class, please contact Kay Gredell or Yuki Juretic or the church office.

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## Bike Clinic on Saturday, May 3

Countryside Church member Joanie Kozak will share her extensive bicycling knowledge at a Safe Biking Clinic on Saturday, May 3 at 1 pm in the parking lot next to the church. Joanie is a longtime biking aficionado (she is so committed to biking that she no longer has a car — she bikes EVERYWHERE, in ALL weather!!) and is knowledgeable about bike safety, rules of the road and how to buy a bike that fits your needs. Feel free to bring your bikes to the clinic, and Joanie can inspect them for safety and give tips on how to make biking a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

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## Countryside Gardens

The Green Sanctuary Task Force and the Adult Faith Development Committee are sponsoring vegetable gardening on the lawn north of the church. Any member or staff person, or group of members or staff, can apply to have a plot. Gardeners will be asked to pay a small fee for each plot and a portion of the crop from each garden will be donated to a local food bank. If you are interested, contact Leslie Peet or Ron Vargason.

Master Gardeners, if you would be willing to lend your knowledge to help those who want to cultivate a garden but lack experience, please let us know.

Thanks to Peggy Simonsen for the use of her tiller!

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## From Rev. Hilary (cont'd)

loaded the dishwasher and out came my mug that said "We Found You! Welcome to Countryside!" It filled me with warmth, happiness, and eager anticipation. I couldn't help but smile. I truly look forward to our life together - bringing the best out of one another. Among the things that I recognized while there and since, is that we really, really do have a lot to offer one another - all the best elements for a vibrant ministry within the church and to the larger world.

In our good faith,

Rev. Hilary Landau Krichenia

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## From the Board President and the Nominating Committee

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Please plan to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 18, immediately following the church service. Childcare will be provided and coffee and snacks will be served in the Sanctuary. We will be voting on:

1. the budget for 2008-09,
  2. the slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee for leadership positions,
  3. changing the age restriction on Membership
- Article VI of the By-laws states that *there shall be no nominations for officer, trustee or the endowment committee from the floor of the annual congregational meeting. Additional nominations may be made by petition of 15 legal members filed with the Secretary of the Board no later than ten (10) days prior to the annual congregational meeting.*

### Elected Leadership Positions

The following nominees, if elected, will assume their positions on July 1, 2008. These candidates were thoughtfully selected and recruited by our Nominating Committee and we are confident that they will serve our church well, with both skill and compassion.

### Board of Trustees

#### Nominees for the Board of Trustees:

- President-elect - Judy Ball (1-year term followed by 2-year term for President)
- Vice-President - Laura Mandell (2-year term)
- Trustee - Marty Farrington (2-year term)
- Trustee - Tom MacTavish (2-year term)
- Trustee - Peggy Simonsen (2-year term)
- Trustee - Mary Henske (1-year term - completing second year of Judy Ball's 2 year term)

#### Continuing on the Board of Trustees:

- President - Lisa Bohne (second year of 2-year term)
- Treasurer - Greg Blus (second year of 2-year term)
- Secretary - Laura Gadley (second year of 2-year term)
- Trustee - Leslie Evans (second year of 2-year term)

### Endowment Committee

#### Nominee for the Endowment Committee:

- Member - Wayne Stein

#### Continuing on the Endowment Committee:

- Beverly Sneddon (third year of 5-year term)
- Richard Chay (fourth year of 5-year term)
- Greg Blus (fifth year of 5-year term)
- Bob Atherton (second year of 5-year term)

### Nominating Committee

We will elect three people to serve on the Nominating Committee for two years, as outlined in Article VII of the Constitution: *three members of the nominating committee shall be elected at the annual congregational meeting each year. All nominees to be elected by the congregation to the nominating committee shall be nominated from the floor and shall have given prior approval of their willingness to serve.* Three people will be continuing in their second year of their 2-year terms and the Board will appoint a seventh person for a 1-year term.

#### Nominees for the Nominating Committee:

- Nominations will be made from the floor. They must have given prior approval of their willingness to serve. In the event that there are more than three nominations, a vote will be required to select the three members.

#### Continuing on the Nominating Committee:

- Sheryl Skifstad (second year of 2-year term)
- Denise Sepos (second year of 2-year term)
- Bob Spielman (second year of 2-year term)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In faith,  
Lisa S. Bohne  
President, Board of Trustees

**focus**

### Published by Countryside Church

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Church Office Hours *Mon - Fri, 10 am - 3 pm*

Interim Minister	<i>Don Beaudreault</i>
Director of Religious Education	<i>Colleen Vahey</i>
Minister Emeritus	<i>Dr. Ruppert L. Lovely</i>
Community-Based Minister	<i>Dr. C. Scot Giles</i>
Music Director & Pianist	<i>Jeffrey Hamrick</i>
Music Director Emeritus	<i>John Denny</i>
Congregational Administrator	<i>Laurie Lantz</i>

#### 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.

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## AFD Movie Night

The Adult Faith Development Council invites you to view “Blue Gold: World Water Wars” on May 9 at 7 pm. Humanity is using fresh water faster than it can be replenished. What will become of remaining sources, and who will control them? Come learn about water - desertification, diminishing supplies, privatization. There will be a one-page handout for informal discussion after the film. Come with questions - and answers! - about water. This is a pre-release screening of the film arranged with the producer / director, Sam Bozzo.

## Green Corner

There will be a Household Chemical Waste Collection on Saturday, June 21, 8am - 3pm at Palatine High School, 1111 Rohlwing Rd. Here’s your chance to safely dispose of aerosol paint, antifreeze, drain cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, herbicides & pesticides, household batteries, lawn chemicals, old gasoline, oil-based paints, pool chemicals, solvents and more. The event is sponsored by the Illinois EPA and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. For more information go to [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org). A Permanent Drop-Off is located in Chicago on Goose Island - go to [www.cityofchicago.org/environment](http://www.cityofchicago.org/environment).

## Living in the Now

This series of sessions is based on Eckhart Tolle’s books The Power of Now and A New Earth. The sessions focus on our own inner wisdom, learning, meditation, and other tools to help us bring more understanding and awareness to turn life’s pain into joy and love. This group is facilitated by Maggie Wilkins on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm. Information can be obtained at her website: [www.one-heart.net](http://www.one-heart.net). Suggested donation: \$5.

## Buddhist Dharma Group

This group will meet for common support in the study of Buddhism, practice of meditation, and kinship of Dharma Circle on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9 –10:30 am in classroom 4. It is open to all.

## Last Mondays Book Discussion

Because the Last Monday in May is Memorial Day, we have re-scheduled to the First Monday in June - June 2. June conveniently has five Mondays this year, so we will be meeting the First Monday (June 2) AND the Last Monday (June 30).

Please join us June 2 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room for a discussion of The Life of Pi by Yann Martel.

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## Open Forum Discussion

In this group, we agree to discuss current issues and controversies in a welcoming, mutually respectful manner. Please enjoy ease in parking and punctual arrival at church by joining us before the service for a stimulating exchange of diverse views. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the Senior High Room (Classroom 5). We plan to discuss the following topics on the following dates (based on breaking news, topics do sometimes change).

- May 4: Responsibility and Accountability in Politics
- May 11: Labels in Politics: Of What Value are “Liberal” and “Conservative”?
- May 18: Being Right and Making Wrong with Moralistic Judgments: How Such Judgments Impact Politics and Current Events
- May 25: The Role of Law in Society and Politics: What Does Each of us Want it to Be?

Newcomers remain welcome. To ask questions or to be added to our email list from which to receive readings, please contact Vid Axel.

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## Rise Up and Call Her Name

This Adult Faith Development program exploring feminine, earth-based spiritualities will meet one Saturday morning/month starting in June for one year. “Rise Up” is a dynamic experiential curriculum which allows participants to explore feminine spirituality through music, image, creative exploration and ritual. “Rise Up” will be facilitated by Sharon Wiseman, Rita DeBoer, and Christina Caglar. Class size is limited to 12 participants. Childcare is available; suggested materials donation is \$30/year. Sign-up begins Sunday, May 4 during coffee hour. Contact Christina Caglar or Sharon Wiseman for more information.

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## Shoes and Clothes to Rwanda

The collection of shoes and summer clothes will conclude this month. Please bring donations to the boxes located in the coatroom and in the RE area.

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## Extreme Inequality

Join Chuck Collins, a born-and-raised UU, on Thursday, May 29 from 7 to 8:30 pm at First Unitarian Church, 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, for a lively workshop and conversation sponsored by the Task Force on Economic Justice and Homelessness of UUs for Social Justice. He will examine the growing disparity of income and assets over the last thirty years and its adverse impact on our democratic institutions, public health, economy, and civic life. For more info, see the notice posted on the bulletin board or go to [www.firstuchicago.org](http://www.firstuchicago.org).

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## A Worldview of Living Action

This eight-session course will be led by Vid Axel presenting his personal worldview and will meet consecutive Mondays from June 2 through July 21 from 7-9 pm at Countryside Church.

In this series, Vid Axel - known for his courses on the process of Communicating Compassionately - will go deeper. Vid will discuss what he regards as the spirit and principles underlying not only communication but also ethical action more generally. Through presentation and dialogue with participants, Vid will clarify his own conceptions of truth, value and life-affirming interaction. In doing so, he will aim to systematically present, interrelate and integrate the principles that he's confident will support inner peace, spiritual uplift, self-improvement, and socially efficacious action. Those delighted by previous participation in Rem Stokes' History of Christianity courses or the Building Your Own Theology classes - as well as others engaging in personal searches for truth and meaning - can expect to find their searches enhanced by participating in this course. Along the way, Vid will encourage participants to form their own opinions about the issues discussed.

Please sign up for eight, stimulating evenings of intellectual exploration by contacting Vid Axel or by signing up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

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## Find Job Help Near By

Countryside is part of the St. Hubert Job and Networking Ministry, which offers job search assistance through programs and networking meetings each month. Events are non-denominational, free and open to all occupations. Contact Bob Podgorski at 847-925-6005 with questions regarding St. Hubert Job Ministry Events.

Things That Do and Don't Work: May 5\*, 7 to 9:15pm, St. Hubert Ministry Center, 729 Grand Canyon, Hoffman Estates. Ministry friend and HR professional Elaine Hugar will facilitate the group in this highly interactive session on what works and doesn't work. Elaine will have the group sharing their successes and some things to avoid in your job campaign.

\*For the Newcomer: If you are new to networking and/or job search, join us at St. Hubert at 6pm, prior to our regular meeting. We'll offer a one-hour program on how to participate in a networking meeting effectively; the tools you'll need, such as an elevator speech and hand-bills; generating leads and contacts.

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## Rainbow Friends Upcoming Events

### Spring Tromp in the Woods

All members, family, friends and four-legged companions are invited for a Spring Tromp through the woods directly after the congregational annual meeting on Sunday, May 18 at Deer Grove Forest Preserve.. Bring your binoculars and enjoy some birdwatching as you walk. For more information, see Sue De Luca or Lois Stryszewski.

### Joining Palatine's Relay for Life

Rainbow Friends will be showing their support for the Palatine PFLAG team as they walk with PFLAG's team at Palatine's Relay for Life. The fundraiser is an overnight event held at Palatine High School, and is widely known to be loads of fun! Walkers for each team circle the track throughout the event, joined by several hundred others who are walking to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Musical bands, food, cheer squads, and lots of other entertainment keeps the energy high. If you are interested in donating, or walking with Rainbow Friends and PFLAG, (even for only an hour or a few times around the track!) contact Lois Stryszewski.

### Potluck Picnic and Jammin' with Joanie

In honor of Pride Month, Rainbow Friends will be hosting a community Potluck Picnic and Jammin' with Joanie jam session. Join us for an evening of fun, food, music and general boisterousness as we celebrate the LGBT community and Countryside Church as a safe, welcoming and affirming space for everyone!! Joanie Kozak, Countryside Church member and accomplished musician, invites pros and novices alike to belt out some tunes and play your old and new favorites. Bring your blankets, picnic foods (no grills will be available, so please bring prepared food), musical instruments and singing voices, not to mention your dancing shoes!! All are welcome, Saturday, June 21, 6-10 pm outside the church on the north grounds.

### Participate in Pride Parade

The Rainbow Friends group of Countryside Church will be marching in the 39th Annual Pride Parade on Sunday, June 29. Churches are one of the groups that get the most enthusiastic reception from the crowds, so plan on joining us for a wonderful day! Step off is at 12 noon from the corner of Halsted and Belmont. Church members, family and friends are welcome to march and demonstrate Countryside's support and affirmation for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered community. For more information, contact Sue De Luca.

## **COUNTRYSIDE CHURCH**

Unitarian Universalist

1025 Smith Road

Palatine, Illinois 60067

(847) 359-8440

Return Service Requested

Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

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### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

An online calendar of events and meetings is on the church website ([www.ccuu.org](http://www.ccuu.org)). If your church meeting is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form (also on the website) and submit it to the church office.

Fri, 5/2	6pm	Coming of Age Dinner	Weds, 5/14	7pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	7pm	Building Your Own Theology	Thurs, 5/15	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	8pm	Drum Circle	Fri, 5/16	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle
Sat, 5/3	11am	Ladies Luncheon (Talent Auction item)		7pm	Building Your Own Theology
	1pm	Bike Clinic	Sat, 5/17	TBD	Circle Suppers
Sun, 5/4	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		9am	CAUUC Annual Meeting here at CCUU
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Sun, 5/18	8:30am	Artist's Way Covenant Group
	12pm	Environmental Action Meeting		9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
	6:30pm	Great Plains Zen Center Meditation		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Covenant Group		11:30am	Congregational Annual Meeting
Tues, 5/6	6:15pm	Motherhood Kinship Circle		12pm	Social Action Committee Meeting
Weds, 5/7	6:30pm	Family Ministry Meeting		1:30pm	Spring Tromp @ Deer Grove
	7pm	Power of Now Discussion Group		6:30pm	Great Plains Zen Center Meditation
	7pm	Membership Committee Mtg	Mon, 5/19	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting
	7pm	Getting to Know You Covenant Group	Tues, 5/20	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs, 5/8	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Group
	7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting	Weds, 5/21	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Support Group
Fri, 5/9	7pm	Path to Membership		7pm	COA Parent-Youth Boston Meeting
	7pm	Building Your Own Theology	Thurs, 5/22	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group
	7pm	AFD Movie Night: <i>Blue Gold</i>	Fri, 5/23	7pm	Building Your Own Theology
Sat, 5/10	10am	Path to Membership	Sat, 5/24	8am	Job Ministry Seminar here at CCUU
Sun, 5/11	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Sun, 5/25	8:30am	Conversations with God Covenant Group
	12pm	Expressive Dance for Fun Group		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	6:30pm	Great Plains Zen Center Meditation		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
Tues, 5/13	7pm	Living Our UU Principles Covenant Group		12pm	Path to Membership
	7:30pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle		12pm	Expressive Dance for Fun Group