
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.

May 31 The Life of the Spirit: Creative Tension in Our Faith Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

How spirit and mind continue to evoke and provoke one another

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the morning offering will be donated to Unitus, an international nonprofit organization working to reduce global poverty by increasing access to life-changing microfinance services.

Congregational Annual Meeting will immediately follow the worship service.

June 7 Out of the Closets, Into the Streets, Down the Aisle Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

A rainbow story and a proud legacy. Come celebrate. And stay for the Picnic following the service! See page 2.

Flower Communion: Please bring a flower or a few flowers from home to share. A Unitarian tradition, the Flower Communion celebrates the beauty of our diversity and our hope for continued blossoming as a community of spirit.

Affirmation: Lisa Hagenbuch

This is an All-Church Service: Children and Youth will attend services with their families. Preschool-age children will go directly to their classroom, and childcare will be available in the nursery for infants and younger children.

June 14 The Heart of Congregation Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Our final “regular” service before summer services begin.

Volunteer Appreciation can be a marvelous thing — or it can set people’s teeth on edge. It’s not a time to make people feel bad about how much they don’t do, but about celebrating all the things - both large and small - that go into making our congregational community. This has been a remarkable year for Countryside — and there have been so many things that have made this place positively lively and creative. Come celebrate this as a small element of our larger service. The musical offerings will be rich and new and marvelous elements are planned.

June 21 Summer Solstice Service Leslie Peet

Inside This Issue...

- p.2 From the President: Congregational Annual Meeting...
Congregational Picnic June 7...
- p.3 Minister’s Muse...
- p.4 Lay and Care Ministry... Book Discussions...
GoodSearch and GoodShop for Church... The Birds
Outside the Office...
- p.5 Getting to Know Our New Members... Song Circle...
Movies with Meaning...
- p.6 Job Ministry... Building Bridges Workshop... UU
Advocacy Network of Illinois... UU Colorado Trip...
Voices for Creative Nonviolence... Hospice... Zen
Workshops...
- p.7 From Central Midwest District: 1st Virtual DA... New
Living Our Faith Award... DA Podcasts Available
- p.8 Upcoming Meetings & Events...

**All are strongly encouraged
to stay after worship
on May 31 for the
Congregational Annual Meeting.**

**See details on page 2
and in Hilary’s Muse on page 3.**

**Summer Focus Deadlines
June 8, July 6, August 3**

Submit articles by 9 am to ccuu@ccuu.org.

The Minister's Muse

Our annual meeting is coming up Sunday the 31st of May. I hope that you will be there. Whenever the meeting is announced we say, "this is democracy in action." It is. Our congregational meetings, at which all signed members can vote and any one regardless of membership can participate and learn, are important times during which we affirm our fifth principle. This principle is the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large. Democracy has a profoundly religious dimension as it testifies to a belief that humans, together, can govern themselves and make wise decisions without coercion - a belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each person. No divinely appointed dictators or kings. Democracy is a tricky thing. Although Americans tend to think that democracy looks like the system of government we have - that is only one sort of democracy. In fact, we create democracy by participating in it. In congregational life - just as in government on the larger scale - the quality of democracy depends upon how much the people know, how well we understand the issues, how much we have learned about the process. In congregational life the decisions we make together have tremendous leverage. Our congregation has the resources to survive - but whether we flourish depends entirely upon the degree of participation we can encourage in one another. We can flourish - but we can also change the world around us - if we put our hearts and minds together. All of this has a source in the congregational meeting. The meetings are not always gripping - not great movie material - but they are fascinating if you like to learn about people and about people in groups. And they are invaluable if you want to learn more about the challenges facing Countryside.

The meeting coming up is our budget meeting. That sounds even less exciting than other prospects - but, again, that's in the eye of the beholder. The new directions we are able to take, the things that the congregation has hoped and worked for become evident in those meetings. (Oh - if you haven't gotten in your pledge, it'd be great to do so immediately - it will make our decisions easier. And if you have and suddenly realized that there are real changes that you want to help happen, it's not too late to pledge a little or a lot more.) The Board, the Stewardship Team, and the Finance Committee have worked hard on this year's budget. They have listened to clear ideas, hopes, and dreams throughout the congregation and taken them to heart. They have spent hours talking, refining,

(continued...)

exploring, rebalancing, and canvassing in order to support the well-being of Countryside next year and in the future. So much is possible - and I am especially encouraged by the new members who have recently joined as their hopes spark our own. So much more is possible as you participate and bring your own ideas, skills, and energy to our shared project.

I hope that you come to this meeting right after the service on Sunday. It will be a good way to learn more and a great way to bring more life to our democracy. Come! Participate! Learn!

Always, when congregational meetings roll around I remember this bumper sticker:

The future is decided by those who show up

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-Thurs: 9am-2pm*

Fri:9am-Noon

Minister *Hilary Landau Krivchenia*

RevHilaryK@ccuu.org

Director of Religious Education *Colleen Vahey*

RE@ccuu.org

Music Director & Pianist *Jeffrey Hamrick*

Music@ccuu.org

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.

The Birds Outside the Office Window

I and others have been entertained for the past week or two by a pair of birds mating and nesting in the greenery near the green rock outside the church office window. Judy Miller, one of our resident bird experts, was able to identify them as killdeer. On Tuesday, Judy, Gloria Kinney, Bob Spielman, and I witnessed their “broken-wing act” (see Wikipedia article below); it happened just as described below and was remarkable to see. It will be interesting to see how they handle the influx of people walking past there on Sunday. ...Laurie

From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killdeer>:



The killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) is a medium-sized plover. Killdeer nest on open ground, often on gravel. They may use a slight depression in the gravel to hold the eggs, but they do not line it at all, or line it only with a few stones. Since there is no structure to stand out from its surroundings, a killdeer nest blends marvelously into the background. Furthermore, the speckled eggs themselves look like stones.

Their name comes from their frequently heard call. These birds will frequently use the “broken-wing act” to distract predators from their nests. This involves the bird walking away from its nesting area holding its wing in a position that simulates an injury and then flapping around on the ground emitting a distress call. The predators then think they have easy prey and are attracted to this seemingly injured bird and away from the nest. If the parent sees that a potential predator is not following them, they will move closer and get louder until they get the attention of the predator.

GoodSearch for Church

What if Countryside Church UU earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates a % of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter ‘Countryside Church UU’ as the non-profit you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

Lay and Care Ministry Programs

We are Here for You!

This is a reminder that the Lay Ministry program is beginning its 22nd year working with Countryside’s ministers and our congregation. Our goal is to provide a mutual ministry and support to members of the congregation in times of transition and crisis. Our role is to be a presence in times of loss, such as through death or divorce; however, our support is not limited to those very major situations. We are available, when wanted, in times of sickness or just when someone needs to talk through some trouble in his or her life. All conversations are confidential within Lay Ministry. For members to access Lay Ministry, please contact Reverend Hilary or either of the Lay Ministry co-coordinators, Ken Bobbe or Trudy Kleckner.

Care Ministry is also available in Countryside to provide other types of comfort and support to members. Examples include meals delivered to the home after illness, transportation for medical treatment, and check-in calls to shut-ins. Our entire membership is encouraged to volunteer to provide whatever service(s) they can. To access the services of the Care Ministry, contact Hilary, Ken or Trudy, who will then work with the Care Ministry coordinator, Bob Spielman. Gloria Kinney and Marge Olszewski provide this support when Bob is away.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

The Lay Ministry Team: Ken Bobbe, Richard Chay, Larry Frank, Trudy Kleckner, Jane Matthews, Joyce Swedlund, Kim Tilford, Dan Yokas.

Book Discussions

Last Mondays Book Group

Please note: due to Memorial Day, we will be meeting the FIRST Monday in June and the Last Monday in June.

On June 1 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room, we'll discuss The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows (avail in paperback May 5).

On June 29, we will discuss The Ride of Our Lives by Mike Leonard.

Book Circle

The Book Circle will be meeting on July 5 at 4 pm at the home of Ron Vargason and Barb Sugden. We will be discussing Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Ron or Gail Wisniewski.

Getting to Know Our New Members

Terry Dondzik calls herself “a recovering Catholic, having discovered Unitarian Universalism 10 years ago when she worked as an office manager for a therapy practice. A teen-aged boy “came out” to her, and when she searched for a support group for him, she found Pride Youth, which holds its monthly meetings at Countryside. This led Terry to investigate our church and she’s now a member. Terry grew up in southwest Chicago and has a Master’s degree from Roosevelt University in Healthcare Administration. She’s married to Tom and they have two children: a 29-year-old who’s a lawyer and a 24-year-old who’s studying journalism at Columbia College. She works for Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, coordinating behavior health services for Blue Cross HMO members. She enjoys hanging out with friends, shopping, and volunteering.

Martha (“Marty”) Gehler (“gay-ler”) was raised Lutheran, also attended a Methodist church, and then discovered Unitarian Universalism when her daughter and son-in-law in Pennsylvania took her to a service, which she especially liked because of its “all-inclusivity.” Last September, she visited Countryside and is now a member. She was born in Oak Park, grew up in Maywood, studied at Northern Illinois University and taught art at Barrington High School. She met and married the coach and driver’s ed teacher, and has two daughters, Melissa in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Brenda in Bellingham, Washington. Between them, the two have given Marty three grandchildren: Sam, 8, Stephen, 6, and Annika, 6. Marty is a retired accessories buyer for Richard Honquest in Barrington, and loves gardening, specializing in daylilies, of which she has more than 30 varieties in her garden. Because her two daughters are on two sides of the United States, she travels quite a bit and has visited most of our country. She’s looking forward to learning how to make coffee on Sunday mornings, perhaps join a covenant group, maybe seek out the gardening committee and possibly volunteer to help with Religious Education.

Joanne Lagattolla grew up Catholic in Mt. Prospect, one of five children. She majored in philosophy at the University of Illinois, and got her master’s in counseling from Northeastern University. Her specialty is substance abuse. She loves bike-riding, especially in Busse Woods, and enjoys watching DVD movies from the library. Right now she’s participating in the Goddess Group, and is interested in possibly serving on the Social Justice Committee and perhaps participating in the Money program.

Melanie Schikore Andina grew up Presbyterian in St. Louis, majored in French and Spanish at St. Louis University and got her Master’s at U.I.C. in Linguistics. She married Carlos (from Spain), converted to Catholicism and lived in Spain for four years. She has three children: Carlos, 15, Ilona, 12, and Lydia 9. All are bilingual. When Melanie was a practicing Catholic, she discovered some very liberal Catholics including nuns and priests, and still admires their passion and work on social justice. She went to Countryside for a year, then brought her kids to R.E. They loved it and she feels that the experience has really opened their minds. When she came back to the U. S. to finish her doctorate at U.I.C., she worked at Arlington and Hawthorn Racetracks at the “Backstretch”, which is where the workers, mostly Hispanic immigrants, live with their families and work with the horses. Melanie based her Doctoral thesis on a 5-year study of working with those adults and children through a charitable organization, advocating for better conditions and social change. She will defend her thesis this month. Melanie enjoys photography, gardening and ethnic cooking, using the latter in her Teaching English as a Second Language classes. She’s been involved with Countryside about two years, helping design and execute the Service mural in the R.E. wing, working with the folks involved in possibly changing the church’s constitution allowing younger people to become members, and is interested in making Countryside more socially, economically and ethnically diverse.

Movies with Meaning

The next movie night will be Friday, June 12 at 7 pm in Atherton Hall. The topic will be *Slow Food and Slow Money*. There are several short selections being considered, including ideas by Carlo Petrini, Michael Pollan, Bill McKibben, and Woody Tasch. There are also several feature-length films in the pipeline, suggested by people in the group.

Song Circle

All are invited to an informal gathering of singers and musicians on Friday, June 5 at 7 pm in Atherton Hall. Bring an instrument if you play one, your voice, lyrics and music if you want others to sing and play with you, and your own beverages and snacks. Any questions, call Tony Pretto, 847-963-2109.

Job Ministry

If you have questions regarding the St. Hubert Job Ministry events, call Bob Podgorski at 847-925-6005.

Resumé Review: June 6, 9 to 11 am, St. Raymond's Church, 301 S. I-oka, (Elmhurst road at the 'S' curve) Mt Prospect. Bring your resume for a personal evaluation by one of six HR, search, or career counselors who will be on hand to give you their thoughts and suggestions. This is for all occupations and levels.

Taking Care of You in a Job Search: June 8, 7 to 9:15pm. St. Hubert Ministry Center, 729 Grand Canyon, Hoffman Estates. Elene Cafasso, health expert and counselor, will provide us the opportunity to understand how we can stay alert, in shape and positively active as we search for that next job opportunity. Our health is as important as our attitude - join us for an important topic we all need to pay attention to.**

****For The Newcomer:** If you are new to Networking and/or the job search, join us at 6 pm on the second Monday of the month. We offer a one-hour program on how to use a networking meeting effectively; the tools you'll need, such as the Elevator Speech; how to do a Handbill; and how to generate the contacts you need.

Westward Ho Colorado

In these economical times, money for a vacation may be tight. Don't forget our Westward Ho Excursion in beautiful Pueblo, Colorado. Join us September 22-28, 2009. Stay with a UU host family and wake up to the sight of snow covered Pikes Peak. Airport pick-up is provided for those who do not want to drive. The excursion is limited to 15 adults. There is still room but hurry. Cost is \$775 per person. For details and reservations, call 719-543-5249 or e-mail uucop@juno.com

Hospice of Northeastern Illinois

Mourning to Meaning. Mondays, May 4 and June 1, 1-2:30 pm, McHenry Country Credit Union, 345 E Congress Pkwy, Crystal Lake. No advance registration required.

Grief to Hope. 4th Tuesday of each month, 9:30-11 am, Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W Central Rd. No advance registration required.

Camp Courage, July 6-9, Camp Duncan, Ingleside. Unique day camp for children ages 5-16 who have experienced a loss. Numerous activities including swimming, boating, hiking, sports, outdoor games, storyteller, puppet show, and memorial service. Free. Advance registration required. Contact Nancy Billman at NBillman@HospiceAnswers.org or at 224-770-2166.

For more info about any of the above, call 847-381-5599 or go to www.HospiceAnswers.org.

Building Bridges Workshop

Join Rev. Alan Taylor of Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Junaid Afeef of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, human rights activists, and your fellow UU and Arab- and Muslim-American community members for a day of discussion, learning, and relationship-building on critical civil liberties issues affecting Muslim and Arab Americans, and all Americans.

The workshop will be held Saturday, June 6, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm at Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park. There is no cost for the workshop. To register and for more info, contact Cristin Martineau at rsvp@uusc.org or 617-301-4381.

Voices for Creative Nonviolence

On Tuesday, June 23, from 7-9 pm at the Wellington Avenue UCC Church, 600 W Wellington Ave in Chicago, Voices for Creative Nonviolence will sponsor a screening of the film "This Palestinian Life," a documentary film by Philip Rizk that takes an oral history approach to telling the stories of rural Palestinians and their experiences under Israeli occupation. For more info, call 773-878-3815.

Intro to Zen Workshop

The Great Plains Zen Center (GPZC) holds monthly workshops at Countryside Church UU. The workshop provides basic, practical information including how to zazen (Zen meditation), how to practice at home, the aims of practice, and what opportunities GPZC offers for additional practice. Attendance at an introductory workshop is required of anyone who would like to become a member of the GPZC. Upcoming workshop dates are: May 30, June 13, July 18. The cost for each workshop is \$25 per person. To register, visit www.greatplainszen.org/workshops or call 847-274-4793.

UU Advocacy Network of Illinois

A small group of highly enthusiastic folks from several Chicago-Area UU congregations is taking the first steps toward establishing a statewide advocacy organization for UUs in Illinois, similar to organizations in twelve other states (uustatenetworks.org). Our focus is legislative advocacy, but we foresee advocacy in other venues as well. At a recent meeting, a name was chosen (above), a mission process begun, and plans made to meet with organizers of other legislative advocacy groups for guidance, to launch some communication pieces useful for working with UUs statewide, and to stage a fall "World Café" to bring together interested UUs to sort out the issues we will work on. Get in the communication "loop" now, at info@cauuc.org.

From Central Midwest District-UUA

New Living Our Faith Together Award

Written by Michelle Richards

The Central Midwest District's first annual Living Our Faith Together award was granted to Steve Cooper, Religious Educator at DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church in Naperville, IL, for the coordination and providing the primary motivational push behind the No More Turning Away project. Steve inspired congregations across our district to participate in this project designed to educate members of all ages about the tragedy of homelessness.

He spearheaded the creation of a website with resources on homelessness, including religious education session plans, movie ideas and stories. The year long, multi-congregation social action project culminated with the Cardboard City Sleepout in which over 300 Unitarian Universalists from more than a dozen UU congregations in the Central Midwest District slept outside in cardboard boxes on the night of March 21. The goal of the project was raising awareness of the problem of homelessness but it also raised more than \$9,000 which was donated to homeless shelters and food pantries in the local communities of the congregations which participated.

The Living Our Faith Together award was created by the Central Midwest District's Board to recognize the significance of social action in our Unitarian Universalist heritage. This award will be granted each year to an individual or congregation in our district who has created and conducted a social justice project involving people of all ages or brought congregations together in a mutual effort to make a difference in their community, across our district, or in the world. This award will be presented each year at District Assembly.

The First Virtual District Assembly

Written by Ian Evison

Nearly three weeks after our Central Midwest District Assembly in Waukesha, WI, I still find myself on a high. Getting the bills has brought me down a bit, yet even that is pretty good. News from Dori and Peggy who track this for us, is that we are projected to break even and meeting our goal of making our major events financially self-supporting.

There were a lot of things to be excited about in this gathering—great worship, amazing music, a keynote presenter who really touched the topics on most people's minds, great workshops, great UUA presidential candidates' forum, and two days of very intense and productive networking. What made me feel best, however, and makes me feel good again every time I think of it, was something that may not have been visible to most of those present: the first full test of our commitment to make our major district events virtually accessible. We are, I believe, the first district to make the major content of an annual assembly available free and online (Ohio Meadville may wish to contest this claim). Indeed, I believe that we are the first such body in any denomination to accomplish this.

What felt best about watching it happen was that after all the effort, it became clear half way through the event that we have started something that is going to be a permanent shift in how we make such things available on the website. From now on, in this district at least, it is pretty clear that recording and making freely available major portions of content is going to be a standard part of what we do with worship, workshops, or even the bookstore.

To read more, please visit the District's blog, where there is more information as well as a history of how we decided and carried through our goal of a Virtual DA.

So tell us: What do you think? Answering these questions ought to be enough to keep our tech team busy for the next year.

District Assembly Podcasts

We are pleased to be able to bring you podcasts of some of the events at District Assembly 2009.

You may listen to the DA sessions recorded by the CMwD Media Team at our podcast site:

www.cmwdoua.libsyn.com. Among the podcasts available you will find:

- Opening and Closing worship (audio)
- Sermon by Rev Drew Kennedy (audio)
- Keynote by Sharon Daloz Parks (audio)
- Workshop: Lifespan Faith Development (audio)
- Workshop: A Stream of Living Souls (audio)
- Workshop: Shared Leadership (audio)

- Workshop: Evangelistic Thinking (audio)
- Workshop: Improved Communication (audio)
- Workshop: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven - Co-Ed? (video interview)

Video of the keynote presentation and Sharon Daloz Parks' workshop will be available soon!

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the church website (www.ccuu.org) under the "Events & Rentals" heading. If your church meeting or event is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form (available with the calendar on the website) and submit it to the church office.

Thu 5/28	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Fri 6/12	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning
Fri 5/29	10am	Worklife Support Group	Sat 6/13	8:45am	Rise Up and Call Her Name
Sun 5/31	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Sun 6/14	8:30am	Conversations with God Covenant Grp
	11:30am	Congregational Annual Meeting		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Mon 6/1	7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group		12pm	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting
Tue 6/2	6:15pm	Motherhood Kinship Circle		12pm	Movement for Fun Group
	7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp	Tue 6/16	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
	7pm	Program Council Meeting		7pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group
Wed 6/3	6pm	Making Most of Our Money Ctte Mtg	Wed 6/17	7pm	Compassionate Comm'n Support Grp
	7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg	Fri 6/19	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle
	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group	6/19-6/20		District Youth Leadership Conference
Thu 6/4	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Sun 6/21	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
Fri 6/5	7pm	Song Circle		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Sun 6/7	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		12pm	Social Action Committee Meeting
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Tue 6/23	7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
	11:30am	Meet the Minister	6/24-6/28		UU General Assembly, Salt Lake City
	11:30am	Congregational Picnic	Wed 6/24	7pm	Wednesday Kinship Circle
	4:30pm	Compassionate Comm'n Cov. Grp		7pm	Worship Council Meeting
	7pm	Compassionate Comm'n Cov. Group	Sun 6/28	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Tue 6/9	7:30pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle			Chicago Gay Pride Parade
Wed 6/10	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg	Mon 6/29	7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group
Thu 6/11	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal			

Return Service Requested
Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

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