

Thoughts from the President ...

Thank you to all who participated in the February 7 Board meeting regarding our upcoming year's budget. The process is now in full swing, with much consideration by the Board of how to propose a forward-looking and responsible budget to the congregation in May. The Board will be approving the preliminary budget at our March meeting.

The Stewardship Drive is also gearing up, with Chris Smith at the helm and with a new approach to pledging planned. Chris and his "goofy hat" led some of us to sign up to host and/or attend a "house party" for discussing our thoughts and commitment to Countryside prior to making our pledges for next year. It is hoped that most pledges will be made at one of these meetings so we are able to go forward with our budget adjustments, if needed, in time for our Annual Congregational Meeting in May. So look for Chris after church this week and get your name on the list, whether as a host or as an attendee. We need you!

In other news, we are hoping to be able to let you know soon how we plan to disburse the first wave of outreach funds from the Building Campaign. We have committed to allocate these first funds solely to local organizations which our congregation has supported in the past. Thank you for your generosity in that campaign, which allows us to help our neighbors in need.

Your Board is planning a mini-retreat at Countryside on March 6. We, as a Board, will meet with Tom Thomas, a consultant who is recommended by the CMwD and who facilitated our fall retreat last November. We will continue with his help to define our roles as Board members and to discuss some of the challenges of moving from a pastoral-sized church to a program-sized church. We also look forward to a return visit from Mike Durall, who will meet primarily with the Board, the Membership Committee and the Stewardship Team in assessing our next steps in implementing some of the recommendations from his visit here last fall.

I also want to mention the ongoing work of the Second Service Implementation Team. This is an enthusiastic and hard-working group of congregational representatives who are excited to contemplate the possibilities being discovered by their research.

I would like to encourage the women of the congregation to attend the Women's Leadership Day being held on March 20 at Third Unitarian Church in Chicago. Each congregation in the District has been asked to nominate a "woman of change." Countryside has nominated Martha Atherton. Read more about the event as well as excerpts from the letter I wrote about Martha on page 10.

This is a busy time at Countryside, as always, and we welcome your involvement in our planning and programs, as well as on Sunday mornings.

...Judy Ball

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Upcoming *Focus* Deadlines

April 5 and May 3

Submit articles by 9 am to ccuu@ccuu.org

The Minister's Muse

For the last year, the board, along with visiting consultants, myself, and each other have been working to help clarify a more effective and size appropriate organizational structure for Countryside Church. This hasn't been quick - in large part because there is so much else happening here. It sounds dry - but it's not really. A good organizational structure helps a congregation function more effectively and flexibly. It helps every person understand how decisions are made and makes those processes accessible. A clear structure can help guide whether decisions should be made by a committee, the Board, or the congregation as a whole. We can be hampered by conflicts over carpet colors. At times congregations have informal power structures (folks who have known each other for years and meet over coffee) as opposed to Boards, Committees or formal and clear leadership. This makes for quick but often mysterious decisions. It also disempowers the larger number of congregants who are then unclear about how decisions are made. As a church grows, the processes of decision making need to change and grow with it. Most often this is a bit awkward - not unlike the first times that new drivers get behind the wheel of a car. The desire to do well is keen, the skill ready to blossom but sometimes the wheel is shaky. Over time roughness is smoothed. We will have our rough times — but we're blessed with a good hearted, good willed congregation with a long history of working hard to do the right and healthy thing. We have only to be patient with one another and the process and in less than a couple of years we will have a streamlined, accessible, and clear democratic structure fit for a thriving congregation of our size. In the meantime there are a few points to keep in mind:

No matter the size of the congregation, it is the responsibility of the leadership - lay and professional - to keep their eyes and ears open and have a clear picture of the overall will and vision of the congregation. Often this means more times when all the members of the congregation dream and percolate new directions. If the leadership has done their job then the will of the congregation is embodied and instead of 300 people trying to grasp and agree on the details of every decision you have informed leadership from among the people who make decisions based upon the gathered wisdom and will of the larger congregation.

There is no "us" and "them." One of the strangest things that I have seen in congregations as they stretch and grow is a tendency to think in terms of "us" and "them" - "us" being the larger congregation and "them" being the Board and Program Council or other leading bodies. One day a person is a trusted, respected member of a congrega-

Path to Membership Classes

If you are considering joining our church and wish to know more about Unitarian Universalism and Countryside, you are cordially invited to participate in one of two classes scheduled in April by the Membership Committee. To register, please contact Cathleen Chay or Yuki Juretic.

One class will be held on Sunday mornings, April 11 and 18 from 9 to 10:30 am in classroom # 1.

The second class will be held on Thursday evenings, April 15 and 22 from 7 to 8:30 pm in classroom # 2.

Both classes will be combined for a final session on Sunday, April 25 at 12 noon in the choir practice room off Atherton Hall; it will include lunch for all.

Joining Sunday will be May 2, and friends and relatives are cordially invited to both the service and a reception following.

Passover Seder

Countryside's Passover Seder will be Sat, April 3 from 5 to 7:30 pm 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. If questions, contact Debbie Lee.

Minister's Muse (cont'd)

gation and then they're given Board leadership and suddenly thought of as "them". Short Board terms help to diffuse this- but it still arises. So keep in mind, when thinking about the Board or other leadership in the church, that there is no "us" and "them" - only "us" in different roles at different times.

Finally, well guided change creates the possibility for new, exciting things. I see a lot of that here lately. In many ways this seems like a congregation truly coming of age - ready to unfold and to lead. Above all, what strikes me repeatedly is the depth of commitment and thoughtfulness of so many here. I'd say that we have quite a brain trust here - people whose experience and vision make for skilled change for the better - but even more than a brain trust - we have a heart trust. And that, above all, is our best guide post in changing times.

Meet the Minister

Once a month, visitors and new folks with questions about Countryside Church and Unitarian Universalism are invited to meet with Rev. Hilary in the sanctuary after the greeting line has finished and you have gotten a cup of coffee or tea. Next Meet the Minister is March 21.

Proposed Covenant of Right Relationship*

This is a covenant which we are considering adopting. It is a different sort of covenant and will not replace our existing Congregational Covenant. If you have questions or wish to offer your thoughts, please contact Vid Axel, duRee Bryant, or Gina Gardner.

In my relationship with the Countryside Church UU (CCUU) community, and in keeping with our UU values, I will:

- Speak and write openly, honestly and respectfully, with clarity, tact and compassion;
- Listen carefully, with an open mind and an open heart, to what others say;
- Take responsibility for my speech and actions as they affect both individuals and the congregation as a whole;
- Be sensitive to possible conflicts, and be willing to work toward solutions using available resources, accepting that some differences may not be resolvable;
- Respect my own boundaries and the boundaries of others, and protect and support vulnerable individuals;
- Respect and support the diversity within our congregation, and work to create a more welcoming environment;
- Support our congregation as a safe environment for healthy relationships.

*Wording borrowed with permission from Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Walnut Creek, California

Why have a Covenant of Right Relationship?

- Important to have one before there is a real need for one, so that it is not a reaction to something
- Sets a tone, an ongoing message for everyone who walks in the door that people made this covenant joyfully and freely
- Puts a focus on what we have in common; principles that guide our lives - - when we are struggling, we have them to remind ourselves
- What we learn here is what we take into the world, so we are saying "It is important enough to have it in writing, to say it in a public way"
- Creates an environment where more ideas can come to the surface - - a Covenant of Right Relationship is a means to guide people to more skillful communication
- Gives some authority to speak to the issue when someone's emotional reaction may lead them to act/speak disrespectfully - - helps us to respond with a loving and firm embrace
- It is not intended to be a weapon, but rather a means to bind people together, guide their dealings with each other, to create a sense of "ethics with roots"
- The healthier we are, the more we thrive - - even when we are healthy, we take our vitamins to stay healthy
- A response to the desire for higher expectations of ourselves and each other

Congratulations

Congratulations to new members Christine and Matthew Organ and big brother Jackson on the birth of Theodore Marvin (Teddy) on February 6.

Congratulations to Jeani and Paul McAleer who recently brought home their new son, Jackson Paul, from Florida, after a long wait and an adoption process.

We welcome, with hope and prayer, Gabriel Thomas Gonzalez, delivered prematurely to Yvonne Anderson and Tom Gonzalez (and big brothers Samuel and Timothy) on February 19. Gabriel is being well cared for in the Neonatal intensive Care Unit at Loyola University Hospital.

In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Linda Berry and her family on the death of her grandmother, Eleanor.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Orisha Kulick, a new friend of the congregation, on the death of her husband Gardner Kissak, on February 4.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Nancy Klein and family on the death of her father, Charles Warren Blodgett.

focus

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Fri: 9am-Noon

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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.

Stewardship: Now is the Time

The Annual Pledge Canvass begins in March. Our focus this year is on the exciting things that are happening around Countryside — from our successful Building Campaign to our growing Sunday attendance to our rapidly increasing role in the community. Something special is happening here - right now. We have become such a vibrant, creative, committed, spirited congregation that we are spilling over and ready to offer greater service to one another, our local community, and our world. Now is the Time! The spirit of this Stewardship Season will be to celebrate and generously steward what we have built here so that we can carry forth our spirit and our vision.

In this spirit of celebration, we will gather in home-hosted small group meetings - refreshments and warm company will abound. We will have a chance to talk about all the good that is coming to pass here, to share our ideas, reflections, and hopes; to share how Countryside touches us deeply and helps us live out our covenant to worship, study, and serve together in community. There will also be an opportunity to learn a little more about Stewardship and to pledge for the upcoming year. We will share how we support Countryside with our time, work, and money. Being a member of Countryside requires very few formal commitments, but making a pledge for the coming year is one of them. The amount of money that you pledge is a private matter, but we ask you to consider giving 5-10% of your income to the church if you have the means to do so.

These parties are for every person who comes here. All are welcome. They will provide an enjoyable way to get to know one another better, to share treats, and to share the good news about Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist. Come explore deep issues such as:

- What is Garrison Keillor saying now about Unitarian Universalism?
- Who in the news you think might be a Unitarian Universalist without knowing it.

House Party Dates, Times, and Locations:

- Monday, March 15, 7 to 9 pm in Barrington
- Thursday, March 18, 7 to 9 pm in Palatine
- Sunday, March 21, Noon-2 pm at church, childcare provided
- Monday, March 22, 7 to 9 pm in Arlington Heights
- Thursday, March 25, 7 to 9 pm in Lake Barrington
- Saturday, March 27, 3 to 5 pm at church, childcare provided
- Saturday, March 27, 7 to 9 pm in Palatine
- Sunday, March 28, 3 to 5 pm in Barrington
- Monday, March 29, 7 to 9 pm in Lake Zurich
- Thursday, April 1, 7 to 9 pm in Arlington Heights
- Saturday, April 3, 10am-Noon at church, childcare provided

There are three ways to sign up for a House Party - in Atherton Hall after Sunday worship (just look for the guy in the goofy hat), e-mail Bev Sneddon, or call Chris Smith with the date of your choice.

Opportunities abound for helping with the Stewardship Drive. We need folks to make phone calls, make signs, have fun, host parties, help with mailings and emails, and many other things. If you want to help, please contact Chris Smith.

Open Forum Discussion

We endeavor to discuss “the issues of the day” while respectfully welcoming different perspectives. We meet in Room 6 on Sunday mornings. We start at 9 am so we can socialize prior to discussing the day’s topic. From 9:15-10:15, we discuss a current events issue. Feel free to bring your own coffee and/or snacks to share. We welcome diverse points of view!

Our topic for Sunday, March 7 will be: School Closures, Charters Schools, & Renaissance 2010.

Our topic for Sunday, March 14 will be: Full-body scanners: Security hopes and privacy fears.

For more info, please contact the facilitators (led by Vid Axel) at ofd@ccuu.org.

Upcoming Worship Services

Unless otherwise noted, Sunday services are at 10:30am and childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth.

March 7 at 9:30am Spirit Circle for All Ages

An active, multisensory, intergenerational worship experience held 9:30-9:50am in the Sanctuary followed by breakfast & fellowship in Atherton Hall. An offering will be collected for PADS, serving area families in need of emergency shelter.

March 7 Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Riverside Foundation (this was re-scheduled from January 17).

March 14 Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

March 21 Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

March 28 UUSC Justice Sunday

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

April 4 Easter Rev. Krivchenia

Getting to Know Our New Members

Bridget and Erv Toth both had very interesting parents. Bridget grew up in Pittsburgh with a mom and dad who were unusually entrepreneurial; her father owned rental properties and her mother was a bookkeeper. Bridget started learning from her father when she was about seven years old. Erv's parents came to the USA in 1967 from Croatia with two suitcases, \$300 in cash and a two-year-old toddler (Erv). At one time, they owned a restaurant called "Lawrence House."

Erv has worked as a graphic artist and web graphic designer for 20 years and is a certified hypnotherapist who is slowly building his practice. Bridget got her degree from DePaul and has run her own accounting business since 2002 as well as taking care, via long distance, of her late father's rental properties.

Both Erv and Bridget were brought up Catholic, are vegetarians, together ride a single motorcycle, and own one English bulldog named "Lord Henry" and four cats. They love Wii (especially the go-cart, tennis and bowling) and have a vegetable and wildflower garden as well as a 7,000-gallon, 45-koi pond with frogs and a waterfall. Bridget is an avid reader and does needlepoint and cross-stitch, and Erv is active at Countryside with Journey Inward.

First Sundays at Countryside: Mar. 7

Spirit Circle for ALL Ages

This is an active, multisensory, intergenerational worship experience held from 9:30 to 9:50 am in the Sanctuary followed by breakfast & fellowship in Atherton Hall. The offering will benefit Journeys from PADS to Hope, providing shelter and meals to local families in need.

Great Choir

If you want to find out what it's like singing with our wonderful Countryside Choir or if you would sing with us regularly but cannot commit to our weekly rehearsals, come experience the Great Choir!

We'll meet at 9 am sharp in the choir room (just off Atherton Hall) and work on hymns and a fun and not-too-challenging anthem for the morning. Just show up! We will welcome you warmly and you will, we hope, have a GREAT time. See you in choir!

Spiritual Movie Night THIS Friday

On March 5 at 7pm, the feature film *You Can Heal Your Life* will be shown in Atherton Hall. This entertaining and inspirational movie based on the best-selling book of the same name is hosted by author and teacher Louise L. Hay. This film gives penetrating insights into Louise's fascinating personal story; and shows how her views on self-esteem, abundance, and the metaphysical causes behind physical ailments were developed. It also reveals how she applied these concepts to her own emotional, spiritual, and professional life. Contact Erv Toth and/or Rose Schulz or visit www.Journey-Inward.com.

Living Scripture Class Still Open

Living Scripture is an ongoing reading and study group for those who have a yen to revisit or encounter for the first time, the Hebrew and Christian texts. The group will share a variety of translations as well as looking back to original Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic sources where possible. We will share supporting works of scholarship that will provide context and history for these texts. Above all, we will ask questions, share interpretations, explore resonances of these texts in our lives, and read them from both a historical and contemporary perspective. No previous class, study, experience, or particular religious background is required. All who can approach these texts with both respect and questioning are welcome. Meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7 pm; facilitated by Rev. Hilary.

Program Council Headlines

Lots of things are in transition at Countryside right now, and we opened the February 2 meeting with a discussion about managing change. We talked about some things we can do to help one another through the changes. Among others, here are some of the ideas:

- It's most important is keeping people informed
- It helps to break it down into steps
- Need to understand articulated goal and reason for change
- Important to keep some things the same - rituals they can count on during the change
- As the congregation gets larger, we have to get comfortable with the fact that we can't know everything/everyone anymore. Getting people involved can help alleviate the sense of loss of control that might result.

Monthly Newsletter

Increasing our communication is a key goal and Countryside is exploring various communication alternatives. For one thing, the *Focus* newsletter has gone from bi-weekly to monthly and we wanted to check in to see what effect this has had on programs. Some programs are putting more into the *Sunday Times* because monthly frequency of the *Focus* is not enough. Others are using online tools such as Meetup. Overall, program chairs said that they are relatively comfortable with the monthly frequency but feel it's important for supporting communication vehicles to be brought up to speed to be sure we are reaching people congregation-wide.

Super Committee Night

After piloting the 'stacked programming' on Tuesday night, we checked in to see how it's working. This schedule encourages community and adds a mid-week spiritual opportunity for committee members. While everyone felt that there are some benefits to meeting on those Tuesdays, it doesn't work for all programs. We agreed to keep it going and programs will try to take advantage of it when it makes sense for them.

Other updates

The program council also discussed the move to two services, the 2010/2011 budget process, and got an update from Greg Blus on the building projects.

Childcare Procedures for Meetings & Events

Countryside Church recognizes that a key component of congregational growth and radical hospitality is caring for the youngest members of our community. As such, we share a commitment to providing quality childcare. If you are planning a meeting or event for which childcare will be needed, please contact Childcare Coordinator Jenny Tanquary as soon as possible to make arrangements. Please consider joining the Childcare Committee to help coordinate schedules, train staff, and track utilization!

Facilities Team Forming

Do you have an interest in helping to make decisions for the care and feeding of our beautiful building? Countryside is in need of volunteers for a Facilities Committee. We have had dedicated and wonderful leadership in this area for several years from Paul Sneddon, and he is now using his considerable talents in other projects for the church. So, we need knowledgeable, interested folks to step up to keep our facility healthy.

The policy manual describes this committee's job as:

"To maintain and improve the Church buildings including rental home by:

- * Performing routine maintenance
- * Managing maintenance and service contracts
- * Responding to emergency breakdowns
- * Defining projects, and then planning and coordinating contractors or church members
- * Identifying problems and then communicating them to the Board of Trustees"

Lest these responsibilities sound daunting, keep in mind that we do have a Sexton now who will be assisting in these functions.

If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Judy Ball or Laurie Lantz (847-359-8440 x1) (Please, please, please, please!)

Green Sanctuary

This is an exciting time for the Green Sanctuary Committee! We're in the process of creating and coordinating 12 projects as part of our Action Plan for UUA accreditation. The 12 projects will be spread over 4 areas: Worship and Celebration, Religious Education (1 youth, 1 adult), Sustainable Living, and Environmental Justice. If you have an idea for a project, and are interested in leading it, please talk to Leslie Peet or Gail Wisniewski. You may email your suggestions to greensanctuary@ccuu.org. For more information about the UUA Green Sanctuary program, go to www.uua.org, and search "Green Sanctuary Manual."



Noteworthy

Calling All Drummers

Do you like to drum?! We need five capable and enthusiastic percussionists to play along with the Countryside Choir on a very moving and spirited African anthem that we will be performing on Easter Sunday, April 4. Though previous drumming experience is not technically a requirement, a very good sense of rhythm—and the ability to play a pattern by oneself—is! Interested? Please come drum with us. We need you! Contact Jeff Hamrick, music director, at music@ccuu.org.

Congratulations

To Malia Bryant and Nathan Vahey-Kadlec on being accepted into the UU Children's Choir that will be performing at General Assembly in June in Minneapolis!

Choir News

The Countryside Choir is excited to be taking part in the first ever District Choral Festival, to be held in conjunction with the Central Midwest District Conference, April 30-May 2, at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling, IL.

Marty Swisher, music director at Unity Temple, Oak Park, will be festival choir director and our own Jeffrey Hamrick will serve as accompanist. We look forward to joining our voices with those from other UU churches throughout the district, from St. Louis to Wisconsin. Marty Swisher has chosen a rich and varied repertoire of music for us to sing. The chorus will rehearse both on Friday evening and throughout the day on Saturday, with a final Choral Festival Concert to be given on Saturday evening, May 1, at 8 p.m. We would be delighted to see the faces of Countryside members in the audience, and we will no doubt sing more joyfully knowing that you have come to hear us sing!

The Countryside Choir lives our church's invitation to "Come Grow with Us"—we are growing in our ability to learn and sing music from other cultures and to sing a cappella, and both these skills enhance our contribution to the spiritual richness of worship services. Not only do we grow in excellence and in our contribution to worship, but we grow in numbers. This church year several new members have joined, adding the beauty of their voices and their enthusiasm to our commitment to enhance the worship experience of both choir and congregation members. Jeff now must order more copies of each anthem we sing (growing not only the choral library but also, alas, the music budget!). It inspires all of us when new members embrace and enrich the work we do.

Our Great Choir (the One-Hour Choir that meets at 9 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month) grows greater, too, with more and more people coming to join in the work and fun of preparing an anthem for worship. Jeff's goal is to have 40 singers for our March 7 service—Come Sing with Us! Under Jeff's capable and thoughtful direction, our work is intense and focused, but the experience of singing well and connecting with the congregation to enhance worship is rewarding and deeply gratifying.

Singing in the choir nourishes our brains, our hearts, and our souls! ...Jane Matthews

Observations about the CCUU Music Program

What I find most exciting at Countryside Church UU (CCUU) is the tremendous diversity in our choral repertoire and special music, not only the variety of genres we incorporate but the range of traditions whose music we honor from Buddhism to Judaism and everything in between. As someone who is both a vocalist and an instrumentalist, though, nothing stokes my creative spirit like the instruments and instrumental arrangements to which Jeff has been open. Where else would I have an opportunity to play hammered dulcimer and percussion of all kinds - sometimes in the same service? Or transcribe a traditional Appalachian piece for Christmas Eve? Or, my personal favorite, play the accordion in an ad hoc klezmer band? The chance to use my musical gifts is the heart of my worship experience at Countryside.

...Mary Ellen Heelan

History of the Rainbow Flag



The original gay-pride flag was hand-dyed by Gilbert Baker. It flew in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade on June 25, 1978. At college campuses during the 1960s, some people demonstrated for world peace by carrying a Flag of the Races (also called the Flag of the Human Race) with five horizontal stripes (from top to bottom they were red, black, brown, yellow, and white). Gilbert Baker is said to have gotten the idea for the rainbow flag from this flag. The flag consisted of eight stripes; Baker assigned specific meaning to each of the colours:

- hot pink: sexuality
- red: life
- orange: healing
- yellow: sunlight
- green: nature
- turquoise: magic/art
- indigo: serenity/harmony
- violet: spirit

Thirty volunteers hand-dyed and stitched the first two flags for the parade.

After the November 27, 1978 assassination of openly gay San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk, demand for the rainbow flag greatly increased. To meet demand, the Paramount Flag Company began selling a version of the flag using stock rainbow fabric consisting of seven stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, blue, and violet. As Baker ramped up production of his version of the flag, he too dropped the hot pink stripe because of the unavailability of hot-pink fabric.

In 1979, the flag was modified again. When hung vertically from the lamp posts of San Francisco's Market Street, the center stripe was obscured by the post itself. Changing the flag design to one with an even number of stripes was the easiest way to rectify this, so the turquoise stripe was dropped, which resulted in a six stripe version of the flag - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.

In 1989, the rainbow flag came to nationwide attention in the United States after John Stout sued his landlords and won when they attempted to prohibit him from displaying the flag from his West Hollywood, California, apartment balcony.

Proper display of the Rainbow Flag is with Red on top and Violet at the bottom.

Written by Dayle Roberts

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow_flag_\(LGBT_movement\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow_flag_(LGBT_movement))

Religious Education (RE) News

Thank You Haiti Helpers!

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the "Kids Helping Kids" Art Fair for Haitian Relief sponsored by our religious education classes. The fundraiser, held following worship last week, featured homemade candles, note cards, jewelry, paintings, Danish heart baskets, mystical iron-on decals and much more. Many thanks to all the children, teachers, and Rev. Hilary who donated items, and special thanks to Andi Ruhl of Thrown Elements Pottery in Arlington Heights, who decorated, glazed and fired the chalice pendants and beads with the RE children. Together we raised a remarkable \$881 to benefit the UU Service Committee's relief efforts in Haiti. Thank you!

New Chalices

Children and youth in Grades 1-7 have been learning about the history of the UU chalice, and with the help of artist, Andi Ruhl, have made new pottery chalices for their classrooms. Stop by Classrooms # 1, 2, and # 4 to see them this Sunday! Many thanks to all the RE teachers, children and Andi for her tremendous help!

Complete the Worship Questionnaire Today!

When will RE be offered next year, and what will RE look like if we move to two worship services? These are key questions, and we have a great 2nd service implementation team in place to help assess the best possible experiences for next year! We need your volunteer support, and your feedback! Please take a few minutes today to complete the questionnaire in this issue of the *Focus*, or pick up a copy at Info Island during coffee hour. All responses are due by March 14. Thank you!

New Spirit Play Team

We have a great new Spirit Play Team in place for next year - Kathy Dahlgren, Susan & John Conneely, Shila Khan, and John Stanley — will coordinate key aspects of the Spirit Play experience. If you're interested in teaching in this popular class next year, please let us know soon! Questions? Contact: Colleen Vahey, Director of Religious Education: 847.359.8440 x4. Thank you!

Neighboring Faiths Update

Many thanks to our current teachers, Mary Henske and Armando Pauker, and guest visitor, Paul Dave, and his family who shared their knowledge of Hinduism with our Neighboring Faiths class (Grades 5-7) on Feb. 21. We look forward to the class field trip to BAPS Mandir Temple in Bartlett on March 21. Permission slips are available from Margaret Myren.

Social Action Committee (SAC) Update



Needed: Mentors and Children's Teaching Assistants for Making the Most of Our Money

Mentors (for the adult program) and teaching assistants (for the Children's program) are needed for the

MMOM session scheduled to begin March 31. Each session meets on Wednesday night and lasts for 9 weeks. Please consider being a mentor in the adult program or a teaching assistant in the children's program. No experience needed! We provide all the training you need. Attend the mentor training class on March 10 at 6:30 pm. Applications and information flyers are located on the social action bulletin, or request a copy from David Cohen.

Meals Needed to Feed Clients of Making the Most of Our Money Program

Please sign-up on the Social Action Committee bulletin board to provide a meal to the clients participating in the Making the Most of Our Money program. We are providing meals because we discovered that the clients and their children were showing up hungry. Meals are needed for 9 Wednesday evenings starting March 31. If you do not feel able to provide an entire meal, that's OK; team up with another church member (or two) to provide a meal. Please see Belinda Robinson or look for the sign-up sheet on the social action bulletin board.

Microfinance Starts at Countryside Church!

SAC contributed \$175 towards four separate microfinance loans on Kiva.org. The loans cover people in the Ukraine, Paraguay, Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Shown below are pictures of the people whose lives we are changing through the use of microfinance loans. When these loans are repaid, we will lend the money again to help even more people! Find out more information of whom we have helped by looking at the SAC bulletin board. We have also started our own team on Kiva. If you use Kiva.org, be sure to ask to associate with our Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist team on Kiva.

SAC and Green Sanctuary Donates to Doctors Without Borders

SAC and Green Sanctuary recently donated \$100 to Doctors Without Borders for Haiti relief in honor of St. John's UCC in Arlington Heights. The donation was to thank St. John's UCC for donating approximately 500 china plates to use to provide meals for the Making the Most of Our Money Program. The dishes can also be used for church lunches or dinners.

Sign Up for the Next PADS Meal (3/24)

Our next PADS meal for the shelter at the Presbyterian Church of Palatine is March 24. Please sign-up on the social action bulletin board or contact Belinda Robinson. Our meals are greatly appreciated, as indicated by the following e-mail that Belinda received:

On behalf of our 25 PADS guests this past Wednesday, February 24, I would like to extend thanks to you and the Countryside congregation for the meal you provided. Everything was so beautifully prepared and packaged. While the meatloaf was heating, our church smelled heavenly! When the dinner was completed, quite a few of our guests complimented us on the meal. One woman in particular asked that we be certain to tell all of you how much she enjoyed and appreciated your cooking and most especially the salad that was filled with a variety of tasty ingredients. And, of course, everyone loved the beautiful variety of pies that were offered. It was an excellent homecooked meal and one that was particularly welcoming as many of the PADS guests arrived snow-covered and ready for a warm meal.

I feel that I am blessed to be in a position to see the fruits of all of our labors as the PADS guests are served. Although all of you who prepare a monthly meal may not get the opportunity to witness the results in person, please know that our PADS guests are sincerely appreciative of all that you provide.

With gratitude,

Kathy Shuler, Presbyterian Church of Palatine

March 28 is UUSC Justice Sunday

The theme of this year's annual UUSC Justice Sunday Service is to advance economic justice against the backdrop of the global economic downturn. Please see David Cohen or e-mail SocialAction@ccuu.org if you want to participate in the service.

Why Should We Participate in Social Action?

My vision for the future? Two things: to make credit a human right so that each individual human being will have the opportunity to take loans and implement his or her ideas so that self-exploration becomes possible. And second: that it will lead to a world where nobody has to suffer from poverty - a world completely free from poverty ~ Muhammad Yunus, Bangladeshi economist, founder of Grammen Bank & 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner

Next Social Action Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 21 at Noon in classroom # 1. A potluck lunch is always served. Please join us & help to make a difference.

Become a Chalice Lighter!

Wouldn't it be great if there were people beyond our congregation who wanted to support our efforts and the efforts of others to grow Unitarian Universalism in the Midwest? Well - there are!

The Chalice Lighter Program is a district-wide program that supports UU congregations as they work to increase their visibility and impact through growth, outreach, and improvement of their buildings. Becoming a Chalice Lighter means that, as congregations dream big and plan solidly, you are part of making those dreams come true. Becoming a Chalice Lighter means that you contribute a very modest amount of money three times a year and that modest amount combines with contributions of other committed UUs around the district to provide grants of a few thousand to over ten thousand dollars. The district website says: "The Central Midwest District is one of 20 districts working to further liberal religious values as part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The district covers all or part of five states - Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan and Indiana - and serves over 80 congregations with over 12,000 members." Becoming a Chalice Lighter means that you increase the chances of our great faith tradition reaching more people and changing our world.

Becoming a Chalice Lighter means that you increase the number of people in our own congregation who are Chalice Lighters and make Countryside Church a flagship congregation in the growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Central Midwest District. Becoming a Chalice Lighter helps our congregation to later participate in the program by applying to receive grants to help our own congregation thrive and grow.

Please become a Chalice Lighter by picking up a brochure from the pamphlet rack across from the church office or visiting <http://www.cmwd-uua.org>. If you want to become a Chalice Lighter Ambassador, you can contact the Rev. Hilary Krivchenia.

Chalice Lighters Mission

To extend Unitarian Universalist principles and faith by promoting growth of our congregations by walking together in religious covenant expressed by a generosity of resources and spirit.

Chalice Lighters Vision

To provide grants for congregational growth initiatives that hold the greatest promise of success and potential for the strongest long-term impact.

UU Women as Agents of Change

A Women's Leadership Day will be held on Saturday, March 20 at Third Unitarian Church in Chicago. UU Women's Connection proudly presents a program to celebrate the 200th birthday anniversary of Margaret Fuller. We will honor this feisty and fearless UU foremother by honoring UU women in our congregations who have similarly stepped up in difficult times. All women from district congregations may register for a modest \$15, which includes celebration, honoring, ritual, Margaret Fuller Conversation Salons, lunch, entertainment by MOMSthatROCK (momsthatrock.com), and more. More info at www.womenandreligion.org.

Honoring Martha (Marty) Atherton

The following is excerpted from the letter that Judy Ball sent to the CMwD.

There is no way to "briefly" write or speak about the contributions of Marty Atherton to our church, community, country, and world. Marty's leadership has addressed all the areas we were asked to consider in nominating her as our honoree for this day....

Locally, her family's foundation, The Robert, Martha and John Atherton Foundation, supports and leases space to Trinity Services, an organization that provides homes and services for physically and mentally challenged people. The income from all the leases in that building is donated to charity....

On a national level, Marty supports the Portland Rescue Mission of Portland, Oregon, in honor of her son, John. This Mission provides shelter for the homeless, and more long-term residence for those who have improved their status in the world.... Marty also supports the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in memory of two of her sons, a scholarship fund for the UUA, as well as a scholarship fund for our own Meadville-Lombard seminary.

Internationally, Marty is a past-president of both Sister Cities International, with whom she continues to work, and of American Women for International Understanding, from which she received the Bernice Behrens Award. In her capacity as a member of AWIU, she has led four trips abroad to further international understanding among women, especially in countries where women's issues are particularly sensitive.... In their work and their travels, her group has helped many efforts for women and children, including initiating NGOs led by women, creating family centers and orphanages, rehabbing homes, and supporting university students. ...

Marty is not just a leader, she's a force of nature and, along with her late husband Bob, we love her dearly and are honored to be able to share her with you today.

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.

Wed 3/3	7pm	Ctte on Ministry	Sun 3/21	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	7pm	Transition Meditation		9am	Field Trip: 5th-7th to BAPS Mandir
	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group		11:45am	Meet the Minister
Thu 3/4	7pm	Hatha Yoga		12pm	Social Action Mtg
	7pm	Scripture Class		12pm	2nd Service Team Mtg
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group
Fri 3/5	12pm	Worklife Support Group		12pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg
	7pm	Spiritual Movie Night	Mon 3/22	6pm	Mentor Training-MMOM
Sat 3/6	9am	Board Retreat with Tom Thomas		7pm	Christianity in Age of Cultural Wars
	4pm	Coming of Age retreat	Tue 3/23	7pm	Adult Faith Development Council
Sun 3/7	9am	Open Forum Discussion		7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg
	9:30am	Spirit Circle for All Ages		7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
	9:50am	Breakfast & Fellowship	Wed 3/24	7pm	Facilitators Chalice Circle
	12pm	Christian Covenant Group Mtg		7pm	Transition Meditation
	1:30pm	Common Ground Lecture	Thu 3/25	7pm	Hatha Yoga
Mon 3/8	7pm	Christianity in Age of Cultural Wars	Fri 3/26	7pm	Games Night
	7pm	Auction item: Happiness Class	Sat 3/27	8:30am	Great Plains Intro to Zen Workshop
Tue 3/9	7pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle	Sun 3/28	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	7:30pm	Green Sanctuary Mtg		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
Wed 3/10	6:30pm	Mentor Training-MMOM	Mon 3/29	7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Grp
	7pm	Transmission Meditation		7pm	Christianity in Age of Cultural Wars
	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg	Tue 3/30	7:15pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group
Thu 3/11	7pm	Hatha Yoga	Wed 3/31	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Thu 4/1	7pm	Hatha Yoga
	7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting		7pm	Scripture Class
Fri 3/12	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Sun 3/14	9am	Open Forum Discussion	Fri 4/2	12pm	Worklife Support Group
	12pm	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting		7pm	Spiritual Movie Night
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group	Sat 4/3	5pm	Seder
	4pm	Journey Inward Vegetarian Potluck	Sun 4/4	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	6:30pm	Book Circle		9:30am	Spirit Circle for All Ages
Mon 3/15	7pm	Christianity in Age of Cultural Wars		9:50am	Breakfast & Fellowship
	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting	Mon 4/5	7pm	Christianity in Age of Cultural Wars
Tue 3/16	7pm	RE Council Mtg	Tue 4/6	7pm	Program Council Meeting
	7pm	Worship Council		7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp
	7:30pm	Green Sanctuary WEB Mtg	Wed 4/7	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
Wed 3/17	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting		7pm	Transition Meditation
	7pm	Journey Inward		7pm	Ctte on Ministry
Thu 3/18	7pm	Hatha Yoga		7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group
	7pm	Scripture Class	Thu 4/8	7pm	Hatha Yoga
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Fri 3/19	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle		7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting
	12pm	Worklife Support Group	Fri 4/9	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning
	7pm	Song Circle			
Sat 3/20	TBA	Circle Suppers			

WhaleCoast Alaska 2010

Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program July 9-21, 2010, in our 14th year! See REAL Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. UUs host events and lead tours. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Observe wildlife. Visit Denali National Park. Dave Frey, a 29-year Alaska resident, leads the programs. There is a tour outline located on the bulletin board across from the church office, as well as a registration form, or visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org. Don't delay, the program usually fills sometime in March. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Vegetarian Potluck

The Journey Inward group is hosting a potluck on Sunday, March 14, 4 - 7pm. Please make sure your dish is dairy/egg/honey free (vegan) and bring the ingredients on a card so anyone with allergies will know what's in the dish. We will also have a donation box setup for the Heartland Animal Shelter. For more information and/or to register for the event, please see Erv Toth or Rose Schulz or go to www.Journey-Inward.com.

Common Ground Lecture: Obama Year One

On Sunday, March 7 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary, Jim Kenney will speak on *Obama Year One*. \$10 suggested donation. It's been quite a year for the country and for Barack Obama. His job approval ratings have vacillated as he's struggled with the financial crisis, health care, unemployment, climate change and Afghanistan. How's he doing? And, almost as important in an election year, how do democrats, republicans, and independents assess his first year? This presentation will offer quick but (we hope) insightful answers to those critical questions.

Jim Kenney is the executive director of the Interreligious Engagement Project and of Common Ground.

Book Discussion Groups

Book Circle

All are welcome to attend Sunday, March 14, at 6:30 pm in room 6 to discuss [Living Downstream: A Scientist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment](#) by Sandra Steingraber.

Last Mondays Book Discussion

Please join us Monday, March 29 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss [The Cat's Pajamas](#) by Ray Bradbury.

Questionnaire about Worship Service

To our members and visitors,

On January 20, 2010, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to provide a more welcoming spiritual home to all who come into community at Countryside, by affirming the need to add a second Sunday worship service.

This will take all of us working together - to care for one another, to stay connected, to welcome new people, and to make a success of both services.

As members of the 2nd Service Task Force, we have been asked to research options, identify resources needed, and make recommendations to the Board about the best possible options for such a move.

We have created the attached questionnaire to gather important information to help inform our work. There are no right or wrong answers - but all your answers will help us to achieve success. We appreciate your time and insights.

If you have any further questions, we will be available during coffee hour in Atherton Hall, and can be reached by phone or email. We look forward to talking with you.

Please return the questionnaire to the church office by Sunday, March 14.

With appreciation for this opportunity ...The Second Service Task Force

Rev. Hilary Krivchenia
Colleen Vahey
Jeff Hamrick
Laurie Lantz
Sheryl Skifstad (Music)
Lisa Christensen (Worship)
Clif Dahlgren (RE)
Cathleen Chay (Membership)

Liana Allison (Music, Worship, RE)
Jane Matthews (Music, Welcoming Congregation)
Peggy Simonsen (Board, Personnel Committee)
Vid Axel (CCRC, Forum)
Larry Frank (Lay Ministry, Ctte on Ministry)
Judy Ball (Board President)
Dan Wiseman (Adult Faith Development)