

Thoughts from the President

Today, April 1, it seems as if spring has sprung and the daffodils have “ris”. Let’s hope it’s for real and not just an April Fool by Mother Nature.

We have much rising at CCUU this month as well. The House Parties are happening, with much conversation about our feelings for and commitment to our congregational family. The budget for the approaching new fiscal year is ready to be fulfilled by the results of the Stewardship Drive. If you haven’t done so already, hop on board and enjoy the ride.

The Board of CCUU is especially excited about the plans for a second service, beginning in the fall. While this is change, for sure, it is a change that will allow us to grow, to serve both current and prospective members in unique, even presently unknown ways, and will give us a wonderful opportunity to know our children, youth and RE teachers in a way we have been unable to do before. It is delightful to see the way the staff has endorsed this process so wholeheartedly, and has made so many plans already to accommodate the change. Other churches have found the addition of a second service to provide new energy to their congregations, and we feel this is exactly what will happen at CCUU.

The Outreach Funding Council continues to meet to discuss the disbursement of funds from both the Building Campaign, and future Operating Funds. We have written our charter, which includes our mission and procedures for soliciting recommendations for allocating funds. We have already received some information regarding recommendations.

The Board has approved an events policy, which allows for a streamlined approach to making decisions regarding the use of our building for fundraising and other events. We had a very productive and inspiring mini-retreat with Thom Thomas in early March, which has provided the Board with much concrete assistance in defining the governance structure of a church of our size, with the talents of our membership. Our visit with Mike Durall is coming up in April, with his final report to follow by the end of our church year. We have learned much about ourselves as a church and as a Board through working with these consultants.

Finally, we are looking for members who are interested in being delegates to the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in late June. If you are planning to attend this meeting, which all who have attended in the past say is a very fun and inspirational event, please see me soon, as registration has already begun. We are allowed six delegates, with several spots still open. This will be an excellent way to see our role as a congregation in the larger UU movement, to learn from and share our stories with other congregations, and to worship with other UUs across the nation. ...Judy Ball

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Attachment: Special Second Service Edition

Upcoming *Focus* Deadlines

May 3 and May 31

Submit articles by 9 am to ccuu@ccuu.org

The Minister's Muse

Well — it really feels like spring! I love winter and feel some regret when it passes — but when the forsythia and daffodils bloom and the drip irrigation system is put out again — I have an irresistible urge to wander outside. Even more, every evening, since it's light out, Mark gets home, changes his clothes fast, and hurries out to play in the yard. The Lacrosse season has started and I am promising myself that I will get to a least a few of Chava's games this year. I am almost positive that in the entire history of my family of origin, there has never been someone who played varsity sports. She has always loved doing a sport and I've learned so much from her involvement with them. Not long ago she shared with me her thoughts about the importance of team sports in what was a deeply thoughtful and philosophical conversation. I suppose for me — congregation life is my version of playing a team sport — except there's no opposing team. But I am always eager to get in the game, to cheer people on, to admire the skill of others, and to stretch my muscles.

Inserted in this edition of the *Focus* is our special second service newsletter! As I scanned through it I was, again, impressed by the vision, skills, and clarity of this congregation. Mike Durall came to speak in the fall and also wrote about spiritual maturity and since then I have seen signs everywhere of our growing spiritual maturity as a congregation. We are moving inward — deepening our spiritual lives at every turn — and we are turning outward — expressing our spiritual lives through acts of radical hospitality. Radical hospitality is that act of opening our hearts and minds so that we see one another and all people as our welcome guests and work to make the congregation and the world more welcoming. Radical hospitality is that that step of spiritual maturity when you come to see that it is not only your own happiness and well-being that count — but that of all life. It is the time that you widen your circle of welcome. That is, certainly what we are doing in the transition to two Sunday Services. It will certainly require me to stretch my muscles. I have done two services in the past — and it does require more energy on Sunday morning. Being part of a growing church also requires energy — I have served both larger and smaller congregations in the past. But, I admit, that the excitement of new faces and the possibilities for new ideas and new connections — have always given me more energy than they asked of me. There is a deep reward in being part of such vibrant congregational life. In addition for me right now — I have a tremendous eagerness to

(continued...)

Stewardship: Now Is The Time

Our annual stewardship campaign needs to come to a close in order to complete the budget process and we haven't heard from every member and friend yet. The members of our community - members like YOU - are responsible for making our aspirations and our hopes and dreams reality. Thank you for what you've done for us in the past. Please help us now with your pledge of financial support, time, and effort to realize our vision. Now is the Time to make your annual financial pledge for the 2010-2011 church year.

If you haven't completed a stewardship pledge form, you will get a mailing soon that includes one. Please review the materials in that mailing and give consideration to the role that Countryside plays in your life as you complete your form. You can also pick up the form at church in the office. Please mail the completed form to the church or drop it off in the church office within the next week.

We are asking you to invest in the miracles that we create as a community of faith and service - a place where people find greater meaning and purpose for themselves, their children, and their grandchildren. Countryside surely is a worthwhile investment.

This is our call! Now is Our Time!

In faith,

Chris Smith, Stewardship Chair

Minister's Muse (cont'd)

share the great thing we have here at Countryside and in Unitarian Universalism. As the days get longer I want more of our light to shine. So I am excited about the prospects ahead — even though I know it means Change.

I am mindful that Countryside has been ready for new things for a long time. At the same time, change at any time can be, as I said in another article, disconcerting. That's why it's important to talk with me or the Board or Program Council to share questions and ideas. Covenant means, literally, to walk together. As we move toward new things — it's important to keep walking together — to talk, to share, to explore, to quest, to help one another — to deepen our lives and our engagement with the world through worship, study and service. It is the heart of our Covenant. Now that I think of it — I guess that a Covenant is sort of like Team Spirit. It helps to bring us together, to move together, to anticipate one another, to learn new things as a group and to keep getting stronger and better at what we do. I love our spirit. It's as fresh as springtime!

From the Treasurer

In March, I listened to our Minister appeal to the congregation from the pulpit concerning getting members to catch-up or speed up paying their pledges. I thought it might prove helpful to know what this appeal has been made. In our approach to budgeting for the next fiscal year we rely heavily on the Contributions/Pledges received Year-to-Date to project what is a sustainable amount to increase this line item for the forthcoming year. We take that amount and look at the same category for the past four years to come up with a reasonable assumption about our growth potential. A funny thing(s) happened on the way to figuring out next year's budget in the form of a depressed economy, a successful Capital Campaign that adds to our level of financial commitment to CCUU, funding our Outreach goals, and the decision by the Board to move to two Sunday services.

Next year's budget will include both funding the growth for additional hours of staff in the religious education and music programs to support two services. Additionally, we will be taking the first steps as a congregation to realizing our goal of allocating 5% from the Capital Campaign for Outreach, and a lesser amount for Outreach from the results of the Stewardship campaign.

What is important is that we need to know soon whether or not a current pledge will/can be fulfilled, and whether you will be increasing or decreasing your pledge for next year. One emphatic way to answer the first part is to bring you pledge current and/or pay it off, so we have a starting point to gauge our projections from. Please contact me by email if you are experiencing financial difficulty and will not be able to fulfill your commitment over the next four months. I'd rather hear bad news and trim the sails, than sail forward on a course toward an iceberg.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Sweigert, Treasurer

Summer Worship Services

Summer really is coming. Are there topics rattling around in your brain? Is there something you would like to share with your UU friends? Now is the time to plan summer services, and your gifts are needed. Please consider bringing forth your creative, thoughtful, inspiring ideas and leading one of our 12 summer worship services - spots are going fast! Talk to anyone on the Worship Council about your thoughts: Jim Booth, Ellen Brouwer, Jeffrey Hamrick, Helen Hawthorne, Kristin Huston, Laura Gadley, Joyce Marks, Leslie Peet, Lois Phillips, Hank Scott, Colleen Vahey, Miles Wrigley, Hilary Krivchenia (co-chair) and Lisa Christensen (co-chair).



Noteworthy

Bang a Drum with Us!

You demanded it, and we listened - the CCUU Drum Circle is here! The first one will be at 7 p.m. April 9 in the sanctuary.

Kids are welcome and encouraged to participate. No experience is necessary - there will be a facilitator on hand to guide the group in various rhythms. Please bring any and all hand drums and hand percussion you have so that we might share with those who have none.

Drumming is a fantastic way to release tension and nurture your primal creative spirit. Kids respond to it as a fun method of self-expression. We want to make this a monthly event, so please bring your enthusiasm and energy.

If you have any questions, please contact Robin Dodds. Thanks, and hope to see you at this night of fun and merriment!

Spring Cleaning?

It's that time of year when it feels good to clean out those closets! Please bring unopened toiletries (shampoo, moisturizer, soap, toothpaste etc) to church and deposit them in the blue bin in the coat closet. Any size (from hotel samples to full-size) is welcome. All items will be donated to the Wheeling Township food pantry to add a little luxury in the lives of needy families.

focus

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Weds: Noon-7pm

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.

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.

April 11

Beyond Zakah

Rev. Krivchenia

This is the third in the Spiritual Activism series and will be about Islam.

The service will include special piano music written by Music Director Emeritus, John Denny.

Meet the Minister after the church service.

April 18

Earth Day Service

Colleen Vahey

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected will be donated to Citizens for Conservation, a local volunteer organization whose mission is “Saving Living Space for Living Things through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources and education.” Contributions are used for land acquisition and restoring native prairies, savannas and woodlands.

April 25

How the Story Ends

Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles

An exploration of how the stories we tell ourselves change our future.

Affirmation: Tom MacTavish. Tom has been a Unitarian Universalist for 35 years. A previous member of six congregation, including The Netherlands, he joined Countryside in 1999. He has served on the Personnel Committee for three years and been a member of the Board of Trustees for the past 2 years.

Soup Lunch Fundraiser for the Coming of Age program follows the service.

May 2

Opening the Heart

Rev. Krivchenia

Joining Sunday

May 9

Parenting the Self and Others

Rev. Krivchenia

Child Dedications Offered

First Sundays at Countryside: May 2

Spirit Circle for ALL Ages

Our final Spirit Circle for All Ages will be on Sunday, May 2. 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!

Child Dedications Offered May 9

One of the most important things we do as a religious community is celebrate life transitions with meaningful rituals. Child dedications are one rite-of-passage offered as a celebration of all children in our congregation. A child dedication allows parents an opportunity to express their hopes and dreams for their children, and the congregation to re-dedicate themselves to the spiritual nurture of each child.

On Sunday, May 9, we will offer child dedications for any child (infant-age 11) who has either recently joined our congregation or who has not yet had the opportunity to be dedicated. The children will be given the blessing and support of the congregation and receive a special gift. If you are interested in being part of this dedication, please contact Colleen Vahey, Director of Religious Education, at 847-359-8440 x4 or cvaheyuu@gmail.com by Monday, April 26.

We look forward to celebrating this special day with you!

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. Upcoming Meet the Minister: Apr 11, May 16, Jun 6.

Upcoming Adult Faith Development Events

Afghanistan: What the Media is Not Telling You - One Person's View

On Sunday, May 2, 1:30-3:30 pm, come and hear activist and businessman Bob Stapp tell with words and compelling pictures what is happening in Afghanistan. Bob has had years of experience working directly with the business community and many institutions to promote economic development in this rapidly changing area of the world. Donations requested.

Moviefest for Mental Health

On Saturday, May 8, 10 am-3 pm, come view free of charge recent feature films such as *The Soloist* along with documentaries on current thinking of mental health issues. Discussion will follow each film and lunch may be ordered for a nominal charge. Cosponsored by five local affiliates of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). For more info, contact Dan Wiseman or Venus Gintowt.

Journeys 2010

Harnessing the Power of Communities

Countryside's annual Adult Faith Development retreat will be held April 23 and 24 at University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein (the grounds of which are beautiful and contribute greatly to a sense of retreat). Come explore your power to make change happen. Learn how organizing for change really works. Conducted by Dan Wiseman and Hal Snyder with outside speakers and documentaries. Scholarships are available.

In 2008, Barack Obama defined a new way of finding and catalyzing communities of progressive and liberal voters. He was building on a long tradition of community organizing. Today's global challenges in social justice, environment, and economics seem overwhelming if we face them alone, but hope for real and sustainable solutions are possible if done through the power of community collaboration.

We at Countryside Church UU are a community. At times, we call ourselves a beloved community. What power do we have? How do we use that power? For what will we use that power? During our time together, we will hear from practicing organizers, learn about how communities are built, and explore our needs and interests in small group sessions.

To register, complete the form below and place it in the AFD mailbox in the church office or mail it to: Countryside Church UU, 1025 N. Smith Rd., Palatine, IL 60067. Please include a check made payable to Countryside Church UU and put "Journeys" on the memo line.

	Shared Room (2 people/rm)	Private Room (1 person/room)	Commuter (no room)
Room	\$50	\$60	n/a
Meals, Conference Rooms, and Supplies	\$60	\$60	\$60
Total Cost per person*	\$110/person	\$120	\$60

*Additional Donations for AFD scholarships are appreciated

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Registration deadline is Sunday, April 11

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration Request:

_____ Shared Room – If you are sharing a room with someone who is registering separately, please indicate name of that person: _____
(to get the shared rate, you must make your own roommate arrangements)

_____ Single Private Room

_____ Commuter (includes all meals and activities)

_____ I request a scholarship.

_____ I am making an additional donation toward AFD scholarships.

TOTAL PAID: \$ _____ **CHECK #** _____

Please attach a check to this form payable to Countryside Church UU; put "Journeys" on the memo line.

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, April 11 will be: Greening the Southside?

Our topic for Sunday, April 18 will be: Getting under the skin: Book explores the “The History of White People.” Is the history of how notions of race developed important for us to understand? What can we learn about being “black” or “white?” How much does being labeled white have to do with skin color? Do you think the Census form is correct to have only one category for white people?

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

Book Discussion Groups Book Circle

All are warmly welcome to join our discussion of Learning to Fall: the Blessings of an Imperfect Life by Philip Simmons on Sunday, April 18, at 6:30 pm in room 6. The author, who died from ALS, was a contributing editor of UU World and a member of the North Shore UU Church of Deerfield, IL. “This book is an act of grace.” (Jack Kornfield)

Last Mondays Book Discussion

Please join us Monday, April 26 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss The Girl Who Played with Fire by Stieg Larsson.

Build Quentin Right

The Green Sanctuary Committee is supporting this nonpartisan, grassroots organization that seeks to promote a safe, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly re-build of Quentin Road through the Deer Grove Forest Preserve. Check out their website: <http://buildquentinright.com>. Final design approval of the Quentin Rd. rebuild is May 1, so if you are interested, it’s important to attend their meeting on Saturday, April 10. Get involved in their working groups! RSVP for the Stakeholder’s Meeting at: info@BuildQuentinRight.com If you have questions, please speak to Mark Krivchenia or Ron Vargason.

Movies with Meaning: April 9

Friday, April 9 from 7 to 9 pm. MoveOn: The Movie. Learn how two people with a laptop started an end run past both political machines and built a grassroots movement several million strong. John Gaudette is featured in the film. He will be at CCUU for the screening and the discussion afterward. This event is free and open to the public. Bring your friends! <http://citizenstruth.info/afdfilms/>

Death and Dying Study Group

This group will meet for a series of Monday evenings, 7-9pm, starting April 26 and continuing through May 31. Sign up on the hall bulletin board or at Info Island during coffee hour. The group will be limited to 10 people to facilitate sharing. The group will establish a list of topics to discuss and share at their first meeting with possible topics such as: medical facts of how we die; spiritual treatment of death in various cultures; philosophical concepts of what happens after death; assisted suicide; personal choices at the time of death.

Journey Inward Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 7-9 pm. Guest speaker Sandy Jamieson Russel, a former Countryside member who runs the Pagan Unity Covenant Group at the UU Church of Elgin, will lead a discussion on the topic of Neo-Paganism. We will use a mini-ritual structure by casting the circle and calling in the energies of the four elements at the beginning and dismissing them at the end of our discussion. For more info, visit www.Journey-Inward.com or contact Erv Toth or Rose Schulz.

Wisdom Rising

A Community Celebration of the Healing Arts at the Elgin UU Church on May 15, 9am - 5 pm. Enjoy a day with Practitioners of the Healing Arts. Learn, share and raise your wisdom of today’s latest healing arts techniques. For more info, visit www.ucewisdomrising.com

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 offered 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.

Religious Education (RE) News

Kids Helping Kids Art Faire

Tremendous thanks to all who helped make our “Kids Helping Kids” Art Faire for Haiti Relief such a huge success. Special thanks to Liana Allison and artist, Andi Ruhl, of Thrown Elements Pottery in Arlington Heights, for their creativity, time and commitment! Thanks to everyone’s generous donations, the children in religious education classes raised \$1,218.77 to contribute to the UUA/UUSC Haiti Relief fund. Thank you!

UU Parenting Blog

This month, uuworld.org is hosting a weekly conversation led by Michelle Richards about raising Unitarian Universalist children. Michelle, a religious educator and mother of two, is the author of a brand new book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of Raising Unitarian Universalist Children*, from the UUA’s Skinner House Books (available at church; please see Colleen). Each week, Michelle will initiate a conversation about some of the unique challenges and joys of raising UU children. I encourage you to visit!

<http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/2010/02/22/welcome-to-uu-worlds-parenting%20-blog/>

Supplies Needed

To help RE classes prepare for Earth Day, we’re looking for donations of the following supplies:

1. T-shirts you no longer wear
2. Plastic bags
3. Yogurt cups (empty and cleaned; 6 oz. preferred)
4. Vegetable or herb seedlings

Please place in the basket by the RE Welcome Table by April 11; thank you!

Join us for Sleep-out-Saturday on April 10

A learning and social action opportunity for all ages! On Saturday, April 10th we’ll join UU churches throughout the Central Midwest District in activities to raise awareness and funds for our local shelters. Learn more about the growing numbers of people experiencing homeless in our area, and what we can do to help! Check out the schedule of activities and volunteer form included in this newsletter and available at the RE Welcome Table and Info Island in Atherton Hall; thank you!

Did You Know. . .

- 74, 149 Chicagoans were homeless in 2008-2009
- about 60,000 school-age children were homeless in IL last year
- 2008-09 estimates of Chicago’s homeless population include:
 - * Families - 46.5% of Chicago’s homeless population (32.4% are children; 14.1% are parents)
 - * Children - 24, 022 children in Chicago experience homelessness
 - * Parents - 10,489 parents in Chicago experience homelessness
 - * Youth - 9, 125 unaccompanied youth in Chicago experience homelessness
 - * For teens, there are 189 emergency shelter beds available in Chicago; 117 beds available in the suburbs.

from Chicago Coalition of the Homeless website: www.chicagohomeless.org

Calling Gardeners!

The Gardening Group is looking for more members. Discover the fun of working in the ground: planting; trying to distinguish a weed from your crop; watering; weeding; harvesting; watering; weeding; being surprised by what comes up (Brussels sprouts grow like that?) and disappointed by what does not (I guess I’ll try something else next year).

Although we divide the garden into individual plots, we are a community and all take some responsibility for helping with watering and keeping an eye out for crops that are ready to be harvested. This year, we want to have a plot dedicated to the Palatine Food Pantry that all will be responsible for maintaining. Work on this plot will be voluntary, of course, but supplying fresh vegetables to the Food Pantry grows from the spirit of the Green Sanctuary program. Giving some of our crop to the Food Pantry expands the benefits of our garden beyond ourselves and adds a community service dimension to the garden.

We all pay a small fee to the church for water and there may be other group expenses as well. While we understand that summers are a busy time, all gardeners are responsible for keeping their plot in good order. If interested, please contact Leslie Peet.

Social Action Committee (SAC) Update

Submit 2010-11 Share-The-Plate Suggestions

Do you have a local or international group that should receive funds through our share-the-plate program? We are taking submissions for the share-the-plate recipients for the upcoming year. Sixteen times a year one-half of the collection plate during service is given to a worthy organization. We will take submissions until our May Social Action Committee (SAC) meeting on May 16. It is easy to make a submission. Place your request in the social action mailbox in the church office or e-mail your request to SocialAction@ccuu.org. Be sure to give a description along with the name and address of the organization.

Sign-Up for Next PADS Meal (4/28)

Our last PADS meal of the season for the PADS shelter at the Presbyterian Church of Palatine is April 28th. Items need to be delivered to CCUU by April 25. Please sign-up on the social action bulletin board or see Belinda Robinson. Our meals are greatly appreciated.

Meals Needed for Making Most Of Our Money

We still have four open dates to provide meals to the clients participating in the Making the Most of Our Money program (Five weeks of meals have been filled). Please sign-up on the Social Action Committee bulletin board. Cannot afford to provide an entire meal? That's OK. Team up with another church member (or two) to provide a meal. Our first meal was served on March 31st (Pizza and salad) and it was a great success! Please see Belinda Robinson or look for the sign-up sheet on the social action bulletin board.

DVD of Justice Sunday Service Available

Missed the annual UUSC Justice Sunday Service on March 28? Then you missed Melanie Schikore Andina's world premier song on immigration reform and many interesting and thought provoking readings on the theme of advancing economic justice against the backdrop of the global economic downturn. Lucky for you, a DVD of the service is available. Please see David Cohen or e-mail SocialAction@ccuu.org if you want to view a DVD of the service.

Making the Most of Our Money Update

A new session of Making the Most of Our Money (MMOM) started March 31. This session includes ten families. We have four new mentors and six repeat mentors. We had to turn down a family because of a shortage of mentors. This session we are serving meals to the families of the participants. The first meal was served and it was a great success. As part of being a green sanctuary, we used real plates. A thank you to the Green Sanctuary Committee for running the dishwasher each night we have class.

Raise Funds for Microfinance Loans on July 3

Help the Social Action Committee raise over \$800

by working the Pizza One Booth and Sweet Shop Booth on Saturday, July 3 at the Arlington Height Festival Days. We need 24 people total to work 3 shifts at the Pizza One booth. The shifts are 11:30 am to 3 pm, 3 pm to 7 pm and 7 pm to 10 pm. The high school youth group has committed to staff the Sweet Shop for the same shifts. If you are willing to work one or more shifts, please e-mail SAC at SocialAction@ccuu.org. If we can quickly fill these time slots, we can sign up for additional days and raise even more money! This is a great fundraiser because we don't want your money, we only want you to donate a couple of hours of your time.

Scholarship for UUSC Just Works Camp

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is holding a Just Works Camp in Minneapolis on June 12-20. Participants will engage in light construction work each day as part of a Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity project. They will spend their evenings meeting local UUs and others who are organizing to address homelessness and other economic-justice issues. Volunteers of all skill levels may participate, although knowledge of construction is very helpful. A few nonconstruction volunteer slots are available. Participants must be at least 16 years old. The cost is \$800 exclusive of transportation to Minneapolis. John Evans has graciously offered a \$400 scholarship to send one person from Countryside to the Just Works Camp. Preference will be given to an individual with construction skills. Please e-mail David Cohen at SocialAction@ccuu.org for more information if interested. A decision on the scholarship will be made at the April 18 Social Action Committee meeting. Please note that submission of an application to the UUSC does not guaranty participation in the program.

Why Participate in Social Action?

"The biggest problem is getting beyond the 'you can't' syndrome. The moment you figure that out, you're on your way to flying. Anyone who cannot see problems around him or herself is utterly blind. All the problems sitting there are an invitation for you to be creative, make use of your skills and resources and find a solution. Of course you can do it. It doesn't require brilliance. It's just giving yourself permission and then being persistent. Persistent in seeing the problem or opportunity and persistent in thinking about it until you have come up with some interesting ideas that might change the pattern. It's really a mindset, not anything in the objective world - that is the problem."

~Bill Drayton, founder of Ashoka, a global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs.

Next Social Action Committee Meeting

Our next meeting is Sunday, April 18 at Noon in classroom 1. A potluck lunch is always served. Please join us and help to make a difference.

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 4/7	5:30pm	RE Curriculum Team Mtg	Wed 4/21	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money		7pm	Journey Inward
	7pm	Ctte on RE Ministry Mtg		7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
	7pm	Ctte on Ministry	Thu 4/22	7pm	Hatha Yoga
	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group		7pm	Path to Membership Class
Thu 4/8	6:30pm	AFD/HCAN Celebration	4/23-4/24		Journeys: St Mary of the Lake, Mundelein
	7pm	Hatha Yoga	4/23-4/25		Spring Youth Con - Springfield, IL
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Sun 4/25	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting		11:30am	COA Soup Lunch Fundraiser
Fri 4/9	7pm	Drum Circle		11:30am	Path to Membership Final Class
	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
	7pm	Sr High Covenant Group	Mon 4/26	7pm	Death and Dying Study Group
Sat 4/10	8:30am	Zen Workshop, www.greatplainszen.org		7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Grp
	11am	Ladies Luncheon (an auction event)	Tue 4/27	7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg
	5pm	Sleep-Out Saturday		7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
Sun 4/11	9am	Open Forum Discussion	Wed 4/28	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
	9am	Path to Membership Class		7pm	Facilitators Chalice Circle
	11:45am	Meet the Minister	Thu 4/29	7pm	Hatha Yoga
	12pm	Coming of Age Mtg		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	12pm	Green Sanctuary Meeting	4/30-5/2		District Assembly @ Westin Hotel in Wheeling
	12pm	Stewardship House Party	Sun 5/2	9am	Great Choir Rehearsal
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group		9am	Open Forum Discussion
Tue 4/13	7pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle		9:30am	Spirit Circle for All Ages
Wed 4/14	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money		9:50am	Breakfast & Fellowship
	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg		11:30am	New Member Reception
Thu 4/15	7pm	Hatha Yoga		12pm	Coming of Age Mtg/Rehearsal
	7pm	Path to Membership Class		1:30pm	AFD Presentation on Afghanistan
	7pm	Scripture Class	Mon 5/3	7pm	Death and Dying Study Group
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Tue 5/4	7pm	Coming of Age Meeting
Fri 4/16	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle		7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp
	12pm	Worklife Support Group	Wed 5/5	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
	7pm	Song Circle		7pm	Ctte on Ministry
Sat 4/17	TBA	Circle Suppers		7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group
Sun 4/18	9am	Open Forum Discussion	Thu 5/6	7pm	Hatha Yoga
	9am	Path to Membership Class		7pm	Scripture Class
	11:30am	Youth Group		7pm	Ctte on RE Ministry Mtg
	12pm	Social Action Mtg		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	12pm	Rainbow Friends Indoor Picnic			
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group			
	12pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg			
	6:30pm	Book Circle			
Tue 4/20	7pm	RE Council Mtg			
	7pm	Worship Council			
	7:15pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group			

Friendly Reminder

We do not have staff for whom dishwashing is a job responsibility. If you bring your coffee cup to the kitchen after the coffee volunteers have finished, you need to wash your own mug. Similarly, if meetings or events use dishes and/or the kitchen, it is the group's responsibility to clean up afterward. Please do not leave dirty dishes in the sink. Thank you for helping to keep Countryside shining!

District Assembly: April 30-May 2 in Wheeling

Why do some congregations grow and others don't?

Join us this year to hear from leaders of our growing congregations about their successes and challenges. These congregations have grown numerically, spiritually and organizationally. You will have an opportunity to hear brief presentations from all these congregations during the first morning session on Saturday, and then to learn more from them during the breakout sessions to be held late Saturday morning and again in the afternoon.

We have significantly reduced our registration fee for this year's DA. \$95 includes Friday night's opening celebration; led by Rev. Gary James of our Deerfield, IL church, presentations on Saturday (listed below) and lunch; end-of-day worship with our district's Young Adults; and the winner of the Sermon Contest at Sunday morning's worship service...and Music - lots of wonderful music from UU musicians in our district. The overnight rate at the Westin hotel is only \$89/night - an amazing bargain for this beautiful, luxury hotel. **For more info, go to www.cmwd-uua.org.**

Panel presentations and breakout sessions

Healthy Congregation Teams: The Fox Valley UU Fellowship in Appleton, WI, has grown from 100 to 650 members in twenty years. This journey has taken us through a series of challenging transitions. One of the key reasons we have been able to continue growing and thriving is our healthy congregation program. This program includes a corporate statement of behavioral principles which continues to be an extremely important in our congregational life as well as an on-going team of people dedicated to keeping our Fellowship healthy.

Taking the Next Step: Incremental Planning for Growth: Sustainable growth is the story at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Peoria, IL. Growth is one result of taking both small and large steps over a period of time and commitment. This workshop looks at what some of the most helpful steps are, how they interconnect, how they might be sequenced, and what the challenges are in carrying out our plans. We aim to help you clarify what is your crucial next step.

A Congregation for All Ages: What does it mean to build one congregation for all ages? Leaders from Unity Temple in Oak Park, IL will share some stories on how it's worked to build bridges among the ages through worship, social mission and other activities.

Saving Mission and Welcoming Change: Diversity and the Impact of New Members. The mission of the church is three-fold: to care for and nurture people on their journeys, to build a just faith community, and to effect a saving message of hope and justice in the world. As visitors are invited to embrace the mission of the church, they become members and the church community is irrevocably changed. First Unitarian Church of Alton, IL will discuss how we welcome such changes.

Growing in the Garden of Service. What can we say about the relationships between congregational growth and our social justice and community service efforts? How does this work change us as individuals and our relationships within our congregations? How can "walking our talk" encourage others to join us on the journey? Rev. Bill Sasso and others members of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship will share their stories and invite you into further exploration of what it means to "Grow in the Garden of Service."

Faith Development Programs for Adults. District consultant Dan Wiseman will lead this discussion. He will share the comprehensive program offered at his own congregation, Countryside Church in Palatine, IL. Representatives from other district congregations will also share some highlights of their successful Adult religious education programs.

UU Young Adult (ages 18-35) Activities

CONtrary: living with a fierce unrest

Join us for a weekend of social action and interfaith discussion on May 21-23 at Chicago's Third Unitarian Church. By volunteering with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, examining power structures that impact our communities and engaging in artistic mediation, we'll empower each other to become the change we wish to see in the world. Register now at <http://connectuu.com/>. Registration fees are on a rolling scale from \$35-80. Super broke? Apply for a scholarship by May 14 at <http://www.cmwd-uuyan.org/>.

Opus 2010: Roots & Wings

Come to the annual spiritual retreat of the Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network to be held August 4-8 at Camp Shaw in Kankakee, IL. This year, we will explore and honor our roots - as a religious community, a young adult network, and as individuals. We will also find ways to spread our wings and move into the future as a movement of inspired and empowered citizens of the world. Register at <http://ConnectUU.com/>. We still need volunteer leaders! Scholarships available - more info at cmwd-uuyan.org.

UUSC Experiential Learning

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is excited to announce two opportunities for experiential learning this summer. Cost of each trip: \$800 per person, which includes lodging, local transportation, and meals. For more info or to download a flyer or application, please visit our website, www.uusc.org.

Building Justice: A UUSC JustWorks Camp Minneapolis, Minn., June 12-19

Participants will engage in light construction work each day as part of a Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity project. We'll spend our evenings meeting local UUs and others who are organizing to address homelessness and other economic-justice issues.

Volunteers of all skill levels may participate, although knowledge of construction is very helpful. A few nonconstruction volunteer slots are available. Participants must be at least 16 years old. Whether or not you can participate in the experience, we are also asking that you consider contributing to our Building Justice Fund to help pay for the cost of building materials.

Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey Georgia and Alabama, July 10-17

Join us for one week that could change your whole life! The 2010 Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey - an inspiring, intergenerational experience - will take you to sites of significance in the U.S. civil-rights movement.

Participants will travel by bus from Atlanta, Ga., to the historic cities of Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Ala. There, you will meet and hear directly from some of the courageous people who worked to desegregate schools, register new voters, and bring an end to racial discrimination in the United States. Freedom Summer will bring together youth and adults from all over the country.

Midwest UU Summer Assembly

MUUSA has been gathering for over 60 years, building a community of sharing, support and friendship every summer. MUUSA will be held July 4-10 at Trout Lodge, which is located on a private 360-acre lake 75 miles southwest of St. Louis, outside Potosi. New and returning campers are invited to enjoy tennis, miniature golf, volleyball, horseback riding, as well as MUUSA workshops and opportunities for spiritual growth and celebration. People of all ages are warmly invited to join the MUUSA family. For info, see the pink flyer on the bulletin board or email to pamela.d.Hermann@gmail.com.

Camp Courage 2010

On July 5-8, campers, who are ages 6-13 and grieving the loss of a loved one, can explore and express their feelings in a safe, supportive and fun environment. For info and to register, call the Center for Care at 847-381-5599 by June 4. All eligible campers are welcome. As space is limited, priority will be given to first-time campers, if necessary. There is NO Cost to campers due to the generous support of sponsors, community partners, and family donations. Camp Courage is led by professionally trained counselors from Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Illinois.

Bayside UU Family Camp

Bayside Camp is a quiet area with a wide grassy hillside and large shade trees for lounging and playing, a gorgeous view of the lake, and our own dock for fishing, sunning, and boating. Bayside is a Unitarian village and a safe, warm, and nurturing place for "raising" the child in all of us. We welcome families of all configurations to join us July 11 - 17. For information, visit <http://www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside/>.

UUs for Social Justice Creating Multiracial Unity in Predominantly White/All White UU Congregations

Friday, April 30, 10:30 am to 4:35pm at North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield. This gathering is just before, and near the location of, the Central Midwest District Annual District Assembly. Sponsored by the UU Multiracial Unity Action Caucus. For details and a schedule, see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the church office or contact UUSJ (uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-752-4019).

Spring Quarter Meeting

Sunday, May 23, 2 to 5 pm at First Unitarian Church of Chicago, 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave. The program, The Peacemaking Congregational Study/Action Issue: what it means to you and your congregation, will be presented by Sharon Welch, Provost and Professor of Religion and Society at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Sharon has been a guiding light in crafting the Peacemaking Statement of Conscience which will be presented for a vote at the UUA General Assembly in June 2010.