



Announcing Our New Religious Educator

Originally sent via email on December 14

A new Director of Lifespan Religious Education has been hired for our congregation! Jules P. Jaramillo (*pronounced hara-mee-yo*) will be joining CCUU on January 15, and comes to us from Atkinson Memorial Church, a UU congregation near Portland, Oregon, where she is currently the Acting Director of Religious Education. Prior to that position, she was the Director of Religious Education at River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Davie, FL.

Jules brings significant experience to our community, not only as a religious educator, but also as a K-12 teacher, social worker, and program director for several non-profit organizations. As a social worker, her areas of focus were in autism (full spectrum), developmental disabilities, mental illness, homelessness, addictions, and cognitive development. She also was a high school English teacher at a bilingual prep school in Bogota, Colombia.

"I chose to move into religious education as a profession because I whole-heartedly believe that Unitarian Universalism not only offers the much needed bandages for our wounded world but also gives us shelter and redeems us to a place of wholeness," says Jules. "As a religious educator, I have the opportunity to be a leader and to encourage a deeper relationship with our faith in adults, to build bridges to bring social justice into our hearts, and to develop a foundation in our faith with our children and youth that will create lifelong Unitarian Universalists."

Jules has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma, as well continuing professional development in the UUA's Professional Interim Training program, OWL, Multicultural Education, Teacher Development, and Early Childhood Learning. Originally from Barrington, IL, Jules will be relocating to this area with her husband, Fernando, and son Patrick, age 16. Her older son, Niko, lives in Florida.

See page 2 for answers to *Frequently Answered Questions about our new DLRE*. Reverend Hilary and the Search Committee (Judy Ball, Linda Berry, Kathi Hillyer, CarolAnn Shindelar, Chuck Smith, and Kim Tilford), will introduce Jules to the congregation during worship services on January 24.

Vespers Service & Dinner

Weds., Jan 27, 6:00 pm

Take Courage: Finding Faith in Difficult Times & Fueling the Fire of Commitment



Join us for a mid-week Vespers Service and meal. From 6-7pm, we'll share a meal (contributions welcome from \$0-\$10/person) and then gather for a 30-minute "campfire" service for all ages. Music, poetry, and stories to inspire us to carry our light into the dark night. If you have a song to sing or a reading to share, email Ministerial Intern, Eileen Wiviott at ewiviott@hotmail.com by January 20.

Worship Schedule

January 3 will be the last Sunday on our holiday worship schedule, with ONE worship service at 10 am. We return to our two-service schedule on January 10, with worship & religious education at 9 & 11 am. *More worship info on page 4*

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Minister's Muse

As the morning of the Christmas Pageant drew closer, I began to feel a little bit uneasy. From a distance, a "rehearsal free" pageant seemed like the perfect idea for a year when there was no Director of Religious Education to gather the ages for rehearsal. True, I'd never participated in or even seen a "rehearsal free" pageant, but I'd heard they were ok, fun, less stressful in preparation. I found a good framework from a pageant adapted from a pageant written by the Rev. Jory Agate, who may well have adapted it from someone else. Then I edited parts and added my own spin and poof, the only thing left was to find a real baby Jesus or two.

Still, as the morning approached, little doubting voices whispered, "Really? No rehearsal, no run-through? Suppose it's pure chaos?"

It can be hard to give yourself fully to an unpredictable path. This sure seemed unpredictable. Small children, babies.. what could go wrong?

Of course, small glitches aside, the pageant was a great experience. All the participants did an outstanding job – the holy families, the mangers (aka the parents of our tiny baby Jesuses), the baby Jesuses, the shepherds, the wise people, sheep, camels, the penguin, star, angels, the remarkable young readers, the generous puppeteers, the sweet-voiced children who joined the choir, the great harmony of the choir, the musicians, our intrepid stage manager, all the work that our RE Coordinator did beforehand, and the congregation who joined in with great heart.

It fully embodied the spirit of Christmas – yes, the sweetness and even the sentimental factor – but to me much more. The pageant reaffirmed these truths:

- that we don't need to know the right path fully in order to travel it well in grace and a spirit of playfulness.
- that our glorious children are capable of more than we (even we who dote upon them) often look to them for
- and that, if we are looking for hope in the holidays, for a savior to bring us answers, we don't need to look any further than these good human souls who gather here together. We have more and greater gifts than we realize to make a world of difference.

Nonetheless, I'll be glad when Jules Jaramillo arrives in January and relieved when next December rolls around and the pageant will have the hand of our Director of Lifespan Religious Education.

By the time this appears in print, you may already have had a Christmas and a New Year. I hope they were both Merry and Happy and that your new year will be one in which you fully inhabit the version of yourself you most admire and that makes you feel deeply purposeful and fully joyful.

FAQs re. Our New DLRE

Who is our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE)?

Jules Jaramillo (*pronounced hara-mee-yo*) will be joining us January 15 as our new DLRE. She has previous experience as the Director of Religious Education for River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Davie, FL and is currently the Acting Director of Religious Education for Atkinson Memorial Church near Portland, OR.

What is the difference between a Director of Religious Education (DRE) and a DLRE?

We are hiring her as a Director of Lifespan Religious Education because that is a role that embraces all ages – as opposed to a focus on children. With the presence of an excellent assistant, this will mean that DLRE Jaramillo will be able to work with our Minister and lay leadership to bring new innovation and cohesion to our faith development at all ages.

Why was Jules selected?

The Search Committee was very impressed with Jules' background, her passion for Unitarian Universalism, her commitment to social justice, and her personal mission to serve a congregation dedicated to deepening connections with children, youth, and adults through supportive programming and multi-generational learning.

Who are the members of the Search Committee?

The committee members are Judy Ball, Linda Berry, Kathryn Hillyer, CarolAnn Shindelar, Chuck Smith, Kim Tilford, and Rev. Krivchenia. Judy and CarolAnn are committee co-chairs.

Why is Jules starting in January?

We are pleased that Jules is able to start her new position during the current church year. This gives her the opportunity to learn about and support our current RE programming; to build relationships with the CCUU staff, the RE Council and our volunteers; to participate in the appropriate committee and council meetings; and to help provide a smooth transition for next year when she will be fully in the settled position.

This is also a good opportunity for her to meet with members of Countryside and learn more about what we, as a congregation, want to see in Religious Education programming.

Why didn't we hire an Interim Religious Educator for the current year?

An interim search committee was formed this past spring but was unsuccessful in locating a candidate for our interim position. According to the UUA, there is currently a shortage of religious educators (and clergy) nationwide, and qualified candidates typically receive multiple offers. Given those circumstances, CCUU converted the half-time Religious Education Assistant role held by Lisa Vanderbleek to a full-time coordinator role to bridge the gap until we were able to find a permanent, settled Religious Educator.

What can the congregation do to support Jules in her new role?

First of all, please give Jules a warm welcome as she returns to her roots here in Illinois. Let's all give her time to learn her way around CCUU, to get to know us, and to learn about our congregational needs and programming ideas. Then, we can all pitch in to make our Lifespan Religious Education Program thrive.

From the Board of Trustees

This is the time of year, in our part of the world, the daylight is at its shortest, the darkness of the night is at its longest. The gatherings of family and friends and celebrations of Holidays that stretch from fall until now are drawing to an end. It is a time when the warmth and light must come from within us. It seems an appropriate time to pause and reflect on events of the past year, both good and bad. It seems an appropriate time to pause and recognize all that there is to be thankful for and to take stock of all that is good that we want to build from in this New Year.

Your Board would like to share with you some of the things that we are thankful for here at Countryside:

Sheryl Skifstad: I am thankful for the opportunity our community gives me to be of service. As vice president, I have the privilege of leading the Ministry Council. Our team this year is very strong and is doing a great job at enabling the hospitality teams. I look forward to more great work on the long range plan.

Karen Noorani: Looking back, I am thankful for the strong RE program that gave our three children wonderful experiences and a strong grounding in our UU principles. Looking forward, I am deeply grateful for the 8 other trustees that I'm privileged to be able to work with this year, as well as so many others at Countryside who give so selflessly of their time and talent

Alan Greenland: I feel grateful just to be part of the Countryside community. There are so many amazing people at this church. I greatly appreciate the sense of fellowship I feel here.

Joy Simon: I am grateful to be on the church's Board of Trustees because of the commitment and degree of positive intent that I see in every board member. I am proud to be in a liberal church which respects diversity, equality, acceptance and allows every member to find their own spiritual path and belief.

Mary Johnson: I'm grateful that at Countryside Church I've found kindred spirits who are interested in working for change in our community and in our world.

Jeanie Michalec: Have you ever been to a party where conversations sparkle with interesting, funny, active and generous people who love to hear your stories and help make you (and the world) better? Me either. Actually, that party is happening all the time at CCUU. I'm so grateful to be part of this amazing community!

Michael Berry: I am grateful for the many friends we have made at Countryside and also for the chance to be part of a place that shares my social values (largely), and puts words into action.

Kristin Huston: I am thankful for a like-minded, caring, generous community that puts itself out into the world.

Matt Briddell: I am thankful to be part of a community of welcoming and open-minded worshipers and for the opportunity to serve the church in both a leadership role as well as contributing towards the weekly services through singing in the choir.

...Your Board of Trustees

Congratulations

To Chelsie Scoggin-Chang and big brother Austin on the birth of Jeslyn Azalea Maureene Chang on November 25.



To Michelle and Chris Hitchcock and big brother Logan on the birth of Carly Raine Hitchcock on November 27.

Wellness Beyond Walls

Countryside Church and Wellness House in Hinsdale offer a monthly program of deep hypnosis to help people with cancer and their families. The program is led by our community minister, Dr. Giles. The program is free and is open to anyone in our geographical area who has or has had cancer in any form and to their caretaking or family members. It uses hypnotism to promote healing, emotional resilience, and comprehensive stress management. A flyer with a list of the monthly topics for 2016 is available on the bulletin board across from the church office. *Space is limited and you must register. To register, call 630-654-5197 or email kmitchell@wellnesshouse.org.*

Guest at Your Table

Collecting Sunday, Jan. 17

Boxes are available at church or you may place any basket or special container at your table to remember a "guest" this holiday season. By putting the cost of one meal in the basket as often as possible, you will contribute vital funds to support the relief and justice work of the UU Service Committee. For more info, go to www.UUSC.org.

Bad Weather Closing Policy

As we are now in the midst of winter, just a reminder of our winter weather closing policy...

- Monday-Friday daytime, we will follow the lead of School District 15 (CCSD 15).
- At times when CCSD 15 is not in session or if bad weather does not strike until the late afternoon or evening, the minister will decide whether or not to close the church. On Saturday and Sunday, the minister will decide whether or not to close the church, ideally no later than 6 am on the day in question.
- During the week, if you are not sure about the weather's effect on your meeting, please check with your group's facilitator before heading to CCUU.

If the decision is made to close the church, we will publicize the decision on the church website and on the church Facebook page, on the Congregational Administrator's voicemail message (847-359-8440 ext 1), and with the Emergency Closing Center (which publicizes on the local TV and radio stations).

CCUU puts a high priority on the safety of staff, members, and guests. Although the church may remain open, individuals may find that their local conditions make it unsafe for them to travel. *When in doubt, please stay home!*

NOTE: Announcements begin 5 minutes prior to the start of the worship service.

Worship descriptions are also on the church website: www.ccuu.org/worship-a-music/worship-schedule.html

****Sunday, Jan 3 is the last of our holiday worship schedule, with ONE service at 10:00 am****

Jan 3 at 10 am Spiritual Journeys Tracy Boland & Dan Yokas

There are no RE classes this Sunday; young people will attend the worship service with their families. Childcare will be available for infants and toddlers.

We return to our 2-service schedule on January 10, with worship & relig. educ. classes at 9 & 11 am. Relig. Ed. classes are held at 9am for infants thru' grade 4; at 11am, for infants thru' Sr High.

Jan 10 at 9 & 11 am Henry David Thoreau on Civil Disobedience

Join us for another of Mark Huston's historical portrayals of a famous UU.

Young people in grades 2 and above begin in the Sanctuary with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to 2 Li'l Fishes, *Restoring Hope, One Plate at a Time*. Well known to us and with close ties to CCUU, 2 Li'l Fishes is a much-needed lunch program which provides a nutritious, free, tasty lunch six days a week at the People's Church of Chicago, a dual UU and United Church of Christ affiliate congregation located in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood at 941 W. Lawrence.

Jan 17 at 9 & 11 am MLK Sunday Eileen Wiviott, Ministerial Intern

Young people in grades 2 and above begin in the Sanctuary with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms.

Jan 24 at 9 & 11 am Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

Young people in grades 2 & above begin in the Sanctuary with their family; all other young people begin in classrooms

Our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education will be introduced to the congregation during the services.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to N/NW Suburban Housing Task Force, which was formed to address the "appalling lack of housing for individuals with mental illness" in the northwest suburbs. It is made up of area residents and representatives from five area chapters of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Its vision is to develop "permanent, supportive" housing throughout area suburbs and close to a wide range of stores and near transportation. Your donation will help them to continue to meet the challenge of their goals.

Weds, Jan 27 at 6 pm Vespers Service & Dinner: Take Courage Eileen Wiviott

Join us for a mid-week Vespers Service and meal. The theme is *Take Courage: Finding Faith in Difficult Times & Fueling the Fire of Commitment*. From 6-7 pm, we'll share a meal (contributions welcome from \$0-\$10/person) and then gather for a 30-minute "campfire" service for all ages. Music, poetry, and stories to inspire us to carry our light into the dark night. If you have a song to sing or a reading to share, email Ministerial Intern Eileen Wiviott, by January 20, ewiviott@hotmail.com.

Jan 31 at 9 & 11 am It's a Wonderful Church Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

Young people in grades 2 & above begin in the Sanctuary with their family; all other young people begin in classrooms

Feb 7 at 9 & 11 am The Power of Not Giving a Damn Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles

Young people in grades 2 & above begin in the Sanctuary with their family; all other young people begin in classrooms.

At times, it can seem that we live in a world gone mad. Social scientists have discovered how to hook our attention and use that to manipulate our opinions and actions. Such information is used to create advertising, political campaigns, and organizational structures in a dizzying array. There is a way to protect ourselves from this form of manipulation.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to UU Society for Community Ministries.

Mark Your Calendar

We hope you will join us for these all-church events. Stay tuned for future details.

- Chocolate Fest: Feb 14
- Music with a Mission: March 5
- Winter Farmers Market: March 13
- Passover Seder: April 29
- MidAmerica Regional Assembly: Apr 29-May 1, St.Paul
- Journeys Adult Faith Dev. Retreat: May 6-7
- Congregational Annual Meeting: May 15
- UUA General Assembly: June 22-26, Columbus OH



Social Action News

Thank you!

Thanks to all who donated gifts for the Palatine Township Holiday Gift Program and to those who donated gift cards to ease the burden for 90 students at Palatine and Fremd

High Schools who are homeless or near homeless.

Countrysiders donated \$846.65 worth of cards from Target, Walmart, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Wendy's, and Subway. The cards were delivered to PATH (Palatine Assisting Through Hope) where they became part of gift baskets for the students. We belong to Palatine Faith in Action (PFA), an interfaith social action group, which asked each of their own congregations to help. Altogether, the PFA raised over \$13,000 to benefit these students throughout the year.

Monthly Fair Trade Sales ~ Sun., Jan 10

Once/month during coffee hour, we offer fair trade items from Equal Exchange for sale. This is your opportunity to purchase fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil, and snacks.

The Color of Fear ~ Sun., Jan 17, 12:30 pm

Join us in Atherton Hall to view and discuss this insightful and groundbreaking documentary which exposes the state of race relations in America as seen through the eyes of eight American men of Asian, European, Latino and African descent. "In a series of intelligent, emotional and dramatic confrontations the men reveal the pain and scars that racism has caused them. This is the dialogue most of us fear, but hope will happen in our lifetime." This film is as compelling today as when it was created in 1994.

We will start with a potluck meal at 12:20; bring a dish to share. Following the film, we will hold a circle discussion guided by Eileen Wiviott, CCUU's Ministerial Intern, and other members of the Black Lives Matter team. Please join us!

MLK Day Faith in Action Assembly: Mon., Jan 18

Countryside Church has been invited to bear witness for racial justice by attending this annual assembly sponsored by the Community Renewal Society (CRS), a large Chicago-based Christian advocacy group. Our own Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI) Board shares a close relationship with the CRS. Those of us from CCUU who have attended this event in the past can attest to its power and influence. It will include prayer, historical witness to Dr. King's legacy, and action on behalf of justice in Illinois. Elected officials and dignitaries will be in attendance. We will sit with others from the UUANI. *Those who sign up from CCUU will carpool to Arlington Heights, where at 8AM we will board a bus to the First Baptist Congregational Church, 1613 W. Washington Blvd. in Chicago. The bus and event are free of charge. Sign up with an email message to SocialActionChair@ccuu.org*

Next Social Action Meeting ~ Sun., Jan 24

All are invited to join us at 12:15 pm in classroom 2. As usual, potluck lunch will be served.

PADS Meal ~ Weds., Jan. 27

Countryside Church provides dinner n the 4th Weds of the month for the PADS shelter at the Presbyterian Church of Palatine. Stay tuned—watch the e-updates and Sunday Times—for notification when the meal sign-up has been posted. For more information, contact Angelina Huntsha.

Movies with Meaning

Fri., Jan. 8: *Rebels With a Cause*

Join us at 7 pm in Atherton Hall to view and discuss *Rebels With a Cause*, the story of a regional California effort that grew into an astonishing system of fourteen National Seashores — the result of garden clubs, ranchers, farmers, conservationists, politicians from both parties, widows, and volunteers working together through compromise and negotiation, with the American public coming up as the winner.

A stunningly beautiful film narrated by Frances McDormand, *Rebels With a Cause* spotlights a battle over land that changed the American landscape forever. It's a fascinating example of a hard fought campaign to preserve something important to all of us — our public land. *Rebels* is a feel-good cinematic experience that conveys an inspiring truth about how ordinary individuals have the power to change the rules.

Movies with Meaning is open to the public (invite your friends and neighbors!) and FREE (voluntary donation to help cover cost of film licenses). Public performance licensing, when required, is obtained for all films we show.

Compassionate Communication Exploratory Session

Sunday, Jan. 24, 12:15 pm

Please consider attending an introductory, interactive, and exploratory session about Compassionate Communication led by Open Forum Discussion leader Vid Axel. Vid will provide a brief introduction to the subject and will give participants an opportunity to provide input for an upcoming course that he plans to offer about this consciousness and process, inspired especially by the work of Marshall B. Rosenberg (1934-2015). Veterans and newcomers to Compassionate Communication are welcome to attend this session on Sunday, Jan. 24, 12:15-2:15 pm, in classroom 1.

Compassionate Communication aims to develop both a level of awareness and a skill set such that the authentic needs of all involved parties can be met. Vid feels convinced that the principles of Compassionate Communication and UU principles beautifully support one another.

Years ago at Countryside, a Book Circle discussion of Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, led to a course called Speaking Peace being offered at CCUU. Inspired by his attendance in that course, Vid started multiple groups at CCUU that focused on Compassionate Communication. Eventually, here and elsewhere, he led classes & workshops about it, and he became involved in the formation & leadership of CCUU's Compassionate Communication for the Resolution of Conflict (CCRC) panel, for which he still serves as chairperson.

20-30 Somethings

1st & 3rd Sundays

If you are in your 20s or 30s, please join us in classroom 4 after the second service.

NOTE: On the 1st Sunday in January, we will meet following the ONE worship service, which begins at 10 am. For more info, email 2030Somethings@ccuu.org. Child-care is available during the meetings.

Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Group

2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm

All are welcome to join us on Jan 12, when we will discuss religion in the schools. We will try to supplement the discussion with some short videos and/or articles.

Yoga

7 pm on Weds., Dec 30; Fri., Jan 15, 22, 29

Join Elizabeth Vesto in the Spirit Play room for gentle flow yoga to let go of the stress from the week. Each session will end with an extended meditation, including guided meditations and gongs. Bring a mat, straps, and blocks if you have them; otherwise there will be extras to borrow. Donations to CCUU will be accepted.

QiGong

Tuesdays, 10-11 am

Join Emmett in classroom 9/10 to experience slow, gentle body movements & guided meditation.

Note: No QiGong on Jan. 5

Transitions

Thurs, Jan., 28, 10 am

The mission of the Transitions group is to provide a forum for mature adults to explore life transitions with a supportive community during daytime hours. We meet monthly on the 4th Thursday. A potluck meal follows our program/discussion; bring a dish to share or your own brownbag lunch.

Journey Inward

3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

Join us on January 20 in Atherton Hall to explore and learn about metaphysics, spirituality, alternative healing modalities and much more. For more info, visit www.journey-inward.com.

Navigators USA Chapter 30

Navigators USA Chapter 30 is an intentionally inclusive, co-ed scouting group, chartered at CCUU. You don't have to be a Navigator to join our events, and our dues are pay what you can, so feel free to check us out. If you know families outside of Countryside, looking for a coed, progressive scouting alternative, invite them along too—the more the merrier! To join our mailing list for info about our upcoming events, email us at navigators@ccuu.org.

Monthly Meatless Potlucks

4th Sundays, 5 pm

Please join us on January 24 in Atherton Hall. Bring a vegan (no meat, eggs, dairy, or honey in the ingredients) dish to share that more-or-less serves 6-8. We will provide drinks, dishes, utensils. If this is your first time attending and you don't know what to bring, please just bring yourself. For more info, contact Sheryl Bass, mystics999@aol.com, or Steve Combs, stephen-comb@gmail.com.

Sacred Heartbeat Drum Circle

4th Saturdays, 7 pm

Adults and teens are invited to join us on January 23 at 7 pm in Atherton Hall for free style drumming in a low key, loving, peaceful, welcoming environment. No drumming experience necessary! Dancing and chanting is encouraged. For more info, visit www.meetup.com/Sacred-Heartbeat-Drum-Circle.

Upcoming Book Discussions

Book Circle: Sunday, Jan. 10, 6:15 pm

All are invited to join us in classroom 6 to discuss *The End of Food* by Paul Roberts. We gather at 6:15; discussion begins at 6:30.

Last Mondays Book Group: Jan. 25, 7 pm

All are invited to join us in the Stokes Room to discuss *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan, which won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

UUA Common Read: Sun., Feb. 7, Noon

We invite Countryside congregants and friends to read *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson and to join the Black Lives Matter team to discuss it on Feb 7. Colin Tysoe will lead the discussion, aided by the UUA Discussion Guide. Potluck lunch provided.

Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on recent Common Reads, such as The New Jim Crow and Reclaiming Prophetic Witness, and responds to recent statements passed by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

The book is available from the UUA Bookstore, <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Just-Mercy-P17700.aspx>. There is one copy of in the CCUU library. It is also available in hardcover, e-book, and audio format at Amazon and at local libraries.

Buddhist Study Group

2nd Sundays, 12:30 pm

Join us on January 10, 12:30 – 2 pm, in the Sanctuary. For more info, contact Melanie Terbovic, terbovicm@yahoo.com.

Mary Oliver Poetry Series

2nd Wednesdays, 7:00 pm ~ starts Jan 13!

The Study Ministry of Countryside Church UU announces a series of poetry readings which will begin January 13 and will be held the 2nd Wednesday of each month in 2016. Each month, we will feature poetry readings by a local published poet. The scheduled poets and brief descriptions of their work are included below. We are honored to have them with us. Attendees will be invited to read one of their poems after the honored guest's reading. If you wish to read, please submit a request in advance of the session to Trudy Kleckner or Bernice McCarthy.

- January: Gene Kimmet. Gene's work honors a family legacy of work in the smoke, heat, and dust of the mills.
- February: Jane Matthews. Focuses on psychological and spiritual growth in myself and my relationships.
- March: Harlene Henry. Haiku articulates her impressions and observations of nature. Also explores her thoughts in free verse, cinquain, and lyric poetry
- April: Youth Month. High School and Junior High Students will take the mike.
- May: Tobin Fraley. Free form wide range of subjects: the writing itself, world frustrations, childhood memories, and completely silly things.
- June: James Palmer. Jim's philosophy of Poetry is contained in this Haiku:
 Poetry paints life
 A celebration of time
 In dazzling light.
- July: Toni Diol. Memories of forgotten yesterdays, children's antics, gifts of nature, oceans, wind, falling leaves, and winter reflections.
- August: Jean Tolle. Poetry seems sometimes to be invisible in the "real world," but it's always there waiting for a response.
- September: Jan Spaletto. Family, aging, and values; uses a variety of forms
- October: Trudy Kleckner. The beauty, the brokenness, and the sacredness of life. Sometimes questions, other times answers.
- November: Jim Kipp. My poetry helps me lighten life's load. Poetry is my therapy.
- December: Tamara Tabel. Poetry has the power to heal. It allows us the peace and space to reflect, to grieve, to rant, to thank, to forgive, and ultimately, to help ourselves heal from our emotional wounds.

Compassionate Choices Presentation

Sunday, Feb 21, 1:00 pm

Speakers from Compassionate Choices and Final Options Illinois will discuss the proposed law allowing people who are suffering with terminal illnesses and have less than six months to live to die when they choose. Similar laws are present in five states, most recently California. For more information, contact Marge Olszewski.

Open Forum Discussion

Forum meets each Sunday morning to discuss "the issues of the day" while respectfully welcoming different perspectives. We meet in classroom 5 at 8:45 am and socialize for 15 minutes before discussing the day's topic from 9-10 am. To be added to the Forum email list, contact Vid Axel, vidaxel@axeldesigins.com. Our upcoming *tentatively scheduled* topics are:

- Jan 3: Meta-topic – Foundations of US liberal democracy with lead-up to presidential election; part 1 – pre-US foundational documents and the pros & cons of the current US Presidential candidates
- Jan 10: Refugee Crisis—would the US identity change if absorbing large numbers?
- Jan 17: Meta-topic—End of Life; part 1-assisted suicide, difficult to accept truths
- Jan 24: Meta-topic—End of Life; part 2-costs, limits, and expenditures—who decides? What about equality?
- Jan 31: Medicare Abuse
- Feb 7: Meta-topic-Foundations of US Liberal Democracy, part 2-US foundational documents

Mark Your Calendar

Chocolate Fest on Sun., Feb 14

In less than 8 weeks (as of this writing), we'll be holding another ChocolateFest on Sunday, February 14, during coffee/fellowship. We're asking everyone to bring something chocolate, such as brownies, candy, cookies, cookie-bars. FINGERFOOD only, please.

We also ask that you bring something for the Palatine Food Pantry, such as juice in cartons or boxes, cereal, mashed or canned potatoes, canned meat, chicken soup, tomato sauce, dish detergent, and diapers size 3 or 4.

Volunteers who would take the donated food to the food pantry the next day are also necessary. Please contact Kay Gredell: 847-632-0660 or kaygredell@att.net.

Sound Meditation

Weds., February 24, 7:00 pm

Join us to chase away the chill of a cold winter's day with a sound meditation to help silence the chatter of our minds and allow space for healing. Enjoy the soothing sounds of crystal bowls, followed by waves of resounding vibrations from Paiste gongs played by Rev. Krivchenia and Elizabeth Vesto.

Bring a mat or blanket if you would like to stretch out, or you can sit in chairs for support. Come in comfortable clothes and bring a blanket in case you get cool when you relax. A free will offering will be welcomed and will go toward expanding our sound healing and bell resources at CCUU. Join our Meetup group, Primal Wave Sound Meditation, to receive updates on future events. Contact us at primalwavesoundmeditation@gmail.com or 847-847-7068 with any questions.

Upcoming Church Meetings & Events: January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>This calendar shows upcoming Church meetings & events. All meetings and events held in the building are listed on the church website, under Events & Rentals - http://www.ccuu.org/programs-and-events/calendar. If your meeting or event is not listed, please submit a room reservation form (available in the office or on the website with the calendar) to the office.</i></p>						
<p>Jan 3 8:30 am Open Forum Discussion 10 am Worship & Childcare 11 am Coffee/Fellowship 11 am Intro to CCUU 12pm 20-30 Somethings</p>	<p>4 7pm Outreach Steering Council Mtg</p>	<p>5 7pm Ministry Council</p>	<p>6 9:30am Focus folding team 7pm Yoga</p>	<p>7 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 7pm Movies with Meaning: <i>Rebels with a Cause</i></p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Jan 10 8:45 am Open Forum Discussion 9 & 11 am Worship & Relig.Educ. 10am & Noon Fellowship & Fair Trade monthly sale 12pm OWL Parent Orientation 12:15pm Green Sanctuary Mtg 12:30pm Buddhist Study Group 6:15pm Book Circle: <i>The End of Food</i></p>	<p>11 7pm Your Spacious Self: Clearing Circle</p>	<p>12 10am Qigong 7pm AHA Discussion</p>	<p>13 10am Weds Chalice Circle 7pm Finance Ctte 7pm Mary Oliver Poetry Series</p>	<p>14 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 7pm Fri Chalice Circle 7pm Yoga</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Jan 17 8:45 am Open Forum Discussion 9 & 11 am Worship & Relig.Educ. 10am & Noon Coffee/Fellowship Noon Black Lives Matter: <i>Color of Fear</i> viewing & discussion Noon 20-30 Somethings</p>	<p>18 MLK Day: Faith in Action Assembly (see p.5) 9am Focus deadline 11am Memoir Makers</p>	<p>19 10am Qigong 7pm Worship Council Mtg</p>	<p>20 7pm Board of Trustees 7pm Journey Inward</p>	<p>21 7pm Thurs Chalice Circle 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 7pm Yoga</p>	<p>23 7pm Drum Circle</p>
<p>Jan 24 8:45 am Open Forum Discussion 9 & 11 am Worship & Relig.Educ. 10am & Noon Coffee/Fellowship Noon Social Action Mtg Noon Nominating Ctte Mtg 12:15pm Compassionate Communication Intro Session 5pm Vegan Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>25 7pm Last Mondays Book Group: <i>A Visit from the Goon Squad</i></p>	<p>26 10am Qigong 7pm Experiencing God Cov Grp</p>	<p>27 9am-5pm PADS Meal Delivery 9:30am Focus folding team 6:00pm Vespers Service & Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>28 10am Transitions 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29 7pm Yoga</p>	<p>Jan 30 9:15am Feminine Divine</p>
<p>Jan 31 8:45 am Open Forum Discussion 9 & 11 am Worship & Relig.Educ. 10am & Noon Coffee/Fellowship</p>	<p>Feb 1 7pm Outreach Steering Council Mtg</p>	<p>Feb 2 10am Qigong 7pm Ministry Council</p>	<p>Feb 3</p>	<p>Feb 4 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Feb 5 10am Memoir Makers</p>	<p>Feb 6 10am Wellness Beyond Walls, must register</p>

UUs for Social Justice

Be a Home & Hope Booster

Twice a year, the UUs for Social Justice Task Force on Economic Justice & Homelessness asks Chicago Area UU congregations to nominate an organization serving the homeless that the congregation is helping with significant financial and/or volunteer support. The members of the task force select the winning nominee to receive a Home & Hope Booster grant. Home & Hope Boosters are then asked to send in a pledged amount within 30 days. The amounts given are then consolidated into a Home & Hope Booster grant which is sent to the designated organization.

To become a Home & Hope Booster, send your name, address, and congregation name to UUSJ, 1448 E 52nd St, PM Box 144, Chicago 60615 or via email to uusj@sbcglobal.net.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2016

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2016 is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, call 907-322-4966, or email dfrey@whalecoastak.org. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Benefit Concert for Great Plains Zen Center: Feb 20, 7 pm at CCUU

Whatismu artists Lorrie Kountz and Laura Jansons will bring their unique style of instrumental fusion rock accompanied by haunting, intricately-crafted videos created by Laura Jansons and Lee Popa. As a prelude, a rare up-close and personal acoustic performance by 60's icon Jimmy Sohns of Shadows of Knight (GLORIA, SHAKE) will take place. Signed CDs, artwork, snacks will be available at the event.

All proceeds will go the Myoshinji Building Renovation Project, to upgrade GPZC's practice facilities at their retreat center in Monroe, Wisc. In recent years, our retreat attendance has grown, stretching the capacity of our Meditation Hall. Our property was purchased with the intent of eventually converting the work building on the property into a meditation hall and the time has come to take this next step. Our main building will continue to provide space for many of the center's functions including lodging and meal preparation.

To purchase tickets for this concert or for more information on GPZC's programs and the building improvement project, go to <http://www.greatplainszen.org/>

Camp UniStar Job Openings

This camp for UUs and other like-minded people is nestled in Chippewa National Forest on Star Island in northern Minnesota. Each summer, we welcome campers of all ages. We have a seasonal staff of 14 people. We are recruiting for Director, Food Service Director, Waterfront Director, Children's Program, Youth Program, and Generalist. More details, including an application, are available at www.campunistar.org.

Outside Groups Held at & Open to CCUU

Several outside groups use space at Countryside Church UU and are in alignment with our UU Principles and open to participation by all. There may be a participation fee or other requirements set by the group and which apply to all participants, regardless of CCUU affiliation.

Pride Youth provides a safe & confidential space for all high school youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) or who are questioning their sexual orientation. More info at www.linksyouth.org/LGBTpride.

Transcend is a program of Youth Outlook which meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. It is a support group focusing on gender identity and is geared towards Trans youth. It is suggested for 14-20 yr olds. For more info, talk to Kimberly Tilford or go to www.youth-outlook.org.

Journey Transgender Support Group

is for anyone transgender, gender queer, androgynous, or gender questioning; meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2:30 pm in classroom 5. Meetings are limited to people 18 or over, unless accompanied by a parent. transgender_journey-subscribe@yahoo.com

Great Plains Zen Center

GPZC sits meditation on Sundays at 7pm and offers monthly Intro to Zen workshops. For info or to register, go to www.greatplainszen.org.

AA

Men's Meeting: Saturdays, 9-10 am
Women's Meeting: Fridays, 7:30 pm

Job Search Circle

JSC meets in Atherton Hall on Wednesdays, 9-11am. \$5/ meeting. Dress code is business casual. For more info, contact JSC founder Rosemary Monahan, rmonahan@improve-ization.com.

Career Communicators

A Toastmasters International Club dedicated to professional speaking. Meets in Atherton Hall the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm. For more info, visit www.careercommunicators.com.

St Hubert Job Ministry

Events are non-denominational, free, open to all occupations, and held at various member churches. For info, go to <http://www.sainthubert.org/ministries/job.html>.

Focus

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1025 N Smith Rd · Palatine IL 60067
847-359-8440 · ccuu@ccuu.org · www.ccuu.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm, Fri 9am-Noon

Minister Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia
Minister@ccuu.org

Community Minister Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles

Music Director Alison Vernon
Music.Director@ccuu.org

Music Director Emeritus John Denny

Congregational Administrator Laurie Lantz
ccuu@ccuu.org

Acting Religious Education Coordinator Lisa Vanderbleek
RE.Assistant@ccuu.org

Lay Ministers

Ken Bobbe and Jane Matthews, Coordinators

Karen Greenland Joy Simon

Barbara Griggs Chris Smith

Kathi Hillyer Kimberly Tilford

Melanie Schikore

For assistance from Lay or Care Ministry,
please call Ken or Jane or Rev. Hilary.

Our Covenant

We unite to strengthen the bonds of kinship among all persons, to promote human dignity, and to increase reverence for life's creating, sustaining, and transforming power through worship, study, and service.

Our Vision

We come together as a congregation to inspire our quests for the spiritual, ethical, and meaningful in life and to advance respect, compassion, and justice in the wider world.

Our Mission

Countryside is seen as the growing voice and source of liberal religion in the northwest Chicago suburbs by...

- creating a place of inclusiveness, welcome, connectedness, compassion and respect
- providing for the spiritual and intellectual growth of members of all ages
- cultivating a vital future for our congregation and community through thoughtful stewardship of our financial resources and our environment
- acting on a social conscience

Upcoming Focus Deadlines

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

- ◆ January 18 (to be publ. Jan 27)
- ◆ February 15 (to be publ. Feb 24)
- ◆ March 21 (to be publ. Mar 30)

Between *Focus* issues, written communication is via E-Updates & the *Sunday Times* insert to the Order of Worship. Submission deadline for e-updates & *Sunday Times* is Weds at 9 am.

Return Service Requested
Time-dated Material—Prompt Delivery Requested

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Countryside Church
Unitarian Universalist
1025 N Smith Rd
Palatine, IL 60067

