

The Uniter



*Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church
of Urbana-Champaign*

March 10, 2010

Our Mission

*Build community.
Seek inspiration.
Promote justice.
Find peace.*

Our Vision

*We dedicate ourselves
to:*

*- Expanding religious,
educational, and social
activities that serve
our congregation and
the larger community.*

*- Acting on our indi-
vidual and collective
commitment to pro-
mote social justice.*

*- Enhancing the diver-
sity of our liberal reli-
gious community.*

*- Improving the acces-
sibility and function-
ality of our facilities,
and ensuring that
they are an asset to
our community.*

March 14

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

"When Life Isn't Fair"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

Second Sunday Potluck

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 21

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

"Tending the Soul"

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

March 28

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

"On Pests"

The Green UUs and
Amy Hassinger

Minister's Corner

-Axel H. Gehrmann

If you have been a regular worship service attendee in recent weeks, you will have noticed several instances in which particular members of our community were singled out for public recognition and appreciation. Our Board of Trustees and Personnel Committee recognized our paid staff in January. In February we took time during our Sunday services to express our appreciation to the singers in our adult and youth choirs. Later this year, you will witness special recognitions for lay leaders and committee chairs, as well as our religious education teachers.

It says something, that we take time during our Sunday worship to express our appreciation in this way. It says, the people who contribute their time and energy are deeply valued. It says, the activities in which you engage here are the very lifeblood of our church home. Your actions allow our religious ideals to become realities.

You see, our church exists by virtue, not of the religious message preached from our pulpit, but by virtue of the ministry in which we collectively engage.

Some of you are members of this church. That means, according to our bylaws, you have signed the membership book. This is an important part of calling this church your own. But being a member is really about much more than putting a pen to paper.

Our faith provides a distinct vision of religious living. It celebrates a diversity of beliefs, and affirms the responsibility of every individual to find truth and practice justice, humbly seeking to create a better world, beginning with ourselves.

Being a true member means you have found a way to contribute your unique gifts of energy and insight to our joint endeavor. It means you are making a difference in the lives of others.

Being tangibly involved in our shared ministry can take many shapes. It can be as simple as offering a helping hand, a comforting word, or an important idea. The miracle of religious practice is that even as we seek to give of ourselves, we gain something.

May we each find what we most need to give, and what we most hope to gain, in the midst of all we do in this religious community we call our own.

See you in church,

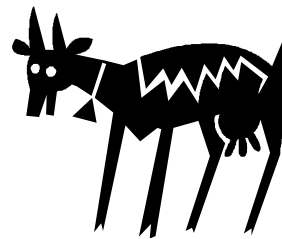
Axel

R.E. Matters

-Renée Cogil


This spring each of our religious education classes for children and youth is participating in a joint social action project for Heifer International. Each at their own level, individual classes are learning about hunger and ways that others can help people lift themselves out of poverty. Heifer International is an organization that helps people help themselves by providing families with farm animals, and education on providing for and caring for their gift animals. Through the gift of a goat, for example, a family can improve their nutritional level and by having extra milk to sell, improving their financial condition as well. Heifer International takes great care is teaching sustainable farming practices that help to maintain or improve the environment as well as provide for the livestock. Families receiving livestock in turn pass on "the gift" by donating the first born offspring to another family.

Over the next several weeks our children and youth will be learning about Heifer International, hunger issues and animals. Each class will then conduct their own fundraising project to support Heifer. Some classes are getting started on this joint effort already. Preschoolers are learning about farm animals and what foods come from each. Through a display of farm animals they create themselves they will be asking their parents to help support their work. Other classes are making crafts and baking cookies to sell during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. Some of our older youth are considering offering a service in exchange for a donation. As our students' projects unfold I hope you will consider supporting them by making a small purchase or donation for Heifer International. And, while you are standing before the children's display table be sure to ask students about the animals and Heifer International. They will surely have stories to tell.



To wrap up this religious education-wide social action project our students will be voting on which animal(s) to “buy” for Heifer, thus tying in our fifth Unitarian Universalist principle – all people should have a voice in what is important to them. Finally to celebrate our gift to Heifer International we will visit a local goat farm and creamery in north Champaign and sample fresh goat cheese. Our field trip is scheduled for May 2nd.

Through the many small ventures that lie ahead, we hope you will help us make this learning project a great success by offering both your attention to the children and support for their projects.

Many thanks to all, 

From the Board Chair

-Cindy Loui

On a recent, rainy Sunday, with snow still on the ground, I was ag-grieved to find a church member with mobility limitations who had found the parking lot full and consequently, parked a block away, ma-neuvering through the rain and patches of snow, with her walker, to get to the church. Quite simply, this is a plea to everyone to **please** think twice about using the parking lot. It is incredibly tempting, when you see an empty parking lot and Birch Street free of parked cars, to park so close to the church instead of parking half a block or a block away. Next time, try to remember those with mobility issues and how much harder it is for them to walk a block than for you. This is a great opportunity to teach your children about being considerate of others. We only have one “Handicapped Parking” sign in the parking lot but we have a number of folks in our congregation who have mobility issues and for whom parking in the lot doesn’t just “make their life eas-ier, it actually makes it possible for them to attend church. There are people who have been unable to find a space in the lot and have left because they couldn’t park close enough that they could manage. We are fortunate to have on-street parking in the area, the Timothy John Salon’s parking lot on the north side of Green Street, or a block to the east of that is the Urbana Free Library’s parking lot, all of it free on Sun-days. You will be doing a great service to others among us for whom walking a few hundred more feet is a big deal. Even if it means you’re a few seconds late, you’re thoughtfulness will be very much appreci-ated.

Volunteer Corner

-Peggy Patten

Who are the Sunday Crew?

The 10-15 volunteers who make up our weekly Sunday Crew provide services that are essential to our Sunday morning worship. They make our announcements from the pulpit, pass out the Orders of Service as you enter the sanctuary, pass the collection plate during the service and count the offering after the service, welcome visitors to our Church, provide decorations for our decorations table, and bring hospitality for all to enjoy during our fellowship hour after each service. Helping with Sunday Crew is a good way to deepen your connections to the Church and share in its ministry.

You can sign up to assist with announcing, ushering, welcoming, providing decorations or hospitality for Sunday services on VolunteerSpot through our Church's Web site at: <http://uucuc.org/sunday-crew>.

If you have any questions about Sunday Crew, or difficulty signing up through VolunteerSpot, contact Peggy Patten at m-patten@sbcglobal.net *Thanks for helping out!*

Our Church Family

Joys and Concerns

This information is not published for online viewing.

Church Announcements

Request for Annual Report Submissions

Requests for submissions were sent out via email during the first week of March. If you were expecting one and did not receive it, please contact the office administrator at admin@uucuc.org. Note, reports are due to my desk no later than March 21, 2010. Thanks!
Janis

Change In Uniter Submission Deadline

If you wish to contribute something to the Uniter for March 24, the deadline has been moved up to noon on March 17, 2010. The Uniter will be distributed on its regular schedule, and future submission deadlines will return to their normal schedule thereafter. Thank you. Janis

Safe Haven Collection Continues

We will be continuing to collect goods for the Safe Haven Coalition for the Homeless through the month of March. We have been so touched by the generous donations our congregation has brought in. The needs of this community are still very great, so please, keep bringing in your donations. Our contributions have been extremely well received. Beth Carbonneau who has graciously been transporting all the goods to the Safe Haven Group reports that our church has earned a reputation for generosity among the residents already. Please look for the collection box on the Social Action Table as well as a list of the needed goods. Thank you so much! Questions? Contact Beth Carbonneau (bcarbonn@illinois.edu) or Cindy Loui (cloui@comcast.net)

Seeking Auction Photos

Do you have any photos from a recent auction event you hosted or attended? I'd like to put together a poster of pictures for the auction table this year. Please send digital photos to Cathy Cunningham, ccunningham@illinois.edu or call me at 239-1440. Thanks!

Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers

Please help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 4, by bringing your blooming house plant to church that morning. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Cobb, Assistant for Services at bethac54@comcast.net. (Plants will need to return to their homes after the service.)

That's Amore! UU Service Auction

Donations are now being accepted for our all-church party and service auction "That's Amore!" on **Saturday, April 17th**. Forms are available in Fellowship Hall and can now be downloaded off the church website! Contact Emily Sanders at 586-1311 or emily@sanders-home.net. Tickets go on sale **March 14th!**

Bad Girls of the Bible

Come get an overview of women in the Bible, and learn about six specific women with tarnished reputations. Investigate for yourself how women are really portrayed in the Bible! The class will meet Monday, **March 22nd from 7-8pm.**

Shared Offering for March: NAACP Champaign County Branch

The recipient of our Shared Offering for the month of March is the NAACP Champaign County Branch. The NAACP Champaign County Branch serves the people of Champaign County. Their primary focus is to provide programs and services that promote and enhance civil and equal rights, political empowerment, educational excellence, economic development, and outreach. The Champaign County Branch strives to ensure equal access to all rights, privileges and resources that contribute to the quality of life for the people it serves. The strength of the branch lies with the history of the organization and its membership. The Champaign County Branch is committed to building an organization that is trusted, respected and considered an effective resource for the Champaign County community. The overall goal of the branch is to improve the quality of life for the people it serves.

Circle Suppers Coming to a House Near You

Circle Suppers are shared potluck meals that take place in members' homes. The next two Circle Supper dates are Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, April 18. Deadline to submit your form is March 21 (for the March 27 Circle Supper) and April 11 (for April 18 Circle Supper). Pick up a blank Circle Supper form and return your completed form on the minister's doorway in Fellowship Hall. Forms are also available on the Church's Web site. Questions? Contact Gail Schiesser, gail@illinihypnosis.com or Virginia Brubaker, 217-819-6635.

Don't miss the March 13 UU Coffeehouse

Come to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 13, from 7:00 - 10:00 to see your favorite UU performers at our very own UU Coffeehouse. Questions? Talk to Peggy Patten at m-patten@sbcglobal.net or 337-5668.



Church Groups

Adult Discussion Group meets Sunday in the library for a lively discussion of topics ranging from political to religious and beyond. The group meets Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Led by Chuck Cooper.

Bridge Group meets from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Children's Chapel. Due to the holidays, their next meeting date is **March 22**. All levels are welcome. Contact: Barb Mann: barber_mann@yahoo.com.

Gastronomical Society Group hosts themed potluck dinners once a month at a member's home or at a restaurant. This group is open to anyone who loves to cook various ethnic and regional cuisines and to try new things. Contact Emily Sanders (emily@sanders-home.net) for more info.

U.U. Play Group For children from birth to 5 years of age. Join us **Fridays from 10:30-12:30** in the nursery. Can't find us? Look for us on the playground. It is a chance for young children to play and socialize, and for adults to meet other UUs. Contact: Renée Cogil, 384-8862 or re-director@uucuc.org.

Women's CommUUnity An informal discussion group for women and an opportunity for quieter, more in-depth discussion and connection. We meet on the **fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:15 p.m.** in the Library. Join us! Please contact Maryly Crutcher if you would like to be a newcomer to the group: maryly7@comcast.net.

Feminist Book Group An opportunity to read works by women and to discuss them in a friendly and supportive environment. Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm in the Library. **Next meeting is March 16**. The book for discussion is "Taking on the Big Boys: Or Why Feminism is Good for Families, Business, and the Nation" Ellen Bravo. For more information, contact Karen Folk, foxfolk@aol.com or 367-9723.



Join a Chalice Circle

Chalice Circles are an opportunity for friends and members of the church to develop deeper connections and wider service within our community through small-group involvement.

Chalice Circle - first and third Thursday of the month, 7:15 pm. Contact Karen Ruhleder for more information (ruhleder@hotmail.com 356-8190.)

Chalice Circle – second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Contact Elaine Gehrmann (344-2335, Gehrmanns@aol.com).

Caring for Aging Parents and Elders Circle – third Monday of the month, 7 p.m. Contact Karen Retzer or (352-9482).

Writer's Circle – third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Contact Pat Nolan (384-7477, pnolan96@aol.com)

Sustainable Living/Deep Ecology Chalice Circle Third Friday of the month, 7 - 9 p.m., with optional 6:30 dessert potluck. Contact Amy Hassinger: amyhass@gmail.com; 384-7735 or Emily Laugesen: emilys-laugesen@yahoo.com; 384-5921.



Subscribe to our weekly E-News letter. Send your name, phone number and email address to admin@uucuc.org. To make last minute announcements regarding church related events in the E-News, please send your submission to admin@uucuc.org no later than Thursday, noon.

The Uniter is published every two weeks from September through May and every three weeks during the holiday season and summer months. Please submit announcements by email to admin@uucuc.org. The next submission deadline is Noon, **Wednesday, March 17, 2010.**

Calendar of Church Events - 2010

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 3/11	7:00 p.m.	War and Peace Book Group	Children's Chapel
	7:30 pm	Green UUs	YRUU
Friday, 3/12	10:30 am	Playgroup	Nursery
Saturday, 3/13	7:00 pm	UU Coffeehouse	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 3/14	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service and	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Second Sunday Potlucks	
Tuesday, 3/16	7:00 p.m.	Feminist Book Group	Library
	7:00 pm	RE Committee Meeting	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, 3/18	12:00 p.m.	Uniter Deadline	
	7:00 p.m.	Writer's Chalice Circle	Library
	7:15 p.m.	Chalice Circle	YRUU
Friday, 3/19	10:30 a.m.	Playgroup	Nursery
	7:00 pm	Sustainable Living/Deep Ecology Chalice Circle	Library
Sunday, 3/21	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.		
Monday, 3/22	1:00 p.m.	Bridge Group	Children's Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Bad Girls of the Bible	Library
Tuesday, 3/23	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Library
Wednesday, 3/24	7:15 p.m.	Women's CommUUnity	Library
Thursday, 3/25	7:00 p.m.	Chalice Leaders	YRUU

**The Unitarian Universalist Church
of Urbana-Champaign**
309 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801-3221
(217) 384-8862 uucuc.org

Elected Officers (BOT = Board of Trustees member)

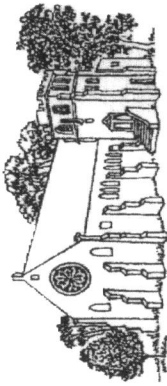
Cindy Loui, BOT	Chair	May, 2010
Teresa Jones, BOT	Treasurer	May, 2010
Anne Newman, BOT	Clerk	May, 2011
Brian McNurlen, BOT	Worship Committee	May, 2010
Pamela Van Wyk, BOT	Finance Committee	May, 2012
Anne Sharpe, BOT	Property Committee	May, 2011
Peggy Steele, BOT	Social Action Committee	May, 2012
Cynthia Hoyle, BOT	Personnel Committee	May, 2011
Cindy Ingold, BOT	Vice Chair, Ministry	May, 2010
Chris Carlson, BOT	Membership Committee	May, 2011
Jesse Spencer-Smith, BOT	Moderator	May, 2010
Amy Robison	Financial Secretary	May, 2011

Committee Chairs

Chris Hannauer, Finance
 Bob Strauss, Personnel
 Sam Beshers, Worship
 Emily Laugesen, Green UUs
 Tom Gillespie and Jerry Carden, Property
 Jennifer Greene and Pat Nolan, Social Action
 Geoff Levin, Ministry
 Ann Brodsky, Religious Education
 Doug Jones, Membership
 Brigitte Pieke, Partner Church
 Peri Ceperley, Care Core: gethelp@uuc-urbana.org

Staff

Axel Gehrman, Minister minister@uucuc.org
 Tues, Wed, Fri: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Renée Papini Cogil, re-director@uucuc.org
 Director of Religious Education
 Tues-Thurs: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., call ahead
 Janis Meesey: Office Administrator admin@uucuc.org
 Mon-Fri: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Fred Stoltzfus, Choir Director fstoltzf@illinois.edu
 Kent Conrad, Music Director kconrad@rocketmail.com
 Beth Cobb, Assistant for Services bethac54@comcast.net
 Elsa Holden, Childcare Coordinator eholden2@illinois.edu
 Myron Winkler, Sexton
 Jacob Sicinski, Sunday Sexton



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