

# The Uniter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign



August 25, 2010

## Worship Services

### August 29

10:00 a.m.

“Ingathering Sunday”

Water and Stone Communion

An Intergenerational Service

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

*Please remember to bring a small stone or vial of water from your summer experiences to share.*

### September 5

10:00 a.m.

“The Value of Work”

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

### September 12

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

“Tolerance at Ground Zero”

The Rev. Axel H. Gehrmann

*Worship Time Change- This week we return to our two-service Sunday format.*

**Second Sunday Potluck**

## Our Mission

*Build Community.*

*Seek Inspiration.*

*Promote Justice.*

*Find Peace.*

## Minister's Message

- Axel H. Gehrmann

As I write these words, our two high school age children are quietly mourning the end of summer vacation and gathering their wits for a new school year. Though the weather is still swelteringly hot, the tree in our backyard is already dropping leaves, acting as if autumn were just around the corner. And I am getting ready for a seasonal shift, too.

My summer began in late June with the UU General Assembly in Minneapolis, where, apart from enjoying many worthwhile programs and seeing many UU colleagues, I also witnessed our democratic process in action. As those of you who heard my sermon on May 23rd know, in response to Arizona's new immigration law, Senate Bill 1070, the UUA board of trustees proposed a boycott of Phoenix as site of the 2012 General Assembly by moving GA to a different state that year. In Minneapolis, contrary to the board's recommendation, delegates voted to keep the 2012 GA in Phoenix. Rather than withdrawing from the site of state-sponsored discrimination, the delegates chose instead to be present in Arizona, and devote GA that year to the cause of social justice and immigration rights.

This summer I attended a course on Public Theology at Meadville/Lombard Theological School, with particular focus on today's inter-religious pluralism, and the challenge of meaningful dialogue and engagement. A good deal of our discussion about competing religious truth-claims, and theories about “unity in diversity,” can be encapsulated in the questions: Are there many paths to the top of the same mountain? Or are there many paths leading up many different mountains? Why does it matter? Some of these ideas will find their way into upcoming sermons, no doubt.

In order to help deepen our collective understanding of Unitarian Universalist theology and social engagement, I will be leading a discussion group this fall on the recently published book *A House of Hope - The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century*, by John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker. I hope you can join this conversation. (see page 4 for more information)

(cont.)

For those new to our church, I will continue to offer informal Q&A sessions on Unitarian Universalism following worship services on the first Sunday of the month, and a more comprehensive three-session orientation to UUism in October.

Fortunately - apart from books and meetings - my summer also included lots of time spent with family near and far, relaxing sunshine and soothing iced-tea. I hope you found some time for rest and relaxation, as well.

See you in church!

P.S. Please remember to bring a small stone or vial of water from your summer experiences to share at our Ingathering Service on August 29th.

## **R.E. Matters**

-Renee Cogil

The start of our religious education program for children and youth is just around the corner. September 12<sup>th</sup> is our first day of religious education classes as well as our return to our two service format. We hope that you and your children and youth are just as thrilled as our teachers are to get started on what will be an interesting and fun year for everyone. In anticipation for our first day here are a few things to you will want to know:

- Returning this year is our youth music group. If you're a 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student (or a parent of one,) please consider yourself invited to join Ryan Thomas and pianist Cheryl Koranda to work up some fun music and perform periodically in the second service. Bring your talents and let's "Let It Out!" Practices begin Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the southeast classroom (and weekly thereafter.) For more info contact Ryan Thomas, 344-5877. Do you sing, play an instrument, or write music? If so, than this music group is for you.
- Also returning this year is our Children's Choir led by Michael Loui and pianist Anine Singh de Grood. For children in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades, this group will explore a variety of music styles, learn about music and history, and sing until their hearts are content. Rehearsals begin Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-9:15 a.m. in the southeast classroom. For more information contact Michael Loui at 344-9151.
- Be sure to register your children AND youth, infants and toddlers for religious education classes and childcare.

Registrations forms are available on the R.E. table in Fellowship Hall. Classes for children in preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grades will be offered at the 9:30 a.m. service and for students in K-12<sup>th</sup> grades at the 11:15 a.m. service. Childcare will be available for infants and toddlers throughout the morning.

- Please remember that to keep our children safe parents with children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are expected to remain on the church premises while their children are at church. It is important that we are able to contact you quickly in case of an emergency. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.
- What is that one very essential ingredient that makes this rich and wonderful religious education program possible for our kids? It's teachers, of course! Young and seasoned, experienced and not, women and men – please contact me a.s.a.p. to let me know you are interested in one of the 6 remaining openings for teachers. You can reach me at 384-8862, or [re-director@uucuc.org](mailto:director@uucuc.org)

See you at church soon,  
Reneé

## **Volunteer Corner**

-Peggy Patten

### **A strong & mighty summer Sunday Crew!**

Thanks to the small group of individuals who assisted with Sunday Crew (announcing, welcoming, ushering and providing hospitality & decorations) during our summer services. Sunday Crew is a vital part of our weekly worship. I hope you will consider helping out during the regular church year when we return to two Sunday services, doubling our need for Sunday Crew helpers. To sign up for Sunday Crew go to: <http://uucuc.org/sunday-crew>.

If you have any difficulty using our new sign up system, contact Peggy Patten at: [m-patten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m-patten@sbcglobal.net). Peggy will happily add your name to the list of Sunday Crew volunteers.

### **Many thanks to our summer Sunday Crew volunteers:**

Willa Abelson, Sally Babbitt, Cathy Cunningham, Beth Cobb, Gary Doherty, Sandy Finnerty, Colleen Fitzgerald, Laura Friedman, Jim & Sandy Hannum, Mary Hosier, Gail Huetting, Jerry & Frances Hunt, Barb Jahola, Marcy Joncich, Todd Kinney, Cindy

Loui, Debbi Myers, Pat Nolan, Peggy Patten, Karla Peterson, Karen Retzer, Sue Schumacher, Anne & Dave Sharpe, & Jessica Watson.

## ***Our Church Family***

### ***Joys and Concerns***

This information is not available on the online version of the Uniter.

## ***Church Announcements***

### **Shared Offering for August: Family Services of Champaign County**

When we pass the collection plate during services on Sunday mornings we do so to collect money for our church home as well as outside organization selected by the Social Action Committee. Each month half of the undesignated cash (as well as all designated monies) go to the selected group or organization. For the month of August, we will share our collection with Family Service of Champaign County.

At some point, we all need a little help. For nearly 100 years, Family Service of Champaign County, a private non-profit agency, has evolved to meet your needs and the needs of our community. Family Service has the expertise, resources, and information to help individuals and families successfully meet life's changes and challenges. As a private non-profit, Family Service relies on the support of generous donors; the grants and fees that it receives do not cover the cost of their services.

Family Service assists more than 12,000 members of our community each year through our three programs of services: Family Support, Senior Resource Center and the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. Our services for seniors are designed to maximize the safe and healthy independence of older adults through personalized

services which include non-medical in-home care, home-delivered meals (meals on wheels), transportation to medical and business appointments, volunteer support, and elder abuse protection. Children and adolescents are helped with school-related difficulties, family relationships, and adjustment to change and behavioral problems. Families and people of all ages receive counseling, parenting support and information about and referral to hundreds of community services and self-help groups. The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program promotes volunteer opportunities for individuals 55 or older which support more than 170 area non-profit organizations in our community. Please take a look at the website <http://www.famservcc.org/>. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Summer Travel Reminder**

On **August 29**, we will have our traditional Ingathering Service, which will again include a Water and Stone Communion. Please remember to bring a small vial of water or a stone, which you collect in the course of your summer - whether you have traveled afar or stayed at home - and which you can share in the service.

### **Questions and Answers on UUism**

On **September 5**, following the worship service, the minister will offer a brief orientation to Unitarian Universalism and this church in his office. The session is informal and designed to answer your questions, whatever they may be. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to the church or have been attending for a while.

### **Heifer International says "Thanks!"**

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Heifer International fund in the spring. Heifer International has sent us a beautiful acknowledgement which is displayed on the small religious education table in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the hard work and busy hands of our children and youth and your generosity we were able to offer a helping hand to families around the globe.

### **Come, Sing a Song with Me!**

All boys and girls in grades 2 through 5 are welcome to participate in the Children's Choir. No knowledge of music is necessary. We will practice in the southeast classroom from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. on Sundays beginning **September 12**. New singers may join at any time. Throughout the year we will sing about every two weeks at 9:30 services. For more information, call Michael Loui at 344-9151.

### Let It Out!

If you're a 6th-12th grader (or a parent of one), please consider yourself invited to join me and others to work up some fun music to perform at church. Bring your talents and let's Let It Out! Practices start Sunday, Sept. 12 at 10am in the southeast classroom (and weekly thereafter). For more information, contact Ryan Thomas at 344-5877 or [rthomas@me.com](mailto:rthomas@me.com).

### Sign Up for New Book Discussion Group

Beginning on **Thursday, Sept 16th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Southwest Classroom**, Axel Gehrmann will lead a 7-session discussion of the book *A House of Hope - The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century*, by John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker (available at Amazon.com). "Authored by two leading progressive theologians, *A House of Hope* affirms that the shared hopes of religious progressives from many traditions can create a movement far stronger than fundamentalism: a liberal religious renaissance. Yet for it to flourish, progressive people must rediscover the spiritual sustenance available in the theological house our liberal forebears built, and embrace what our tradition truly holds sacred, as well as understand what it rejects." (from the book jacket).

The group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Please sign up on the sheet in fellowship hall, or contact Axel ([minister@uucuc.org](mailto:minister@uucuc.org)) with questions or childcare needs.

### Return to Two Week Uniter Cycle

The Uniter distribution returns to a two week cycle beginning with the next Uniter, which will be mailed September 8, 2010. Deadline for submissions is September 2.

## Church Groups

**Adult Discussion Group** meets Sundays in the library for a lively discussion of topics ranging from political to religious and beyond. The group meets Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome! Led by Chuck Cooper.

**Bridge Group** meets second and fourth Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Children's Chapel. Their next meeting date is September 13. All levels are welcome. Contact Barb Mann: [barber\\_mann@yahoo.com](mailto:barber_mann@yahoo.com).

**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 September 21. The book for discussion is by Harriet Doerr "The Tiger in the Grass". For more information, contact Karen Folk, [foxfolk@aol.com](mailto:foxfolk@aol.com) or 367-9723.

**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](mailto:emily@sanders-home.net)) for more info.

**Green UUs** meet every other month on the second Thursday of the month in the YRUU at 7:30 pm

**U.U. Play Group** For children from birth to 5 years of age. Join us Fridays from 9:00 to 11:00 in the nursery or out 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](mailto:re-director@uucuc.org).

**Women's CommUnity** 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](mailto:maryly7@comcast.net).

## 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 Thursday of the month, 7:15 Contact Karen Ruhleder ([ruhleder@hotmail.com](mailto:ruhleder@hotmail.com) 356- 8190.)

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

**Caregiver's Chalice Circle**—third Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Contact Karen Retzer (352-9482) or Mary Kay Solecki (688-2931).

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

## ***Publications & Deadlines***

**Subscribe to our weekly E-Newsletter.** Send your name, phone number and email address to [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org). To make last minute announcements regarding church related events in the E-News, please send your submission to [admin@uucuc.org](mailto: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 e-mail to [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org). The next submission deadline is Noon, Thursday, September 2, 2010.

## ***How to Reach Us***

**Office Hours**- Mon. - Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
**Telephone** - (217) 384-8862  
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**E-Mail** - [admin@uucuc.org](mailto:admin@uucuc.org)  
**Web** - [uucuc.org](http://uucuc.org)

## ***Contacts***

### **Staff**

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Call 384-8862 for office hours  
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Janis Hooper, Office Administrator  
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Brigitte Pieke, Partner Church  
Peri Ceperley, Care Core: [gethelp@uuc-urbana.org](mailto:gethelp@uuc-urbana.org)

## *Calendar*

### **Friday, August 27**

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

### **Saturday, August 28**

9:00 a.m. Teacher Orientation, Children's Chapel and Classrooms

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Sunday, August 29**

10:00 a.m. Worship & Childcare

11:00 a.m. Discussion Group, Library

### **Wednesday, September 1**

7:00 p.m. Membership, Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, September 2**

Unitar Submission Deadline

5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee, Library

7:15 p.m. Chalice Circle, YRUU

7:30 p.m. Finance Committee,  
Children's Chapel

### **Friday, September 3**

9:00 a.m. Playgroup, Nursery

### **Sunday, September 5**

10:00 a.m. Worship & Childcare

11:00 a.m. Discussion Group, Library

### **Monday, September 6**

Office Closed: Labor Day Holiday

### **Tuesday, September 7**

7:00 p.m. Property Committee,  
SW Classroom

Unitarian Universalist Church  
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