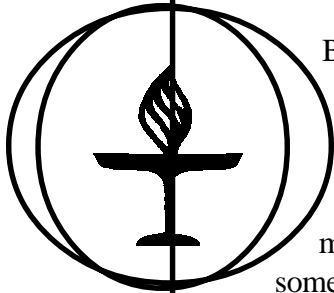




# THE SEARCHLIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MO No. 1, AUG./SEPTEMBER, 2003

*The Searchlight is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia, Missouri 65201*



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## FRONT PAGE NEWS

### Meet the President

Being on the board, especially being president, you learn things. Such as, our church year officially starts on July 1st and not with the Water Ceremony at the end of August. You learn in great detail how the church is run. It's rather like going behind stage at a theater. You get to see how they do the special effects - lights and mirrors. (Or in the RE's case, crayons & glue.) I suppose that there is some fear of leaving the audience and going backstage, the fear that the show will lose it's magic. There's also the fear of showing ourselves 'backstage' without costume and makeup, that we won't live up to expectations.

Well, I've found it to be pretty lively "backstage" of the church; and, time will tell next year if I have lived up to the expectation of the office of president. As part of the showing or sharing of ourselves, I was honored to share my beliefs at one of the lay led services this summer. For those of you who were not able to attend, I have included it below.

#### What I Believe

When I was four or five, there was frost covering the laundry room window. I saw the face of God in it. Around that same time, from my bed at night, I saw the shape of a smoky grey collie in the hall just outside my door. The spirit collie, I knew, was sent by God to protect me.

Somewhere in my twenties, I lost the solid faith of that small girl. But, this I do believe: life is sacred. Life small and large, complex and simple, in the aggregate and in the individual.

As I was thinking the other evening about what I would say today, I came to the startling conclusion that if life is sacred, so too is death. This is indeed shocking for one raised as a Christian.

My mother is Presbyterian and that's the faith in which I was raised. My stepmother is a Christian Scientist and that's the faith I choose. From the age of 8, I would attend my stepmother's church on the weekends that my father had custody. So much for the patriarchal lineage of Christianity.

Late in my teen years, I openly switched to Christian Science. It was the more practical religion. No potlucks, but daily living of faith. Prayer was expected to bring results and I found that it often did. However, the strictness of the religion in actions as well as in thought, wore at me too much.

## Ministers's Monthly Musings

### Our Source

Unitarian architect Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "No stream can rise higher than its source." He was speaking of a person's integrity. So, too, with the integrity of an institution, such as this church.

Our source is the love and spirit that each person brings to the table of communion and fellowship. Together, in our various forms of gathering, we touch that source, which manifests itself in many ways of action, speaking and engagement. Whatever source is within each of us, together, we incarnate something that transcends each individual gift to a level of intimacy and ultimacy that is both personal and profound. Such is the purpose of church and church life.

We embark upon a new church year. Energy is beginning to mount as groups and committees begin to plan on our encounters in the next months ahead. New ideas are springing up and new ways of doing church are emerging. We need each person to add her and his spirit and love to the wholeness of our church life. As a stream has its source, so, too, does a church. You are that source. Your spirit of loving cooperation and engagement is the only source we have. Let us celebrate our new church year by lifting up our source – your integrity and capacity to give of yourself so we can have a flood of abundant life in our community of memory and hope.

*Peace and Love,  
Bill.*

### Meet the President (continued from page 1)

So, I am back to that little girl looking for signs of God. Do I believe in, "God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth"? Do I believe that, "There is no Life, Truth no substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and it's manifestation, for God is All-in-All"? Pieces. I don't believe in the Father Almighty. The Mother Almighty perhaps. Both can nurture and kill; but, only mother's give birth.

But, mostly I believe that life is eternal. One may die or even an entire species may die, but life itself can not be stopped. When I fight weeds and molds, I think of this. And so, for this dance of life to continue, death must continue. Just as sexual reproduction helps species cheat predators and parasites, so death allows life to cheat extinction.

I believe that the world is a marvelous if scary place. That life is sacred and to be sustained and fostered. That death is sacred and not be denied, though I am in no rush to meet it. That to truly love one's self, family, friends, other species and the earth in daily practice is the hardest spiritual discipline that a person can undertake.

*Rebecca S. Graves  
President, Board of Trustees*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia is:

- ◆ To keep our commitment to the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association;
- ◆ To act upon these principles through a caring and friendly religious community for persons of all ages and diverse religious views;
- ◆ To promote spiritual growth and the quest for truth;
- ◆ To build our covenant with fellow Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

*Adopted by the Congregation on  
May 22, 1994*

## Visitor Orientation

On the second Sunday of the month there is regularly scheduled an informal orientation to this church led by the minister. This short session is designed for our visitors to meet Rev. Haney and to ask him questions about our church. Whether you are new to our church or have been attending for a while you are invited to meet in Rev. Haney's office after the worship service on Sunday, September 14, 2003.

## Worship Services

### Sunday Services: 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary (Meditation Time 9:30 – 10:00 AM every Sunday)

*Our church plans a lay-led service on one Sunday of each month of the regular church calendar year. Lay-ministry enriches us all and helps maintain the tradition of lay-ministry as a vibrant part of our church life. The Worship Associates are responsible for planning lay-led services in the upcoming year. If you have an idea for a Sunday service or just want to help, contact a Worship Associate or Rev. Bill Haney at the church.*

**31 Aug.** *“Water Ceremony”*  
The first Layled Sunday service of the new church year is the traditional blending of waters brought by members of the congregation to symbolize their personal journeys of the summer. Bring a sample of water to share. Service Leader: Naoma Powell

**07 Sept.**  
*“What Is a Covenant?”*  
This is the first formal service of our church year, and we take the time to be with our children and the teachers for our covenant with them. The UU Choristers will be a part of the service. Our monthly pot luck luncheon follows the service.

**14 Sept.**  
*“Standing on a Legacy”*  
In this year of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, we are faced with the question, “Just exactly what is Transcendentalism?” How did it affect our Unitarian side, and eventually, Universalist side, of our tradition? After 170 years, can it still speak to us? The UU Singers will be a part of the service.

**21 Sept.** *“A Sense of Presiding Goodness”*  
Loretta Willems will be presenting this lay-led service. She will be asking what do we value and how does that address the human need for meaning?

**28 Sept.**  
*“We Begin Again in Love”*  
This is our annual Yom Kippur service. Not that we are Jewish, but this is the season of new beginnings, and our service will focus on how we may want to be present for the new church year before us. The UU Singers will be a part of the service.

#### MEMBERSHIP IN THIS CHURCH IS OPEN TO ALL

All who choose to walk with us in the spirit of love and in agreement with our UU principles. We have no creedal requirements for membership. To become a member one signs our Membership Book on the last Sunday of any month in the presence of the Minister and another member of the church. If you wish to become a member, please speak to Rev. Haney or call the church office at 442-5764.

## Forum Schedule

**The Forum**, an adult discussion group, meets on Sundays from 9 - 10 a.m. in the Library, lower level of the church. Conversation & refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum, as always, is open to the public. Facilitators for the Sept. programs are Psychologists Carla & Wayne Anderson.

**8/31** *“London in August is Lovely.”* Carla and Wayne Anderson will describe what they did for fun this summer in England’s fair city.

**9/7** *“Guilt and Mourning.”* Wayne Anderson will discuss what happens when the sense of responsibility goes awry and leads to excessive self-blame, based on his work in war-torn countries with MU’s Center for Psychosocial Trauma.

**9/14** *“More, More News about the Old.”* Donald Kausler, Ph.D., UMC professor emeritus of psychology and author of a nationally syndicated column on aging, will tell us about some of the latest findings.

**9/21** *“Death and the Afterlife as Depicted in the Movies.”* Robert Dolliver, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology and a personality theorist, will show us excerpts illustrating his thoughts about how moviemakers handle these sensitive and controversial areas.

**9/28** *“In Education It’s the Boys Who Are in Deep Trouble.”* Carla and Wayne Anderson will discuss how boys are falling behind girls and the implications for society.

## From the desk of the Church Administrator:

Please send changes in your address and phone number and email address to me for inclusion in the 2003-04 Church Directory. If you want to stop receiving the newsletter or emails, let me know that, too. Newsletters are posted on the website for three months. You can read it there at [unitarian.church.missouri.org](http://unitarian.church.missouri.org)  
The church's email is [uuchurch@coin.org](mailto:uuchurch@coin.org)  
*Kathie Bergman*

### Wish List

✓ **Computer** for the library more current than the one already there. Contact Pam Springsteel or Dorinda Derow for details.

✓ **Vacuum cleaner** in good working condition for downstairs. The old ones barely clean the rugs - especially in the nursery.

### Fall YRUU FLOAT

The YRUU group will be taking a float trip the weekend of September 5th, 6th and 7th. (a few parents are also needed to help with getting there) We will be traveling to the Meramec River (near Steelville, Mo). Contact Larry Lile or Qhyrrae Michaelieu or John Song for more info.

### Parents and Toddlers

An informal Play Group meets at church every Wed. from 10:30 AM to about noon in the Nursery Room. Bring your own snacks and get to know how to play nicely with others!



### Caring Committee News

Many thanks to Hazel Breitenbach and Joan Mudrick whose years of dedicated leadership and service as Co-Chairs of the Caring Committee helped sustain members of our congregation during many of life's passages. We also owe thanks to departing members of the committee: Pat Kraff, Patricia Morrow, and Betty Cook Rottmann. They may be irreplaceable, but regardless, this year's committee is looking forward to our involvement with Reverend Haney in a shared ministry, meeting the needs of the congregation when difficult situations and transitions arise.

This year, look for something new. If proclaiming your news in Joys and Concerns doesn't seem like quite the right venue, there is a place for you! Borrowing on an idea from the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco, we've placed a Sharing Board on an easel in the rear of the Sanctuary which will allow you to post your personal passages on a Sharing Card for others to read. Or if you wish to communicate with Reverend Haney, you'll be able to leave a card in envelope designated just for him. Cards will remain posted for 3 weeks prior to their removal. All members and friends are encouraged to browse the Sharing Board regularly to learn more about the events in the lives of your fellow UU's.

We'll continue to designate a Caring Assistant each month to coordinate the efforts of the committee. Caring Assistants this year are: Anne Robins, Carolyn Leuthold, Armine Cuber, Ann Gowans, Barbara Montgomery, Luanne Andes, Allie Gassmann and Betty Acree. In September the Caring Assistant is Armine Cuber, so if you have concerns or are in need of assistance, please call Armine.

*Allie Gassmann and Jan Swaney, Co-Chairs*



### Caring News!

Congratulations to Chris Abernathy and Michelle Kelly on the birth of their new daughter Ellie born in June. Congratulations to Amy and Steve Ewing whose daughter Eva Adele was born April 27th.

### Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group meets at 8 AM for breakfast every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at a local restaurant. We discuss topics of current interest. Everyone is welcome to attend. For location, contact Sam Anand.

### Many Thanks

To Larry Lile for fixing the microphone cord in the sanctuary and donating the cost from his own pocket!



## Visions and Promises

We did it!! Have you seen them yet? Aren't they beautiful? We are talking about the new parking lot and Memorial Garden, of course. They were a vision, a dream, a need spoken of by many in the church. The new parking lot surface—a new and welcoming entry-way to our community, a better first impression for our visitors, a surface that allows easier access to our church for those who are not steady on their feet. The Memorial Garden—a place to come together to honor those who have left, and hold them in our memory. Together we brought them to reality.

There was a major difference in the way these visions came to life for us. That difference was in how we got the money. For the parking lot, we have used maintenance funds and reserve funds to create it. For the Memorial Garden, we raised \$11,367.95 in just over a year to bring it into being, over and above our standard pledges to the church. It seems to me that the reason for that difference is that we, as a group, saw the Memorial Garden as part of our vision for this church, but that the community as a whole never came to see the parking lot as an equally important part of our vision.

This year, the Generosity Team, formerly known as the canvass committee, will be

functioning much differently than it ever has before. The canvass committee has always been a short-term, last minute sort of thing. The Generosity Team will be working all year. We will be bringing the offer of many changes to you. The first of those changes is that we want to talk to each of you personally about your visions for the church. What do you want to see us embody? What would enhance the value of the church in your life? How could we be more welcoming to newcomers? How could we keep the long-term volunteers in our community from burning out? Sometime in the next year, you will receive an invitation to visit with us. Be thinking about your visions and dreams. We want to hear from you.

*Barbara Carter, Generosity Team*



## Monthly Book Discussion Group

The book discussion group will meet at the home of Dorinda Derow at 7 pm, Friday September 12. Bring a book you have read to discuss. Last spring's meeting at the International Cafe was a success (except for the tornado warning siren), so we may meet in a restaurant at a future date. Call Dorinda or Pam for questions.

## Volunteers Needed !!

If you are available an hour a week or a month, please consider volunteering your time to keep the church clean and welcoming. Regular tasks include vacuuming, mopping, cleaning bathrooms and kitchens. Contact Kathie in the church office to sign up.

## Social Action Group Reports

Thank you and please continue to help...

As the new church year begins, please remember those in our community who need our help. Our church has been supporting the Central Missouri Food Bank Pantry, which serves people in Boone county and Columbia. For many years, we've been collecting canned goods in the small upstairs basket and the larger barrel in the downstairs centering room. The youth have been collecting money for the Pantry at their centering ceremonies.

Please continue to support this effort by donating food and by helping the youth to make their donations. Hunger and need can affect anyone; in the past, people from our church have benefited from the Pantry. And "thank you" to those who have donated recently; from May through July, 73 pounds of food were collected and taken to the Pantry.

*Steve Mudrick, for the Social Action Committee*



## FUNdraising Committee News

New (prospective) and former U.U. FUNdraising Committee members are invited to the August meeting of the committee. Mark your calendars for: **Thursday, August 28th at 6:30**

**p.m. at the Church.**

The topics to be discussed include:

1. Sat., Sept. 13th Luncheon for the National Assn. of the Blind (Pat Morrow's State Board is renting the church that day and we're providing the lunch, as a small fundraiser.)
2. Friday, Sept. 19th Larry Rottmann Vietnam Works Reception (Betty Cook Rottmann's son, Larry, will display Vietnam Works (see article in this newsletter.) We will be providing refreshments/hospitality.)
3. FUNdraising & R.E. Committees Team Up for Planning of October 11th Art/Antique Show (This event will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 11th. Sales of donated art and antiques will include some very special silent auction items, whose final sales will occur following the wine and cheese reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Artists wishing to submit their works on a commission basis will be included in the sale. Other plans for this special day include entertainment, food and a children's art workshop.)

We're going to need a lot of help and advice with this project, so if you like art, food, music or antiques in any combination, please come to the meeting on Thursday, August 28th at 6:30 p.m.

*Marianne Erickson*



## Project Update

Two years ago a special group formed to respond to the need for sponsorship of a Bosnian refugee family (the Caldarevics) arriving to live in Columbia. Household items and monies were collected thanks to the generosity of many in the church congregation. In addition, a few members offered hours of their own time to assist the family in getting settled in the community. The Caldarevic family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Caldarevic and their two sons Eldin and Omer. Eldin graduated from Hickman High School in June 2003. At that time, the Board approved sending the remaining funds (\$93) collected for the project to Eldin as a graduation gift. In response, a letter was received as follows: "I and my family would like to thank you for helping us in the United States. You helped us when we needed help the most. From all our hearts, thank you.

*Family Caldarevic"*

## Conversations, Etc.

A Brown Bag Lunch meeting is enjoyed at noon, the 2nd Wednesday of each month, by the ladies and friends of the U.U. Church. The current group is beginning its 4th year. Since our inception we have had interesting programs, discussions, activities, and time to learn about each other's joys or concerns. . We find that our goal of creating a warm, friendly, close knit and caring group has been successful. We always try to share news about those unable to be at the meeting, and offer assistance if and when it is needed. Even our Church Facility get mentioned and assistance is given along the way.

We urge all to come fellowship with us at any of our meetings and we'll have an extra chair ready for YOU. September 10, 2003 will be our next meeting date. Arrangements for a program on that date are incomplete but your presence would make it special. For the latest information you may phone Roberta Jones or Sue Bader.



## Bible Study

Are you interested in a Unitarian Universalist approach to the Bible - that is, from a reasoned and non-literal way? Then join us on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 9:00 AM downstairs for a one-hour session co-led by Stephen Blower and Rev. Haney. If you attended the sessions last year, you will have already been engaged with Genesis and Exodus. We will continue this church year beginning with the minor prophets, starting with the Book of Joshua and finish our overview of the Hebrew Bible by December. Come join us beginning September 14, 9:00 AM in the Channing Room downstairs.



## The Sound Of UU Music

Another year of music is about to begin and we need you!

- ◆ We need adults and youth to sign up to play for services.
- ◆ We need singers (new and returning) for the UU Singers.
- ◆ We need singers for the UU Choristers.

If you're ready to get scheduled to play the prelude and/or offertory at services during the year, please let me know that you are interested and we will set a date. We have opportunities for musicians of all ages and levels of experience.

The UU Singers (ages 12-200) meets on Wednesday evenings downstairs in the choir/centering room from 7:00-8:15, and we generally sing on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. All singers are welcome. Our first meeting will be a potluck starting at 6:00 p.m. on August 20th.

The UU Chorister (ages 5-11) traditionally have met on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:00 in the centering room and sing on the first Sunday of the month. We will meet on Sunday, August 24th at 9:30 for juice, bagels and coffee (for the parents) to talk about the year, and to get input as to whether another rehearsal time would increase participation.

If you have ideas, suggestions, any input that would help me in planning our church music program please contact me at church, at home or by e-mail.

*Desi Long, Music Director*

### Attention: Step-parents are good!

Jeff Arrigo and Rebecca Graves will be starting a step-parent's support group to meet monthly at the church. The group will focus on sharing what works and what doesn't in step-parenting. If you're interested, please contact either Jeff or Rebecca.

### September 19 Evening Event Features Son Of Columbia UU

"Insights into Vietnam" is a performance that will span visual displays, video, poetry and music on Vietnamese instruments. Larry Rottmann and his collaborators, Mark Biggs and Ray Castrey, will present aspects of his extensive Vietnam Collection, given recently to MU's Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

Beginning at 7 p.m., David Moore, director of the Manuscript Collection, will introduce visual panels representing the broad range of the more-than-one hundred-linear-foot-long Rottmann Collection. He sees that Collection's "balanced approach as important for faculty teaching and research and for future generations' comprehension of the complexity of that watershed event in U.S. history".

Rottmann and director and cinematographer Biggs will discuss and screen their documentary, "The Bicycle Doctors: Life in a Vietnamese Hospital".

"Voices from Vietnam" will feature performance of original poetry by Rottmann and original music by Ray Castrey, demonstrating and describing the history of his Vietnamese instruments.

Adding to the evening will be a preview of the upcoming documentary by Rottmann and Biggs, "The Joscelyn Elders Story: Poverty, Politics and Public Health." This examines the remarkable life of Minnie Joscelyn Jones Elders, who rose from Arkansas shareholders' daughter to become Surgeon General of the United States.

The presentation is free and open to the public. Special invitations will go to past students of the Rock Bridge Vietnam classes of UU member Fran Reynolds. Rottmann is the son of UU member Betty Cook Rottmann and an MU alumnus. Castrey has performed in Columbia with the band, "Distant Relative". The UU performance will follow a 4:30 p.m. reception, open to the public, at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in Room 23 Ellis Library, featuring displays from the Rottmann Vietnam Collection and a screening of "The Bicycle Doctors."



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Columbia, MO 65201-6132



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### **Central Midwest District - UU Women's Federation Fall Retreat**

Presented November 7-9 by the Women of the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, IL. The Lake Geneva Campus is a beautiful setting on the lake and the fall colors are glorious. Bring your walking shoes and enjoy the view. Directions and a map will be sent with registration confirmation. Conference fees range from \$142 to \$269 depending on choice of lodging. Limited scholarships are available. For more information contact Karen Tajbl. Or check with Kathie in the church office.

### **UU History & Values Covenant Group**

Meeting in the Centering Room at the church on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7:30 PM. The August 25 meeting will be a good meeting for new members, as we will review and re-adopt our covenant. So if YOU want input on what we're doing, join in! More information can be obtained at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUHistVal> for anyone interested in joining.

### UU Singletarians

The UU Singletarians have created a website to keep folks apprised of their activities. If you would like to join the online group and stay informed about what is going on, please contact Deborah Finfgeld.



*Everyone is invited!*  
*First Sunday Potluck Lunch*  
**September 07, 2003**

Immediately following the  
worship service  
Please bring food to serve  
6-8 persons so there will be  
plenty to share!