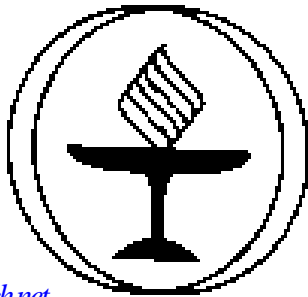


THE SEARCHLIGHT

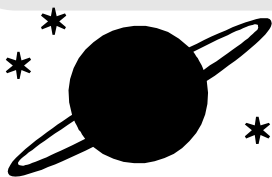
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF COLUMBIA, MO No. 6, FEBRUARY, 2005

The Searchlight is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia, Missouri 65201. It is published monthly from September through June. Submissions can be made by email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net or by mail to the church-Attention: Administrator. Deadline for submissions is noon on the third Monday of each month for publishing in the following month's Searchlight.



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FRONT PAGE NEWS

HEART TO HEART

Join your church friends on Friday, February 11th, from 6:30 to 8 pm for a gathering from the heart! This event helps our church's children get to know our church's adults, and vice versa. We can all learn more about one another, along with getting to know our presenters in depth!

Food! Music! Games! Door Prizes!

Sign up in the RE Hall if you can attend!
(sponsored by the RE Committee)

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.

06 Feb

*"THE SHADOW(S) OF THE
GROUND HOG"*

The 2nd of February was Ground Hog Day. What are the myths that surround this little creature? The children will be with us for the opening of the service. The monthly pot-luck luncheon follows the service.



13 Feb

"EXTEND A HAND"

We embark on our journey into the Annual Canvass with this "Vision Sunday" service. In what way does Valentine's Day correspond to generosity? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Carol Snively will be the Worship Associate for the service.



20 Feb

"THE ROOTS OF OUR BELIEFS"
Core beliefs give our life meaning and something around which to build a sense of identity. Where do these core beliefs come from? The UU Writers' Groups have been exploring their life experiences to discover the roots of their core beliefs. Some writers will share their stories of these experiences in this service.

27 Feb

*"THE STAYING POWER OF
FUNDAMENTALISM"*

Based on Karen Armstrong's book, this second of two services will take a look at the issue of religious fundamentalism. How can our liberal religious tradition co-exist with fundamentalism? The UU Singers will be a part of the service. Cande Iveson will be the Worship Associate.

FORUM SCHEDULE

THE FORUM, an adult discussion group, meets on Sundays at 9-10 a.m. in the Library, lower level of the church. Conversation and refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum, as always, is open to the public. Bill Clark is the February coordinator.

Feb. 6: Dr. Shakir Hamoodi will lead the discussion about the Muslim community in Columbia and the recent government actions in confiscating records of a Muslim charitable organization.

Feb. 13: Kevin Denson, a senior at Rock Bridge and a member of the RE program at our church, will discuss "Partners in Health" with a focus on Haiti.

Feb. 20: Lucille Salerno, recent winner of the Governor's Humanities Award, will discuss "Sorry Songs - the Strength of the Black Community." Lucille is director of MU's Lifespan Learning Program and the director of the Blind Boone Ragtime Festival in June.

Feb. 27: Clair Kucera, a pioneer in prairie restoration, will discuss the history of Tucker Prairie and give a brief overview of the status of prairies in Missouri today.

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.

MINISTER'S MONTHLY MUSINGS

MAKERS OF MEANING . . .

There is a saying in our tradition: "The pulpit belongs to the minister, the pews belong to the congregation." This is not a statement of ownership. It is a statement of stewardship. My commitment to speaking the truth as I see it is a stewardship symbolized by the pulpit. The pews symbolize the congregation's commitment of stewardship to support and sustain the church. Our forebears handed this tradition on to us. As beneficiaries we are also trustees. Each of us is a steward and trustee, not an owner. As such, we are each makers of meaning in the life of the church.

The approaching Annual Canvass is a yearly process of contemplating our individual place in the life of the church. For members and friends, the Annual Canvass is an important time to assess each one's stewardship. What is required of each of us is our presence and

support. There is more to it than just giving money. How each person relates to the life of the church is an important aspect of being a maker of meaning in this time of evaluation.

However, as the Canvass approaches, money is a vital factor of support. You will be asked to consider the extent of your financial support. In order for the church to responsibly carry on what was given to us in trust by our forebears, we must rekindle our verve for stewardship in a concrete and generous

way. As they who came before us gave us a vision of what could be possible, we now are challenged to extend a hand so that vision will take on a new meaning. Let us never forget that we are always, and in many ways, makers of meaning.

Peace and Love,
Bill.



Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. group will meet as usual on the second Wednesday (Feb. 9th) of the month for a brown bag lunch at noon at the church.

All women of the church are welcome. Please be prepared to tell about a book or story that you have read or a movie you have watched. That will be the program, which begins at 12:30.

Hopefully everyone will also reveal what she expected of the book or movie and whether the author of the book or director of the movie hit or missed the mark. Melinda Farhangi will facilitate the conversation about the books and movies.

Beverages will be provided. Refer questions to Roberta Jones or to Sue Bader.

Please take note as to whether you think we are better listeners as a result of participating in Listening Circles in January.



President's Article

One of the most important things going on in our church right now is the annual canvass. In years past I helped out by being a canvasser. Not because I liked to talk to people about money. Just the opposite. But I knew how important the canvass was to the life of our church and I thought it would be good for me to get outside of my comfort zone and stretch myself. To my surprise, I actually enjoyed it. I had great conversations with the people I canvassed, some of them people I had not met before.

Even though I had helped before I didn't realize all of the work that many, many people put into the canvass and budget until I was on the board and got to see the whole process up close. The Generosity team organizes the canvass and trains the canvassers. The Finance Committee identifies the fixed costs of the church, such as salaries, mortgage payments and utilities. Graphs, charts and brochures are created. The Leader Councils develop plans and dreams for the next year and envision the associated costs. Many people volunteer their time as canvass-

ers. Once the canvass is finished, the Board and Finance Committee determine how much of the pledged money is needed for fixed costs and how much is available for programming. The Leader Councils and many other interested parties then work cooperatively to identify priorities and divide up the available money between many aspects of church life.

Last year was the first year we created the budget after the canvass rather than before. We will do it that way again this year. It makes more sense to me. It doesn't seem practical to plan a budget until we know how much money we will have available.

We are a church of dreams and good ideas. I hear people talk about them all the time. Many of them take money and it seems like there isn't enough money to do everything we would like to be able to do. In part, that's just the reality of life, but in part it's because we invested in our future when we added on to our building and it will take awhile to pay off the mortgage. That doesn't mean we're in bad shape financially; it means we have to be patient

and prioritize. I was present when the Leader Councils met to hammer out the details of the budget last year. I was impressed with everyone's willingness to look at the big picture and prioritize the needs of the whole church rather than promote narrow interests. The atmosphere of cooperation and generosity was inspiring.

I trust that this year's canvass and budget creation will be successful, too. Let's all do our part to make it happen.

Leslie Luchene
Board President



Faith-to-Action Collection in December



Our monthly Faith-to-Action collection this past December resulted in \$216.67 being collected for the Voluntary Action Center. The Social Action Committee chose the VAC as the monthly recipient as a balance to choosing a family to support for the holidays from the Centro Latino this time. Next year we plan to support a family from the Voluntary Action Center for the holiday support and then take our Faith-in-Action collection in December 2005 for the benefit of Centro Latino. Thank you to all who contributed! Your donation will help the Voluntary Action Center continue its work in coordinating much needed support for needy families and individuals.

—Jackie Ambrow, Chair, Social Action Committee

New Small Group Ministry Forming

Today's Religious Right has worked hard to define religion, moral values and social and political issues in narrowly conservative (and principally Old Testament) terms. Together we can counter the Right's attempt to dominate the issues by co-opting the language of religious and moral values. We can find our own voices as liberal religious and spiritual people and redefine the issues in terms of liberal religious values. In forming a small group ministry, we can work past our own beliefs that may inhibit our own speaking out in religious terms. As we get comfortable talking among ourselves about the religious values that inform our stands on various issues, we can be more vocal in the public sphere to counter the Religious Right's influence on public dialogue. This small group ministry can also be a vehicle for creating a "community of communities," as Rev. Haney suggested in a recent sermon, through outreach to other diverse religious communities. If you would like to join in the formation of this small group ministry, please join us on Saturday evening, February 12 (Abraham Lincoln's birthday, fittingly enough!) at 7:00 PM. Please bring an after-dinner type snack or dessert to share. At that time we will discuss ideas and a name for this small group ministry. For more information, please contact Jackie Ambrow.

Writers' Groups for February



The UU Writers' Groups continue their Saturday morning musings in writing in February. All are welcome - just bring pen and paper to the Centering Room on Saturday mornings at 10 A.M. Call or email Fran Reynolds for information.

Mixed Group will meet on February 5 at Peggy Dawson's home; on February 19 they will meet at the church.

Women's Group will meet on February 12 and 26 at the church.



Announcing...GLBTQA Movie Night!

"The Celluloid Closet"

starring Lily Tomlin

Friday, February 11

6:45-9:30 p.m. (main feature begins at 7:15 p.m.)

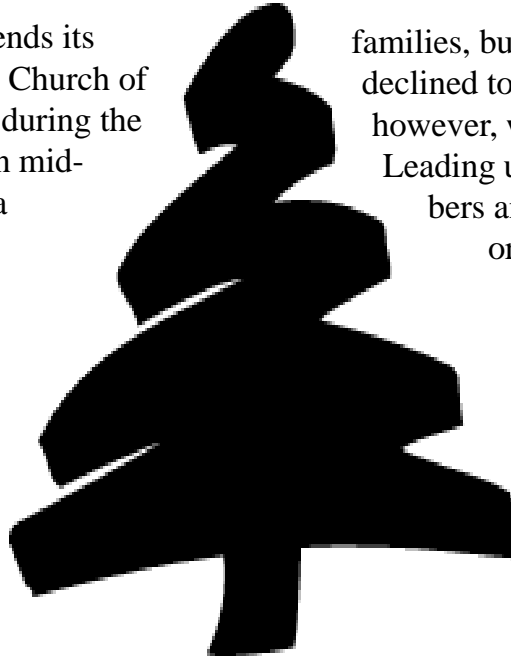


Lily Tomlin narrates this superb documentary about Hollywood's treatment of homosexual characters in the 20th century. The film presents clips from more than 100 mainstream features that speak loudly in their respective images of gays and lesbians. Lots of great interviews with screenwriters, filmmakers, actors, and others.

Come a little early to watch romantic film shorts before the main feature and to help decide which movies to show during the 2005 film series!!!

Social Action Committee Report on our Holiday Family Support

The Bautista family extends its heartfelt thanks to the UU Church of Columbia for our support during the holidays. At this writing in mid-January, Javier and Leticia Bautista along with their sons Javier and Jordi have received the bulk of their holiday gifts and cards along with \$278 from our congregation. Shortly they will also receive a PlayStation 2 for their son Javier, who has had to wait until the stores restock this item, along with another \$50 collected after Christmas. The Social Action Committee had asked Centro Latino to recommend one large or two small families that would benefit from our support. Originally they recommended two



families, but the father of one family declined to participate. The Bautistas, however, were very happy to do so. Leading up to the holidays, our members and friends selected paper ornaments with items or monetary amounts written on them for that person or family to get for the Bautista family from our evergreen in the sanctuary. People brought the items to church on the first Sunday in December, and our children wrapped them downstairs and made handmade greeting cards in Spanish for the family. Thank you all for participating in this event! If anyone has a line on a gently used PC for the father, please call Jackie Ambrow, SAC chair.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

This has been a season of loss for several members and friends of the congregation and we acknowledge this difficult time and send condolences: Kristina Szafara lost her father after a long illness, Yvonne Maruniak's mother died in Texas, Bud Murphey lost a special uncle, Barb Montgomery's friend Dr. Im died tragically at MU, Jackie Bell's aunt and Godmother died suddenly, and Rachel Tanski's father is reported as gravely ill and not expected to live much longer - Mom Caya is helping prepare her for his eventual passing.



Many of you will remember Dan Spies as an active and vital member of our congregation. Dan was living in a Madison, Mo. nursing home when he died on December 14th. His daughter Janet (also a former member of the congregation) phoned to tell us the news. Janet indicated that they will plan a Memorial Service sometime in the future after the December holidays. Your cards of sympathy can be sent to Janet Spies in Columbia, Mo. 65203.

Happily, Margaret Tyler celebrates the birth of a granddaughter in Washington, Allie Gassmann marked another birthday (who would have known?), Fran Reynolds and Pam Springsteel made a pleasant trip to the West coast to see relatives, the Tillemas vacationed in Europe with their daughters over the holidays, and Gertrude Lindener-Stawski enjoyed a very special holiday visit from her son.

February's Caring Assistant will be Hazel Breitenbach.

Jan Swaney and Allie Gassmann Co-Chairs, Caring Committee

Social Action Reports

February FAITH-TO-ACTION Collection:
Supporting KOPN - A Natural Fit

Many of us are familiar with KOPN, 89.5 FM. It is a non-commercial, listener supported, community radio station broadcasting to central Missouri. It is committed to educating and enriching the lives of its membership and the community it serves, especially those otherwise under-represented in the commercial radio sector. KOPN, a tool for democracy, diversity, and community is a natural fit for us as we put faith into action through church-wide collections.

KOPN serves our community in two ways: By training individuals in radio production and giving access to its facilities and airwaves for the local production of quality radio programs, and by broadcasting a diversity of viewpoints and musical genres through its programs that enhances the quality of life of its membership and the community at large.

Programming includes News, Information and Music from our local community and from around the world. Examples of a few programs are Democracy Now; BBC; Evening Edition; Sex, Drugs and Civil Liberties; Religion Matters; Morning Ayre Classical; Blues, Jazz, Folk and many, many, more.

Of course, each and every program costs money to air. KOPN members generously donate a large proportion of the support that

keeps it on the air. Local organizations also provide cash and trade for products and services that KOPN would not be able to survive without.

KOPN works on an extremely lean budget of \$260,000, broadcasting 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Over \$30,000 is required to pay for national programming. Another necessary expenditure is electricity. Think

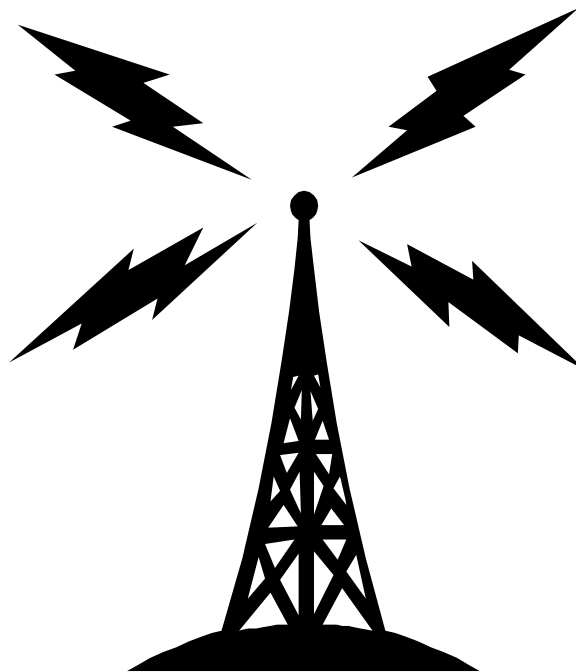
what it takes to power a 36,000 Watt transmitter. Electricity for the broadcast tower runs almost \$9,000 a year! And just like in any home budget, the list goes on and on.

Our Julie Baka, UU and KOPN Director of Development says, "A donation from the church will do more than just help us pay the bills today. It will help us to leverage dollars from other sources.

Thank you in advance

for your help in keeping our airwaves strong. KOPN will continue to offer programming that supports the UU Principles!"

On February 27th during the worship service, we will take a Faith-To-Action collection to support KOPN. As usual, checks should be made to the church, with a designation for KOPN. Mail-in contributions will be accepted in the church office anytime between now and then.



From the desk of the
Church Administrator:



FOUNDATIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

The Church depends upon a volunteer structure for its program and events to run smoothly and to make sure that the building and grounds are cared for. We ask all members to pitch in by choosing tasks that they are willing to do. Please check the list at the Visitors Table and sign up to take a turn as usher, visitors' table volunteer, or coffee server. If you forget to sign up, just call the church office (442-5764) or send an email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net.

Many thanks.
Kathie Bergman

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, February 13, 2005**.

Women's Alliance Annual Scholarship

The Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis invites members of the Columbia UU Church to apply for the 2005 scholarship award. Initiated by a generous bequest from the estate of Edna Landzettl, a lifelong teacher and proponent of the importance of education in a woman's life, the scholarship will be given to a woman who is responsible financially for continuing her education, a member of a UU Church, and a registered student. The award of \$2,000 will be made on the basis of scholarship, character and need. Application packets are available. Call the church office for details. The deadline for completed applications is March 31, 2005.

Guest at Your Table

Contributions

It's not too late to turn in your "Guest at Your Table" contribution for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Put it in the form of a check made out to "UUSC"; on the memo line put "Guest" and get the check to the church as soon as you can. Thank you.

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Thanks to the anonymous donor who gave the Fair Trade, Shade-grown decaf coffee to the church in January.

Thanks to the volunteers who collate the newsletter month after month! They include: Roberta Jones, Sue Bader, Joan Mudrick, Margaret Tyler, Susie Anand, Armine Cuber, Carolyn Leuthold, Ann White, Anne Robins, Melinda Farhangi, and Hazel Breitenbach.



Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group meets at 8 AM for breakfast every 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Holiday Inn, Executive Center. We discuss topics of current interest. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THE SEARCHLIGHT

The Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd,
Columbia, MO 65201-6132



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**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*

EVERYONE IS INVITED!
FIRST SUNDAY

POTLUCK LUNCH

February 6, 2005



Immediately following the worship service
In the Greeting Area at the church

Bring a dish to share!