

THE SEARCHLIGHT

Volume 47, Issue 8

April 2008

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.



Three Years and Counting!

Look for the return of Walt Whitman as we celebrate three years as a Welcoming Congregation and as a church-wide chapter of Interweave: UUs for LGBT Concerns. Join us on April 6 for a cake reception, door prizes, and some special activities before, during, and after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

Joint Councils Budgeting Session

The UU Joint Councils Budget planning meeting will be Thursday, April 3 at 7 pm in the Centering Room. All are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity for you to influence the church's budgeting process in regard to the activities of the Congregational Development, Outreach, and Program Councils. Please note those activities with advocates tend to do the best at budgeting time - and this meeting is one of the most interesting ways to learn a lot about our church and what we find important. Light refreshments will be provided. Alert a convener if you have childcare or transportation needs.

Stephanie Dorman, Corinne Mann, and Mark Schmidt - Council Conveners

Fellowship Planning for 2008-09

Join us for a 2008-09 Fellowship Planning Session on Thursday, April 10 from 6:30-8:30 in the Centering Room. The purpose of this gathering will be to start setting a calendar of events for the Congregational Development Council (CDC) for the next academic year and to establish leadership for those events.

Possibilities might include:

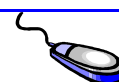
- Laid Back Labor Day (Sept.)
 - Welcome Back Picnic & Activities Fair (Sept.)
 - Building Expansion 10-Year Anniversary (Nov.)
 - Founder's Day (Jan.)
 - New Member Ingathering (Apr.)
- Direct questions to Stephanie Dorman, CDC Convener.



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Visit us at uuchurch.net!



Worship Services Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

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 Apr | <p>“How We Are Welcoming” We begin with our children for the opening of the worship service. There will be a story about two penguins that modeled one form of family life. Our monthly pot-luck luncheon will follow the worship service. All are invited to attend.</p> |
| 13 Apr | <p>“Mind the Mules: Theology and Justice in the Food Chain” We welcome David Breeden in the pulpit, the ministerial intern at Eliot Unitarian Chapel in St. Louis. There's an old saying, "Don't mind the mules, just load the wagon." We have been doing just that on US farms for a long time now, and the consequences to animals, environment, and human health are staggering. It's time to give the mules some consideration and develop a healthy, sustainable agricultural economy. It's where we live and what we eat, and it is an act of social justice. The UU Singers will be a part of the service. The Annual Congregational Meeting follows the worship service.</p> |
| 20 Apr | <p>"Spirituality and Wildness" Layled Service by the Green Sanctuary Committee "Spirituality for me is about feeling fully connected to the world – not separate but being part of an integrated whole. Feeling at one with the rest of the universe. Feeling fully surrounded by a sense of love and belonging. This happens very occasionally during so-called peak experiences but generally it is something that does not come easily. We have to continually strive to let go of attachment, to accept not knowing, and to be fully present in each moment. We have to accept whatever happens without judgment. We have to let go of ego and work at feeling attuned with the world around us." Peter Holmes, coordinator</p> |
| 27 Apr | <p>“We Covenant . . . ” This is our Recognition Sunday service that celebrates the passing of the church year. We will honor the retiring Board of Trustee members, install the new Board members and welcome into our communion new members who will sign the Membership Book. The UU Singers will be a part of the service. The Faith-to-Action Collection will be for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia’s Refugee Fund.</p> |

Discover UU

Mark your calendar if you wanted to participate in the Discover UU sessions and couldn't make any of the previous evening sessions, because on Saturday, April 19 Rev. Haney will facilitate a one-day workshop format in the Centering Room downstairs. Instead of planning for four successive weekly evening sessions, you can have it over in just one day, from 9 AM to 3 PM, with a free lunch thrown in. And there will be childcare for those who need it, too. So mark your calendar for Saturday, April 19 for this worthwhile look at our roots, history and values. Registration forms will be available at the Visitor Table in the weeks to come. Or, call the church office and one can be sent by email.

Forum Schedule

The Forum, an adult discussion group, meets on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. in the Library/Forum Room, lower level of the church. Conversation and refreshments are offered along with the discussion. The Forum is open to the public.

April 6 "The Future of Newspapers" by Dr. Esther Thorson, MU acting Dean of the School of Journalism, who will focus on the fundamental changes in society and technology which have led to the current crisis in the newspaper industry, with perhaps the consequence of there being nothing to replace the depth of local coverage that newspapers give us.

April 13 "Serious and Lighter Notes on the Life, Loves and Laurels of Charles Darwin" by psychologists Carla and Wayne Anderson, who will focus on his theory of evolution of the species by natural selection, which changed the way we view humans' place in the universe.

April 20 "Genesis" by Anthony M. Alioto, PhD, professor and Schiffman Endowed Chair in Ethics, Philosophy and Religious Studies at Columbia College, who will wrestle with this enigmatic collection of writings with us to try to determine what, if anything, they have to say of value today.

April 27 "Evolution's Modern Face" by Wayne Anderson, who will explore the modern psycho biological literature that returns to Darwin's original belief that sex differences in behavior evolved and adds modern evidence about how the pairing off as couples is ensured by brain chemistry.

Social Action Report

Friends of MU Peace Studies send thanks for the donation of \$382.00 from UU Church of Columbia Faith to Action program.

At the February meeting of the Social Action Committee, the members voted to support a project proposed by Corinne Mann by paying for a booth and staffing same at the Earth Day Celebration in downtown Columbia on April 20th. The purpose for having a booth at this event is to promote the UU Church and the focus and value we place on ecological issues.

Currently sponsored by SAC are Jima Tota, his wife Rebecca, and their five children, the refugee family from Sudan. With pleasure it was reported that they have closed on their new 4-bedroom home, located in northern Columbia. The house was built and bought with help from Habitat for Humanity! The dedication of the home was celebrated on March 15th. Several



UU members attended the short program and reception following.

The April 2008 Faith to Action Collection will benefit the UU Reserved Fund for the Refugee Family. If you cannot attend the worship service on April 27th, please mail your tax-deductible donation to the church. Checks should be made out to UU Church with "Refugee Fund" noted in the memo line. On behalf of the Social Action Committee, we thank you.

For information about Social Action Committee projects, please contact Wiley Miller, chair, or attend the next regular monthly meeting during the April potluck lunch. The meeting will take place in the Forum Room in the lower level of the church from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. approximately.

Check out uuchurch.net!



Minister's Musings

MIXING MEMORY AND DESIRE . . .

It was T. S. Eliot who wrote, "April is the cruelest month . . ." That is usually the case for those who are over-anticipating spring's arrival. March is the teaser month, with the rapid chilling and warming cycles through the land. By April, we want some recognition that spring is really here. Yet, for church life, April is more than that. It is the beginning of the end of the formal church year. It is the time to look to the past to what we've achieved and to the future to what we want to be. As to the future, by April we

will be ending our annual pledge canvass for the funding of the next fiscal year. Within that effort are all sorts of desires and dreams for the future. Also, we will be reflecting upon the past year. We take the time to honor those who worked so hard to keep the church life alive and healthy. So there is truly a mixing in the month of April, as Eliot says;
 April is the cruelest month, breeding
 Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
 Memory and desire."

Peace and Love,
 Bill



Church for the 21st Century: Shaping Our Religious Future Keynote Speaker Diana Butler Bass April 25-27, 2008 . . . St. Louis, Missouri

The annual Central Midwest District Assembly is scheduled for the 25th through the 27th of April in St. Louis. The Leader Council conveners and staff are working on designating five delegates to represent our church at that meeting. Whether you wish to be a delegate or not, you will want to consider joining with many other Unitarian Universalists from around the District in this great opportunity. Keynote addresses will be by author Diana Butler Bass on religious trends in America, and by the Reverend Dr. Michael Tino on alternative worship. There are many workshops from which to choose, so contact the church office for registration forms, which are due by the 4th of April for early registration.

From the Church Administrator's Desk

Local UU Church members have been invited to share stories of faith on MyMissourian.com, Columbia's citizen journalism website. You can submit stories, photos, event previews and other content. To submit material, or for more information, visit mymissourian.com or email Religion editor Hannah Martine at [hemqk6@mizzou.edu](mailto:hmqk6@mizzou.edu).



Thanks again to the newsletter collating team! Roberta Jones, Melinda Farhangi, Joan Mudrick, Dolores Clark and Carolyn Leuthold took little time preparing the March Searchlight for the bulk mail on February 27th!

Visitor Orientation for April will be by appointment only. Contact Rev. Haney by phone at 442-5764.

OFFICIAL NOTICE
Annual Congregational Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary
 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 13, 2008

Members are hereby notified of the annual Congregational Meeting. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary while members enjoy light refreshments. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

- Agenda-**
- 1) Election of 08/09 Trustees**
 - 2) Vote on 08/09 Budget**
 - 3) Annual Reports: President, Treasurer, Minister, Director RE**

Childcare will be offered in the Nursery.

*"A member shall become a voting member 60 days from the date of joining."
 ---Bylaws, Article III, Section 2*

Nominees for 08/09 Board of Trustees as recommended by Board of Trustees 3/11/08:

Kevin Fritsche
 Linda Lou Brown
 Ellen Thomas
 Mike Headrick
 Gregory Brown

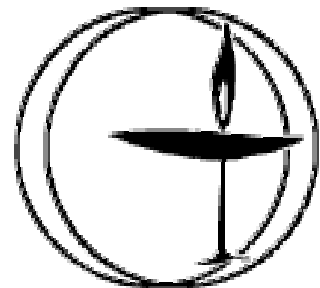
There is, as yet, one Trustee position unfilled. Terms of office are two years beginning July 1, 2008. If you have an interest in serving the church as a Board member, or you would like more information, please contact the minister, administrator or any member of the current Board of Trustees.

Chancel Décor

A formal organization of the Chancel Décor Group is underway. If you are interested in sharing any of the following tasks with a number of other UUs, please contact Marianne Erickson by April 11th.

Chancel Décor Tasks to Share

Flower/Greenery Collections and Arrangement
 Watering of Chancel, Greeting area and Foyer Green plants
 Occasional Changing of Banners
 Banner Creation*
 Care of Candles of Community
 Arrangement of Chairs



*Jennifer Schmidt has already expressed an interest in banner creation, but others' time and talents are needed to share the fun AND the labor.

What's New at UU?

Conversations, Etc.

Conversations, Etc. will meet Wednesday, April 9 at noon at the church. Patricia Morrow will present a program, "Why Science Fiction is good for children." Bring your brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish. Call Roberta Jones if you have questions.

Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at Q's Chinese Restaurant, 4004 Peach Tree Ct., on Friday, April 11 at 5:30 pm. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly. Call Pam Springsteel if you have questions.

UU Life Writer's Group

The main purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Church's Life Writers' Group is to bring people together who want to tell and to write their life stories. For further information call or email Fran Reynolds.



Meetings are Saturday mornings at 10:30 and usually end by 12:30 in the Centering Room. Spring Meeting Dates: April 5 and 19, and May 3 and 17

First Friends

Are you a newcomer to our church? If so, come join us for a First Friends get together to meet with seasoned members who can answer any questions you might have. We will have light refreshments and get to know each other in a relaxed environment. If you would like to have a First Friend to help you get involved in our community or be a First Friend to someone new, check at the Visitor's Table or call Barbara Carter or Rexanna Ipock-Brown. We will meet in the foyer at the UU Church on Sunday, April 27th 4 p.m. - 5 p.m., May 25th 9 a.m.- 10 a.m., and June 29th 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Coffee Sales

The April fair trade, organic coffee, tea and chocolate sale will be Sunday, April 6. Your support has allowed us to serve fair trade, organic coffee and to offer fair trade, organic tea at our coffee hour for the past three years, as well as helped with the Coming of Age activities for our YUUTs. Thank you! The last sale of the academic year will be the first Sunday in May, so if you know you want to stock up on a large quantity of a particular item for the summer, be sure to let us know in April so we can take it into account in our ordering.

Meditation in Nature

Join us at Gans Creek Wildlife Area every third Sunday of the month from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. to building a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness. Open to all people who love Nature. Contact Peter Holmes for more information.

Show Me Laughter Club

We meet every Thursday, from 7 - 8 p.m. in the Centering Room. Attendance is free and public. All are welcome! We do playful laughter exercises that help people in a group turn simulated laughter into hearty free-flowing and rejuvenating laughter! For more information email showmelaughter@yahoo.com.



UUs DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Join us Saturday, May 31 at 4 p.m. until Sunday, June 1 at noon for UUs Down by the Riverside, including a cookout, campout, breakfast, and an outdoor service. We will gather at Katfish Katy's Campground on the Missouri River in Huntsdale. See more at www.tranquility.net/~katfish/KATFISH_KATYS/Index.html.

We are on the Web at uuchurch.net!



What's New at UU?

Open Borders Concert Series

Saturday, 12 April - 8:00pm

Celia (www.celiaonline.com) is an independent singer-songwriter, now residing in Ashland, OR, who has several albums to her credit. "Symbol," a song from her most recent album, has been named the "Anthem for the Veteran Pentacle Quest," in support of religious tolerance and acceptance. She has created a character called "Trestle Foot Faerie" who has announced she is running for president to "re-enchant the planet." Trestle will appear with Celia in this evening of fun, frolic and music. (Some of the content may be considered PG-13....not rude or lewd, just mature)

Tuesday, 22 April - 7:00pm

Geoff Muldaur (www.geoffmuldaur.com) was a founding member of the Jim Kweskin Jug Band in the '60s, performed and recorded with the Paul Butterfield Better Days group in addition to more recent solo projects. The London Times wrote, "Immaculate guitar picking was matched by vocals that were rich, and bore out the guitarist," Richard Thompson's praise for him: "There are only three white blues singers, and Geoff Muldaur

is at least two of them." Mr. Muldaur has been a regular musical guest on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" on public radio for years.



Suggested Donation: \$12 (\$6 for over 64 or under 15)

Contact Clint Harding with questions.

UUCC Men's Group

The UUCC Men's Group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 8 am in the Piccadilly Restaurant at the Holiday Inn Select. The group is open to all men. There are no fees and no reservations are necessary. The agenda is an open discussion of whatever is on the minds of those in attendance – and breakfast! For more information contact Sam Anand or Bill Clark.

Welcome to the WEBS

Open to any who are involved in an Earth-centered religious practice, our goal is to deepen our own spiritual connection and to share ideas and knowledge.

Bring a potluck dish to share, music makers, Tarot cards, or anything else that helps you connect spiritually, and a willingness to explore yourself deeply

Saturday, April 19: How psychic are you? Do you dare to know? Come take a test to find out. For more information, contact Barbara Carter.

Green Friday

The April Green Friday movie will be "Radiant City" (a 2007 True/False film) on Friday, April 4th at 7 pm.

Welcome to Radiant City, an entertaining and startling new film on 21st century suburbanites. Venturing into territory both familiar and foreign, Radiant City turns the documentary genre inside out, crafting a vivid account of life in The Late Suburban Age.

A chorus of cultural prophets provide insight on the spectacle. James Howard Kunstler, author of "The Geography of Nowhere," rails against the brutalizing aesthetic of strip malls. Philosopher Joseph Heath fears the soul-eating burbs but admits they offer good value for money. And urban planner Beverly Sandalack dares to ask, "Why can't we walk anywhere anymore?"

Green Friday is the first Friday of each month. The Green Sanctuary invites everyone to attend this free event and enjoy open conversation about it.

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 20-23, 2008. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four-day UU Niagara Experience, which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our website: <http://www.uunex.net/>



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

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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. If you wish to become a member, please speak to Rev. Haney or call the church office (442-5764).

Everyone is invited! Sunday Potluck Lunch April 6, 2008



**Immediately following the worship service in the greeting area at the church.
Bring a dish to share!**

THE SEARCHLIGHT
Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132



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Our Staff

Rev. William Haney, Minister
**Lisa Fritsche, Director of Youth
Religious Education**
Desiree Long, Music Director
**Kathie Bergman,
Administrator**



Office Hours: M - F - 10 a.m. 'til 3 p.m.
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Visit our Website: www.uuchurch.net

2007-2008 Board of Trustees

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