



UUCCPF Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

January, 2012

Park Forest, IL



The President's Column

Sunday Worship Schedule 10:00 AM

January 1:
"At the Turning of the Year"
By Susan Urban and Phil Cooper

January 8:
"To Be Announced"
By Ray Deabel

January 15:
"Martin King - Artist"
By Rev. Yielbonzie Charles Johnson

January 22:
"For Such a Time as This"
By Rev. Yielbonzie Charles Johnson

January 29:
"W.W.Y.D.? - Occupy Your Heart"
By Charlotte Lehmann

Rev. Yielbonzie Charles Johnson
Minister

Pat Segner
President

John Hurtubise
Vice-President

Richard Treptow
Treasurer

Diane O'Connor
Office Administrator

Waiting Can Be Worship

"There are moments of deep meditation where you and That are love and It loves you. It responds. It fulfills you? What responds? God is nothingness. But this Nothingness loves you. You are loved and there is absolute unbelievable bliss. Mind knows nothing about it. These things cannot really be explained. They have to be experienced." Irina Tweedie

Over the Thanksgiving Holiday I attended three Quaker Meetings, with my sister, Anne, who is a lifelong Quaker. All Quaker meetings begin in silence. There is no minister or music or formal order of service. A person speaks when propelled by "the spirit" and there is a brief Joys and Sorrows at the end of the meeting.

On Thanksgiving Day a Quaker woman spoke about how this silence in meeting is not an absence of something but a "holy waiting time" for the divine spark within to be felt and recognized. She used the words, "waiting to experience" the impossibly generous or God." I would say in more Unitarian language; the soul, the higher self, the Spirit of Life, Love and Light. Other words for this time of waiting from other cultures and religious orientations could include; meditation, contemplation, awareness, centering, body prayer, sitting Zen, self-observation, stress relief and breathing exercises. Being in inner silence helps us attain joy, peace and love and more understanding, compassion and appreciation. Let go of what is not needed in your being for this stage of the journey.

As we approach the New Year of 2012, and the challenge to make our church community thrive without a minister, let each of us take a time for inner reflections and renewal of spirit. How can we use a time of meditation, soul searching, prayer to ready ourselves for the tasks ahead? May we go forth with more knowledge of ourselves, and increased inner peace and hope for the future.

"If a person closes his eyes and sits doing nothing he may just as well go to sleep. Meditation is not only an exercise to be practiced; in meditation the soul is charged with new light, inspiration and vigor; in meditation there is every kind of blessing." Hazrat Inayat Khan

May the New Year bring peace to your soul. The peace, which an unknown author said, "does not mean where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart."

In Peace, Love and Community, *Pat*

I talk a great deal about the need for a kind of divine discontent. And I always mention that there are certain technical words within every science, which become stereotypes and clichés. Modern psychology has a word that has become common – it is the word “maladjusted.” We read a great deal about it. It is a ringing cry of modern child psychology; and certainly we all want to be well adjusted and avoid neurotic and schizophrenic personalities. But I must say to you this evening, my friends, there are some things in our world to which I am proud to be maladjusted. And I call upon you to be maladjusted and all people of good will to be maladjusted to these things until the good society is realized. I never intend to adjust myself to segregation and discrimination. I never intend to become adjusted to religious bigotry. I never intend to adjust myself to economic conditions that will take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few, and leave millions of people perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of prosperity. I must honestly say, however much criticism it brings, that I never intend to adjust myself to the madness of militarism, and to the self-defeating effects of physical violence.

“Don’t Sleep Through The Revolution”

*Delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Unitarian Universalist general Assembly
Hollywood FL May 18, 1966*

So much of the work and words of Martin King capture a spirit, which is still being born and burning around the world including here in the United States of America. From last years Arab Awakening to the Occupy Movement here at home the spirit of divine discontent lives. This fire also lives in less public places and is likely to grow in this election year. Divine Discontent is expressed in our lives in what King also called “Creative Maladjustment.” Before he died he called on the establishment of the International Association for the Advancement of Creative Maladjustment. A formal organization never happened though many are still calling for it. Perhaps the spirit of Creative Maladjustment is more again to the disorganized Occupiers than in petitions to power that is firmly in the hands of the so called one percent.

60 years ago this year mothers here in Park Forest, discontent with the options for religious and ethical education for their children, stepped out of the main stream and organized what was to become Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUCC). Sixty years later we remain a sanctuary for the creative maladjusted.

Now, no one should be satisfied with simply being maladjusted. To bring Creativity to this unease, to join others in the courage it takes to dissent and create at the same time. This is the spirit that moved Martin King to create the Progressive Baptist after feeling the timidity in his national Baptist denomination. It is this courage which led the women and their families to create the place we gather each Sunday.

On January 15 we will celebrate the Birthday of Martin Luther King. I will think of it as an affirmation of the courage to be creative in our discontent. On this special day I will honor MLK as an artist. This day we will also celebrate the 1st anniversary of Jazz in the Afternoon with the Chris Ussery Quartette featuring bassist John Hurtibise. We will enjoy a lunch sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee; view the art of the late Robert Putnam (on exhibit and on sale through the end of January with a 40% gift to the church). The forum on this day will be: *Palestine and Israel: A Palestinian-American View. Speaker, Anna Mustafa, an active participant in Jewish/Palestinian dialogue groups.*

I want to extend special thanks to Wyll, Sherry, Dorea, Barb and Robin for moving and hanging the paintings. Thanks also to Linda Putnam who allowed the show to go on after Bob’s transition.

And thanks to all of you who, in small or great ways continue to sustain the creativity which created this church.

See you in church.

Care of the Earth Forum Second Sunday of each Month

Although we have covered many topics in the last year and a half, there are others not yet broached, and require our attention. One such is sustainable food production. We are past seven billion and still growing and in dire need of more and better and more efficient food production. It is just as related to power, energy, and conservation as other topics we have discussed. I am looking for volunteers to take one or two Forums and help all of us learn about sustainably increasing food production in Park Forest, the U.S., and the world. Do it solo or use a team approach. Please help. Pick one or two Care of the Earth forum dates for next semester. So far, only January is full. See or call Fen Taylor.

Upcoming Workshop

SWIFT would like to promote the upcoming workshop "How to Write a Successful Cover Letter" sponsored by the Interfaith Job-Search Network (IFJSN). This workshop will be held at the St. Irenaeus Catholic Church Educational Center (207 S. Orchard Dr. Park Forest) from 6-8pm on Wednesday, January 11, 2012.



If you would like more information, please see the attached flyer or contact Suzy Carlson of IFJSN at 708-799-1160.

You can reduce global warming AND save money.

Electric distribution companies, e.g. ComEd, allow you to choose the supplier of your energy. The 'greenest' energy source in our area, CONSTELLATION ENERGY, uses a higher percent of renewal energy (mostly wind) than other suppliers, yet charges only 7.74 cents per KWH, less than when the energy is supplied by ComEd's subsidiary.

Dave Matteson

FORUM 11:30 AM



January 1: Community Sunday/No Forum

January 8: Presenters are Dave Bartlett and Rosemary Piser. Our "Care of the Earth" Forum is overdue in covering food sustainability; Local, Country, and World. Dave and Rosemary will brief us on "Community Gardens and Sustainability." This is an intricate component of Power, Energy, Agriculture, and Population. Please join us as we continue our search for a sustaining and sustainable Planet. Hope to see you there.

January 15: Palestine and Israel: A Palestinian-American View. Speaker, Anna Mustafa, an active participant in Jewish/Palestinian dialogue groups.

January 22: The Palestine-Israel Struggle. Speaker, Brett Cohen: an activist in "Stand with Us," which supports the two state solution but seeks to counter "the hate education taught to Palestinian children," in hopes that more positive education can provide "the road to peace," will present a more militant pro-Israel point of view regarding the two state solution, followed by questions and answers.

January 29: Tom Shepherd, on the board of Southeast Environmental Task Force and Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director of People for Community Recovery will present "How We'd like to Transform Our Polluted Area Into a Cleaner Region" and will lead a discussion on the challenges of Chicago's southeast side. Tom is the principal guide for the well-known Toxics to Treasures Eco-Tour that takes visitors through the gritty region where heavy industry has flourished and, in many cases, left environmental challenges in its wake. Cheryl learned about dangerous environmental issues in her Altgeld Gardens neighborhood from her mother, Hazel M. Johnson, who was a recipient of awards presented by presidents Bill Clinton and George H. W. Bush, and had worked alongside Barack Obama during his community organizing days.

Please Save the Date

South Suburban PADS is having its annual Gala Fundraiser in the form of a "N'awlins Nite"/Mardi Gras-theme party from 4PM to 8PM on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 115 Bourbon Street (3359 W. 115th St. in Merionnet Park). South Suburban PADS is an emergency shelter program that has operated in the South and Southwest suburbs of Chicago since December 1990. It is an interfaith effort that provides food, shelter, and hospitality to men, women and children with no place to live.

Around UCCPF



WEDNESDAY MORNING COVENANT GROUP

We invite new conversation and socializing after the group. We meet on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month from 10am to Noon. Bring a bag lunch for sharing and conversation.

January 25: Looking Ahead from our 10-year Anniversary

FRIDAY COVENANT GROUP

We invite everyone to join us for sharing and discussion on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month from 7-9 p.m. During the first hour we go around our circle, each having the opportunity to talk about what is happening in our lives. The second hour we discuss a topic chosen by our group. Come join us!

January 13: Resolutions/hopes for 2012. Healthy habits for mind & body.

January 27: How I find fulfillment.



UCCPF Social Issues Free Movie & Discussion Saturday, January 28, 7:00 p.m.

Earth: The Operator's Manual

Things that are important to us, like cars and computers, come with manuals. So why not a manual for the most complex operating system of all - the Earth? Is the planet due for an oil change? What do we need to do to keep Earth operating at peak performance? These are some of the questions addressed in **Earth: The Operators' Manual**. This film, shown on PBS, will leave you amazed at the beauty and bounty of the planet, inspired by human ingenuity, and optimistic about the future. *60 minutes. 2011. Discussion led by Jeff Green.*

Free coffee, tea, and popcorn.

Invite friends!

Optional: Bring a snack to share.

Optional donations accepted.



A MOMENT IN BALANCE

Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen
Monday and Thurs
9:30am – 11am
Wednesday evenings
7:30pm – 9pm

No reservations needed. Drop in fee is \$10 per class and the 6th one is FREE. Call (708) 755-3577 for information

Rainbow Café

Rainbow Cafe is a social event that provides a safe and welcoming environment for single or partnered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adults and their allies, by creating a space where they are able to socialize outside of the usual bars. The Café is open every **1st Saturday of the month from 7:30-9:30 pm. For more info contact Dave Matteson. 708-672-8837 or 708-408-1421**

Next Café: January 7



Choir Rehearsals

Please join us for choir practices Tuesday evenings at 7:30

Meditation

Meditation in the style of Vipassana is now being held in the gathering room every 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 7:30 - 8:30p.m.

Vipassana, or "Insight Meditation" means "to see things as they really are." For more information, contact: Diane between 10am & 2pm at 708-481-5339.



Drum Circle

3rdFriday of each month: 7-9pm

Come enjoy the soothing therapeutic effect of our open drum circle. Drumming is fun and good for you. Connect with the Spirit in a way that can't be described in words. Come out and get your rhythm on! Reconnect with the Pulse of the Universe! The circle is "zero level," requiring no experience. Please bring a drum if you have one. We will have a small selection of community drums just in case.

A \$10 love offering is requested. We plan to add drums with the proceeds of the offerings. Please be generous!

For more information email Andy at: DrumUCC@yahoo.com



Dances of Universal Peace...

are Circle, Meditative, Prayerful dances to the mantras from all World Religions. They originated with Murshid Samuel Lewis, a Sufi teacher, in San Francisco in the late 1960's. We meet from 4pm-6pm at UCC. Nancy Pfalscraft, a certified D.U.P. teacher, is our primary leader.

Next dance: January 22, 2012 For more info call: Pat Segner 748-2217

From Kandye

If you are the last person in the church please make sure that the front AND back door is locked and lights are turned off. The kitchen door and storeroom door need to be left open for air flow because of the heat from the freezer and refrigerator.

January

2012

Happy New Year!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship/RE 11:30 Community Sunday	2 9:30am Yoga	3	4 7:30pm Yoga	5 9:30am Yoga	6 6:30pm Family First Friday	7 7:30pm Rainbow Café
8 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Forum 11:30am Informational Meeting. 11:30am Finance Committee Meeting	9 9:30am Yoga 7:30 Meditation	10 7:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm Convener Meeting	11 7:30pm Yoga	12 9:30am Yoga	13 7pm Covenant Group	14 8pm Edgar's Place (Tim Grimm)
15 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Forum 1pm Jazz in the Afternoon	16 9:30am Yoga	17 7:00pm Board Meeting 7:30pm Choir practice	18 7:30pm Yoga	19 9:30am Yoga	20 7pm Drumming	21 10am Let's Make Soup/ Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting
22 10am Worship/RE (RE Holiday Event) 11:30am Forum 11:30am Green Sanctuary Fund Raiser 4pm Dances of Universal Peace	23 9:30am Yoga 7:30 Meditation	24 7:30pm Choir practice	25 10am Covenant Group 7:30pm Yoga	26 9:30am Yoga	27 6pm Boy Scouts 7pm Covenant Group	28 7pm Movie Night
29 10am Worship/RE 11:30 Forum	30 9:30am Yoga	31 7:30pm Choir practice				

First Friday Reminder

We are now open on 1st Fridays to members and friends for adult games as well as our family games. Adults will have their own tables to play cards or board games. Come and enjoy the fun!

Green Sanctuary Committee

by Robin Barrett



I gaze with wonder at the bare, dark branches against a bright blue sky. Peaceful and majestic they seem inexplicably strong and full of life. On an instinctive level, I know that a lot is happening there that I cannot see or verbalize. Science tells us that seeds are in their gestation period in the rich, dark earth. They need this time, just as we do. I find comfort that my desires to rest and reflect are mirrored in the non-human world. Yet, I am thankful and participate, willingly, in the season's festivities. While this seems contradictory on the surface, I do not feel confused, but rather, natural and perfect.

Nancy Wood says it quite beautifully,
"It is our quiet time.

*We rest with all of nature. We wake when the seven sisters wake.
We greet them in the sky over the opening of the kiva."*

The mist recedes to reveal human events and ideas.

1. Children at St. Jude's earn money by creating new holiday cards from old. Mail cards UPS "ground" or "bound printed matter" to St. Jude's Card Recycling, 100 St. Jude Street, P.O. Box 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006.
2. (Seed) Bombs Away. Check out Sierra Club website or the Green Sanctuary Bulletin Board for more info. "Bombers" have spread their seeds all over the world to green urban spaces. That is the kind of military action I support. Not surprisingly, some OCCUPIERS are scattering seed bombs, too,
3. I look forward to Tom Shepherd's forum presentation about The Southeast Environmental Task Force and their Toxic Tour Bus Ride of the South Burbs. Tickets for this event go fast.
4. John, from the activist organization, The Catholic Worker, will tell us about the wonderful organic community garden in Monee. We all have an opportunity to work and/or visit the garden which, in part, provides food for homeless people.
5. Please send a post card to President Obama with the message, NO TAR SANDS PIPELINE. The battle continues and conservatives are trying to make this trade off for extending unemployment benefits and tax relief for the middle class. You can create a nice post card by using the backside of the front of any greeting card. Keep your message simple and include a return address. He needs to know we have his back, here.

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20520
and/or call @ 1 202 456 1111

6. Please join us Saturday, January 14 @ 10 A.M. to cook for the next day's brunch while we solve all of the world's environmental and social ills. Pat Segner is donating some of her homemade pesto from Fred's garden. Maybe our "soup" for the 15th will be pasta with a choice of sauces and roasted veggies? We welcome donations for dessert, I can picture oranges and grapes!

7. It is a tradition in some cultures to eat 12 grapes on New Year's Day, one to bring a sweetness to each coming month. Do you think it is ok for the grapes to be of the crushed, fermented type that you can drink from a beautiful glass? Let me know.

Namaste,

Irmgard, Dick, Fen, Jeff and Robin



**What's going on in RE?
Dan Feldt, Director of RE**



I'm sitting in the breakfast nook of my sister's house in Burbank, California. I'm not telling you this to make you feel envious back there in chilling Illinois but to set the context of my discoveries on my journey.

We decided to drive out, so my first realization was how beautiful our country is. I sometimes forget that when I get caught up in all the problems of our government and the sensational news on the TV. We have a great responsibility to pass on this beauty to our children. We are certainly connected to the interdependent web.

It's Christmas Eve, so in a few hours my nephew and niece and their children will be coming to my sister's house for tamales and gifts. Tamales on Christmas Eve? It's a California thing. We've never met our five-year-old great-nephew. We're excited to make his acquaintance and from my sister's report, all the kids are also excited to meet their long-distance relatives. They're eager to welcome us to America!

My second discovery on this trip is how important family and the joy of children are. Our church community is maintained through this sense of connection and energized by the gift of our children.

Well, I think I'll go back to watching a plump squirrel eat another orange off the neighbor's tree. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

UUCC Asked to Weigh in on Issues by Bruce Swiecicki

The Unitarian Universalist Association is finalizing the agenda for its meeting in Phoenix this June and is requesting congregations to help decide which of the following issues need to be added to the agenda in order to begin the process of establishing a UUA policy so that further action can be taken.

Please consider the following issues and send an email to Bruce Swiecicki by January 21 at swicengineer@sbcglobal.net. Please indicate in your email whether each issue below should or should not be added to the agenda. For more information on each of the issues, go to the middle of the page at the following link and look for "Proposed CSAIs for 2012-2016." <http://www.uua.org/statements/current/index.shtml>

Here are the issues:

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plans: Why Greenhouse Gases and Their Effects Matter to Us
- Ending Slavery
- Exploring Class Barriers
- Families, Population, and the Environment
- Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling

A Birthday Celebration in Jazz



In Honor of
Martin Luther King

Sunday, January 15
1-3pm

The Chris Ussery Quartet

Chris Ussery - Piano
John Hurtubise - Bass
Eugene Vinyard - Saxophone
Nate Mainor - Drums

(with 17 paintings by the late
Robert Putnam of Park Forest)



Snacks and drinks available.
A \$10 donation is requested.
Unitarian Universalist Community Church
70 Sycamore Drive Park Forest, IL
708-481-5339
www.uuccpf.org

Church Information

70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
PHONE: 708-481-5339
E-Mail: diane@uuccpf.org
Web: www.uuccpf.org

Office Administrator

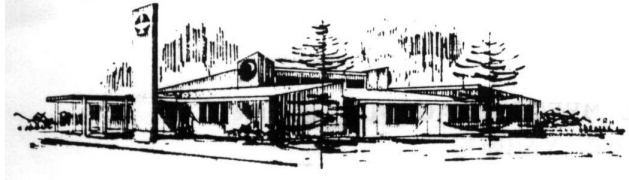
Diane O'Connor
Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
10am – 2pm

(Please note from time to time some office hours vary)

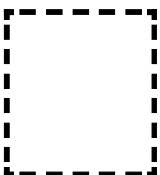
Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

****You can help save a tree and a stamp by simply picking up your newsletter or receiving it electronically via email.***

Visit us on the web @ www.uuccpf.org



Return Service Requested



*Unitarian Universalist
Community Church
70 East Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466-260*

