



# UUCCPF Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

June, 2012

Park Forest, IL



## The President's Column

### Sunday Worship Schedule 10:00 AM

#### **June 3:**

#### **"Friendship"**

By Rev. Yielbonzie Charles Johnson  
With Alex Mercedes joining Chris  
Ussery on Piano  
(Featuring a Member and Friends Art  
Show, RE Teacher Appreciation with  
Dan Feldt, and Celebration of the  
ministry of Yielbonzie Charles  
Johnson)

#### **June 10:**

#### **"I Will Come Back Again" (Reflections on the Possibility of an Afterlife)**

By February Sky  
(Susan Urban and Phil Cooper will  
share thoughts on one of religion's  
"big questions," and encourage the  
congregation to consider their own  
answers).

#### **June 17th:**

#### **"Marriage Again"**

By Yielbonzie Charles Johnson  
Celebrating Fathers Day and celebra-  
tion of Gay Pride

#### **June 24:**

#### **"To be Announced"**

By Beverly Scott  
[www.mesoulgarden.com](http://www.mesoulgarden.com)

### Welcome to our new board members

*What we call a beginning is often the end.  
and to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from.  
We shall not cease from exploration  
and the end of all our exploring  
will be to arrive where we started  
and know the place for the first time.*

Welcome to our new board members. Bruce Swiecicki as President of the  
Congregation, Darlene Obejda as Vice President, Rich Treptow as  
Treasurer, Melissa Schwartz, as trustee and Laura Shahtaji as trustee with  
Marilyn Ragland and Laurene Urquizo continuing as trustees. Our nomi-  
nating committee for next year will include Nancy Orlinsky, Joyce  
Semmler, Beverly Feldt, and new members, Carol Mortensen and Irmgard  
Faulkner.

New Board Members are cordially invited to attend the June Board Meet-  
ing on Tuesday, June 19, 2012. I will be in touch by e-mail.

Welcome and may your work for our community be blessed.

*-Pat*

### COLLECTION FOR THE UUA

The Board of Trustees, at the May Meeting, voted to have a dedicated  
collection on Sunday, June 17, 2012 as our contribution to the work  
of the UUA. That means that all cash and checks marked UUA in  
memo line in the collection bowl that Sunday will go the UUA  
Annual Fund. We no longer budget dues to the UUA in our operating  
budget.

## The President's Column (continued)

### MOVING ON

We have had a busy and productive year at UUCC even though we are in the process of transition to a year of church life without a professional minister. Our budget is sustainable, capping spending invested assets at \$25,000., and acquiring a stable, long term rental with the Miracle Center Church that brings in \$14,400 a year. We are getting ready to take on the tasks of Lay Ministry. There is energy, vitality and creativity in our congregation. COM and folks from Council and Board worked at a weekend retreat (at Jeff Green's cottage in Michigan - thank you Jeff!) on detailed plans of how this will be done. You will hear more from the COM.

We can all be on the caravan moving forward to bring forth or vision "and a little bit more." It will be amazing what we can do working together. I see us strengthening our out-reach programs and exploring new areas.

- PADS now at the beginning of Oct. to the end of April
- Donations for Respond Now
- Movie Night
- Jazz in the Afternoon
- Art Exhibits
- Green Sanctuary Projects

Inside our building we have much to do to make us comfortable and to help each individual explore more deeply their spiritual path. All of our committees and growth teams know how important their work is to the daily life of our church. I want to share a few of my own reflections on being President of this congregation for the last four years. I have really come to endorse the "caravan concept of leadership." We are all in this together - past leaders and prophets before us, next generation coming behind - moving toward making our vision more and more of a reality. Our religious community is much more than a mechanical sum of its parts. We are always looking for new ways to do things that better suit our needs. (e.g. By Law change in 2005 - a new paradigm of governance for UUCC).

Two pathways of the heart from my Sufi studies come to mind; a president of the congregation has to strive "to widen their heart" to include more diversity--strive for a wider lens through which to see the world - "Al Wasi." Also follow the path of "Al Jami" to bring circles together, diverse people can work together toward a common/shared goal and we see this through social justice efforts, dream work, dances of universal peace. We need to be supportive of each other but also to be mentors to each other in a deliberate way. "Intentional Communication" is always the goal. Bringing "circles together" is one way to provide a space where all are heard. I hope we all adopt the attitude Marilyn Sewell portrayed in her movie, "Raw Faith", to paraphrase - "I do not know what is coming (from the universe) but I am available." I look forward to what my spiritual path will be and what opportunities for growth and service will occur.

Closing Words: #101 Why I am a Unitarian Universalist by Ed. Searl and Jeff Briere

### WE ARE NOT DONE YET

Where have you heard this applied to religion. UU not done. We talk about the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A search is an on-going organized plan to find something that is true and meaningful and when we find that truth and meaning there will be another search, because there isn't one true and meaningful thing out there to find. We aren't done yet! (JB)

In Fellowship and Appreciation,

*Pat*



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



Our religious education year that was focused on the Judeo-Christian traditions is coming to a close. Please plan to attend the June 3 service. We'll be performing our Good Samaritan puppet show during a portion of the service. We'll also be honoring this year's teachers, who did a terrific job. We had great helpers in the preschool room: Valerie Birk, Gail Roy and Amy did a wonderful job. Our elementary teachers were Jennie Bohlman, Colin Kirchner, Carol Hechenberger, and Monica Reagan. The junior high classes were led by Dave Matteson, Jodi Libretti and me. Thank you all for your dedication and creativity.

Thank you, kids, for all your energy and curiosity. And remember, we're having our RE picnic on June 10. Location to be announced.

Looking forward to the summer, our RE classes will be much more informal. We're having brunch in a garden and learning about vegetables, making homes for bats, and possibly sailing on Lake Michigan. I welcome anyone who has a skill, hobby or talent that they wish to share with the kids to let me know.

Don't forget that June 1 is First Friday. It's a fun time for the whole family. Hope to see you there. Finally, I wish to thank the congregation for your support both financially and spiritually. I hope to use what I learned this year to make the RE experience even better this coming September.

Thank you.  
Dan Feldt  
Director of Religious Education



Recently the Committee on Ministry (consisting of Janet Moffat, Jeff Green, Colin Kirchner, Carol Hechenberger and Ralph Mortensen) gathered together at Jeff Green's Cottage in Michigan on the weekend of May 5th/6th for a workshop focused on implementing a plan for Lay Ministry after Rev. Yielbonzie's departure.



The 4th session of the UU Transcendentalism Ministerial Group is scheduled for Saturday June 2nd at 11am.  
The program includes the lecture: "Emerson and Channing on Transcendentalism"

**There will not be a FORUM for the months of June, July and August. Forum will resume Sept 9th.**

### UUCS Covenant Group Update

The Covenant Group program at UUCS is winding down. The Wednesday morning group is meeting less frequently, and the Friday evening group will stop meeting after June 2012. The program has been running for about ten years. The Wednesday a.m. group is facilitated by Pat Segner and Joyce Semmler, while the Friday evening group is facilitated by Nancy Orlinsky and, until recently, by Darlene Obejda.

Covenant Groups (so named because their structure is based upon a covenant among the members) are common in many churches of the UU and other denominations. The members typically covenant to practice active listening, refrain from advice-giving, taking the group off-topic, or interrupting others. Such groups fall under the rubric of Small Group Ministry. Further information may be found in the Small Group Ministry Quarterly, a publication of the UU Small Group Ministry Network. (4303 Swarthmore Road, Durham, NC 27707). They also have a website: [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net). Their other publications include resource manuals on such topics as Social Justice, Small Group Ministry for All Ages, Facilitator Training and Development, etc.

The June topics for the evening group are: June 8, 2012: The role of small groups (all kinds) in our lives and June 22, 2012: Small group ministry at UUCS: Evaluations, Suggestions and Bold New Ideas. The group meets at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

-----Nancy Orlinsky

### Small Group/Book Discussion

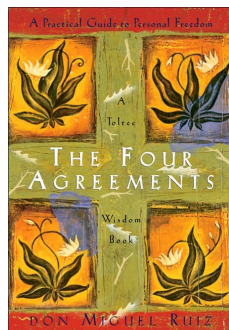
**"The Four Agreements"**  
By Don Miguel Ruiz

Starting June 3rd  
5-7pm

Meeting every 2 weeks

Jeff Fields and Lynn Lidbury's home

Open to the Congregation  
See Colin Kirchner for more details



### Honoring Rev. Yielbonzie



**Sunday  
June 3rd**

**Community  
Sunday**

Please bring a dish and a card, photo, letter or anything you would like to gift to Yielbonzie (A decorated box with a slot will be supplied).

# Around UCCPF



## WEDNESDAY MORNING COVENANT GROUP

Wednesday, June 20 10am

Members of the group will meet for conversation followed by a light lunch. Please bring along anything you think will amuse, enlighten or inspire us.

## 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!

**June 8:** The role of small groups (all kinds) in our lives

**June 22:** Small group ministry at UCC: Evaluations, Suggestions and Bold New Ideas.

## UCCPF Social Issues Free Movie & Discussion June 23rd, 2012 7pm



### "The 11th Hour"

June 23, 7:00 p.m.

Actor Leonardo DeCaprio's documentary on the global environment crisis paints a portrait of a planet at risk while also offering some exciting and radical solutions for making life on earth sustainable.  
2007 92 minutes

**Free coffee, tea and popcorn.**  
**Join in the lively discussion following the film. Invite friends!**  
**Optional donations welcome.**  
**Optional: Bring a snack or non-alcoholic drink to share.**



## 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: June 2, 2012



## 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



## Drum Circle

**3rd Friday 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](mailto:DrumUCC@yahoo.com)**



## Choir Rehearsals

Please join us for choir practices  
Contact Bev Feldt for current info.  
[bevfeldt@gmail.com](mailto:bevfeldt@gmail.com)



## Silent Meditation

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

For more information, contact Diane between 10am & 3pm at 708-481-5339 on Mon, Tues, Thurs or Friday.

## Dances of Universal Peace...



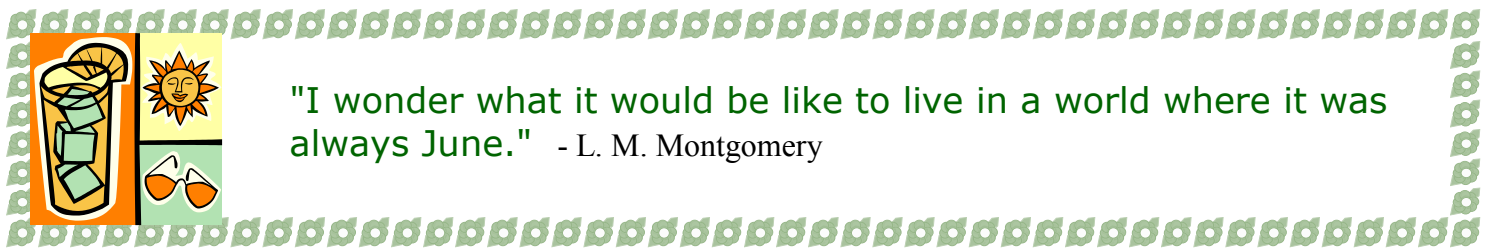
...are Circle, Meditative, Prayerful dances to the mantras from all World Religions. They originated with Murshid Samuel Lewis, a Sufi teacher, in San Francisco in the late 1960's. We meet from 4pm-6pm at UCC. Nancy Pfalscraft, a certified D.U.P. teacher, is our primary leader.

**For more info call: Pat Segner 748-2217**

# June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30pm Family First Friday/Game Night	2 11am UU Transcendentalism Ministry 7:30pm Rainbow Café
3 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Community Sunday/ Honoring Yielbonzie	4 9:30am Yoga	5 7:30pm Choir	6 7:30pm Yoga	7 9:30am Yoga	8 7pm Covenant Group	9 10-2 Environmental Bus Tour 2pm Johnathan B Fields Fund Raiser
10 10am Worship/RE	11 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	12 7:30pm Convener Meets 7:30pm Choir	13 7:30pm Yoga	14 9:30am Yoga	15 7pm Drumming	16
17 (Father's Day) 10am Worship/RE UUA Collection 4pm Dances of UP meet at Pat Segner's	18 9:30am Yoga	19 7pm Board Meeting 7:30pm Choir	20 10am Covenant Group 7:30pm Yoga	21 9:30am Yoga	22 7pm Covenant Group	23 7pm Movie Night
24 10am Worship/RE	25 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	26 7:30pm Choir	27 7:30pm Yoga	28 9:30am Yoga	29	30



"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." - L. M. Montgomery



## Green Sanctuary News - from Jodi Libretti

*Robin -- our Green Sanctuary Committee leader -- asked me to share information about a group of youth, led by 18-year-old Alec Loorz, that has brought a lawsuit against the federal government for failing to take action to reduce carbon emissions. Brilliant strategy!*

*The best way to explain the lawsuit is through excerpts from an open letter to President Obama written by the youth several days after the May 11th hearing in Washington, D.C., at which the defendants - the U.S. government plus the Nat'l Association of Manufacturers (which was allowed to join the case after it was filed) were asking for the case to be dismissed. The judge has not yet ruled. I hope this letter and the commitment of the youth will spark discussion and action on our part.*

Dear President Obama,

We are writing to request discussions with your Administration regarding our lawsuit, *Alec L. v. Lisa Jackson*...The Department of Justice is currently fighting this suit hand in hand with the fossil fuel industry. We would like to understand why your Administration is taking such a strong stand against us.

...Our generation knows that our lives and prosperity are at stake and that our children will live on a planet much different from the one we know today if immediate action is not taken...

Our lawsuit, written with support of the world's foremost climate scientists, is based on the Public Trust Doctrine. The Doctrine states that it is the government's responsibility to hold the natural resources needed for survival in trust for present and future generations. There is no more fundamental natural resource than our atmosphere. We seek an immediate order requiring the government to promptly implement a National Climate Recovery Plan, setting forth a comprehensive means for regulating harmful carbon emissions. Climate change is about science, not politics.

*[paragraph about the fight for civil rights and how people put their lives on the line for justice and for the benefit of future generations. A sustainable planet is a similar just & worthy cause.]*

So far, the Department of Justice attorneys are fighting to prevent us from even making our case, calling the case too complex to try in a court of law. But, we believe you understood this complexity when you said, during a UN climate change summit, that "all of us will face doubts and difficulties...as we try to reach a lasting solution to the climate challenge. But I'm here today to say that difficulty is no excuse for complacency. Unease is no excuse for inaction."

...We simply want an opportunity to discuss how we and the government can work together rather than fight in court. We believe we are all on the same side.

With hope,

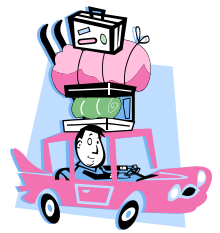
Youth Plaintiffs, Alec Loorz, Garrett and Grant Serrels, Zoe Johnson, Madeleine Wallace and all the youth from Kids vs Global Warming, on behalf of our entire generation

---

Namaste,

Irmgard, Dick, Fen, Jeff and Robin

# Happenings



## Church Camp Out

June 29th - July 1st  
Indian Dunes State Park  
Chesterton, IN



- Nissaki Group Camp #1 (across from the regular campgrounds)
- Entrance Fee: \$15 per car
- Camping paid by the church
- Bring your own food and equipment
- There are hotels in Chesterton
- Campfire with stories on Saturday night

Camping will be free at Nisaki Group Camp 1. The site is only for tents, but has electric, a shelter and washrooms. If you do not want to camp, you can set up rooms at the Spring House Inn.

[www.springhouseinn.com](http://www.springhouseinn.com) 219-926-8258

**Directions:** Take 94 East to 49. Follow the signs to the State Park. (Everyone will need to arrange their own rides and camping buddies).





Please be aware that in order to reserve the bus and restaurant you will need to contact Robin Barrett and let her know that you are planning to go. You will need to pay Robin or you may use the paypal link to pay online. ([www.settaskforce.blogspot.com](http://www.settaskforce.blogspot.com))

The Southeast Environmental Task Force

# Eco-Tour

Sponsored by Green Sanctuary and Earth Care Forum  
Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest

## ***TOXICS TO TREASURES***

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012**

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Spend 3 hours touring on a comfortable coach bus Southeast Chicago with the Task Force! Learn about Waste Management and other industries woven in with Natural Areas. See the controversial site of the proposed CPD outdoor shooting range and the Luecadia Coal Gasification Plant. Tour can also include these sites:

CID LANDFILLS

WATER RECLAMATION

CHICAGO'S AUTO POUND

CLUSTER/SUPERFUND SITE

PAXTON LANDFILLS

PROPOSED LEUCADIA SITE

HEGEWISCH MARSH

HARBORSIDE GOLF

COURSE

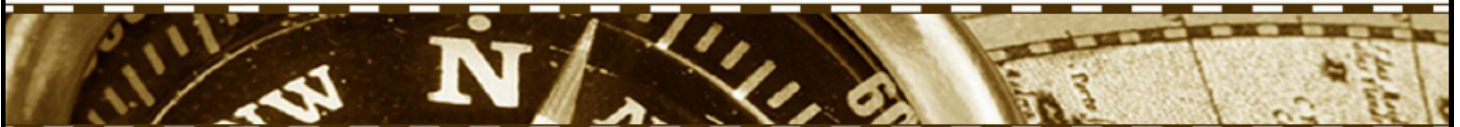
LAKE CALUMET

BIG MARSH

WOLF LAKE

INDIAN RIDGE MARSH

THE COST IS \$30.00 PER PERSON AND INCLUDES LUNCH AT CLUB 81, A LOCAL ESTABLISHMENT. THE TOUR BEGINS AND ENDS IN PARK FOREST (1/2 MILE OF SAUK TRAIL.) AT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH AT 70 SYCAMORE DRIVE. SPACE IS LIMITED. YOU MUST CALL TO RESERVE A SPOT. CONTACT ROBIN AT 314-583-2284 OR YOU CAN PAY ON LINE AT [www.settaskforce.blogspot.com](http://www.settaskforce.blogspot.com).



**Church Information**

70 Sycamore Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
**PHONE:** 708-481-5339  
**E-Mail:** [diane@uuccpf.org](mailto:diane@uuccpf.org)  
**Web:** [www.uuccpf.org](http://www.uuccpf.org)

**Office Administrator**

Diane O'Connor  
Office Hours:  
M, T, Th, F: 10am - 3pm  
Wednesdays: Closed

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

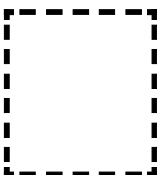
**Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month**

***\*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](http://www.uuccpf.org)



Return Service Requested



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

