



UCCPF Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

July, 2012

Park Forest, IL



The President's Column by Bruce Swiecicki

Sunday Worship Schedule 10:00 AM

July 1:
"Nobody is More Important Than Me"
By Ray Deabel

July 8:
"TBA"
By Heather Godbout

July 15:
"Something's Going on Here: Religious Experience"
By Joyce Semmler

July 22:
"Bridging the Gap"
By Chris Ussery

July 29:
"TBA"
By Geraldine Colvin

Bruce Swiecicki
President

Darlene Obejda
Vice-President

Richard Treptow
Treasurer

Diane O'Connor
Office Administrator

As we begin the new church year July 1, I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that Pat Segner has made to the Unitarian Universalist Community Church over the decades of service she has provided to us. She must certainly hold the record for the most terms served as president of the congregation and her involvement in so many different activities of the UCC has made her an indispensable member of our community. I wish Pat the best as she leaves office and I sincerely hope we will continue to benefit from her knowledge and wise counsel in the years to come.

Thanks also to Reverend Yielbonzie for his spiritual leadership and calming influence during some tumultuous events that have occurred during his tenure. Through teachings based on his own life experiences, he has opened my eyes to things that I may never have considered and I believe he has helped to unite us in a manner that is necessary if we are to continue growing as individuals and as a faith-based community.

As you know, the role of president is a new one for me and I fully expect to be learning on the job during my entire tenure. Thankfully, we have a competent and experienced Board of Trustees in place to help guide us through what certainly will be a challenge in the months ahead as we strive to strengthen our financial base while maintaining a high level of service to our own faith community as well as the outside world. I feel that Diane, our office administrator, is extremely competent and we couldn't be in better hands on a daily basis. We also have a strong core of individuals who donate their time and energies to making sure the church is up and running for Sunday services and other functions. This space is too small to acknowledge all of you individually, so I hope you will accept my token of gratitude and look forward with me to a new year of personal growth and community enrichment at the UCC.

Bruce Swiecicki



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



Our summer Religious Education program is off to a quiet start. After some resistance from a stubborn staple gun, we're putting the final touches on our bat house. We plan to put it up in an appropriate place on church property and hope that some insect-eating bats will make it their home.

If you have a skill, hobby or craft that you could share with the children and would be willing to take a Sunday and share that knowledge with them, please let me know. This could be on any subject that interests you: painting, insects, yoga or the hiking trails of the US. We're pretty much open to anything. Our summer classes tend to be small, so the class should be geared to a few children. Large-group activities would be difficult. As you can see, the summer is going to be a very laid-back kind of affair. So if you want to do just one Sunday, that would be perfect. The only requirement is that if your activity would take the kids off church property, I'd need enough time to coordinate transportation and get the necessary permission slips signed and returned. Please think about joining us this summer. I'm sure the kids would enjoy interacting with more of the adults of the congregation.

MDs from Kandye (Minor Details)

- Please remember to secure the back door and the front door.
- Make sure that no one gets left behind or locked in.
- Storage room doors need to be accessible at all times due to fire code law.
- Make sure all faucets are turned off.
- Make sure kitchen window is closed.
- Please do not put things in front of any of the furnace doors - also due to fire code law.
- Please clean up after yourselves. Try not to leave things behind.... Our designated lost and found is on the top shelf in the cloak room. If you've lost something or left something behind, check there.
- Regarding recycle bins in the kitchen, make sure they are recyclables and not garbage.

Thanks-
Kandye

Community/Potluck Sunday Reminder

Community/Potluck Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. Join your friends after church for a light lunch. We especially need main dishes.”
~the Kitchen Committee

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



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 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).



Tables to be replaced

Our tables will soon be replaced with new ones. If anyone has a need for them (or knows anyone who might have a need) we are accepting donations. First come, first serve. As is condition. For more information, contact Andy Stevens.

Green Sanctuary

Convener Council voted to support Fen Taylor's proposal to replace aluminum, teflon, etc with stainless steel in the kitchen. If you have any stainless steel and/or cast iron that you would like to contribute to the cause, it would save us money.

Please contact Robin Barrett if you have any ideas as to how we may recycle the old pots and pans.

Namaste-
Robin

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (COM) has been laying the foundation for the transition to a lay led ministry for the UUC congregation. The COM has reviewed Lay Ministry materials from another UU congregation and four areas of focus have been identified; Worship, Community, Spiritual Growth, and Pastoral Care. Several members of our congregation have been asked to consider being Lay Ministers and help develop the focus areas. An invitation to serve as a Lay Minister is a calling similar to a congregation calling a professional minister. Stay tuned for more information as the Lay Ministry progresses.

If you have suggestions or questions about Lay Ministry, please contact any one of the COM members; Jeff Green, Carol Hechenberger, Colin Kirchner, Janet Moffat, or Ralph Mortensen.

Around UCCPF

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: July 7, 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

UCCPF Social Issues

Free Movie & Discussion
Saturday, July 28, 2012 7pm
American Autumn: An Occudoc

What would a world look like that had a culture and an economic system that placed human need above corporate greed, and how do we bring that world into being?

Shot on the front lines and meeting spaces of the Occupy Movement in NYC, Boston, and Washington, D.C. from the earliest days through the end of January 2012 and written, directed and produced by activist, writer and filmmaker Dennis Trainor, Jr, "American Autumn: an Occudoc" is an inside-looking-out view of the Occupy Movement. We hope to Skype into the writer, director, Dennis Trainor, Jr. for discussion following the film. Trailer - <http://www.occupy.com/article/american-autumn>

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.

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



Choir Rehearsals



Please join us for choir practices on **Tuesdays at 7:30pm.**

For more info contact 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.

1st Friday Adult Game Night



Come every first Friday of the month at 6:30 and enjoy an evening of play! Feel free to bring a game that you would like to play. (Cards, Trivial Pursuit, Dominoes, etc). (adults only)



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship/RE Community Sunday	2 9:30am Yoga	3 7:30pm Choir	4 7:30pm Yoga Happy 4th of July!	5 9:30am Yoga	6 6:30pm Game Night	7 7:30pm Rainbow Café
8 10am Worship/RE	9 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	10 7:30pm Choir 7:30pm Convener Meets	11 7:30pm Yoga	12 9:30am Yoga	13	14
15 10am Worship/RE	16 9:30am Yoga	17 7:30pm Choir	18 7:30pm Yoga	19 9:30am Yoga	20 7pm Drumming	21
22	23 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	24 7pm Board Meeting 7:30pm Choir	25 7:30pm Yoga	26 9:30am Yoga	27	28 7pm Movie Night
29 10am Worship/RE	30 9:30am Yoga	31 7:30pm Choir				



"Rest is not idleness..., and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

- John Lubbock



Green Sanctuary Committee - by Robin Barrett

What a pleasant way to celebrate Father's Day this year! Building a bat house with Colin and his sons in RE helped me feel the presence of fathers, grandfathers, uncles etc who have passed from my life. The presence of their grandfather, Leonard, rounds out the circle.

Sam and Quinn are poignant reminders of my own son at that age. Such energy, curiosity and kindness. They always respond with generosity when I ask them to do something. Before leaving church yesterday, Quinn approached me and asked if there was anything he could do to help. May we nurture these characteristics in all our young people.

Providing homes for bats on our property is an earth friendly/non-toxic way of letting nature control mosquitoes and other insects. Bats, like wolves, snakes and spiders have gotten a bad rap from us through fairy tales, urban myths, etc. We talked a bit about reputation vs. reality before picking up the screwdrivers and caulk. I want to thank Dan Feldt for having done so much prep work to make the assembling quite a breeze. Marianne Marshall wondered if RE would be selling bat houses, she would like one for her yard. Fundraiser?

A small group of us watched Leonardo DiCaprio's environmental documentary, "The 11Th Hour" at the fourth Saturday Movie Night. Basically, the film was about an hour or more of experts pointing out the damage that we humans have done to the earth. There was a bright spot for me. DiCaprio mentioned that there were over a million non-for-profits working globally on environmental stewardship and change. He added that it seems that a large portion are on the same page. Implying to me, that we may be close to critical mass for a major paradigm shift. Being vigilant in our communications with worldwide leaders is extra important. The moneyed polluters are definitely not withdrawing, and we cannot. It is the old struggle of money vs. the masses. Many small voices with a consistent message can reach the ear of honest, well meaning leaders. Phone calls, signing on-line petitions, small conversations.....all add up. Do what you can, we are a tribe.

I asked Dick Humbert if he wanted me to mention anything in particular in this column. His response, "we all need to be part of the Green Sanctuary, you have our love". The pretty flowers in the deck planters were his contribution for the Mother's Day Flower Celebration. He also expressed concern that the doors and screens in sanctuary needed repair in connection to opening them on nice days to cut down on AC use. We spoke a bit about allergies and the constant dance of trying to balance the needs and concerns of a wide variety of people, ah... diversity!

Fen Taylor wrote an open letter to Claire Butterfield, director of the environmental organization, Faith In Place. She preached here last year, "Keep It In The Ground," and presented a very inspiring forum follow up. Please see the Green Sanctuary Bulletin board for a copy of his letter and her reply.

This month's full moon has various Native American names; Buck Moon, Thunder Moon, and Full Hay Moon.

"Above me, in front of me, behind me, below me. Beauty to the left of me, beauty to the right of me, beauty all around me," from a Navajo chant.

Namaste-

Irmgard, Dick, Fen, Jeff and Robin

A Day of Zen



Saturday, August 4, 2012

At

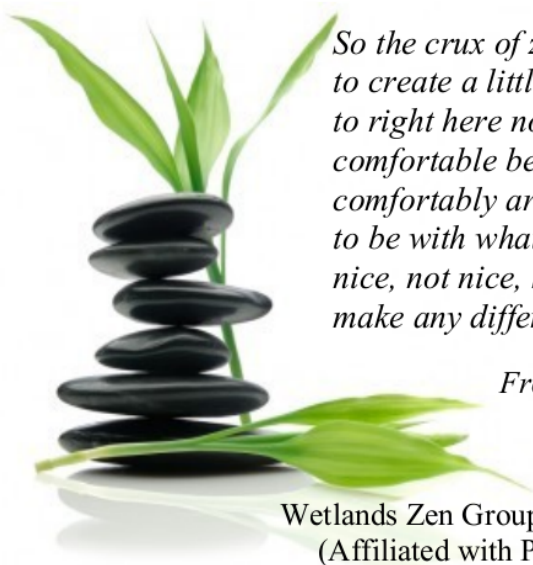
The Unitarian Universalist Church

The Wetlands Zen Group presents a day of meditation that includes instruction in sitting meditation, walking meditation, and support through sharing of experiences.

Time: 9am to 4pm; lunch break -12 noon to 1pm
Please bring your own food and beverage

Location: Unitarian Universalist Community Church
70 Sycamore Dr, Park Forest IL, 60466

Cost: \$15 To register, please contact Diane O'Connor at
(Suggested donation) (708) 481-5339 or diane@uuccpf.org



So the crux of zazen (meditation) is this: all we must do is constantly to create a little shift from the spinning world we've got in our heads to right here now. . . . Zen training is designed to enable us to live comfortable beneficial lives. But the only people who live comfortably are those who learn not to dream their lives away, but to be with what's right-here-now, no matter what it is; good, bad, nice, not nice, having a headache, being ill, being happy. It doesn't make any difference.

From Everyday Zen: Love and Work, by Charlotte Joko Beck

Wetlands Zen Group of South Suburban Cook County IL
(Affiliated with Prairie Zen Center, Champaign IL)

Church Information

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

Office Administrator

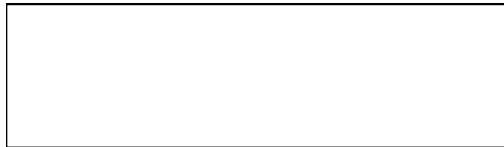
Diane O'Connor
Office Hours:
M, T, Th, F: 10am - 3pm
Wednesdays: Closed

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

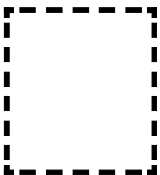
Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

****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



Return Service Requested



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

