



UCCCPF Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

August, 2012

Park Forest, IL



The President's Column by Bruce Swiecicki

Sunday Worship Schedule 10:00 AM

August 5:
"Born From the Womb or From the Heart"

By Dennis Condon

August 12:
"Freedom: Our Choices Shape Our Lives"

By Homer Wilkins

August 19:
"In Living Community, A Spirituality of Water"

By Pat Segner

"There is a path from me to you that I am constantly looking for, so I try to keep clear and still as water does with the moon."

Rumi

August 26:
"To Be Announced"

By Larry McClellan

Bruce Swiecicki
President

Darlene Obejda
Vice-President

Richard Treptow
Treasurer

Diane O'Connor
Office Administrator

"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." -- Robert Frost

As we continue to enjoy and sometimes struggle against this historical summer, let's keep in mind the blessings that we enjoy as a member of this Unitarian Universalist congregation. One of those is certainly the freedom we experience to exercise some measure of control over our destiny. As a congregation that elects its leadership to make decisions on its behalf, we can take heart knowing that we can have some influence on the decisions that are made on our behalf by joining in the debate and expressing our opinions.

We are experiencing a situation right now that is a prime example of how the system is designed to work. In this particular instance, the subject is the grounds surrounding our church building and the hazards that are present to people that would like to enjoy our property more fully. It has been brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees that there are several areas on our property that are infested with poison ivy. In addition, the vegetation that surrounds our church, especially on the west side of the building where we used to have a playground, has encroached so far that it is difficult to exit the building through the door on that side. And once one does exit, the grass and foliage has grown so tall that it is possible a person can come face-to-face with a raccoon or other wildlife that has decided to make its home close to the building.

Thankfully, we have several individuals who are working to determine a solution to this problem and who are all willing to work together to achieve that goal. Considerations include determining the best use of our property, the eradication of the poison ivy in a safe and economical manner, the revival and maintenance of our walking path through the woods and maintaining a clear area around the building to help prevent infestation by insects and rodents. In recognition that our group of problem solvers is comprised of a wide range of viewpoints and opinions, we hope to keep the message that Mr. Frost conveyed above in the forefront of our minds as we respectfully exchange ideas.

~ Bruce



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



Our RE Sundays are riding the crest of the heat wave. We put the finishing touches on the bat house last Sunday, and Marti Blaies brought in a bat expert to tell us some interesting facts about bats. She told us that bats have an enormous appetite for mosquitoes, and also a wide variety of other insects. So even though the mosquito population seems smaller this summer, there is no shortage of food for the bats. Also bat houses are very important to bats now, because their habitats are being decreased by urban development. She told us that our bat house will potentially be home to 50 bats. Next Sunday, we're going to be walking the prop-

erty with our expert to find the best place for our bat house.

Two Sundays ago, we spent a lovely time with the Pat and Fred Segner at their home. Fred showed us around the gardens and gave us a lesson on using a digital camera. We tasted plenty of herbs and flowers and picked a few pickles. I've included some pictures that we took. Our visit concluded with a delightful brunch prepared by Pat. All in all it was a wonderful event. Included in the group picture are two of our new RE members, Valerie and Ben. They're the children of Amy Zeigler. They're great kids. So if you have a chance to talk with them, I recommend that you do.



If you have something that you'd like the children to experience, we can carve out a Sunday or two in August so you can come in and teach class.

I'll be doing a lot of summer cleaning of the classrooms to get ready for next year's program. It looks like it's going to be a very interesting year! The curriculum is centered on learning about different faiths. If you'd like to be part of it and join the teaching rotation, please let me know.

~Dan

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: August 4, 2012



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.

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.

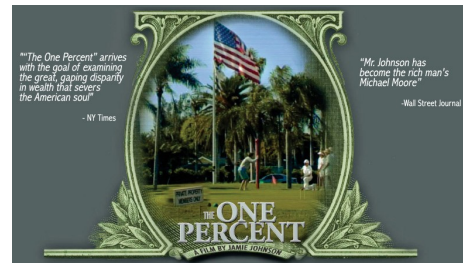
A \$10 love offering is requested. We plan to add drums with the proceeds of the offerings. Please be generous!

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



UCCPF Social Issues
Free Movie & Discussion
Saturday, August 25 7pm

"The One Percent"



This documentary focuses on the growing "wealth gap" in America, as seen through the eyes of filmmaker Jamie Johnson, a 27 year old heir to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical fortune. Born rich, he explores the political, moral, and emotional rationale that enables a tiny percentage of Americans (the one percent) to control nearly half the wealth of the entire United States.

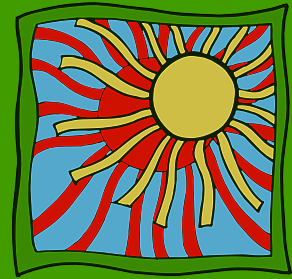
Free coffee, tea, and popcorn.
Join in the lively discussion following the film. Invite friends! Optional donations welcome. Optional: Bring a snack or non-alcoholic drink to share.

1st Friday Adult Game Night

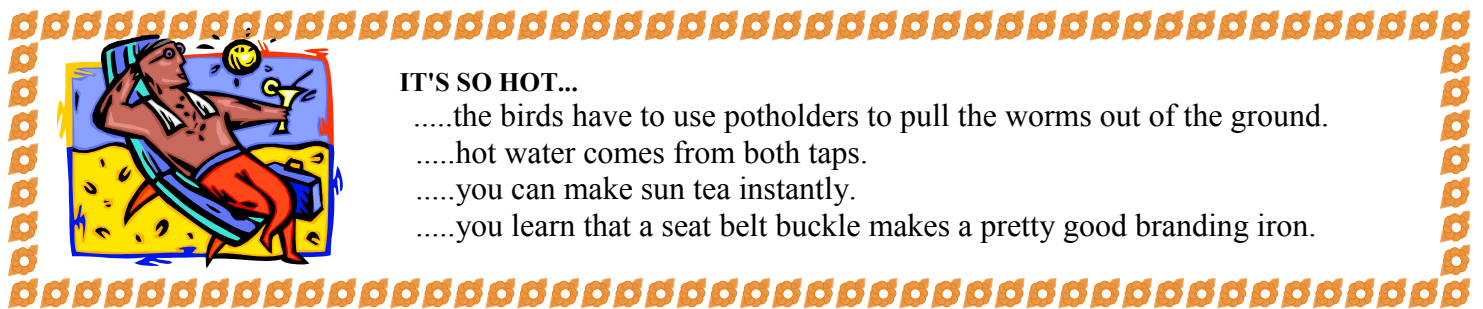


Come every first Friday of the month at 6:30 and enjoy an evening of play! We have lots of games but feel free to bring something if you wish. (adults only).

August



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



IT'S SO HOT...

-the birds have to use potholders to pull the worms out of the ground.
-hot water comes from both taps.
-you can make sun tea instantly.
-you learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.



Green Sanctuary Committee - by Robin Barrett

I guess that Chicago is not hot enough for me. I am visiting family and friends in St. Louis where it is usually ten degrees higher with more humidity and less air movement. The pool at my Aunt Pat's house compensates for some of the weather, plus I am able to keep up my water therapy.

Chris wrote a beautiful song about going home for the first time, I think the words were based on an E.E. Cummings poem. I have an experience like that everytime I visit Tower Grove Park in South City St. Louis. I experience it differently than I did as a child. Then, it was a place to swim, play ball and picnics. Lots of that activity still goes on in that National Historic Landmark. However, the place inspires me on a very spiritual level at this time in my life.

Upon every first visit, I am overwhelmed by the majesty and heartbeat of this physical place. I feel the ancestors around every corner, I speak more softly and I am blissful. The Pacific Northwest, Baja California and our own church grounds elicit similar feelings of transcendence.

Tower Grove Park is free to all. The colorful, Victorian pavilions built in 1872 are well maintained. The designs include Turkish, Chinese and children's playground. There are 340 different types of trees, many over 100 years old.

The Fountain Pond is my favorite place. There is an archway built from the remains of the old Lindell Hotel that burned down in 1867. These large stones are laid together to resemble an ancient ruins, including some broken columns, adding to the air of antiquity. When I am there, I am everywhere, in all times.

About three weeks ago I attended a Zen Meditation and deep ecology presentation by Joanna Macy. At 83, she has written a book entitled, "Active Hope, How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy". It is a philosophy/handbook about social and ecological change that addresses the question, "How do we change ourselves so that we are strong enough to fully contribute to the great shift that is occurring?" I asked her to inscribe to our Green Sanctuary Committee. She wrote, "May your love for life and your 7th Principle move you joyfully to The Great Turning." She wrote this when I mentioned Green Sanctuary, her son is active in the group at his UU Church.

I hope that a group of us can read the book together to inspire and support each other in being stewards of the Earth. Please let me know if you are interested. I am thinking that September would be a good time for this. We welcome Deann Wilson as a new member to the group. All are welcome.

This month's full moon is called The Full Ripe Moon by the Dakota Sioux.


Namaste,

Irmgard, Dick, Fen, Jeff, Deann and Robin

UCC Board of Trustees Meets

The UCC Board of Trustees met July 24 and discussed several issues, some of which are summarized below:

- The Board approved a request for the Committee on Ministry to use the minister's office for its meetings after Yielbonzie vacates it. The Board also decided to allow other groups to use the office if privacy would be required. A calendar with available dates will be posted on the door.
- It was agreed that a service presented by the religious education program would take place on Sunday, December 23. The traditional Christmas Eve service would follow on December 24.
- The Board agreed to solicit at least three bids from contractors to perform a re-sealing and painting of the parking lot.
- Progress was made regarding the need to remove poison ivy from our property and clear dense foliage from around the building. We are close to preparing a scope of work that would allow us to solicit bids on that project.



If you are displaying artwork here at UU we encourage you to keep your artwork displayed until the end of October to add to the 60th Anniversary Celebration. You are welcome to replace your work with other pieces. We ask that you just maintain only the space you have claimed. Thank you!



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 in August. Forum will resume Sept 9th.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

- Melody Beattie

Happenings

Sunday, August 26, 2012 from 2-5pm
At UU Church of McHenry County
5603 Bull Valley Rd
McHenry, IL 60050

2 to roughly 3pm Program: "Compassion has no borders"

Sister Joann Persch and Sister Pat Murphy, who are with the Sisters of Mercy, will speak. Their careers have included being educators, administrators and social justice ministry. In 1990 they began Su Casa Catholic Worker Community for Central American Refugees seeking political asylum as survivors of torture. Currently they are volunteer justice ministers for the Sisters of Mercy Chicago area/Midwest Community. In that work they are committed to justice for immigrants through their work in detention centers, immigration courts, with the Archdiocesan Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigrant Education, and with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

In their presentation this day the Sisters will focus on ways that UUs can become involved with:

- 1) The Interfaith Pastoral Care Program for ICE detainees at the McHenry County Jail.
- 2) The Post Release Accompaniment Program
- 3) Advocacy on behalf of immigrants

3-5pm - UUs for Social Justice Board Meeting
Non-Board members are welcome to attend

For more info write to uusj@sbcglobal.net or phone 773-595-4921



It's not too late to sign up for
A Day of Zen
Saturday, August 4, 2012
at UCCPF
70 Sycamore Drive

The Wetlands Zen Group presents a day of meditation that includes instruction in sitting meditation, walking meditation and support through sharing of experiences. This mini-retreat also includes Dharma talks and Q&A periods.

Time: 9am to 4pm (lunch break - noon to 1pm)
Please bring your own food or a dish to share at noon.

Cost: \$15 (suggested donation)

Sign up by contacting Diane at 708-481-5339 or email diane@uuccpf.org

SEEKING YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER

The North Shore Unitarian Church is seeking a Youth Program Manager starting in the fall 2012. The position is part-time September through May (the church year). Overall responsibilities include coordinating and leading Sunday morning classes, youth group meetings and outings, as well as administrative duties related to the Youth Program.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Charlotta Koppanyi, Director of Religious Education at dre@nsuc.org by Wednesday, August 1, 2012.

Church Information

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

Office Administrator

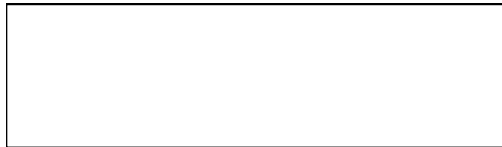
Diane O'Connor
Office Hours:
M, T, Th, F: 10am - 4pm
Wednesdays: Closed

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

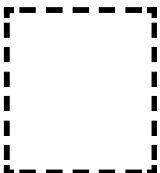
Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

****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*

