



UCCPF Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

September, 2012

Park Forest, IL



The President's Column by Bruce Swiecicki

Sunday Worship Schedule 10:00 AM

September 2:
"The Sacred Space of Grief"
By Colin Kirchner

September 9:
"Crossing the Water"
By February Sky

September 16:
"Public Places/Private Places"
By Mike Gorcowski

September 23:
"My New Guru"
By Dennis Fisher

September 30:
"To Be Announced"
By Beverly Feldt

Bruce Swiecicki
President

Darlene Obejda
Vice-President

Richard Treptow
Treasurer

Diane O'Connor
Office Administrator

Not a day goes by in our lives when we aren't faced with the need to make a choice. From the foods we choose to eat to the people we choose to spend time with, we are constantly making the decisions that affect and guide our lives. Some of the choices we make are fairly minor, such as which brand of milk to buy, but other times our choices may have a significant impact on our lives, and sometimes it may take years to realize that.

We come together as a congregation because every week we make a choice to nourish our minds (and often our bodies!) with the hope of becoming inspired to do good in the world. Looking at our Seven Principles, I can count six of them that absolutely depend upon our relationships with other individuals. And to me, it is these principles that guide our interactions with each other and with our world that really focus Unitarian Universalism on the *here and now*. So let's busy ourselves with the task of making this world a better place, for us and for those that will come after us. Of course, that's not to say that we shouldn't also be enjoying our lives as we go about our business!

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."-- Rabindranath Tagore

Choices can sometimes be difficult because we have to make determinations of whether the "good" outweighs the "bad". I've been a member of the Board of Trustees since John LaBotz, a well-loved and respected member of UCC, passed away in 2007 and I was asked to fill out the remainder of his term. During that time, the board sometimes has been faced with choices for which there was no "silver bullet," a clear-cut and effective solution that leaves everyone happy. The board is currently faced with the problem of removing poison ivy from our property to preserve a safe environment for individuals who wish to enjoy our woods. Our primary concern is making sure that the poison ivy is eradicated so that people can walk through the woods without having to worry about brushing up against a dangerous plant. We are considering both conventional and nonconventional methods of achieving this goal, and we hope to have a solution to the problem very shortly.

~Bruce



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



**The theme for this year's Religious Education theme is World Religion.
The following is an excerpt from the curriculum we'll be using, "Neighboring Faiths."**

Goals for students:

To participate personally in the faith of tradition of others.

Visiting not as observers but as "people being religious together," we are invited to participate in others' traditions.

To reflect on the unique and universal aspects of religious experience.

In exploring and comparing faiths, students become aware of recurring religious questions such as "How do I know what's right and wrong?" "What happens when I die?" "What is the purpose or meaning of life?"

To explore their own values as they relate to many other faith traditions.

As students process their experiences with other faiths by sharing their questions, feelings, and thoughts, they clarify their own beliefs and values.

To become more aware of the many connections between Unitarian Universalism and other faith traditions.

Through this experience, students are likely to learn about the diversity within their congregations. They learn what Unitarian Universalists have in common with the other faiths.

To strengthen commitment to Unitarian Universalist faith and community.

Throughout the process of learning about other faiths, we affirm that we belong to a particular congregation and to an association of congregations that has thousands of members who come from many faiths, yet share an identity and a set of principles.

To increase understanding and appreciation of religious diversity.

Our youth will live in an increasingly diverse society and interdependent global economy. This program seeks to increase their understanding and inspire a life-long openness to cultural pluralism.

To build relationships with peers, adult leaders, and their congregation and community.

The program encourages the development of peer groups and invites the participation of supportive adults who might not otherwise interact with youth. In addition, it brings participants out of their familiar surroundings into a larger welcoming community.

As you can see, this will be a very active year for the youth, and there are plenty of opportunities for the congregation to interact with them. I hope that you'll join us in the exploration.



SEPTEMBER FORUM

September 2: Community Sunday, No Forum

September 9: Fen Taylor's Care of the Earth

A discussion of Bill McKibben's article in ROLLING STONE, on climate problems, an update and predictions.

September 16: Linda McCarrin—*Experience is not what happens to you- it's how you interpret what happens to you.* (Aldous Huxley). **Emotional Intelligence** is a part of you that affects every aspect of your life. Understanding the root causes of your emotions and how to use them can help you to effectively identify who you are and how you interact with others. Join us for Part 2 of an interactive presentation on how to weave the main components of Emotional Intelligence into the fabric of your life.

September 23: Mary Ellen Ponsford will speak on "**The History of Female Gods.**" Q & A will follow. Mary received a degree in Art and Art History from University of Minnesota. She is a retired professor of Art and Art History at Moraine Valley Community College, as well as a supporter of "Feminism." She continues an active career as a professional artist.

September 30: Experiences that Explode our Categories. Members **Arlene Porro and Dave Matteson** will share some personal "weird" experiences and what messages we interpreted from these experiences. Call them mystical, paranormal, or abnormal - what do we make of them? Hopefully others will share similar experiences as well.

Our annual **Corn Roast** is Sept 8th. from 4:30 to 7pm. We are looking for people to sign up to form a **Corn Roast Committee** and also to sign up for jobs listed on the sign up sheet. Call: 708-481-5339 or email Diane at: diane@uucpf.org

**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

PADS

South Suburban PADS is gearing up for its 23rd Emergency Shelter Season which will operate between October 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013. PADS is in urgent need of volunteers to staff the shelters and volunteer cook teams to provide meals for the guests. PADS will be hosting two Open Registration sessions for volunteers to learn about PADS shelter service opportunities, and to sign-up to serve at a PADS shelter.

Saturday, August 25th, 10am to 2pm

Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ, 9411 S. 51st Ave Oak Lawn, IL

Saturday, September 8th, 10am to 2pm

Living Springs Community Church, 19051 S. Halsted, Glenwood, IL

For more info: Contact Dawn Thrasher, 708-754-4357
dawn@sspads.org



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

Rainbow Café will not meet in September or October.



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 & 4pm 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. 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. For more information email Andy at:

DrumUCC@yahoo.com



1st Friday
Adult
Game
Night

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

UCCPF Social Issues
Free Movie & Discussion
Saturday, September 22 7pm



Electronic voting machines count about 87% of the votes cast in America today. But are they reliable and safe from tampering? If the voting process is not secure, then our democracy isn't safe either. This timely documentary exposes gaping holes in the security of America's electronic voting system.
2006 80 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.

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 1pm-3pm at UCC. Nancy Pfalscraft, a certified D.U.P. teacher, is our primary leader.

For more info call: Pat Segner 748-2217

Next Dances of UP: October 20th 1-3pm



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Community Sunday	3 LABOR DAY YOGA CANCELED	4 7:30pm Choir	5 7:30pm Yoga	6 9:30am Yoga	7 6:30pm Game Night	8 CORN ROAST 4:30pm - 7pm 
9 10am Worship/RE	10 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	11 7pm Convener Council 7:30pm Choir	12 7:30pm Yoga	13 9:30am Yoga 7pm Board Meeting	14	15
16 10am Worship/RE	17 9:30am Yoga	18 7:30pm Choir	19 7:30pm Yoga	20 9:30am Yoga	21 7pm Drumming	22 7pm Movie Night
23 10am Worship/RE New Member Service 30 10am Worship/RE	24 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	25 7:30pm Choir	26 7:30pm Yoga	27 9:30am Yoga	28	29

On September 23rd our New Member Recognition Ceremony will be welcoming:

Matthew Praxmarer
Ted Morrison
Beverly Oye Scott
Dee Ann Wilson

Richard Oram
Joy Grainge
Joan Myers



Monthly Social Issue Movie

Last Saturday evening 58 people attended to watch the film "One Percent." Good work, Darlene Obejda! If you were not able to attend, the film can found at the Flossmoor Library and on NetFlix.



Green Sanctuary Committee - by Robin Barrett

We did not do so well, moneywise, at our August 18 fundraising brunch as we usually do. In fact, we ended in the red for the month, spending \$44 for food and receiving \$41 in donations. However, folks did seem to enjoy the yoghurt, fruit, granola and gluten free cookies and I do enjoy the prep work and people coming to the table. We have been using most of the funds to buy unscented beeswax candles which are less toxic than paraffin. We have also purchased less toxic cleaning products. At this point, the sanctuary candles are being donated by an individual and the committee is providing ones for use in other areas of the church. We do not need to purchase candles at this time. I would like to use the monies we have to replace the bench for the front of the church and attach a plaque in memoriam to Irmgard's husband, Patrick... the first anniversary of his passing is coming up.

I want to thank St. James Health and Wellness for their donation of very green cups for our brunch. We were able to save water and energy by not washing bowls and recycling the cups. I think about 8 of us at UUCCPF go to this facility. Please let Sue Johnson know how much you appreciate this gift.

Poison Ivy! While researching non-toxic methods of removal I found the following information from beyondpesticides.org about sustainable integrated pest management mosquito control.

(Beyond Pesticides, August 20, 2012) Given the number of Wile Nile virus (WNV) cases, including 26 deaths, it is important to focus attention on mosquito management methods that are the most effective and do not introduce additional short- and long-term public health hazards with the use of toxic pesticides, public health advocates say. It is understandable that local, state, and federal officials want to act decisively, but that does not mean that the widespread use of hazardous pesticides is the best course of action, according to Beyond Pesticides, a national information and advocacy organization on pesticides and alternatives based in Washington, DC. According to Beyond Pesticides' executive director, Jay Feldman, "Communities that are most successful and smart about mosquito control engage in aggressive efforts to reduce and eliminate mosquito breeding areas in standing water around homes and buildings and throughout the community." Mosquito breeding can take place in stagnant water, from very small to larger pools –bottle caps, discarded automobile tires, planters, containers, rain gutters, drains, or under piles of leaves.

The widespread spraying of toxic pesticides (typically chemicals known as synthetic pyrethroids, organophosphates, or other nervous system poisons) does not provide a long-term sustainable solution to mosquito control. "It has been shown that spraying pesticides that target adult mosquitoes is the least effective strategy, as well as the most risky response, since the pesticides used are linked to numerous adverse health effects, including respiratory inflammation, headaches, nausea, cancer, endocrine disruption, and other serious chronic diseases," said Nichelle Harriott, staff scientist at Beyond Pesticides. According to experts, the threat of WNV is best managed through an integrated program that does not expose vulnerable populations to pesticides, including children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with compromised immune or nervous systems. The most effective program to protect the public from WNV focuses on removing breeding areas, stopping mosquitoes at the larval stage, and mass public education on prevention and precaution.

Entire article can be found at: <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/?p=7926>

In addition to the Autumnal Equinox, September 8 is the beginning of "down driving". In preagricultural times this marked the beginning of the return of animal herds to their winter pastures.

This month's full moon...The Harvest Moon. As we enjoy the bounty, may we be mindful of the lives that were given and the labor that produced the food on our plate, Happy Labor Day.

This month's full moon...The Harvest Moon.

Namaste ~ Irmgard, Dick, Fen, Jeff, Deann and Robin

Report on August 21 Board of Trustees Meeting

The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting August 21:

- After much discussion, the board voted to negotiate a contract with Utermark, a local landscaping/lawn maintenance company, to eradicate the poison ivy on our property and perform other activities. In addition, the board voted to investigate the use of non-toxic methods to eradicate the poison ivy in several locations on church property. The board will allow seven days from the meeting for information to be gathered and will then hold a conference call shortly thereafter to determine a path forward.
- The board received a report from the Committee on Ministry on its recent meeting with a consulting minister. The board took no action at this time.
- A search is underway for a new publicity and marketing convener. Also we are looking for someone to help with the design and maintenance of the church website. If you know someone with capabilities and interest in either of these areas, please contact Diane in the church office.

SAVE THE DATE: Oct 20th, 2012

UUC of Park Forest is planning a celebration in honor of their 60 years as a church. A party will be held on Saturday, Oct 20 2012 beginning at 6pm at the church. Child care will be provided and also a program of interest for members and friends including music and dancing. On Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012 Reverend Martin Woulfe, minister at Abraham Lincoln Unitarian church, Springfield, IL will lead our worship service.

**Food!
Fun!
Family!**

Join us for our annual CORN ROAST

**Entertainment:
February Sky
@ 6:30pm**

Saturday, September 8th 4:30 to 7pm (NOTE TIME CORRECTION)

- Outdoors (weather permitting)
- Our parking lot will be reserved for all activities. Parking will be at the Autumn Ridge Apartments.
- \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door, children under three eat free.
- Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, pot luck.
- Please bring a dish; you are also welcome to bring a game.

Please be aware that children need to be supervised to not play in wooded areas around church due to poison ivy.

FAREWELL YIELBONZIE!! YOU WILL BE MISSED!

HONORARY DEGREE

This certifies that
YIELBONZIE CHARLES JOHNSON

Has successfully completed the requirements for the Honorary Degree of
Doctor of Divinity

By the authority invested in me (by me), and several institutions of Higher and lower learning, including the Post Graduate School of Trivia, 79 years of being an attentive student, and keen observer of lots of stuff n stuff;

I hereby award you this Honorary Degree, attesting to, but not limited to, the following accomplishments;

1. You practice the fine art of honesty and truth telling.
2. You are a friend of the Earth.
3. You Council with compassion and, without prejudice.
4. You give sermons from the heart, and with malice toward none.
5. Your friendship is offered to all.
6. You are a constant scholar and student, and disseminate your knowledge to all.

Let it be known to all that the sum total of all of the above, exceeds the requirements for this advanced Degree.

I therefore and hereby confer upon you this honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, awarded by the University of Magma Cum Laude - E Pluribus Unum - Tempus Fugit Quickly, etc., etc., etc.

Presented on this day of 3 June, 2012 CE. This award is attested to by the prestigious assemblage present at this convocation, and authorized by your friend and admirer, Fenwick Taylor, Professor Emeritus.

Sunday, June 3, 2012

DATE

FENWICK TAYLOR



"60 for 60" by Laura Shahtaji

Dear ones: church members (past and present) and friends,

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest (UUCCPF) is celebrating its 60th Birthday next month! Help us by giving a donation of a dollar a year, or \$60.

Over those years, in the words of our past- president, Pat Segner, "We have worked together to bring forth our vision of love, diversity, and justice. Our vision includes fellowship, community, worship services, fun social events, justice issues, environmental causes, community outreach programs and religious education for children and adults."

Last year our congregation reluctantly but realistically voted to move forward with a sustainable budget for 2012-13 that would not include a professional minister. We can no longer afford to pay even a part time minister. I am now asking each of you for a contribution to help keep our church alive through these difficult financial times. These "60 for 60" donations will be used for needed upkeep on our building and grounds.

I first joined the UUCCPF almost 30 years ago so my young children, having a Christian mother (me) and a Muslim father (Nasser), would have a meaningful religious education. I left the church for a number of years, and now, after my children are all grown and living away from home, have become a regular member again: this time: for me. Nasser and I along with my sister, Julia, and whatever child is home for the Holidays, continue to attend our Christmas Eve service each year.

My father, Philip Sportolari, found this church after he retired from his long career as a professional Methodist choir director. He began to direct the choir at UUCCPF and enjoyed years of musical and spiritual inspiration. My mother, while her health permitted, worked to support the PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) program the church staffs, and my father was especially drawn to "Respond Now." Both of my parents' ashes are buried in the Memorial Grove on the church grounds.

I remember fondly the past ministers that have served us, and the religious guidance they provided. I look forward to proceeding with lay led ministry and guest speakers from around our area. The church also holds memories for me of past members, both still living and those now departed, and serves as a place to meet and worship with friends who share similar values each week. What memories do you have of the UUCCPF? How has it enriched your life in the past? How might it enhance your life in the future? Are you comforted just to know the UUCCPF exists and is there for you whenever you might need it? I believe our world is a better place because churches like the UUCCPF exist...

Please give generously to help our church live and grow. Please help keep liberal religion alive in Chicago's south suburbs! No matter how modest or generous a sum you choose to give, it will be greatly appreciated.

Checks should be made out to: UUCCPF. Please note "60 for 60" on the memo line.

You may send your tax deductible contributions to the church: 70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL, 60466, or better yet, drop them in the collection basket on a Sunday morning.

Thanks so much.

With love,

Laura

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)

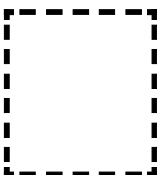
Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

****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*

