



UCCPF Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

October, 2012

Park Forest, IL



The President's Column by Bruce Swiecicki

Sunday Worship Schedule 10:00 AM

October 7:
"The Religious Beliefs of America's Founders"
By Fen Taylor

October 14:
"Get on the Bus: Redefining Pro-Life"
By Jodi Libretti

October 21:
"A Diamond in the Rough"
(60th Anniversary celebration service)
By Martin Woulfe

October 28:
"A Universal Worship Service - Honoring major religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Jewish, Christian, Islam and traditions of Divine Feminine and Indigenous or 1st People."
By Cheryl Darling

Bruce Swiecicki
President

Darlene Obejda
Vice-President

Richard Treptow
Treasurer

Diane O'Connor
Office Administrator

Inspirations---that's what I've named a document that I keep on my computer. It's made up of quotations from people, some who are famous and others not so much. These quotes are taken from newsletters that I receive during the week and when I read one that moves me, I add it to the document. It's a page and a half long after about a year.

Here's one that I never get tired of reading: *"Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."*—Vince Lombardi

Lombardi was a football coach from the 1960's and he had the reputation of being a cruel taskmaster who demanded nothing short of complete commitment from his players in their efforts to achieve the ultimate team goal. When I read that quote I can picture Lombardi, with a whistle around his neck as the night is settling in on the practice field, urging his linemen to "rehearse" the play one more time, choreographing each players movements and timing until the end result is what we used to see on Sundays, the famous "Packer Sweep" that was a hallmark of those great teams from the 1960's.

For all the bluster that surrounded Lombardi from those days, a different perspective was revealed about him in a book written by one of his players, Jerry Kramer, called "Instant Replay." As an adolescent, I really enjoyed reading books about sports heroes and although Vince Lombardi was not a hero of mine, I learned something from this "insider's view" of the man. The thing I remember most about the book was the players' love for Lombardi. Even though he felt Lombardi was particularly hard on him because he played the same position as the coach did when he was younger, there was no doubt that when Kramer and the others committed to be "all in" with Lombardi and each other, they formed a bond that would be unbreakable.

In a sense, we here at UCC are forging a similar bond. We are faced with the task of maintaining a sacred place of worship that is unique among many other options. We offer a haven to those seeking reprieve from the harshness of modern day living, a place where we can express ourselves and at the same time learn from one another new ways to inspire their lives and each other. No, we're not perfect; but, we can become excellent stewards of our faith.

~Bruce

JOIN US FOR OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON OCT. 20, 2012 AT 6pm.



Come and enjoy community, history, recollections, party food, music and dancing with us to celebrate 60 years of diversity, justice and love at UUC. Did you know that in 1952 when we first got our tax exempt status we were known as the Unitarian Fellowship of Park Forest. I believe the church charter was signed in October of that year. Later we became the Unitarian Universalist Community Church and after we moved into our present building we became the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of the South Suburbs and in most recent by-laws (2005) of the South Suburbs was dropped.

Our evening will include Rev. Ellen Dohner Livingston delivering her own recollections, Andy Stevens will act as MC and I will not give away his jokes. John Hurtubise and Chris Ussery will do music. Bev Feldt plans a song or two and the UUC choir will make a presentation. Hopefully there will also be a guest speaker. Child care will be provided and dancing after the program. Our special Anniversary Worship Service will be Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012 at 10am. Rev. Martin Woulfe, who was our interim minister (2001-2003) and is now minister of the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Church in Springfield, Illinois will return to do the service.

Mark the dates and be sure to come and celebrate in fellowship with us.

In Community and Appreciation Anniversary Planning Team Convener Council

Report on September 13th Board of Trustees Meeting

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

- The Board authorized up to \$400 to be spent on the 60th anniversary celebration that is scheduled to take place October 20th. Pat Segner is working very hard to make this a very special event.
- It was reported that the Corn Roast was enjoyed by many people and the net income to the church was \$45. Also, the "60 for 60" initiative has already brought in \$160 in contributions for the church.
- The Board voted to accept the proposal from Utermark Landscaping to remove the poison ivy, cut down the weeds around the church and install 18 inches of stone around the perimeter of the building to help in our pest control efforts.
- Melissa Schwartz resigned from the Board of Trustees for personal reasons. We thank Melissa for her service and wish her and her family well.

THANK YOU FROM RESPOND NOW

Respond Now thanks you again for the food and personal items you give.

The need continues to be great. Fresh fruits and vegetables are more often available for the clients, and the garden has done well. They had a successful Back-to-School festival at which backpacks and school supplies were given out in late July.

At a recent potluck luncheon, Debra Harper, from CEDA, spoke about the cooperation between Respond Now and CEDA, especially on low income energy assistance services. CEDA gets federal, state, and private funds for their PIP program with Com Ed, which pays 10% of what is owed for those qualifying. Nicor also works with CEDA and Respond Now to pay \$75 - \$150 on higher bills for those qualifying. They also provide mortgage assistance and reconnect assistance. In addition, CEDA will grant \$5,000 to weatherize (replace windows and furnaces) for homes of qualifying people.

Did you know that the poverty level for a family of four is about \$22,000 per year or \$1,833 per month? It would be difficult for one person to live on this, let alone four people. Suzie Brown

"60 for 60" by Laura Shahtaji

Thank you contributors!! We are nearing our goal, but are not there yet...

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

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest (UCCPF) 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 UCCPF 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 UCCPF 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 UCCPF? 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 UCCPF exists and is there for you whenever you might need it? I believe our world is a better place because churches like the UCCPF 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: UCCPF. 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



OCTOBER FORUM

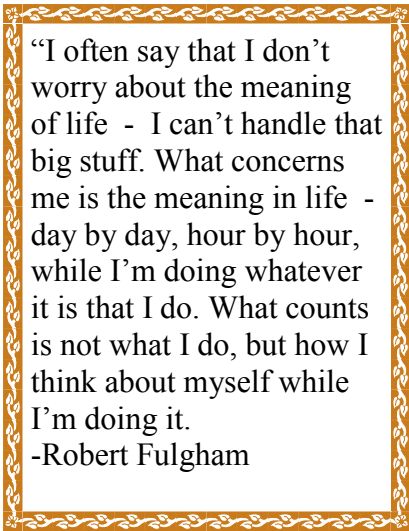
Sundays - 11:30 AM

October 7: Community Sunday, No Forum

October 14: "Care of the Earth." Is our planet at a tipping point for climate problems? If so, what can we do to alleviate?

October 21: The Conflict Between Israel and Palestine - Part Two: Dave Matteson will present slides from his Israel/Palstine trip, based on presentations in these countries from many points of view, and his own perceptions of what's happening "on the ground."

October 28: Teaching in a Chinese School: Praseela Feltenstein, active member of UUCC in the 70's and 80's spent 5 weeks in China living and touring with a Chinese family. Having taught in the Rich schools for 38 years, she was especially interested to experience teaching in a Chinese school. She will share her unique perspective on China through pictures, stories and music.



"I often say that I don't worry about the meaning of life - I can't handle that big stuff. What concerns me is the meaning in life - day by day, hour by hour, while I'm doing whatever it is that I do. What counts is not what I do, but how I think about myself while I'm doing it."
-Robert Fulgham

Patrick Faulkner by Irmgard Faulkner

When Pat died a little over a year ago, our family decided to buy a bench for the church as a memorial. At the time the beautification committee was developing its aesthetic goals for the outside. We wanted the bench to fit in with those goals. Recently Dorea said not to feel restricted to buy what we liked. I couldn't find a replica of the one that broke, but hope the substitute will provide as nice a place to sit and relax.

I want to thank Jeff Green for transporting the bench to the church, and to the Green Sanctuary Committee for contemplating buying one out of their funds. ~Irmgard Faulkner



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

"Women: Your Body and the Law" Hosted by the Beverly Unitarian Church

**Sunday, October 21, 2012
3-5pm**

What's behind the recent attempts to defund health care programs and how can we effectively advocate for better health care? Millions of Americans are uninsured or underinsured. In Illinois alone, over half a million women are uninsured. This forum will address the crisis women are facing in health care and how it impacts men and children as well.

SEWUUC Sponsors Workshop on Saturday, October 27 at 9am - 2:30pm Cost:\$10

Southeast Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations is sponsoring a one day workshop called "Dancing with Your church -Stepping Up." Join with many other UU members from our area and beyond. In three individual workshops, learn about growing into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with your own congregation. What does it mean for YOU to be an engaged church member, taking into consideration your own life's circumstances? Leaning, interaction with other participants, and comfortable sharing are just some of the benefits of attending. Lunch is provided.

UU Church West, 13001 W. North Ave, Brookfield, WI

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.



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, October 27 7pm



Food Matters is a documentary film about nutrition, health, and disease. This film exposes a growing body of scientific evidence proving that nutritional therapy can be more effective, more economical, and less harmful and less invasive than most medical treatments. **Food Matters** encourages and inspires us to eat a more healthy diet.

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. 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

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.

Adult Game Night



Enjoy an evening of play! We have lots of games but feel free to bring something. (adults only). For information on the next time we gather, call the office at 708-481-5339.

Dances of Universal Peace...



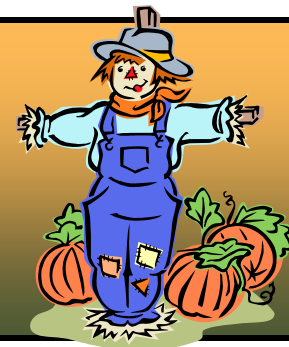
...are Circle, Meditative, Prayerful dances to the mantras from all World Religions. They originated with Murshid Samuel Lewis, a Sufi teacher, in San Francisco in the late 1960's. We meet from 1pm-3pm at UCC. Nancy Pfalscraft, a certified D.U.P. teacher, is our primary leader.

For more info call: Pat Segner 748-2217

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



OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30am Yoga	2 7pm Council Meets 7:30pm Choir	3 7:30pm Yoga	4 9:30am Yoga	5 6:30pm Family First Friday	6
7 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Community Sunday - No Forum	8 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	9 7pm Board Meets 7:30pm Choir	10 7:30pm Yoga	11 9:30am Yoga	12	13 8pm Edgar's Place "Dyed in the Wool"
14 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Forum	15 9:30am Yoga	16 7:30pm Choir	17 7:30pm Yoga	18 9:30am Yoga	19 7pm Drumming	20 1pm Dances of UP 6pm Anniversary Party 
21 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Forum	22 9:30am Yoga 7:30pm Meditation	23 7:30pm Choir	24 7:30pm Yoga	25 9:30am Yoga	26	27 7pm Movie Night
28 10am Worship/RE 11:30am Forum	29 9:30am Yoga	30 7pm Council Meets 7:30pm Choir	31 7:30pm Yoga 			

HAUNTS AGAINST HUNGER!



Visit a haunted house and Support the South Suburban Food Pantries!!

Where: Calvary United Church, 425 N. Orchard, Park Forest, IL

When: Friday, October 26th & Saturday October 27th from 7pm to 9:30pm.

Cost: Bring a canned good for food pantries and your cost is \$2 per person.

(no canned goods? \$3 per person) \$1 children 5 and under. Hayrides: \$2

Refreshments: .50 - \$1.00



Green Sanctuary Committee - by Robin Barrett

Fraises, jardiniere, leche, pan, grub, chow, spraetzel, weinerschnitzel, cerveza, vino, agua de coco, samosas, sushi, fry bread....Food! Food! Food! We all eat. Some of us a lot, some a little. Some consume high quality, fresh, nutritious meals. Some quite the opposite. For us, here in the Midwest, it is our season of luscious abundance. May we acknowledge the origin, work and sacrifice that brings this feast to our tables. May our eyes be open and our hearts soft to our connection and place on the food chain.

Food programs, initiatives, festivals, pancake breakfasts, fund raising brunches, presentations, books...serendipitous transversals. It is a wonderful time of year. The cooler temps and blue skies dotted with white clouds are reminiscent of Heavenly ski area in Tahoe. All is within our reach.

Jim Kinney, spoke about what he views as a future world food crises, at last month's Common Grounds gathering in Flossmoor. He was relatively optimistic about our ability to solve the problems given that three main international groups talk and cooperate. Conventional farmers, big agriculture and organic farmers working together can produce what we will need, internationally, and have a minimum negative impact on the health of the planet by combining resources, motivations and knowledge. He also mentioned that the world population is predicted to top out at less than previously predicted. He was not as positive in reference to the water issue. The Colorado River no longer flows to the ocean decreased in width from one and half miles in 1950 to about 250 yards at present. The Oglala Aquifer is no longer of use to us because of it's decrease in depth. Both of these changes are due to human diversions of waters and irrigating desert areas like Phoenix to replace native ecosystems with crops like lettuce and golf courses. He predicted that the Midwest would eventually shift from being our breadbasket to a panorama of wind farms. He very emphatically stated that the US and Canada needed to stop using food for ethanol immediately. The use of corn for our cars has had a very negative impact on the cost of corn throughout the world. Please see Green Sanctuary hall bulletin board for handouts from Kinney's presentation.

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry For The Earth mentions both World Food Day, October 16, www.churchworldservice.org (type "wfd" in the search box and click the page link to see a list of all materials) and Food Day, October 24 (www.foodday.org) in it's fall newsletter. The entire newsletter is also on the hall bulletin board.

The UUCCPF Convener Council voted for our congregation's participation in the Top Box program. This is an inter church project that brings wholesome, low cost food to areas that do not have ready access to grocery stores. The program accepts LINK and SNAP. I will be trying out several of their packages, especially the ones that provide PIE. I am hoping it is apple. You may order online, www.topboxfoods.com and pay when you pick up at St. Irenaeus in Park Forest. Our church will receive 5% of the sales. Please see hall bulletin board or call 312-527-7890 for more info. Many thanks to Barb Morris for bringing this community service fund raiser to us.

Park Forest Environmental Committee which meets the first Thursday of every month has initiated, maintained and supported two community gardens. Dave Bartlet, Pat and Fred Segner, Irene Van Der Hook and Maggie and Marti all have on site fresh food growing at their homes. Are there any other home food gardens out there? Please feel free to post photos on the Green Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

"Food Matters", a documentary film about nutrition, health, and disease will be shown at our social issues movie night on Saturday, October 27 @ 7pm.

September was "Hunger Awareness Month."

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet during the First Sunday Community Brunch in Classroom 3. All are invited to bring your food and join us. We will give a brief overview of our activities during the last three years and share with you some possible directions for the future. We want to know what your priorities are. Please come with your ideas and questions.

We will not have a fund raising brunch on October 21 due to our 60th Birthday Bash on the 20th.

We welcome Oye Scott as our newest member. Given her earth based spirituality, energy and joy I look forward to working with her for the health of the earth and all it's inhabitants.

According to the Farmer's Almanac the Full Hunter's Moon will appear on October 29th @ 3:50 P.M. Look up and enjoy!

Namaste,
Irmgard, Dick, Fen, Oye, DeAnn, Jeff and Robin



The "Teaching Assistant"

I'm using this newsletter article to make a request. I'm aware that making a teaching commitment to the religious education program is a sizable time commitment that takes one away from other Sunday activities. I'm also painfully aware of the desperate need for RE instructors. So I've come up with a new position in the classroom called the "teaching assistant." This person's duties will be to guide students in the lesson's activities. I envision that the teacher will handle review of the lesson plan, the check-in and any opening activity, and then split the class into two age-appropriate sections. The teacher will take one of these age groups. The assistant will take the other and conduct that portion of the lesson. After 15 or 20 minutes, the class will come back together for another activity or the extinguishing of the classroom chalice. There's also the possibility that the assistant could go on one of the several field trips that are part of this curriculum.

My hope is that this will be no more than a once-a-month commitment.

I've already enlisted the first teaching assistant. Lynn Lidbury has graciously signed on. Please let me know if you'd like to join us in this brave new world.

~Dan

Edgar's Place Coffee House

Proudly presents

Dyed in the Wool

Saturday, October 13th at 8:00 pm

Adults: \$15.00

Kids: \$10.00

“There are a lot of bands in Chicago, a lot of very good bands. Among the very best is Dyed In The Wool, a gathering of grand musical talents and sweet sensibilities that can handle traditional tunes in ways that make them fresh and vibrant and create original tunes that will stay with you forever.”

**Rick Kogan, WGN Radio,
Chicago Tribune.**



“The group has its second album out. Called, Stranded. It’s wonderful, and that has nothing to do with the fact these wonderful musicians are from Chi. We cannot recommend this group and this album highly enough. They keep getting better and better, and why they are not bigger on the national and international scene bewilders us. Great stuff. Find it.” (Rating: Four Harps)

Bill Margeson, Irish American News

Edgar's Place Coffee House is located in the Unitarian Universalist Community Church at 70 Sycamore Drive in Park Forest, IL.

Edgars Place is a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Community Church.

To learn more about Dyed in the Wool go to
www.dyedinthewool.net

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)

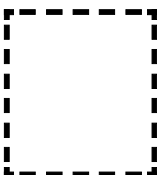
Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

****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



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