A Sign of the Times

As a person that enjoys watching sports (while hoping to enjoy playing them again soon), I recently took the short trip to Chicago State University to see two of the city’s finest high school basketball teams play against each other in a game that was sure to be competitive and featured some of the most highly touted players in the nation.

As a sign of the times, I suppose, the security was very tight and everyone entering the facility had to undergo a quick search with an electronic metal detector wand. The procedure called for all who wanted to enter to hold their cell phones and car keys in their hand as the wand was waved around their body. When the security man conducted my search, he was involved in a conversation with another man who had asked him a question, so I guess he didn’t hear the wand beep twice when he passed over the side of my body, right about hip level on both sides. In any event, he didn’t question me and simply told me to go ahead and enter.

The game itself was a good one and I totally enjoyed it with the people around me. Even though I had no real rooting interest, one of the reasons I enjoy watching a competitive sport is that it is a “real time” event. In a sort of microcosm of everyday life, players are presented with challenges and their successes and failures are there for all to see. Even Michael Jordan was not successful every time. Neither am I. But as Vince Lombardi once said, “It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up.”

After the game is when it got scary. I left the arena and there were police cars with their lights blazing, flying around everywhere. The campus is huge and I could hear roars from crowds of people coming from certain areas. I didn’t stick around to find out what was going on, I already knew that the news couldn’t be good. Along with many other people who wanted just to get into their cars and leave, I did my best to navigate back to my car and called my wife Karen to let her know it might be a while before I got home. The next day, the newspaper reported that a 17-year-old high school student was shot and killed after the game.

As the great debate over gun control rages on at the federal level, I can’t help feeling that regardless of what laws or regulations are passed, the problem needs to be addressed at a much deeper level, a level that will help people recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

~Bruce
February 3: No Forum, Community Sunday.

February 10: JEFF GREEN will lead the monthly FORUM on “Care of the Earth”. We are entering a new time with the second term of Barack Obama. We don't know what direction things will take on behalf of politics. But we do know what direction we will take on demonstrating our need for change. Come see what 350.org is doing.

February 17: 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. praseela@comcast.net, Cell: 815-210-2289, Home: 708-747-4815

February 24: Discussion of the Issues And Candidates Seeking Jesse Jackson Jr’s. Seat. The Primary election Feb 26th is likely to determine who fills his seat in the U S House of Representatives. Come and share (1) what issues are important to you in this election, and (2) what you learned if you attended the 2nd Congressional District Candidate's Forum, Governors State University, Thursday, February 7 at 6 pm. Let’s learn from each other before we vote. We will NOT endorse any candidates. Dave Matteson will facilitate.

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You are invited to judge a Science Fair!

The Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163 will be holding multiple Science Fairs in 2013. You are invited to participate with young scientists by judging student’s work as they present to you their Science Fair Projects. You do not have to be a scientist to participate! The day begins at 1:00 with an informational presentation where you will receive an explanation. You will then adjourn to the gymnasium for approximately an hour where you will be assigned four to five students to judge. The dates and schools are listed below. Please contact Sandi Gordon to let her know your availability. sgordon@sd163.com or 708-668-9432.

1) Thurs, Feb 14 1-2:30pm  
   Forest Trail Jr. High Grade Center  
   215 Wilson St  Park Forest

2) Thurs, March 28 1-2:30pm  
   Blackhawk Intermediate Center  
   130 Blackhawk Drive  Park Forest

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Report on January 15th Board of Trustees Meeting

The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting December 3rd:

- The Soup Kitchen held on January 6th raised $568 for PADS, $95 for Respond Now and $130 for Guest at Our Table! Thanks to all for your generosity!

- The Board voted grant access to the church to a new group called Philosophy Circle. This group will meet the first and third Mondays of every month, concluding in April.

- Maintenance and repair of the church’s roof was performed by M&M Roofing, the installing contractor, for a fee of $1825.

- The Board voted to plan a “Visioning Day” for some time in March. This would be an opportunity for the Board of Trustees, the Convener Council and the Committee on Ministry to begin the process of establishing a plan for the future of UUCC.
The RE children had an interesting experience when they visited St. Peter and Paul's Ukrainian Orthodox Church on January 6. They saw a beautiful example of a liturgical church service. The interior of the church was exquisite with intricate symbolism, as you can see. This coming Sunday we’ll be visiting the United Methodist Church in Homewood. I think they’ll find a pronounced contrast between Peter and Paul's and the Methodist Church.

As RE director, I’ve tried to consider opportunities for adult education as well as for the children. I've found one: a philosophy circle that's being headed up by William Schwartz. The first meeting of the group was on January 21, and I think everyone in the group that attended found it worthwhile. We're planning to meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at seven o'clock. New attendees are very welcome. I encourage you to attend the next meeting and thank the Board for supporting this endeavor.

Here’s William’s description and rationale for the philosophy circle:

**Description:** Introduces the participant, through the study of knowledge, reality and human conduct, to the discipline that inquires into human nature and the world. Designed to increase the participant's self-awareness and ability to think and listen though the practice of circle processes. Participants sit in a circle and take turns speaking honestly and listening to each other respectfully. A facilitator, called a “circle keeper,” helps the group create an environment which encourages trust, respect, mutuality, and reciprocity. Each person speaks while holding an object that is passed in one direction, drawing out the equal value of each participant’s words, thoughts, and feelings.

**Rationale:** Contemporary philosophy is elitist and full of jargon. This is an attempt to bring philosophy back common practice among people engaged in trying to understand the world better. The rationale behind using circles is to provide everyone with the opportunity to talk and listen to what other people have to say. (Philosophy is about listening too!) Secondly, we would like to provide a safe space for people to speak their ideas without the negative form of argumentation. The circle process creates a safe space to have conflict of ideas without conflict of personalities.

Are you interested in a very special trip to the middle-east that looks at the Palestinian issue from both sides, as well as visiting the places of importance in Christian tradition and history? The trip Dave Matteson presented (slide shows at 2 Forums) is being repeated, leaving North America on April 1st and will include 7 days in Egypt and a cruise down the Nile from Aswan to Luxor. There’s room for a few more participants. The evening sharing group makes the trip more personal. Contact Dr. Garth Mundle, trip director, by email soon.

exploremore@yahoo.ca
Rainbow Café
Rainbow Café 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 3rd Saturday of the month from 6:30-10:30 pm. More info: Dave Matteson 708-672-8837 or 708-408-1421.

This month Rainbow Café will meet on February 16th at 6:30pm

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:

DrumUUCC@yahoo.com

UUCCPF Social Issues
Free Movie & Discussion
February 23rd 7pm

Dr. Fuhrman’s “The Failure of Modern Medicine” and “Nutritional Science Can Save Your Life”

Dr. Joel Fuhrman, M.D., seen on Channel 11 TV, educates and inspires us to improve our health and longevity with superior nutrition and life style changes. Dr. Fuhrman's recommendations help us achieve overall wellness, rather than merely trying to manage symptoms with medications. This is Part two and Part three of a series continued from last month.

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 UUCC. Nancy Pfalscraft, a certified D.U.P. teacher, is our primary leader.

For more info call: Pat Segner 748-2217

Next Dances of UP: February 16th 1-3pm

Creative Writing Workshop

Dennis Fisher, from Joliet UU church is coming to UUCC on Saturday, March 9, 2013 to do a Workshop on Creative Writing. 10-3 (break for potluck lunch). $10 per person. Call Diane to register or see sign up sheet on bulletin board in hallway.

Philosophy Circle

Philosophy Circle is being held in the gathering room every 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month until April at 7pm.

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.
## February Calendar

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<td>4 10am Worship/RE</td>
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<td>13 7:30pm Yoga</td>
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<td>15 7pm Drumming</td>
<td>16 1pm Dances of UP</td>
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### Our Grateful Acknowledgement of Your 2012 Contributions

Members and friends of the church who contributed to our annual budget in 2012 are invited to receive a report listing your contributions for the year. The reports will be available for picking up in the gathering room after the close of our February 3rd worship service. Please stop by and receive our thanks.

Richard Treptow (Treasurer)
The Southeast Environmental Task Force invited their list serve to view the film, "Promised Land" and join in a discussion over dinner. Seven members/friends of UUCCPF attended the showing at the Chicago Heights Marcus and two of us joined Tom Shepherd and six other folks from the task force for the dinner discussion.

"The film explores America at the crossroads where big business and the strength of small town community converge." Matt Damon, who had a lifelong connection with progressive professor, author and activist Howard Zinn, starred in the movie. The rural community's economic base was floundering, three generation farms were failing. Matt Damon's character was hired to close the town down and buy the farms for as little as possible. A large company wanted the land to develop the resources. I found the controversy compelling and timely, given our situation with energy choices and climate change. Promised Land is reminiscent of Norma Rae and Erin Brokovic, but more subtle in its delivery. I wonder if this indicates a loss of innocence or courage?

The Sierra sponsored this nation wide event and provided a list of questions for discussion. The film highlighted several families and their reactions and decisions in reference to selling to the natural gas company. The diversity was interesting. One of the suggested discussion questions is "What would you do if you were approached with an offer from a natural gas company? What concerns would you have and what precautions would you include in a lease?"

The task force has a winter series of environmental movies. You can find out about it @ 773-646-0436 or setf@sbcglobal.net. Tom Shepherd is a friend of the church, attending special functions, services and forums.

Sierra Club, www.350.org and other major environmental organizations are sponsoring a people's march on Washington, February 17Th. The timing is excellent given Obama's inaugural call to citizen's to work towards the change we want to see. As an adjunct to the march, college students are putting pressure on their schools to divest their portfolios of oil companies. Desmond Tutu cited university divestment of oil stock as a non-violent contribution towards the end of apartheid in the early '90's. You can hook up with this event at either website.

Please let me know if and when you would like to get together to make new beeswax candles from our old snippings.

It is not too early to research some green alternatives to gardening. Flossmoor Library has quite a collection of green books.

The Farmer's Almanac lists this month's Native American Full Moon as "Full Snow Moon". Since we usually have the heaviest snow falls in February, the northern and eastern tribes also referred to it as "Full Hunger Moon". Hunting was sparse in February.

Happy Mardi Gras.............February 12, 2013 Robin Barrett

If you are interested in attending the 350.org President's Day Rally go to http://act.350.org/signup/presidentsday for info on signing up. They are offering bus(es) leaving Union Station in Chicago on Saturday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m. The buses are scheduled to arrive at the Washington Monument by 11:30 on Sunday the 17th. The rally is from 12 to 4pm. The bus returning to Chicago will leave at 8:00pm Sunday evening. The cost is $106.50. Pay online.
Dave Rudolf
Grammy Nominated - Gold Record Winner
26 Award Winning Albums

An exceptional guitarist and singer, Dave's original songs have been critically acclaimed, nationally played, recorded, and performed throughout the country. Dave has performed at 1,000s of colleges, theaters, coffeehouses, and just about any other venue large or small you can think of to rave reviews. He's performed at Rialto Theater, Ravinia, Centre East, Charlotte's Web to name just a few...He's shared the stage with such diverse artists as Steve Goodman, Cheech and Chong, The Smothers Brothers, The Gatlin Brothers, The Beach Boys and many others...His shows feature a huge catalogue of original material, both serious and funny, or, if you ask real nice, he'll play some of your favorites...His music has been featured on TV shows, Disney Records, and National Radio programs, and most puzzling, on in-airline Flights (perhaps supplied with the air sickness bags).

Oh, and he's really funny too...

"Captivates his audience. Anything and everything that happens onstage or offstage during a Rudolf concert becomes fair game for his disarming wit."
—The Chicago Sun Times

"Daily Illini-- Dave Rudolf is a rare blend of musicianship and comedy. Excellent finger picking combined with a powerful and versatile voice he introduced a fascinating array of musical characters with a wit that was both ingratiating and disarming.....He doesn't just let the audience in on what he's doing, he makes them a part of it.

Date: Saturday, February 2nd
Time: 8pm
Where: Edgar's Place @ The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL

Adults: $15
Kids: $10
Church Camp Out

Saturday, June 1st - Monday, June 3rd (Noon)
Indiana 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
- Shared campfire cook-out Saturday Night / Nature center on Sunday

Camping will be free at Nissaki Group Camp 1. The site is only for tents but there are washrooms and shelter with electric. 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.
(Sign up sheet on bulletin board)
**Member Musings**

By Suzie Brown

I am grateful that we had Rev. Sam Smith, a Mennonite minister, speak to us Sunday, December 30, about letting our light shine in making our world better and also his forum on the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a long-standing advocate for peace. He was able to maintain his integrity as a Mennonite and still find common ground with our UU values. Specifically, he spoke to our principle of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

I appreciate the opportunity to hear ministers of different denominations and faiths. They help to encourage spiritual growth in our congregation, another of our principles. I believe that as we enlarge our religious understanding and acceptance of others, we become stronger Unitarian Universalists.

I think John Hurtubise invited Rev. Smith to speak to us, and I believe he is the first Mennonite minister to speak here. Thanks, John!  ~ Suzie Brown

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By Diane O’Connor

Although I was not present at Rev. Smith’s service, when I have the opportunity to be at UU services I also enjoy hearing speakers of different denominations and faiths. I love our UU principle, “To foster one another’s spiritual growth and to cherish differing paths.” My spiritual roots have been in Catholicism, and I very much honor and appreciate my roots, but I chose a different path at the age of 30 and shortly thereafter I ended up being a “New Age” single mom.

My daughter seemed to enjoy being raised with drumming circles, chakra healing workshops and aura reading seminars so it was a challenge when (at 14-years old) she decided to become a Christian and expressed great concern of what would become of my eternal soul! I always wanted Meghan to make her own religious/spiritual choices but what I didn’t expect to discover about myself was that I had an “agenda” in regards to what choice she would make! And I was very surprised that it wasn’t similar to MY choice! Since I love my daughter (and we had to live with each other) this meant it was important for me to be as supportive as I possibly could be. I watched, asked questions and listened. My mission (and I suspect hers as well) became to find similar ways that we could connect through our expressions of devotion - no matter what our differences were. As time went on, I felt more drawn to Buddhism and Meghan became the Youth Pastor of Batavia Covenant Church. (The Covenant Church values the Bible as the Word of God and the importance of extending God’s love and compassion to a hurting world.)

One evening, at a Rotary Club awards dinner where Meghan was receiving a scholarship I just happened to be seated at the table across from a gentleman by the name of Rev. Randy Becker and his wife! He assumed (as most people do) that I raised her as a Christian. I had to admit that the path she chose was one that she made completely on her own. I’ll never forget what Rev Becker said…. “Perhaps it chose her.”

“Member Musings” is a monthly feature for UUCC members and friends to express themselves. Contact Bruce Swiecicki at swicengineer@sbcglobal.net and put “Member’s Musings” in the subject line for more information.
Church Information
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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.