We’ve been very busy around UUCC the last several weeks, beginning with the UUCC Fellowship Dinner, which serves as the kick-off for our pledge drive. We celebrated each other and the accomplishments of the past and looked forward to the future and the possibilities for growth and enrichment that it holds for us all. The food was delicious and the entertainment and music were a delight for us all. Many thanks to all those responsible!

Our treasurer, Rich Treptow, says that our pledges are running at about $65,000 for 2013-2014. We are grateful for your contributions and hope that we can continue to raise our collective level of giving. You will receive a report on our progress at our annual Congregational Meeting on May 19th. Please make plans to attend this important meeting as we need to achieve a quorum in order to conduct official business.

Some years ago, UUCC had a minister by the name of Valerie Mapstone Ackerman. I think Rev. Ackerman served for at least a couple years. One of the topics that she talked about sticks with me to this day. I think she put it this way: “Do not unto others as you would have them do unto you. Instead, do unto others as they would have you do.” I remember having a hard time accepting that approach because it requires the doer to actually know what the receiver’s wishes are, and there may be times when that is not possible.

I’m experiencing a situation now where I’m really beginning to see the wisdom in Rev. Ackerman’s words. My father is 85 years old and has lived alone since my mother passed away in 1986, in the house that he bought for his family in 1960. He’s led a fairly active life since those days but now he rarely ventures out of the house because of his physical limitations. My four siblings and I continue to look after him and do our best to keep him supplied with life’s necessities and sometimes a bit more. However, he becomes agitated whenever we ask if we can clean his house or assist with his personal needs. So we wind up respecting his wishes and backing off, not doing anything, unless it’s something we can do outside of his field of vision. We know that things can be improved around his house and with him personally, but perhaps the thought that he is happier maintaining control over his life is more beneficial to his overall well-being.

It is with sadness once again that we acknowledge the passing of Nancy Orlinsky. Nancy, a long-time member who was an integral part of our church for many years, celebrated her 80th birthday with many of her friends in our church just last year. Most recently, she enjoyed singing in the church choir. We offer our condolences to Nancy’s family members and all of her friends, who will be gathering at some point in the future to honor her life. Best wishes to all. ~Bruce
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice will hold its Summer Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, May 11, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago (in the Parlor), 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637. The program, between 2 and 3:25 p.m., will feature a showing of the 70 minute documentary "Bidder 70", followed by discussion. This program is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Environmental Task Force.

_BIDDER 70_ follows Tim DeChristopher, a University of Utah student (and U.U.), who on December 19, 2008, in a dazzling act of civil disobedience, derailed the outgoing Bush administration’s illegal Bureau of Land Management oil and gas auction. As bidder #70, Tim bid 1.8 million dollars and won 22,000 pristine acres surrounding Utah’s National Parks. He had no intention to pay or drill.

In February 2009, the new Obama administration agreed the land should be safeguarded and invalidated the entire auction. Nevertheless, Tim was indicted on two federal felonies with penalties of up to ten years in prison. A personal portrait, _BIDDER 70_ illuminates how the choices we make determine our future and the world we live in.
May 5: No Forum, Community Sunday.

May 12: Mother’s Day - No Forum

May 19: Annual Congregational Meeting - No Forum

May 26: “Reducing Gun Violence.” Dave will present a comparison between Australia and U.S., and some of observations on living in a nearly gun-free country (Denmark). Discussion will follow. Gun lovers are welcome.

Thanks to all who helped with the Spring Clean-up!!

We had a very productive day Saturday the 13th with a dozen volunteers putting in over 50 hours of hard work. We managed to clean, particularly in the kitchen, wash windows, and do minor repairs. Cheers go to Andy Stevens for installing a new electrical outlet near the piano/sound system!! Jeers go to the deer who immediately ate half of the pansies put out in the planters on the deck. Hopefully the newly added Dial soap will deter the deer from eating the newly replaced pansies!!

There is still lots to do if you want to help. We did not tackle many of the outdoor tasks since it was sleeting when we started. Would you want to scrape peeling paint off the walkway? How about removing leaves from around the walls of the building? Perhaps you would prefer an indoor task? Just ask Nancy Irons (708-712-3228) who will be maintaining an ongoing list of jobs that need to be done.

Thanks again to all the participants and especially to Irmgard Faulkner for buying us snacks!

Spring Outdoor Work Day
Saturday, May 11th, 9am – 2pm

Join us for outdoor tasks ranging from raking leaves, to spreading woodchips, to weeding, and more. There is plenty to do! Please bring work gloves and garden tools. Refreshments will be available. Donation requested for lunch.

If you can’t join us on that date, sign up for a task to finish on your own, or make a contribution towards supplies. Hope to see you there! For more information, call Nancy Irons 708-712-3228.

Report on April 16th Board of Trustees Meeting
The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting April 16th:

- The Board encourages generating publicity for the new religious education programs being developed by RE Director Dan Feldt.
- The piano in the sanctuary will be appraised so that UUCC can obtain insurance for it.
- The Board is hoping that we will soon be renting out some of our classrooms and sanctuary to various groups.

Many heartfelt thanks to all who have sent me get well cards, phone calls, and positive wishes as I recover from my car accident.

Love and Blessings! ~Diane
**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 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 May 18th at 6:30pm

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**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

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**Free Movie & Discussion**

Saturday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.

**The Fluoride Deception: An Interview with Christopher Bryson**

Award-winning journalist Christopher Bryson examines "how one of the most damaging environmental pollutants of the cold war was added to our drinking water and toothpaste." Bryson explains the findings of his highly-praised book, The Fluoride Deception. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, “…it's hard not to wonder how we could have ignored so serious an issue for so long."

Join in the lively discussion. Invite friends!

*Free coffee, tea and popcorn. Optional: Bring a snack to share. Optional donations welcome.*

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**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. A $10 love offering is requested.

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**Silent Meditation**

Silent Meditation is currently on hold.

No meditation class is being held at this time.

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**Free Sing Along**

Preschoolers (3-5 year olds)

Child must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday mornings starting June 1st thru July 20th

10:30 – 11:15

Contact Dan Feldt for more information: 708-212-3637

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**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 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: May 18th 2-4pm
"Member Musings" (Share Your Thoughts!)

This is your opportunity to get on the soapbox and share your thoughts with UUCC members and friends. We will run an article every month written by a member or friend of our congregation. The article could be a personal statement and it should be in good taste and related to one of our seven principles. If you are interested, send your name to Bruce at swicengineer@sbcglobal.net. We will randomly pick a name at the beginning of each month. Articles should be received by the 15th of each month and will be reviewed for appropriateness of content and edited where necessary.
The fifth annual Peace On Earth Film Festival screened over 100 films in Chicago from March 7-10. I was very happy to have come across this e-mail from the Chicago Cultural Center. "Raising awareness of peace, nonviolence, social justice and an eco-balanced world" is the mission of this event that offers films from all around the globe. Most films were followed by discussion with directors, producers and or writers.

"Ru (Water is Life)" explores the question, "How can one little girl's life be changed if she is given easy access to clean water?" Set in south Sudan, the 19 minute documentary tells the story of 12 year old, Jina Teji, whose world revolves around walking a mile to the nearest well and back to fill a can of water three times a day, to sustain her family, for whom she is the primary caretaker.

"Amazon Gold" exposes the destruction of the rain forest due to illegally mined gold. The wasteland left behind has global consequences. The film is narrated by Academy Award winners Sissy Spacek and Herbie Hancock.

"Right There: A Short Film about Tolerance" - Shot on the 10Th anniversary of 9/11 at a public elementary school three blocks north of the World Trade Center. "Right There" is told from the voices of New York City teenagers who are thoughtful, tolerant, hopeful and wise. The documentary is only 17 minutes long, but left me with weeks of reflection.

I am writing this on April 18. This morning I listened to the Interfaith Healing Service after the Boston Marathon bombing. I had spent a bit of time viewing the catastrophe in Texas that was caused by the explosion of a fertilizer plant. Poisonous ammonia is used to produce this fertilizer. The explosion registered 2.1 on the Richtor Scale, killing 15 people so far, injuring close to 200 and displacing half the town. If you can remember that day, it was the day of heavy rains and flooding here in the Chicago area. I had a strong urge to be in community.

St. James Health and Wellness had an anniversary party scheduled at 5. Given the weather I called about noon to see if the party was still happening. No! But, since the food was already there lunch was being served until 2. Being in that bright space with friends brought some balance to my day and a feeling of normalcy.

I had heard on the radio that the 8 year old boy who was killed in Boston had recently made a poster that read, "Can we just stop hurting people? Peace".

I would like to add, "Can we just stop making poison? Can we just stop letting questionable people have guns? Can we just give love, attention and basics to all?

You can find out more about the film festival @www.peaceonearthfilmfestival.org.

Robin Barrett
Transformative Talk Expansion
Henrietta Byrd of Transformative Talk is expanding the “SACRED COMMUNICATION” conversation to three new areas near you.

Saturday, May 11th
11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Park Forest
70 Sycamore Drive Park
Park Forest, IL 60466

For more information and Registration contact
Rev. Henrietta Byrd at TransformativeTalk@gmail.com
or phone 312-593-4732

“A Love Offering will be taken.

More future dates to be announced

“Sacred Communication
Investigating Our Beliefs For Our Individual Transformation.”
Facilitated by Henrietta Byrd
- A TransformativeTalk

Identifying and Dissolving Mental and Emotional Blockages  •  Guided Transformational Dialogue.
Defining Authentic Friendship  •  Learning to Use Your Authentic Voice  •  Transformational Relationships
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.*