Thanks to Willis and Others

The “dog days” of summer are upon us this week and considering the relatively cool summer we’ve had up to this point, I don’t feel worn down at all by this sudden onset of 90+ temperatures. Actually, I appreciate the efforts of Willis Carrier and his colleagues all the more because I can sit and work in the comfort of an air-conditioned home. Carrier is often credited with inventing the first commercial air conditioning unit. I don’t have the exact numbers handy, but the introduction of air conditioning systems in buildings has been credited with contributing to the increased average lifespan of humans during the 20th century.

I hope everyone is appreciative of the efforts that several people have contributed to in continuing the beautification project for our building and grounds. Funded in large part by a contribution from the family of Fen Taylor, we now have a paved patio behind the building that can be used to stage outdoor events such as weddings and other religious and services. Not only that, but the pathway to some of the memorials on our grounds has been cleaned and made more accessible, which is certainly a high priority to me. Further improvements are being considered, such as adding a labyrinth and planting flowers and other plants, even “memorial” trees. On behalf of the entire congregation, thank you to the Beautification Task Force and especially to all those who contributed their time and effort in helping to implement the plan, which is still ongoing. Please thank those individuals personally when you have the opportunity.

September will be a busy month at UUCC with the Corn Roast and other events signaling the beginning of fall and the welcoming back for all who may have been traveling or vacationing over the summer. I wish everyone the best as we get back into the swing of things for school and jobs, keeping in mind that we have the power to continually improve ourselves and our church community through our cooperative efforts. Let it be so!

~Bruce

We are currently planning to hold a presentation on building a permanent Labyrinth at UUCC/PF for both our congregation and our community-at-large. The tentative date of the presentation will be Sunday, October 20th after our services, and everyone is invited. Please look to your October newsletter for more information.
UPDATE ON THE ON-GOING WORK TO OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS:
(from Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo & the Grounds Beautification Task Force)

Last December 2012, the UUCC Board held a congregational meeting where we asked our members what they would like to see done with our outdoor space. Three main ideas emerged:

- The congregation wanted to see the cleaning & tidying-up of the surrounding forest and paths adjacent to our building so that we could use the space safely (Fen and Dorea’s original plan).
- They wanted to see the creation of an area to hold weddings and ceremonies outdoors and that it should be have some decorative gardening/stonework (Jennie Bohlman’s and the Prairie Godmother’s plan).
- They wanted to see the rehabbing of our memorial paths and the creation of a means to create new memorials in a safe and permanent manner for the future.

We have begun completing some of these items and the response from the congregation has been phenomenal, especially for our landscaping additions and updated classrooms. This has come about through the hard work and generosity of members of this congregation, including (but not limited to): Dorea LaPorte, Carol Hechenberger, Nancy Irons, Jessica Carter, Carol Mortensen, Marti Blaies, Maggie Lovill, Shirley Borchardt, Bruce Swiecicki, Chris Ussery, and Irmgard Faulkner.

We now propose to continue this work by requesting a Chalice Lighter Grant from the Central Midwest District of the UUA. Specifically, money is being requested:

- To create a Labyrinth within the circle of trees just beyond the current paver patio.
- To create a pathway of paver bricks linking the parking lot to the new paver patio.
- New deck reconstruction of permanent non-maintenance materials.

Help from the congregation is being sought in either labor or materials for the following:

- Specific plants and bushes suited to our woodland shady environment to complete the landscaping and create a beautiful garden setting. We will also plant specific native plants in our woods to replenish the correct plants for this area. As some plants are better suited to our area and needs, please wait until we post a list of specific plants we intend to use before purchasing, or you could alternately make a donation for the purchase of plants for the outdoor area, if you desire to help.
- Benches to be purchased and placed along the memorial paths.
- To continue our work making small improvements within the building where needed.

These improvements and additions will create an outdoor extension to our facility that can be used both by our congregation and to rent by the community at large for much needed revenue for our future financial sustainability.
It’s been a busy summer at UUCC...

The Grounds Beautification Task Force has been hard at work all around the building and grounds. The glass wall of the sanctuary is now sound and beautiful. The paver patio project has realized completion of phase 1, thanks to the vision and donation of funds of the late Fen Taylor. The Memorial Path has been cleared, lined and wood-chipped, inviting a walk. Classroom 3 has had decor updates making it more flowing and functional, and Classroom 2 is a now an elegant and serene Meditation room that will also be used as a brides room for wedding rentals.

Much gratitude to all the people who’ve contributed to the work, and to those who’ve given encouragement. There are good things ahead for UUCC... and all are welcome here.

“THAT WAS A LOT OF STUFF”

“EWW...BLECH”

“How do you like it now?”
We Need You Now

Our annual Operating Fund Budget needs help. In the first two months of this fiscal year our expenses have overwhelmed our income. A major reason is that the remarkable beautification of our building and grounds which we all applaud has incurred costs which have not yet been offset by the rentals yet to come.

To keep our budget balanced, We Need You Now. When the offering bowls are passed around on Sunday mornings, please be generous. Perhaps you made an annual pledge last spring that needs to be kept current. If a pledge is not your style, just listen to your heart. We would like to hear from you.

Most Sincerely,
Rich Treptow
Treasurer

Diane O’Connor
Office Administrator

September 1: Community Sunday: Labor Day Weekend, NO FORUM

September 8: Care of the Earth with Jeff Green: Climate Reality Leadership Training Report

September 15: Bev Feldt with a continuance of discussing the topic of her service

September 22: Balance of Mind, Body, & Soul by Nancy Irons

September 29: A Healing Sound Circle by Patricia Coldwell from “Sound for Life”
The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting July 16th:

- The board is faced with having to adjust the budget due to the Miracle Center Church not being able to keep its commitment. Although the board remains hopeful that the MCC can right itself, it appears unlikely that the total deficit of $8,600 will be repaid.

- Dorea LaPorte will be turning her efforts from the physical changes taking place in and outside of our building to the marketing effort that will be developed to attract renters to our building.

- The board is considering the installation of a plaque on an entryway wall that would acknowledge the contributions to UUCC by “legacy donors,” those who bequeathed $1,000 or more to the church after their passing.

- The Board approved the use of the church by the South Suburban Food Co-op for an event on Tuesday, October 1, from 5-9 p.m.

- The Board approved the purchase of two “Sermons To Go,” which are fully packaged sermons that can be delivered by any church member. It is not yet known when the services will be slated to be presented.

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Want to help those less fortunate in the South Suburban area? Consider volunteering your time to serve at a PADS Homeless Shelter!

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PADS** is gearing up for its 24th Emergency Shelter Season which will operate between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014. PADS in urgent need of volunteers to staff the shelters and volunteer cook teams to provide meals for the guests.

Four hours, once each month, is all it takes to help keep these shelters open. It could be the best four hours you spend each month! Please contact Dawn Thrasher, Community Resource Coordinator, 708-754-4357 ext 107, or dawn@sspads.org to register for volunteer opportunities. Training is provided every 2nd Saturday:

9:30am Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 667 West 8th Street, Chicago Heights, IL

2:00pm Our Savior Lutheran Church, 8607 South Naragansett Ave, Burbank, IL
(The session is conducted in Kaufmann Hall, the small brick building in front of the Our Savior main church building).

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**The Fairways of Village Woods** is in Crete on Highway 394. These are beautiful town homes and a marvelous place to live. It is a Christian community and you couldn’t ask for better neighbors. Owners are welcome at all the activities at the Village Woods Retirement Center which includes concerts, Bible studies, and worship services. There is a swimming pool and fishing privileges. Right NOW there is an unusual opportunity to buy a lovely town home at a reasonable price. If you are 55 years of age or over and would love to downsize and never shovel snow or mow the lawn again, contact Ken Larsen for particulars and a tour. There are one, two, and three bedroom units available - some with basements and some without.

Ken Larson can be reached at 708-672-3367 or at pl4746@juno.com.
Ingathering is fast approaching and with that a new religious education year. We'll be drawing from two curricula that the UUA has put online. Our main focus will be on a series of lessons called Love Connects Us. This curriculum is an exploration of our affirmation of faith, which we say every Sunday. The children will learn about what it means to be of service, and how UU beliefs shape a caring and responsible person.

Following is a summary of the goals of the program:

- Introduce the covenant statement by the Reverend James Vila Blake, which many Unitarian Universalist congregations use, and explore the covenant's key concepts
- Build Unitarian Universalist identity by highlighting people in our Unitarian and Universalist heritage who embodied the key ideas in the Blake covenant—people who sought truth in love, dwelled together with others in peace, and helped one another when called on to act
- Demonstrate that we actively create our living faith; we contribute to its legacy when we engage with others in community and work for peace and justice
- Reveal ways in which we are called to help one another and to encourage spiritual growth in our congregations
- Explore what it means for Unitarian Universalists to be connected by love and covenant rather than by shared theological belief.

I'm looking forward to being part of this exploration with the children. I think we'll all learn a lot.

There are plans in the works for some extracurricular activities. For example, we'll be going to the Harvest Pow Wow at the Naperville settlement on September 22nd immediately following the worship service. I'm inviting anyone who’s interested in coming with us to join the party.

Here's a link to the event:
http://www.napersettlement.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=607&month=9&year=2013&day=22&calType=0

In addition to the always highly anticipated holiday pageant there are other plans in the works for the children's involvement in our Sunday services.

I want to thank you all for participating in the recently completed survey. I’m looking forward to taking your ideas about adult religious education and coordinating some wonderful programs.

All in all, this coming year promises to be an exciting and enriching experience for all of us.

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Outdoor Dedication Ceremony - September 8th

On September 8th, we will hold our first outdoor service in the new outdoor gathering area, which we will dedicate by creating a mosaic stepping stone together.

Please bring a small special object (no bigger than a quarter) to embed in the cement—for example, a pebble, a sea shell, a piece of beach glass, a bead, or a trinket—anything that will withstand the weather. Please note that the deck will be available for people using wheelchairs or walkers.
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 Cafe 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.

RAINBOW CAFÉ will meet on September 21st at 6:30pm

Choir Rehearsals

If you are interested in joining us for choir practice on Sunday mornings, please contact Bev Feldt.

bevfeldt@gmail.com.

Sacred Communication Workshops

Sept 4th 4-5:30pm (this date has been changed from the 7th) and 21st 9am - 10:30am

These Transformative Workshops will help you in identifying and dissolving mental and emotional blockages, learning to use your authentic voice, defining authentic friendships, and more. For more information, call Rev. Henrietta Byrd: 312-593-4732. 5339.

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. A $10 love offering is requested.

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: Pat Segner 748-2217

Next Dances of UP: Sept. 21, 2-4PM

Free Movie & Discussion

“Bidder 70”

Saturday, September 28, 2013

7pm

Bidder 70 is a documentary film about Tim DeChristopher, the college student who derailed an illegal Bureau of Land Management Oil and Gas Lease Auction in 2008, bidding $1.8 million to save 22,000 acres of pristine Utah wilderness with no intention to pay or drill. “Bidder 70” is Tim’s journey from economics student, to climate justice leader, to incarcerated felon. Since his release from prison, Tim has enrolled in Unitarian Universalist Ministerial School.

6:00 p.m. Vegetarian pot luck (optional)

7:00 Movie: “Bidder 70”

Discussion Following the Movie

Free coffee and tea. Optional: Bring a vegetarian pot luck dish or snack to share. Join in the lively discussion. Invite friends! Optional donations welcome.

Do you have a nice thing to say about someone at church? Do you want to give them a thumbs up for something they did or said? Send your comment to Diane (diane@uuccpf.org) and she’ll post it on our Facebook page. Let’s let everyone know how terrific we are.

~Dan
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**Johnathan B. Fields Foundation** is having a Garage Sale on September 13th and 14th at 8am to 4pm. Location: Oak Woods Center 23500 Western Ave, Park Forest, IL 60466 (708-481-5466). The proceeds go towards continuing to provide stringed instrument experiences to at-risk and low income students in the South Suburban Chicago area. Come support their organization!! They are accepting donations for the sale. Donation drop off will be September 3rd to September 6th at the Oak Woods Center (address above) from 11am to 3pm and after 7pm.
Good morning everyone, it’s now 4 am and I am a little restless from working continuously helping to put on the Illinois Renewable Energy Fair. Its difficult to get words to come out from working all the hours on the fair. 20th of the month is here and its time to get a green sanctuary article to Dianne. Where is the story in this that captures people’s attention? This is my story, but where is their story in this? Where is the opening to get this started?

Climate change is something that hits us at the local and international level. I have had two intense conferences in the last 3 weeks. One was the 3 day Chicago Climate Leadership Training course at the Hyatt McCormick center. There were 1500 people there from 77 different countries. It was a record amount of people for this organization in their history of putting on these training courses.

2nd was the Renewable energy fair. It is a large event for a small amount of people to put on. For my own efforts on this, I start on Sunday evening heading over to Bob and Sonia Vogl’s who I have known for 15 years now, on Sunday night. Temporary class rooms are taking place around outdoor, open sided clean animal sheds at the Ogle County Fair grounds. For educational classes to take place, we need to darken the rooms for our projectors. Large sheet plastic, wood, fence posts, air driven staples, wood lath are used to enclose classroom spaces to house our speakers and guests for these conferences. We have done this for 12 years now. This is successful enough that the culture of renewable energy is starting to integrate here in Illinois. Our guests are coming back and saying they want more. Not more of the same information, but more of new ideas about sustainability. And so we are challenged to come up with wider information.

I have a foot in each canoe in a sense that go along side each other very nicely. With adding more ghg’s to our atmosphere every year, we are clearly on a destructive path for the present life forms on earth. The life on earth that cannot adapt to the new climate we are progressing towards will decrease or go extinct. Some life will actually find this good, but it is mostly to our disadvantage. The sustainable lifestyle conference, IREA talks about the solutions and will continue to talk about how to adapt to the climate.

Chicago climate leadership talks about change at the national and international level. How can we adapt and fit into the climate better in the future. IREA talks about how to do it at the grass roots level.

I had the total privilege of attending the Climate Leadership Training in Chicago. July 30th was my first day to head down for a new experience in my first climate conference. Looking at the train schedule, it was a challenge to understand even how to use the train to get there and back. Parking here was $34/day. I met a friend on the facebook site for the climate conference. I called him up and asked him if he wanted to stay at our place for $50/night. I would use the money and take him and myself back and forth to the Hyatt McCormick. Instead he offered me a free place on the floor of his hotel room. Wow! Cool!

Back to the train schedule. I just quite didn’t get it with how to get there and back. I was talking to my wife Cilla over the phone while she was at our cottage with her friend Nancy. Nancy solved the whole thing by showing us how to change trains along the way. Oh and by the way, she (Nancy) gave me her train ticket to use to go the McCormick and back. Wow! Cool! A nice generous gesture on a less expensive level but appreciated just the same.

Things are falling into place to go do this. A ride to the train station and my sense of tension of getting the train schedule right clutching the train schedule studying it intensely the whole way to make sure I get it right. The Metra employees and passengers were friendly and helpful along the way. I had plenty of reassurance along the way I was doing the right thing.

Did I tell you this conference was for free? Yes Free. 4 meals were provided and a free night of drinking with snacks. How many conferences can you get like that taking place in a very expensive hotel location. I have a friend that is a union sound and light projection worker. I noticed that there were five projection screens, a camera man and lights were part of all of this. I asked him about and what kind of cost this was. Wally told me that it one of the bigger conferences that their unions do. I’m going on an uneducated guess at the cost of this. Free meals, free conference, free night of socializing with drinks and snacks. $500,000. Maybe? Don’t know. It was expensive though. Somebody laid out some money for this.

Interesting part of this was that there were 77 countries there at the conference and over 1500 people attended. It’s totally impressive. Walking into the room everyone sat at round tables. Later on we found out there were 157 tables in the conference room in which we were assigned to a table. I was table 107 in the Illinois section of the conference. I believe there were 80 or 90 Illinois people there for that conference.

This is only part of my story leading up to the conference and the beginning. When we are in the conference, you no longer feel alone, but part of something bigger. It is a group of people spreading out to the opposite ends of the earth to move society on climate change and its solutions. We have signed a pledge to do 10 acts of leadership over the next 12 months. Imagine then 15,000 acts of leadership taking place all over the world. Then possibly the next training will be of similar size and there again is another 15,000 acts of leadership taking place in the next wave.

There are 1500 individual stories like mine to get to the goal of a world without fossil fuel emissions. Hopefully there will be several more 1500 stories happening again and again. The fossil fuel industry will lose eventually its grip on American Politics and our sluggish reaction to climate change as a country. We do it one story at a time. Would anyone like to add their own story to helping our country get off our addiction? ~Jeff
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, W, F 10:30am - 3:30pm

(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.