As we ease into the beautiful Fall Season, lots of things are continuing to happen at UUCC. For one, our all-around “Jackie-of-all-Trades” (Dorea) has switched modes from designer/builder to marketer/sales person. The beautification work being done to the outdoors and indoors has reached the point where we can pursue rental income “in earnest.” Although plans for further enhancement are still being pursued, Dorea’s efforts have now shifted to developing printed marketing materials and working with the Board to determine appropriate rental fees. To learn more about our progress and what might lie ahead, there will be an update provided during the October 6 Community Sunday potluck luncheon.

Thanks to Dan Feldt and all those who helped out during the Corn Roast in early September. The event made $111 and from all reports a great time was had by all, celebrating the “in-gathering” of our members and friends after a great summer season on our brand new, paved patio. I hope that everyone was able to appreciate the newfound accessibility to the memorial markers on the pathway and the natural beauty that abounds on our church grounds.

As the world around us swirls with turmoil that never seems to end, I am heartened to know we have a beautiful church and grounds that can provide a personal sanctuary for us all. No matter what mood I am in when I arrive at church on Sunday morning, it pleases me that when it comes time to leave, I usually feel refreshed and energized, appreciative of the many blessings in my life but which I often take for granted.

As we enter into Autumn, my hope is that you will be able to harvest your share of the bounty that our church provides to us all, from the inspiring services (often conducted by our own members!) and musical gifts to the sense of community that we have built and continue to foster through our commitment to each other.

May Peace Surround You!

~Bruce
Singing in Sacred Circle
2013 Fall Conference • October 18-20
DeKoven Retreat Center • 600 - 21st Street, Racine, WI

Join us the weekend of October 18-20 for our annual UU Women’s Connection Fall Conference! This year we will be meeting at the DeKoven Center in Racine Wisconsin. The Center is within walking distance of Lake Michigan. The lodging, dining hall and most of the workshops are all located in the same comfortable building. Our opening and closing ceremonies, keynote address, several workshops and our vendor area take place a short, well-lit walk across the beautiful quad.

We are fortunate to have as our Keynote speaker Shelley Graff - feminist singer, songwriter, guitarist and Singing in Sacred Circle facilitator. You can find a brochure and register for the Fall Retreat online at: www.uuwomensconnection.org

PADS: I'm looking for someone to make meatloaf for Pads beginning in January. It would be 5 times. I have the recipe they have used for years.

Pads stands for Public Action to Deliver Shelter to the homeless population. We have about 65 men who come to our shelter at First Christian Church on Dixie Hwy. It's the second and fifth Monday of January, February, March and April.

If you are interested please give me a call, 708-365-6136. Thank you, Carol Mortensen

RESPOND NOW: We are desperate for men, women and children's clothing at Respond Now. If you have anything you would like to donate there will be a box in the coat room.
What’s going on in RE?
Dan Feldt, Director of RE

On Sunday, September 22, the religious education class took a field trip to the Harvest Pow Wow in Naperville. We were certainly wowed! The Dancers from the different tribes were dazzling in their full regalia. And some of us even joined in with the dancing. Becca, Gwen, John-David, Lisa and John May visited a full sized Tipi. Lisa told me that it took only two people two hours to set it up and the woman inside had a story for all the different objects within. In the picture of the Mays, you can see the necklaces that the kids made at the activity tent.

Joy bought Russell a bow and arrow so that he could attach the arrowhead he made by knapping flint.

Bev particularly liked the Native American flute player who had various flutes, including a double flute. There was also a wolf, an eagle and owl. Oh my!!

We were joined on this gorgeous day by fellow church members Barb Morris, Colin Kirchner, Geri Biamonte and Andy Stevens. The pow wow was held at the Naper Settlement, which is a reconstruction of an Illinois village circa 1840/50. On our way back to the parking lot, we stopped in at the village blacksmith shop and saw a demonstration of the skills of the smith. All in all it was a wonderful day with a good group of people.

My happiness grows in direct proportion to my acceptance and in inverse proportion to my expectations. That’s the key for me. If I can accept the truth of “This is what I’m facing - not what can I expect but what I am experiencing now” - than I have all this freedom to do other things.
~ Michael J Fox
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.

RAINBOW CAFÉ will meet on October 19th at 6:30pm

Free Movie & Discussion
“The House I Live In” (Tentative movie)
Saturday, October 26, 7 p.m.
6:00pm Optional vegetarian pot luck dinner

“The House I Live In” addresses the harsh realities of America’s failed “War on Drugs”.

View heart-wrenching stories of those on the front lines and a penetrating look at the profound human rights implications of America’s longest war.

This film recognizes drug abuse as a matter of public health, and investigates the tragic errors and shortcomings that have resulted from framing it as an issue for law enforcement. The drug war in America has helped establish the largest prison-industrial system in the world, contributing to the incarceration of 2.3 million men and women and is responsible for untold collateral damage to the lives of countless individuals and families, with a particularly destructive impact on Black America.

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.

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.

Sacred Communication Workshops
October Dates to be Announced

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

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: Oct 19, 2-4PM

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
Needed: Part time assistance in our office

We are looking for someone who would be interested in assisting Diane for a maximum of 5 hours per week in the church office. You would need to come in on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday or any evening (however, training can take place on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday). If you are comfortable with computers and are familiar with Word, Publisher and photo editing please contact Diane at 708-481-5339 or diane@uuccpf.org. If you not familiar with Publisher and photo editing but have a strong familiarity with computers, please feel free to apply. This position pays $10 per hour.
I want to start out by being grateful for the group that I am in here at the Park Forest Unitarian Universalist Church. I have been able to inherit the legacy left behind by our late Fen Taylor of the Care for the Earth Series. I hope to do as well as Fen did in his time with it. I would like to go into now about a topic of global warming, possible corporate ugliness, testifying in Springfield Illinois, dirty coal, asthma, workers losing their jobs. Got an email from Sierra Club telling of a hearing of 5 coal plants being sold to Dynegy Energy corp out of Texas. Dynegy corp would like a 5 year variance on the pollution control investment or they will close down 2 of the plants. Would I like to come testify or present my point of view in Springfield in front of the Illinois Pollution Control Board. That is like flies on honey for me.

The hearing was Tuesday, September 17 and starts 9:00 am in the morning. There would be a free bus leaving Chicago at 6 am in the morning and 3 meals will be paid for. Wow!!!!! How can I turn that down? I would like to have been paid to go, but this is just fine also.

Now to get to work on the UUCCPF crowd. There were a lot of people that wanted to go, but there were pressing responsibilities pulling them in other directions. But when you get the chance to make an impact on something this big, by all means go for the ride. Of the Unitarians that could pull themselves away, Rich Oram and Andy Stevens made the commitment.

We are headed to 70 East Lake Street which is in front of the Sierra Club headquarters in Chicago. I stayed overnight at Rich’s house to take the electric train to millennium station downtown Chicago. On the train at 4:35 am Rich opened Dynegy Corp on Wikipedia to read out loud what they were about. Ken Lay (who is now in jail) helped to start this group awhile back in the 1980’s. There are several names and spin offs all the while till Dynegy is finally arrived at. What we are noticing, there a few CEO’s going to jail, holding companies that absorb the debt, other companies that get all the profit. The in debt company goes bankrupt and poop, the debt is all gone. There are law suits up and down dealing with their business model. This company could be modeled for the bad greedy corporations in a movie.

We get off the train thinking we only have a short time to get to the bus before it leaves. There are about 4 or 5 people there when we arrive and we are fed bagels, donuts and coffee. Turns out we didn’t leave until 7:10 am. Could of had an hour’s more sleep out of this. Chicago to Springfield Illinois would be on the order of 200 miles. Going through Chicago traffic in the beginning and then out into the country we arrived in Springfield sometime after 12:00 pm. Signed into the Illinois EPA building, had a room to put our stuff and into the hearing we went. The place was packed with Ameren employees wearing bright safety vests as their group identity. There was about 40 or 50 Sierra Club people compared to about 100 Ameren employees. From rumors, the employees were paid to be there. One woman overheard in the bathroom, the lady’s supervisor told her she had to be there or she would be fired. She had wanted to stay back for her daughter’s baseball game.

This being my first hearing, it was interesting to watch the different testimonies of the many employees asking for the variance to go through so that they could keep their jobs. There was a break for lunch as we went back to our spacious room. My thought going back in is this was a real set up by the company to pit environmentalists up against jobs. Truthfully I’m angry about the workers being pawns in the Dynegy game. Dynegy from my point of view isn’t any more behind these workers than they need to be. Just don’t cost Dynegy very much money.

Testimony continues with business people getting up and saying that Dynegy is great for their business and how reputable they are. They would all like the variance to be approved. The reason given is that there needs to be certainty in the business market and this variance will give them the business confidence that they need. Many testimonies of just regular life that depends on making a living, community leadership in their towns, boy scouts, girl scouts, softball, baseball, schools etc. I believe this to be true. If the two plants are closed down this will take a big chunk of money out of those communities. Layoffs at schools and other small businesses will have to close up shop. The overall demeanor of the testimony of the pro variance was rather light in intensity.

When the Sierra Club members stepped up to the plate, the tone was a different one. We came on with passion about our position on the variance. Obviously we are against the variance. Richard came up and brought his Hospice nursing experience of the pain his patients are in when they can’t breath in the last stages of their life. This would refer to the asthma that people get when in the high pollution zones living down from the power plants. These people die from not being able to breathe at the end of their life suffering the whole way. Andy Stevens started out with “If I were in a different situation, I would be like you talking to keep my job.” Referring to the Ameren employees. Andy looked them in the eyes and spoke clearly to them letting them know how he felt. Andy went on to finish the rest of his testimony. My turn up to bat, I had prepared something the day before on prenatal and childhood development from the toxic exposure of the female.

And yet there was an answer to this dilemma. The world can run on 100% renewable energy. Out of Stanford University, there are several peer reviewed science papers showing just how to do that. I looked at the Ameren Employees in the room, “We can put all of them to work building the new energy system.”

A lot of the Sierra Club people got up and literally hit the ball out of the park. They were on message, they had intensity, it was a great team effort. The ride home was later than I thought getting in my door at midnight and going to work the next day up at 6:15. I would do it again though.

For those of you with internet capability, the Environmental Law and Policy Center has put it succinctly as to Dynegy’s plans. They are claiming hardship as Ameren truly was by having a shell company with no funding that is taking over the five plants. Dynergy themselves are well healed to do the work of pollution control.  

http://elpc.org/tag/dynegy  ~Jeff
During the upcoming Community Sunday, **October 6th**, representatives of our Board-appointed Building and Grounds Beautification Task Force will be on hand to answer any questions that the congregation may have for them on the work that has been done on our facility thus far, and what is planned for the future.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the **October 20th** presentation by the people from “Labyrinths in Stone” at 12:00 noon that will explain the history of labyrinths and how they can be used as a meditative aid to your spiritual journey. The Building and Grounds Beautification Task Force is currently exploring the possibility of creating a permanent labyrinth here at UUCC in the circular space just beyond our new paver patio. It would be open for use by our congregation and the community-at-large.

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**Marriage Equality in Illinois**

The time has come for marriage equality in Illinois, and we can help make it a reality! UU’s from around the state will join Equality Illinois and the Illinois Unites for Marriage campaign’s March on Springfield for Marriage Equality on October 22, the scheduled first day of the fall veto session of the Illinois State Legislature. This action is part of a broad grassroots strategy to secure final passage of Illinois Senate Bill 10, the "Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act" already approved by the Illinois Senate and with Governor Pat Quinn's support. Once adopted, Illinois will become the 14th state, plus the District of Columbia, to treat all of its citizens equally under state marriage laws.

This event will be the founding action of the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI) now forming across the state. The proposed mission of UUANI is to build power among UU congregations in Illinois in order to achieve meaningful, concrete, far-reaching results which put UU values and principles into action. We will work collectively with each other and collaboratively with effective partner organizations to create meaningful social change towards justice and beloved community. UU’s from all over Illinois are invited to join us for this historic effort to push marriage equality over the finish line in our state, and to come together to launch our statewide UU organizing network.

**Looking for a volunteer to join the UU Advocacy Network of Illinois**

Are you interested in social action? Would you like to help advance UU causes and interests in Illinois? Can you help organize for the October 22nd march on Springfield in support of Marriage Equity? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then the UU Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI) would like you to join them in an initial organizing meeting.

The UU Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI) would like to hear from you. Contact Scott Aaseng, UUANI Provisional Board Member, scottaaseng@gmail.com

Or contact Nancy Irons (708-712-3228) for more information.
Edgar’s Place Coffee House
Proudly presents
Claude Bourbon

Saturday, October 12 at 8:00 pm
Adults: $15.00
Kids: $10.00

Ready for a unique and talented take on a wide range of musical traditions? Claude Bourbon is known throughout Europe for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish, Middle Eastern, and Russian stylings into uncharted territories. Each year Bourbon plays more than 100 shows around the world. His latest tour features music from his latest double cd "Over The Mountains", which once again incorporates a variety of influences and makes them his own. Experience an evening of exploration in the unique ambience of the Thumb!

Born in France in the early 60’s, Claude Bourbon grew up in Switzerland, where he was classically trained for many years. This finger picking guitarist has performed and studied all over the world; he has crafted an unbelievable fusion of classical and jazz, with ethereal Eastern influences, Spanish and Latin elements with strains of Western folk.

“Never heard anyone get that much beautiful sound out of a J-45”, Bob, Tucson, AZ

“Do you know what Medieval guitar sounds like? I didn’t either ‘til I hooked up with Claude! This is some cool stuff, and he’s French and everything!” Dolores River Brewery, Dolores, CO

To learn more about Claude: www.claudebourbon.org/

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.
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.

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