As I write this, spring is here on the calendar but in the weather, not so much. But we know it’s coming because the days are longer and the sun is higher in the sky. Yippee! Here at UUCC, we’ve got some big events right around the corner. By now, you should all have had an opportunity to respond to the invitation to attend the Annual UUCC Fellowship Dinner taking place on Saturday, April 5th. And the next day is Pledge Sunday, for which the theme this year is “In Our Hands!” Please make every effort to attend and be a part of the celebration that will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour with dinner and a program to follow. I hope you feel as I do, a sense of pride in what we have all been able to accomplish at UUCC over the past year of our lives together.

Along with celebrating our progress over the past year, we look forward with anticipation of the many opportunities that 2014 will bring. The hard work we put in throughout 2013 will begin to bear fruit as we offer our facility to the community for its enjoyment and use. As an example of our efforts in this area, we recently signed a contract with a small but energetic congregation, The House of Saints and Sinners! This church will be renting our facility on most Saturday evenings for the next six months.

As more people and organizations utilize our beautiful facility and grounds, our objective is to give them a taste of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Ideally, we’d love to have people join us for a Sunday service and experience our community in a loving and relaxed manner, taking in the beauty all around us while being stimulated by the musical offerings and the variety of celebrants that we’ve been able to present week after week.

With this vision in mind, I ask that you seriously consider making a strong financial commitment to our community. If you look at all the programs that UUCC provides and that are listed on the back of the Pledge Drive Brochure, you will realize that our future really is in our own hands!

~Bruce
April 6th: Community Sunday — No Forum.

April 13th: Care of the Earth

April 20th: Easter — No Forum

April 27th: Yoga with Karen Nielsen

The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting held on March 16th:

- The Board agreed to negotiate for a new three month lease with Miracle Center Church that would reduce the number of hours and the amount of access to the UUCC facility. No contract has been signed yet.

- The amount of money spent by UUCC for snow removal this winter totals $3,400 as of the date of this meeting.

- In an effort to recognize the legacy of deceased members, the Board agreed that it would be good to mention those members who have passed from this earth during the prior year and also those who have donated to the church after their passing.
World Religions Classes
(starting April 17th)

A series of classes on world religions will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest, 70 Sycamore Drive. They’ll be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month starting on April 17 and continue for a minimum of nine sessions. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

The program is organized around a study guide developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association that uses the writings of Huston Smith as source material. The religions considered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Primal Religions.

Here’s a brief bio of Mr. Smith:
Huston Smith is Thomas J. Watson Professor of Religion and Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, Syracuse University. For fifteen years he was Professor of Philosophy at M.I.T. and for a decade before that he taught at Washington University in St. Louis. Holder of twelve honorary degrees, Smith’s fourteen books include The World’s Religions which has sold over 2 ½ million copies, and Why Religion Matters which won the Wilbur Award for the best book on religion published in 2001. In 1996 Bill Moyers devoted a 5-part PBS Special, The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith, to his life and work.

The following YouTube clip is part of the Bill Moyer’s interview dealing with Hinduism. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skjThzZrZ7o

For further information and to sign up, email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com or call (708) 481-5339 and reference Huston Smith World Religions discussion group.

Free Healthy Living Group

Second Thursday of the month at 1pm
12:00 Optional bring your own brown bag lunch
1:00-2:00 Topic

April 10, 2014  Stress Reduction  led by Lynn Lidbury, LCPC
May 8, 2014    Meditation        led by Lynn Lidbury and Beverly Feldt

We all want to be happy and healthy. So let’s share our knowledge and experience and the wisdom of experts, to help each other and ourselves in our ongoing quest for health and happiness. We are starting a new open group, meeting once each month, focusing on a health related topic, sometimes with a volunteer guest speaker, sometimes with demonstrations, and hopefully always with sharing respect, and mutual support among participants.

Free tea and coffee
Optional: Bring a snack to share.
Join in the discussion. Invite friends!
FELLOWSHIP DINNER on Saturday, April 5, 2014
Social Hour at 6pm, Dinner at 7pm, and Program at 8pm.

Please reserve the date and remember to sign up with Darlene Obejda at church. The Fellowship Dinner is the kick off event for Pledge Sunday (the next day). We will celebrate our community of faith and fellowship. Members and friends will be encouraged to bring homemade desserts and a free will offering will be taken at the dinner. A gentle reminder is that the suggested cost of the meal is $20. Many are working to make this a happy event.

Pledge Sunday on April 6th

We invite you to join us on Pledge Sunday, April 6th to make a commitment of your expected financial support of our church for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

During the Community Sunday lunch, following the worship service, members and friends of the church will be invited to meet with a member of the Pledge Drive Team to discuss the role of our community of faith in their life and the need for a sustainable budget for promoting our many programs. If you are comfortable signing a pledge card at that time you may do so or you may request time for further thought.

Pledges both large and small will ensure our continued Lifting Up and Reaching Out.

With great thanks,
Rich Treptow

MUUSA is the annual Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly held in Potosi, Missouri. This year camp runs from June 29th until July 5th!

To learn more about MUUSA you can visit muusa.org. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Plett at margaretplett@gmail.com.

Lenten Taize Prayer Service

Infant Jesus of Prague is hosting a Lenten Taize Prayer Service at 7:30pm on Thursday, April 3rd.

Come to this one hour service of simple songs, scripture, periods of silence and meditation, and a time for petitions. All are welcome!
What’s going on in RE?
Dan Feldt, Director of RE

Believe it or not, Spring is here and our children’s RE curriculum is on the last phrase of the Affirmation of Faith: “to help one another”! There are some interesting sessions to conclude our series of classes, and we plan to have the congregation learn about our projects during this year. When the weather gets warmer, we hope to take some of our classes outdoors. A Maypole is already being planned.

I’d like to take up the rest of the RE space to promote some upcoming adult religious education classes:

There are many paths towards spiritual development. Come join us as we explore how the mind, body, spirit and justice can lead to avenues of spiritual growth. We’ll be using an adult-oriented curriculum written by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The workshop will be 90 minutes long and meet once a week for 5 weeks. It will start on May 10th from 10:30 to noon. Please email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com for further information and to sign up.

A new series of the highly acclaimed classes on world religions will be held in classroom 3. They’ll be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month starting on April 17 and continue for a minimum of nine sessions. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

The program is organized around a study guide developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association that uses the writings of Huston Smith as source material. The religions considered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Primal Religions.

In 1996 Bill Moyers devoted a 5-part PBS Special, The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith, to his life and work. The following YouTube clip is part of the Bill Moyer’s interview dealing with Hinduism. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skjThZrZ7o

For further information and to sign up, email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com or call (708) 481-5339 and reference Huston Smith World Religions discussion group.

Happy Spring! ~Dan

---

Summer Vacation FUN for SINGLE ADULTS

You are invited to attend a FUN VACATION for SINGLE ADULTS. Two week long vacations are sponsored by AMUUSE (Adult Midwest UU Singles Enrichment) this summer:


Mornings at AMUUSE weeks offer you the opportunity to truly connect with a small group of single adults with similar interests in a week-long group interacting on various topics. Afternoons are open for a wide range of activities (recreational, social, crafts) parties, campfires or a camp show, followed by high-energy dancing, hanging out at the informal hospitality area or other activities of your choice.

If this sounds to you like the adventure of a lifetime, you are right!
Contact: Gwen Valore, President, 740-363-4630 or Sharon Spencer, Registrar, 847-816-3356
Free Movie & Discussion
“Energy Quest USA”
Friday, April 25th, 7:00pm

6pm optional vegetarian pot luck dinner

Energy Quest USA visits five very different American communities from Alaska to the East Coast, Portland, and Fort Worth, where citizens are making smart energy choices based on economics and the environment. Their experiences chart a path every U.S. community can follow to take charge of their energy future and adapt to the challenges climate change may bring.

http://earththeoperatorsmanual.com/feature-video/energy-quest-usa
60 minutes. 2011. Discussion led by Jeff Green.

Free coffee, tea, and popcorn.
Invite friends!
Optional: Bring a snack to share.
Optional donations accepted.

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

Work Day – April 5th, 9:00 to noon
Join us for indoor and outdoor cleanup and fix-up prior to the Fellowship Dinner. Please bring your own work gloves/rake or rubber gloves/bucket. Lists of possible projects will be posted and supplies available. You are also welcome to tackle any task that has been calling to you. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com).

JOHNATHAN B FIELDS FOUNDATION SPRING CONCERT
April 26, 2014
6 pm - 9 pm

Freedom Hall
Saturday, April 26, 2014
410 Lakewood Blvd
Park Forest, IL 60466

Ticket Information
$20 In Advance
$25 At the Door
708-481-5466
www.jbfields.org

Featuring…

East-West Band dedicated to recreating the varied styles and textures of both traditional blues and contemporary blues-based rock.

Los Ritmo Kings with songs ranging from mariachi music to the contemporary English and Latin songs of artists such as Ritchie Valens, Jose Feliciano and Carlos Santana.

Special performance from the children supported by the JB Fields Foundation through the Homewood-Flossmoor Suzuki Strings school of music.

Mission & Vision
The Johnathan B Fields Foundation seeks to redirect at-risk and low-income youth from negative behaviors by fostering self-worth and dignity through the applications of music, theater, and visual arts. Please come support our children!
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 Friday of the month from 6:30-10:30 pm. More info: Call Dave Matteson 708-672-8837 or (714) 930-6134.

RAINBOW CAFÉ will meet on April 18th at 6:30pm

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.

Free Healthy Living Group
2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00pm
12:00 Optional bring your own brown bag lunch
1-2pm Topic
April 10th - “Stress Reduction”
Led by Lynn Lidbury, LCPC

Silent Meditation, Mondays @ 7pm
This group has been cancelled for now. If anyone would be interested in facilitating this group please contact Diane at 708-481-5339.

Sacred Communication Workshops
April dates: TBA
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.

Buddhist Meditation
Learn and enjoy the simple, straight-forward practice of meditation. Please join us for sitting and walking meditation in the Zen and Theravadan Buddhist traditions. This is an ongoing event led by Steve McCabe and Beverly Feldt.

When: Saturdays at 9am to 10:30am
Location: UUCC
Cost: Free Will offering, (proceeds go to UUCC)
Contact: For questions, contact Steve McCabe (708) 465-3116 or Beverly Feldt bevfeldt@gmail.com

A Moment in Balance

Dances of Universal Peace:
3rd Saturday of the month.
Dances of Universal Peace are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 2-4pm at UUCC. We join our voices in singing sacred phrases and Divine Names from many spiritual traditions while moving in circle dances and walking meditations. For more information contact certified dance leader, Pat Segner, at 708-748-2217.

Next Dances of UP: April 19th 2PM

The World’s Religions
1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm
Beginning April 17th
This program is organized around a study guide developed by the UUA that uses the writings of Huston Smith as source material. The religions considered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Primal Religions.

For fifteen years Huston Smith was Professor of Philosophy at M.I.T. and for a decade before that he taught at Washington University in St. Louis.

For further info email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com or call 708-481-5339.
Can you convert VHS to DVD??

Do you have a setup that would allow you to convert VHS tapes into DVDs? The church has several recordings of events, parties, and Sunday services that are currently on VHS tape. While that medium is not quite extinct, it is clearly well on the way out. We would like to preserve these recordings on DVDs without the $25-$30 charge per tape that most processors want.

Can you help? Please contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com) or 708-712-3228 for more information.
I received a call from Sierra Club about the RPS law for Illinois. RPS stands for renewable portfolio standard. As we were putting on our chili fundraiser, I was able to get a feel for what people understand and know about RPS. Let me start with a Wikipedia definition.


A **Renewable Portfolio Standard** (RPS) is a regulation that requires the increased production of energy from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal. Other common names for the same concept include **Renewable Electricity Standard** (RES) at the United States federal level and **Renewables Obligation** in the UK.

The RPS mechanism generally places an obligation on electricity supply companies to produce a specified fraction of their electricity from renewable energy sources. Certified renewable energy generators earn certificates for every unit of electricity they produce and can sell these along with their electricity to supply companies. Supply companies then pass the certificates to some form of regulatory body to demonstrate their compliance with their regulatory obligations.

In essence then, the RPS is renewable energy goal set up by state law. There is a problem with Illinois law. I can give you the email copy from Sierra Club. They say it better than I can:

There are 2,200 megawatts of shovel-ready wind projects in Illinois waiting to be built. That's equivalent to about four coal plants worth of clean energy waiting to come online.

**What's the holdup? A crucial update to our state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).**
Our state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) legislation must be fixed to give the green light to clean energy projects across Illinois. Unless legislators act soon, we'll continue to see stalled renewable energy projects in Illinois.

Springfield won't move on this issue unless it's clear that renewable energy is a priority for citizens in their districts and across the state. That's why we planned a statewide week of action from March 23-29. We want to demonstrate broad-based support across our state for clean energy in Illinois.

If you missed signing up at the chili fundraiser, below is the link to show your support.
https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=D85E7467E2C77CE79AC3CCA040819B6E.app207a?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=13003&autologin=true&s_src=214BCOAC10
You are ALL invited to attend the MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2014 - the first Regional Assembly to be held in four locations, the second weekend in April! Please visit the MidAmerica website and check out the different programs in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Bloomington, Indiana; Topeka, Kansas, and Wausau, Wisconsin!

Each location will have opportunities to worship and sing together; meet UUs from across the region; learn from each other; and be inspired. Visit midamerica.org and register!

### Day of Stillness Retreat

Join the Second Unitarian Buddhist Fellowship (2UBF) for a day of stillness as we kick off a unique meditation group. Explore the intersection of Buddhist and Unitarian Universalist principles in a gentle and welcoming environment.

Two long-time practitioners will be giving instruction: Larry Axelrod from Insight Chicago (Vipassana/Theravada) and Larry Wolf from Shambhala Chicago (Shambhala/Vajrayana). Also, near the end of the retreat day we will be inviting everyone to participate in shaping this new Buddhist Group at 2U if they want. Sign up at http://bit.ly/2uretreat

---

**A Celebration of Life for Edgar Pearsa**

A Celebration of Life for Edgar Pearsa will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR at 1685 13th Ave on Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to UU Church in Eugene, Unity of the Valley, Nearby Nature, The Village School, Red Cross of Lane County, CALC, Friends of Buford Park, or Friends of Hendricks Park in his name.

Edgar Child Pearsa, was born on July 22, 1921 in Moline, Illinois to A. Conrad Westling who met Grace Child in a veterans' hospital. Disabled by gassing in WW-I, Westling moved to California for drier air in 1923. Grace stayed in Illinois with Edgar, remarried A.T. Pearsa and had a 2nd child, Pamela. Edgar assumed the last name Pearsa in 1937. Edgar attended Western Military Academy in Alton, IL and Iowa State for 2 years before enlisting in 1942 in the Combat Engineers Corps, as a lieutenant and company adjutant. He served in invasions in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Salerno, Normandy and Okinawa, earned a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, and never lost a soldier under his command. In 2011, he was named Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor. His experiences in WWII inspired a passion for peace activism, but also spiritual healing and protection which he practiced for 70 years. Returning from the war, he finished his B.A. at Principia College and became a Christian Science Practitioner. He married Elizabeth Kuenzli of Milwaukee in 1956, and had four boys: Christopher, Jonathan, Timothy and Andrew. In 1962, he earned a Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Unitarian Universalist seminary. He worked as UU minister and counselor, a metaphysical healer, family man and community volunteer in Vermont and Illinois. For six years, he raised his four sons on his own until he remarried in 1970 to Phyllis Sorensen, who had four grown children: Portia, Alan, Leah and Sarah. In 2001 Ed and Phyllis moved to Eugene, Oregon where they volunteered tirelessly for many organizations. Phyllis died on March 6, 2011. Edgar passed suddenly and peacefully at home on February 22, 2014 after an afternoon of yard work. He will be remembered as a deeply loving and generous man who saw the best in people, always with a twinkle in his eye and a joke to tell. He will be missed by all who knew him, especially by his children, ten grandchildren, two nieces, one nephew, one surviving cousin and their families.
Chicago-bred, Maine-based songwriter Heather Styka’s tunes have a vintage familiarity, but her image-heavy lyrics are as smart and unexpected as they are hummable, delivered with a distinctive guitar style and a pure, soulful voice. In addition to numerous songwriting awards, Styka’s 2011 release Lifeboats for Atlantis received critical praise, hitting #3 on the national FOLK-DJ charts.

“One of the more original of the many contemporary singer-songwriters touring the US... she paints landscapes and relationships in her well thought out compositions.”
-Tom May, River City Folk

“...truly an infectious artist... the pin drop moments are amazing.”
-Cyrus Rhodes, Muse’s Muse

“Stands out among the mass of newcomers to the folk circuit... Heather knows the most beautiful and intriguing stories to convey.”
- John Schoenmakers (Alt Country Forum, Netherlands)

To learn more about Heather Styka
heatherstyka.com

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.
uuccpf.org
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.

Visit us on the web @ www.uuccpf.org