Happy New Year! Welcome UUCC Year 2014-2015!

Our church year begins July 1 and similar to what other traditions call for at the beginning of the calendar year, we have the opportunity to start with a fresh slate and begin writing our history for the coming year. I’d like to start by welcoming Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo as the new Vice President of the UUCC Board of Trustees. Treasure Rich Treptow will continue his string of single year commitments and for that I am personally very grateful. We have returning Board of Trustee members Marilyn Ragland, Laura Shahtaji and Jeff Fields, as well as new member Jerome Rowley. I look forward to working with you all and doing our best to foster the growth of our congregation and the individuals that comprise it.

We’ve often touted the multiple facets of our congregation and our willingness to be open to new people, new ideas and different ways of approaching issues that we are facing now and those we anticipate in the future. It is not uncommon for members to propose ideas to the Convener Council or the Board and request funding to see them through. The beauty of our process is that no one person controls the purse strings and the democratic process rules when it comes to determining which projects will be funded.

It’s no secret that with a small congregation such as ours, volunteers are often asked to take on several tasks and when that happens, they run the risk of reaching “burn-out” status. We want to do everything we can to avoid that so Laurene, as the new chairwoman of the Convener Council, will be evaluating its operation to determine its benefits and shortcomings with the idea of improving its function and efficiency.

Enough of the business already! Let’s relish the beauty of summertime and the opportunity to enjoy ourselves and others in the great outdoors, even if it’s only our own back yards.

Best Wishes,
Bruce
The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 10th:

- In appreciation for the educational curriculums made available to us and on the recommendation of Religious Education Director Dan Feldt, the Board voted to donate $100 to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

- The Board agreed to negotiate with the House of Saints and Sinners to continue renting our facility to that church. The Board also agreed not to enter into another rental contract with Miracle Center Church.

- A motion was passed to begin advertising in the Southtown Star Newspaper. This online advertising effort will allow 28,000 “hits” on UUCC’s link.

- The Board accepted Dan Feldt’s offer to coordinate the Sunday Greeters and also act as the liaison to the new members.

The next meeting of the Board will be July 8th.

Gardens for Good
By Barb Anderson Morris

Friends of mine are involved in the St. Irenaeus Community Garden Project. They deliver fresh produce to the St I’s /Catholic Charities Food Pantry, the Park Forest Farmers Market and five other free pantries.

Organic produce get to those in need while still fresh! St. Irenaeus Pantry serves 500 families and Seniors weekly! Volunteers for the four acre garden come from several communities. Educational sessions provide mentoring to individuals and groups. Click here and vote "Love" to help get a grant for the Garden. Collette W. says "Our workers tend more than plants. They (youth, seniors, beginner gardeners & seasoned Farmers) tend human relationships - so vital to Community.” “Friendships, respect, dialogue and compassion between volunteers deepen.”

I tasted rhubarb and tomatoes grown in the "Garden for Good" - Yum!

Please Help us Promote UUCC!

Check out our UUCC Facebook Fan Page AND our Woodland Chapel Facebook Fan Page and click “Like” to join! Then “SHARE” posts with YOUR facebook friends. This will spread the word about our church and what we offer.

THANKS!

www.facebook.com/myUUCCPF and Woodland Chapel at Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest

Custodial Help Needed

First, a big thank you to Kandye Winterfeldt, who has worked part-time cleaning, organizing, and doing other tasks at church for several years. As Kandye has decided to resign from this position, we are in need of one or more workers to clean our church throughout the week, before and after various activities or events. If you may be interested, or know someone who may be interested, please contact the church office for more information.

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Free Healthy Living Group
Second Thursday of the month

Thursday, July 10, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. at UUCC in the 3rd classroom

Topic: Qigong

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.

Come join us this month with expert Qigong instructor Jim Kobus, who will talk with us about the benefits of Qigong and lead us in some simple Qigong moves. Jim teaches Qigong in the Hazel Crest Park District and other locations. Invite friends!

Free tea and coffee Optional: Bring a snack to share.
Join in the discussion. Invite friends!

Free Movie & Discussion
“Food For Change”
Friday, July 25th, 7:00 p.m.

“Food For Change” is a new documentary film about Food Co-Ops as a force for dynamic social and economic change in American culture. It’s a story for our time about what ails our economic system and how to fix it – people working together to satisfy their most basic need. 2014 85 minutes Co-Sponsored with the South Suburban Food Co-Op.

Join in the lively discussion following this film.

Free coffee, tea, and popcorn.
Optional: bring a snack to share.
Invite friends!
Member Musings

by Vince Douglass

Recently, while doing my reading on UUA material, I came across critical information that our membership should be made aware of. The UUA had completed a survey of Adult Membership and number of congregations - growth or decline in the Liberal & Mainline Protestant Religions along with the UUA. The statistics are from the Association of Religion Data Archives with the exception of the UUA numbers which came from their own data services and covered a 16 year period.

HOW WE COMPARE: The date is from 1996 to 2012 (a 16 year period).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UUA</td>
<td>Increase 12.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td>Decrease 15.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</td>
<td>Decrease 12.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Decrease 23.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Decrease 25.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Decrease 8.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Unitarian Universalism is growing in comparison to Liberal and Mainline Protestant traditions. Click here for more information

We at UUCCPF, have a great product for our neighbors and friends. The trouble is many people don't know who we are or what our product is. When they find out, they join in and become members. The Stats prove it.

I believe, the only way others are going to learn about us is if we tell them. This is done through marketing and advertising.

Vince Douglass

Unitarian Universalists Asked to Volunteer on Phone banks to help pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act

Americans for Workplace Opportunity is a national, bipartisan coalition working to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Currently it is possible to be fired or denied employment for your sexual orientation in 29 states, and for your gender identity or expression in 32. ENDA would provide workplace protections to the LGBTQ community similar to those that currently exist for race, religion, sex, and disability. AWO is looking for volunteers for our following weekly phone banks:

Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30PM @ Lambda Legal (105 W Adams)
Thursdays: 5:30-8:30PM @ Lambda Legal (105 W Adams)
Saturdays: 10:30-2PM @ The Center on Halsted (3656 N Halsted)

Volunteers will be calling registered voters in Congressional Districts where the Representative has not taken a position on ENDA, and if the voter is supportive of ENDA he or she can be transferred directly to their Representative’s office voice mail, to leave a message encouraging the Representative to come out in support of ENDA and hopefully also sign-on as a co-sponsor of the legislation.

If you are interested in helping out with either of these actions please contact Logan Clark at 860.578.7319 or at loganc@workplaceopportunity.org.
I want to report on the wonderful Religious Education service on June 15. We had two skilled presenters, Quinn Kirchner and Sam Kirchner. To a standing ovation, Quinn Kirchner also did a magnificent job playing the prelude. If you have been reading my articles recently, you know that our curriculum this year centered around the Affirmation of Faith that we recite every Sunday.

Sam and Quinn took each phrase of James Blake's Affirmation and talked about its significance. For example, from our Universalist tradition, how the ideas of love and of the inherent worth and dignity of all people encourage the spiritual growth of our congregations. And how Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. drew their inspiration from Henry David Thoreau. They also talked about how science and religion can be complementary forces in the search for truth.

There was a video presentation in which members of the congregation expressed personal viewpoints regarding the Affirmation. For “love is the spirit of this church,” Jerome Rowley recited a quotation from Saint Francis that his mother told him: “Work is love made visible.” Regarding “and service is our prayer,” Dave Matteson said that working for social justice is a prayer that brings you into the presence of the Holy. Bev Feldt talked about the guidelines of our covenant, including assuming the good intentions of others and listening and giving respect to each other. “To dwell together in peace”: Colin Kirchner said he considers other people's ideas and shares honestly what's in his heart. For “to seek the truth in love,” John Kasang said he tries to treat everyone honestly, morally, and do the right thing. Joyce Semmler is an optimist who believes that science is discovering that there's an inherent desire in the human species “to help one another.”

Leonard Kirchner shared this thought with me, which I thought was spot on:

LOVE IS THE SPIRIT OF THIS CHURCH

I believe that one meaning of the phrase might be that loving and caring ideas are practiced by a large number of the human beings, or spirits, who repeatedly congregate within this building.

I want to thank everyone who took part in the service either live or on videotape and also everyone who contributed their time to the religious education program this year. If you want to join the team, please let me know. We already have a number of people signed up for next year -- but the more the merrier.

Now for something completely different, pictured here is a caterpillar I discovered chomping down on my parsley in the herb garden. Barry Vronay tells me that it will turn into a black swallowtail butterfly. To me this is a reminder of how wonderful an experience life is and how together we’re on this incredible spiritual journey.

In faith,
Dan Feldt
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 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 July 18th at 6:30pm

A Moment in Balance
Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen
Monday and Thurs
9:30am – 11am
Wednesday evenings
7:00pm – 8:30pm
No reservations needed. Drop-in fee is $10 per class and the 6th one is FREE.

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.

Choir Rehearsals
Join the UUCC choir!
Practice is on Sunday mornings, Please email Beverly Feldt at bevfeldt@gmail.com.

Updating Directory
We will soon be starting the process of updating our church directory. If you have any changes you wish to make please contact the office at 708-481-5339.

Free Healthy Living Group
2nd Thursday of the month
1-2:30pm
July 10 Topic: QiGong
Free tea & coffee
Optional: Bring a snack to share
Join in the discussion. Invite friends

Sacred Communication Workshop
July 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.

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.
Dances of UP does NOT meet in July

The World’s Religions
1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm
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.
Respond Now is very grateful, as always, for your donations of food and personal items. On August 9 they will again hold their school supply party. After mid-July, will you please help out by donating the following school supplies between mid-July and August 9: pencils, crayons, notebooks, folders, colored pencils, markers. Back-packs are also needed. Thank you so much.

Suzie Brown
Man Made Problems with Man Made Solutions

When watching a movie, have you ever noticed that the main character is doing the wrong thing and has a way out of it eventually in the end. The protagonist may do drugs and get into all kinds of trouble, getting with the wrong people, people getting hurt etc. Most of the movies have a happy ending with the bad guy getting their just deserts and the good guys get the woman or man they want.

Moving into another arena where its real life is our last recession we all experienced together starting about 2007 for and 2008 for the whole nation. This was one of our making allowing very high risk business practices by our largest banks and businesses. Its interesting that it didn’t feel risky before the problems started. But the consequences sure were felt by the housing industry first and then other sectors of economy took a nosedive later in 2008. This has been a real pain and misery for some in our economy still with consequences still being felt. An interesting problem possibly coming in is student debt. We see this problem and have trouble dealing with it due to economic interests. A man made problem with man-made solutions. It has complexity and a failure to really solve in congress.

Congress has been this body that just can’t resolve some of the country’s problems. What inspired me to write in this direction was this article I was reading this morning at the link.

http://dcraig.blogs.redding.com/2014/06/the-climate-crash-cometh/

We have a Republican blocked congress that just can’t come to terms with climate change being man-made. We are in a sense in a bad movie with our hero Barack Obama with limited options due to congressional blockage. In this article there is the Bush administration secretary telling congress “We can prevent a climate crash with a carbon tax.” This is a “Man Made Problem” with a “Man Made Solution”.

When congress finally gets it and we move forward in spite of strong financial interests, we can unlock the largest industrial revolution the world has ever seen. This can be a tremendous source of employment for the rest of this century. Electric cars, energy efficiency for all products, renewable energy production of all forms. This green economy is just around the corner. But enough of us have to be able to see the danger of global warming and the promise of a green sustainable life. Let’s all get to the “Man Made Solution”.

Look for products carrying the "Design for the Environment" label. This mark allows consumers to quickly identify and choose more products that are safer for their families and also help protect the environment. DfE uses scientific information to identify products designed to be safer for the environment and to help you choose products and services, such as electronics or automotive refinishing. In 2011, Americans using products with the DfE label cut the use of harmful chemicals by more than 756 million pounds. Look for the DfE label to find products with the safest possible ingredients and help protect the environment.
UUCC Church Picnic

UUCC is going to have a Church Picnic at Goodenow Grove (Plum Creek Nature Center) on Sunday, July 20th in a shelter with a grill. The address is 27064 Dutton Rd. Beecher, IL 60401.

Plum Creek Nature Center has air conditioning, indoor bathrooms, water, bird watching and a conference room. There’s a beautiful 4 block walking trail with benches around the pond. The phone number is 708-946-2216. Bring your own food for a Pot Luck Picnic. Also bring lawn chairs. The picnic starts after church until dusk. There are picnic tables. Dogs and alcohol are allowed. Games will be set up for the kids (young and old). We will have s’mores by the fire pit.

Goodenow Grove is located about 7 miles from church. Go East on Exchange to 394. Proceed South on 394 to Goodenow Rd. Go East to Dutton Rd and follow the signs.

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Adults please bring a donation of $2 and a dish to share. Children - $1.

LET'S GO

Free live music Wednesday evenings about 7:30-9:00pm in downtown Park Forest, and Sunday evenings 6:30-8:00 pm in Frankfort on the green by the granary, outside weather permitting. In case of rain, concerts in Park Forest will be held in Dining On The Green in the old Park Forest Plaza; in Frankfort in the Park District Building, 140 Oak Street. Bring a folding chair or blanket, picnic food, and friends. Some folks dance. Hopefully all enjoy!

Summer Outdoor Taizé Prayer Service

Date: Thursday, July 10, 2014  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Holy Family Statue Infant Jesus of Prague 1131 Douglas Ave., Flossmoor

Bring a lawn chair and join us for an outdoor prayer service consisting of simple songs, scripture, periods of silence and meditation, and a time for petitions. In the event the weather does not cooperate, we will gather in the church. All are welcome!!

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
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