It’s the month where we celebrate the 4th of July, and it’s also a special month in that the Republican and Democratic Party Conventions occur. Let’s be clear—I cannot and would not advocate for any member of the congregation to vote for any party or any candidate other than the one that they themselves choose to vote for based on their own conscience and their interpretation of Unitarian Universalist principles. However, I know that when political passions fly, sometimes it can cause strain in relationships, and I wanted to say a word about keeping the dialogue open and discourse free from personal attacks during the run-up to the Presidential election.

Being able to take the perspective of the other person is one of the first steps in moral evolution, and it happens early in the development of a child. Jean Piaget, the famous pioneer in the field of a child’s psychosocial development, once created an experiment in which he would take a child and show him or her a ball that was painted one color on one side of the ball, let’s say “red” for the sake of illustration, and blue on the other. He would show the child the red side and ask, “What color do you see?” When the child would respond “red” correctly, he would turn the ball around, and ask “Now what color do you see?” When the child would respond “blue” correctly, he would now ask the question, “What color do I see now?” At the stage of development which corresponds roughly to that of a first grader, the child would be able to answer “blue”, but below that stage, the child would ONLY be able to respond with regard to the color he or she saw.

This is what it is like to have an egocentric world view, when you can only interpret the world in terms of your own vision. Being egocentric is a natural stage for a toddler to grow through, but we hope that they will outgrow it, because part of communication with other children involves being able to take their perspective.

Although we are adults, we are also very passionate creatures when it comes to topics of politics and religion, and some people are unable to respond to the question, “What political color do I see?” They only know the color they see, and many times they surround themselves, either in reality or by virtue of television or social media, with others who see the same color. Those who see a different color are, according to this view, simply wrong.

One of the reasons why I still retain Facebook friends who think differently than I do, and who are either more to the political left or political right than I am, is because I want to understand what it is that motivates them to make their choices. Now I may still look at the world and see a different color than they do, but that doesn’t threaten me. Why not? Because I know I see the world through the lens I call a “worldview” that makes it appear a certain color. To them, their lens makes it appear a different color, but if I can try to take on their perspective, and understand why they see the world a different color, I may find that I can understand and empathize with them even if I don’t agree. And, on some issues, you may find a surprising degree of agreement.
Annual Water Service
August 28th, 2016 at 10:00am
Led by Pat Segner
Please bring a sample of your own water, from this past year or any significant time in your life for our Communal Water Bowl.

CUUPs Fall Equinox Celebration Field Trip!!
Would you like to take a field trip to the Chicago Pagan Pride event in Oak Park, IL on Sunday September 18th? There will be opening and closing rituals, workshops, vendors and refreshments.

We can carpool or you can meet us there. Mark your calendars! Save the date! Please contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com) if you are interested. We need to hear from you if this field trip is going to happen.

Respond Now distributes 400 backpacks filled with school supplies to children kindergarten through 8th grade. The following items are needed: Backpacks (Dollar Stores), 24 count crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, pencils, blue and black pens, and wide reeled spiral notebooks. Please bring these items the first 2 weekends in August, then we can revert back to food items.

Thanks so much! Carol Mortensen

PULLING POP TABS FOR A PURPOSE
Across the Chicago land area, hundreds of individuals, schools and companies are working together to collect pop tabs to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicago land & Northwest Indiana (RMHC-CNI). Those pop tabs are recycled by United Scrap Metal, and the charity will receive the market value of the recycled metal, plus a charitable match from United Scrap Metal.

There is now a pop top collection jar located in the kitchen at UUCC. Please bring in your pop tops to contribute to this worthwhile charity.

RonaldHouseChicago.org 630-527-3800
We are starting a UUCC Freecycle Column in our monthly newsletter. It has been created to help keep good items out of landfills and to repurpose one man's trash into another man's treasure.

You are invited to post items such as TVs, toys, children’s and adult clothing, jewelry, appliances, furniture, books, plants, knickknacks, etc. (nothing inappropriate or illegal, and no firearms or anything related). Be creative. Whatever you post must be offered for free. Please include contact information. It is between you and the person you work with on how to complete pickup/delivery.

Email your submissions to diane.oconnor@att.net. Feel free to include images. The deadline is the 20th of each month. Thank you! ~Diane O’Connor

Rieko Miyakuni has requested that this information be passed on to anyone you may know who wants to seek a graduate degree in counseling. This is especially for low income people. (You may know someone through volunteering at PADS, RespondNow or anywhere else). See this link for more information:

http://www.govst.edu/browse/psychology-degree/masters-in-counseling/

GSU was awarded a grant for a little over 2 million dollars in scholarships for economically disadvantaged students over the next four years. Because of the eligibility restrictions for the grant, only graduate students in counseling (master’s level) are eligible for these scholarships. (Deadline for Spring 2017 admission is Aug 15).

Based on financial need, students will be eligible for up to $23,546 each year, but must take at least 9 credits in the Fall, 9 credits in the Spring, and 3 credits in the Summer and maintain a 3.0 or higher and earn at least a “B” in every course (once the scholarship is awarded). You must fill out a FAFSA in order to be considered. Please do so immediately. Eligibility is based primarily on economic criteria. There will be other criteria considered, but you must at least meet the economic criteria. Applications will be due by August 2 for priority review. As long as the income guidelines are met and you have filled out the FAFSA, you will be considered for the scholarship.
Religious and Character Education
by Dan Feldt

Our kiddos have been busy this summer. Special thanks to our guest teachers. Jodi Libretti led a field trip to identify poison ivy. Laurel Kasang did classes on insects, oceans and volcanoes.

The children traveled the solar system with sidewalk chalk, and now they’re building fairy and gnome houses for an enchanted forest.

I’m working on developing closer relations with the RE people at the MidAmerica Region and the UUA. They have wonderful information about the OWL (Our Whole Lives) project. The sex education program has courses for all ages. I’m especially interested in those for children. I’ve taken initial steps to contact area churches to see if they want to partner with us. I also want to explore with them a project for PADS that raises awareness about homelessness. The fundraiser will be built around a cardboard city where kids and adults spend the night in cardboard houses.

See link below.
https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8&q=alaska%20cardboard%20city

In no time at all, we’ll be putting on sweaters and going back to school!

~Dan
Pastoral Care:
Listening Hearts

Men’s group will meet on Monday’s
7pm-9pm on the following dates in
August: Aug 1st, Aug 15, & Aug 29

For more information, contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com

Forum does not meet in August.

We are looking for suggestions of possible Forum Speakers for the coming fall season. Please contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com) if you know of anyone who might be appropriate.

(Please make note of our NEW office email address)
churchadmin@uuccpf.org

Pastoral Care:
Listening Hearts

Two Listening Hearts, or members of the Lay Pastoral Care team, are on hand each month to serve your needs.

Listening Hearts will soon have a ribbon on their name tags to identify them. If you do not spot one of them at church, or if you wish to talk to one of them in particular, please contact the office.

Listening Hearts schedule

August: Bev Feldt & Monica Regan

Free Movie and Discussion
Friday, August 26, 7:00 p.m.

"RACE
The Power of An Illusion
The Story We Tell"

Explore the roots of the concept of race, including the 19th-century science that justified it, and how it gained such a hold over our minds.

Join in the lively discussion following this documentary film.
2003  56 minutes

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest IL
(South of Steger Road, East of Western)

Free coffee, tea, and popcorn. Invite friends!
Rainbow Cafe

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.

August 19th movie: Freeheld

The true love story of Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree and their fight for justice. A decorated New Jersey police detective, Laurel is diagnosed with cancer and wants to leave her hard earned pension to her domestic partner, Stacie. However the county officials, Freeholders, conspire to prevent Laurel from doing this. Hard-nosed detective Dane Wells, and activist Steven Goldstein, unite in Laurel and Stacie's defense, rallying police officers and ordinary citizens to support their struggle for equality.

Sacred Communication Workshops
August 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 Information Call Rev. Henrietta Byrd: 312-593-4732

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.

Dances of Universal Peace: Universal Peace:
3rd Sunday of the month. (Sept-June)
Dances of Universal Peace are held on the 3rd Sunday 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.

DUP will NOT meet in August!

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

Love to Sing??

Join the UUCC Choir! The Choir sings on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, with rehearsals on those days at 8:30am and one weekday evening per month. No experience required. If interested email our choir director Bev Feldt at bevfeldt@gmail.com.

Join us for our Community Pot Luck Sunday Lunch
Sunday, August 6th after our church service

Volunteers are needed to bring main dishes and help with set-up and clean-up. We have lots of left over ice cream from our Ice Cream Social to enjoy for dessert.
These charts are from the website climate central showing how the heat index above 105°F will increase if we don’t change our emissions. We’ll go from 4 days in the year 2000 to 32 days in 2050. Since 1970 Chicago actually has 8.6 fewer days above 90°F. We are lucky to be in the Midwest. That won’t last for long based on the chart to the left, however. The last data is at the link below.

**Hooked! The Unyielding Grip of Fossil Fuels on Global Life**
http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/07/14/hooked-unyielding-grip-fossil-fuels-global-life

Success in any global drive to avert climate catastrophe will involve tackling addictive behavior at its roots and promoting lasting changes in lifestyle. To do that, it will be necessary to learn from the anti-drug and anti-tobacco communities about best practices, and apply them to fossil fuels.

It is a slow process for us to change in the UU community of Park Forest. I hope to see more changes coming to our home in the UU church.

**15th Annual Illinois Energy and Lifestyle Fair**
August 20th and 21st
Oregon Illinois
http://www.illinoisrenew.org/
815 732 7332
sonia.vogl@gmail.com
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Family First Friday will not meet in August and September.
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL  60466
PHONE:  708-481-5339
E-Mail:  churchadmin@uuccpf.org
Web:  www.uuccpf.org

Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month
This newsletter is designed and published by Diane O’Connor
*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