



# CUF Links

Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship  
A Welcoming Congregation

- a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist association -

**November, 2011**

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.

### 11/6 "The Meaning(s) We Find in Hymns"

Hymns can inspire, teach, make you think; bring a tear to your eye – many things! Join us in this service based almost entirely in singing, dancing, and presenting of some of our favorite hymns. Roy Sumner, Sandy Charlson, Joyce Shepherd, and Carrie Vine will lead this service, and a wide variety of musical accompaniment will be provided for us by our youth. Next year, will you have a hymn to share?

### 11/13 Paul Kent Oakley - "Sabbath Manifesto: An Ancient Idea to Enhance the Present"

Just around the corner is a holiday season that for many begins with sometimes wonderful, sometimes tense Thanksgiving feasts and stretches through New Year's Eve revelry. December may bring us a most wonderful time of the year, but it also brings stress-related illnesses and alcohol related injury. So now is the time to think about ways we can carve out moments of rest and sanity amid the madness, to construct a refuge in time. At this service, the music will be provided by Leslie Caplan and Andrew Bollinger, cantors from Central Reform Congregation in St. Louis.

### 11/20 Thanksgiving Bread Service

This annual Fellowship tradition continues, as our children join us for our pre-Thanksgiving Sunday service. Come and be part of the celebration, as we share bread that has some form of special meaning to us in the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service, and if you would like to volunteer to bring bread, please contact Astrid Mosely. There will be no live announcements in the service – please make sure to get your info to Russ Trimble so it can be printed in the order of service!

### 11/27 Debbie Czarnopys-White: "The Wisdom of Gratitude"

As we close the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, Debbie will explore the ease and difficulty of finding gratitude in our lives.

### And coming up...

On 12/4, Ken Starbuck will lead us in exploring  
"Hebrew Scripture and the Human Experience"

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## OPEN MINDS

8:45 a.m. each Sunday by the Fellowship Fireplace.

Contact Terry Elliot at [elliott3443@gmail.com](mailto:elliott3443@gmail.com) for more information on topics, TBA in this month's weekly bulletins, or if you would like to lead one of these Sunday discussions.

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## THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE



### An Autumn Reverie

In autumn, in this season of brilliant colors and falling leaves, in this season of release and migration, may we find the courage to relinquish the past and risk the windswept journeys of October and of the year to come. May we hold bright before us the spirit of adventure.

In autumn, in this season of crowded farmers' markets, in this season of harvest and fulfillment, may we find a sense of accomplishment in our work over the past year. May we find a sufficiency in our harvests, and a willingness to share our blessings in generosity.

In autumn, in this season of shorter days and longer nights, in this season of hearth and home, may we find a sense of warmth in community and of joy in the presence of friends and family. May we gather and connect with those whom we hold closest in our hearts, those most dear to us.

In autumn, in this season of frosts and chill winds, in this season of dried corn husks and jack-o-lanterns, may we remember the cycles of the seasons, and enter the playfulness of children. May we cherish the marks of decay that portend the eventual rebirth of Nature.

Between the heat of summer and winter's ice, autumn's potentiality opens itself to us, reminding us and reassuring us that each one of us has more than one special place in Nature's creation.

In the crackle of autumn leaves underfoot, may we find a sense of connection.

In the poise of the equinox, may we find a sense of balance.

In each falling leaf, may we see a miracle.

May you step outside into the wonder of this season! May you see with eyes that appreciate its special gifts! May the blessings of autumn be upon you and yours!

Autumnally yours,

Bill Sasso,

Minister

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR



It's that time of year, at least for me, where the activities to be engaged in just keeps speeding up. More and more to do, and the lessening of the daylight hours does not help the energy level...whew, glad I don't live in Sweden at this time of year! So to cope, I consciously make myself slow down. I look over my to-do list an extra time, and I pause a little longer before I push send on emails I send out.

I think there is value in taking a deeper breath, slowing down a little, and paying a little more attention to me. Not to the extent of selfishness, but making sure I'm not over-committed, which leads to poor results. In fact, our Fellowship decided to look inside, to take a look at what we're doing well, and where we want to improve. The results of this looking inside can be found in The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship 2011-2016 Strategic Plan. It is a guide to focus our energy, and it offers many opportunities for each of us to be involved. There are copies available if you don't have one.

The Religious Education Committee started off the year by looking inside, also. It has been six years since we moved into this beautiful new building, and the committee wanted to take time to make sure our parents and children agreed on what is acceptable, and unacceptable, behavior. We discussed Respect for Property, Respect for Self, and Respect for Others, and agreed upon a set of guidelines to guide our behavior. It was time well spent, and it was conducted in a most democratic and respectful manner, with children, youth, and adult participation. The resulting guidelines are posted on the bulletin board in the RE Commons. Add your initials if you are in agreement!

And in closing, a few specific comments about RE opportunities. If you are looking for a way to be a little more involved in the Religious Education program, we are always looking for classroom-helpers each Sunday morning. You don't have to prepare anything, just come and help out the teacher. Also, we are just beginning to plan for the annual Holiday Play, which will again be multi-generational. So if that kind of thing interests you, please let me know. And at 1PM, November 19, we will be baking bread for the Good Samaritan Ministries, the Women's Center, and the Thanksgiving Bread Service, and you're invited to join us!

So, enjoy the fall season, get involved, pace yourself, and remember these words of wisdom: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." ~ Robert Louis Stevenson

Sincerely,

Roy Sumner,

Religious Education Director

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## HONORING A CUF MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

A Note of Introduction from Bill Sasso:

Our recently adopted CUF Strategic Plan calls for the "celebration of CUF's most dedicated servants," and assigns that work to the minister. I appreciate the collaboration of the Committee on Ministry -- Matt Sronkoski, Natalie Trimble, and Yo Presley -- in undertaking this responsibility. On a monthly basis, we plan to honor an individual who has contributed her or his time and energy to the Fellowship community, and has

made a real difference by in doing so! Since we acknowledge that there are many who deserve special recognition, as we thank Sandy this month, we also look forward to recognizing others in the months to come!

If you would like to suggest someone for recognition, please email me at [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com) (and in the meantime, please be sure to offer that person your personal thanks)!

### Featured this Month: Sandy Charlson

Sandy Charlson's impact on the Religious Education Program cannot be overstated. Her commitment to Unitarian Universalist values and her endless supply of love for children are reflected in the many years she has so creatively and conscientiously participated in the RE program. Her joy, enthusiasm and dynamism permeate everything she does, and she continues to touch the lives of our young people to this day.

Along with her husband Chris Lant, Sandy joined the Fellowship in 1993. Their first daughter Hannah was only two years old at the time, and she immediately was drawn to serve in the RE program. She recalled that the Trick or Treat for UNICEF was one of the first activities she got involved in. Like many of us who came to the Fellowship with young children, Sandy saw the RE program as offering her children a "guide for life." She felt she just had to be involved.

As it goes with people like Sandy, her talents were recognized by others in the Fellowship, after which she was asked to participate on several different committees. But when Carla Feldhamer approached her about serving on the RE committee in 1996, it was an easy choice, because her commitment to the RE program was "priority number one." In the midst of the arrival of her second daughter Helen, Sandy eventually became RE Committee Chair, a position Roy Sumner boasted she held for "*a thousand years*." As RE Committee Chair, her approach was simple: although we adults may have our own ideas about what UUism is, those values will only resonate with our kids when they have a direct meaning to their lives. Approach children from a position of respect and love, and they will respond in kind. These approaches are intuitive in Sandy. She has an uncanny ability to recognize and bring out the brilliant spontaneity of young people. Because of her natural gifts of humor, compassion and creativity, she has helped make the RE program fun and real for our kids. And she continues to do so to this day.

Sandy has literally been involved in every facet of the RE program. She has taught at every level, from Pre-K to High School. So many of our children have grown up with Sandy, and our Fellowship is very fortunate to have her, because she has been such a steady influence and teacher of UU principles and spirituality. And although her perspective has evolved throughout the years--creatively adapting to the new challenges that she has encountered as teacher, organizer and leader--she has always seen the RE program as offering a constructive alternative to many of the destructive influences in our culture. She sees it as a perspective from which children and youth can "sift through the crap and get to the good."

These days, she has discovered that teaching the High School class differs dramatically from teaching youth even just few years younger. She has been challenged to reassess what it means to *teach* UU values to young people who are branching out in their world in ways which do not necessarily explicitly include UUism. After so many years of teaching these young people, and watching them grow in all their wonderful ways, she has realized that we have to "let them fly."

Sandy has an impressive resume of direction and involvement in programs associated with the RE program: Trick or Treat for UNICEF, Middle School Haunted House, Harry Potter Summer Camp, Bread Baking for Bread Communion Service, Farmers Market produce collection for Good Samaritan House and Women's Center, and Cardboard City (to name a few). I know others could add to this list. Of course, Sandy credits her ability to be involved in so much to the familiar and cooperative spirit of all the parents and teachers: "I have a hell of a lot of energy. And I know I can be a strong leader, but I would never have been able to do the things I've done without all the great parent volunteers."

Being involved with the RE program for so many years has directly shaped the way Sandy understands her own spirituality. It has taught her to recognize her own spiritual humility: that in order to teach effectively, you must be open to learning from those you teach - and to be willing to accept the contributions, expertise and wisdom of those around you. Sandy has discovered those simple secrets: that sharing of one's own gifts always has pays back with a dividend, that learning never ends, and that embracing the spirit of children keeps us perpetually young. Thank you Sandy for your wonderful contribution to our Religious Education Program, and also, to many other areas and programs of our Fellowship, too numerous to mention, as well!

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## **ANNOUNCING the CUF COMMEMORATIVE WALKWAY**

The vision of developing a memorial wall, garden, or walkway of some kind at the Fellowship has been in the strategic planning discussion since we have been in the new building. From the beginning of this particular planning process, there was a consensus to develop a concept that would honor this vision, yet be modest and affordable in view of our current economic realities. Also, we felt it was important that the project would have minimum impact on Fellowship Grounds, be handicap accessible, and sufficiently flexible that it could be easily expanded upon in the future as finances permit and the vision evolves.

You are invited to become a part of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship's commemorative walkway by adding your own personal message or name. This is an exciting opportunity to honor a person, event, or idea, and to add your message as a permanent part of the walkway. When completed, this walkway will be a visible monument to our own history as a Fellowship and a message for future generations. Each donation is tax deductible.

The area selected is the curved gravel border immediately adjacent to the east side of the patio just off the Fellowship Commons. It will be a four-foot wide, 50-foot long walkway similar in size & shape to the gravel area presently there. It will be paved with 4" x 8" paver stones that individuals, couples, groups, etc. would purchase & be engraved with wording of their choice. Engraved bricks can commemorate numerous special events, like births, marriages, graduations, special roles, accomplishments, service or messages to the Fellowship, as well as memorial stones to members and loved ones whose memories we hold dear. Bricks are \$50 and there is no limit to the number of bricks you may purchase.

Our goal is to begin work on this project in November 2011, pending receipt of orders for a minimum of 75 bricks. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact George Feldhamer at 618-457-8606, or Bill Rose at 618-351-1474. A brochure and order form can be e-mailed to you, or you can pick one up at the Fellowship.

Thank you and we hope you will participate in this very significant project at the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship.

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## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**"Ideas for Growth"** an open conversation about how our Fellowship can grow, will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 7:30 pm. This discussion is open to all who are interested. Contact Bill Sasso at [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com) or 618-529-2439 for more information!

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**New Fellowship Office Hours!** Our new office person, DeSande R, has begun working with us! She will be in the Fellowship office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please welcome her -- and introduce yourself! -- If you should happen to stop by at any of those times!

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**The Fellowship will host "Carbondale in Thanksgiving"**, our community's interfaith celebration of our gratitude for the blessings that we have received. It will be held on Tuesday evening, November 15th. All are invited and encouraged to attend! If you would like to volunteer to help with arrangements, please contact Bill Sasso at [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com) or 618-529-2439! Thanks!

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**"The Key to Happiness"** will be the video and discussion topic on Thursday evening, November 17th, at 7:30 pm. Contact Bill Sasso at [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com) or 618-529-2439 for more information.

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**"Building Your Own Theology"** (BYOT) is a Unitarian Universalist religious education curriculum developed by the Rev. Richard Gilbert. The Rev. Charlie Kast has adapted this into a shorter version. We will follow that shorter version, focusing on five major questions: Who am I? How do I know? Who or what is in charge? What is my purpose in life? And What does my death mean? These five big questions form the framework of the course; at each meeting, we will deal with one of these questions. Each week, there will be some assigned preparation work, and at our meeting we will share our answers (or progress toward answers) to one of these questions. The responses that each participant develops will become a personal statement of beliefs. BYOT (November, 2011) will meet from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on six consecutive Monday evenings: November 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, and December 5th and 12th. Contact Bill Sasso (529-2439 or [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com)) for more information, and/or to register for the program. The registration deadline is 6 pm, Thursday, October 27th.

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**Notes from the Congregational Meeting:** At the meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 16th, those present (and those voting by absentee ballot) authorized the Commemorative Terrace (motion 1). To make this longtime dream become a reality, those interested in ordering engraved paving stones should contact George Feldhamer ([feldhamer@zoology.siu.edu](mailto:feldhamer@zoology.siu.edu)) or Bill Rose ([wrose62901@hotmail.com](mailto:wrose62901@hotmail.com)) within the next month. We also authorized the washing and resealing of the exterior of the building (motion 3) in order to preserve the exterior of the Fellowship meeting house. This work will be paid for out of the Fellowship's reserve funds. The wayside pulpit proposal (motion 2) was tabled for further consideration at a later time, after recognition and appreciation of Bob Swenson's work to generate the design and Tom Robinson's work to engineer the structure and develop a cost proposal. At our December congregational meeting, we will give serious consideration to the finances of the congregation.

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## **POP QUIZ! DO YOU KNOW WHO OUR CURRENT CUF BOARD MEMBERS ARE?**

In case you answer is "not sure", or "some but not all", here is a list of the current Board members:

President: Cathy Kline (term ends 6/20/2012)  
Vice-President: Miriam Link-Mullison (term ends 6/30/2012)  
Secretary: Jess Jobe (term ends 6/30/2013)

Treasurer: Lois Stewart (term ends 6/30/2013)  
Trustee: Al Babbitt (term ends 6/30/2012)  
Trustee: Karen Gallegly (term ends 6/30/2012)  
Trustee: Janet Harris (term ends 6/30/2013)  
Trustee: Pam Jacobini (term ends 6/30/2013)  
Trustee: Chris Lant (term ends 6/30/2013)  
And Bill Sasso, Minister, ex officio

Thanks for your service to our CUF community!

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## **CUF ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**“Living Deeply”** Nov. 11-13, 2011, United Methodist Camp Retreat Center, 1 Methodist Camp Road, Makanda, IL 62958 - Massada Lodge (618) 457-0030

The CUF Women's Retreat is a yearly gathering of CUF women, friends, and family. The retreat is an opportunity to have fun together, continue our fellowship and deepen our relationships. It's about sharing and connection, and a chance to get to know one another better, create deeper bonds, and form lasting friendships and cherished memories. The annual retreat is designed to include both tradition and innovation. Activities are flexible and optional. If an activity appeals to you, please participate. If not, you're welcome to browse books in the relaxation area, take a walk, or take a nap. The choice is yours. We try to offer something for everyone. It is not too late to decide to attend all or some of the retreat! Questions? Call Deb Czarnopys-White at 618-201-3753, or Joyce Shepherd at 457-7149.

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## **CUF ARTIST'S SERIES**

For November's CUF Artist Series, selected works from the Art for Empowerment exhibit will be displayed on Wednesday 11/30 from 7 - 9 pm.

Included with the presentation will be an overview of the art program, which is sponsored by The Women's Center, and also a simple art activity to demonstrate how art is utilized to provide an alternative means of communication. Patty Weyhrich, Children's Therapist, will be presenting.

Art for Empowerment (a4e) is a collection of prints by survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. The exhibit contains works by local and national women who have participated in groups that use art for healing. The local group is sponsored by the Rape Crises Services and the Domestic Violence programs at The Women's Center, Inc. in cooperation with A Window Between Worlds in California.

The goals of a4e is to communicate the effectiveness of art as a source of healing, self-discovery, and empowerment, to raise public awareness regarding sexual abuse and domestic violence, and to work toward creating safer communities. The Women's Center located in Carbondale, Illinois, has been providing counseling, shelter, and advocacy services in southern Illinois, free of charge, since 1972.

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## **ZAMBIAN HIV/AIDS PARTNERSHIP NEWS:**

### **UNAIDS Mourns Sad Loss of Leading AIDS Activist Winstone Zulu:**

**GENEVA, 13 October 2011**—The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is deeply

saddened by the death of one of the world's leading AIDS activists Winstone Zulu.

Mr. Zulu was the first Zambian to talk openly about his HIV status. A bold decision taken at a time when HIV-related stigma and discrimination were widespread and ignorance around the disease prevailed.

He quickly became a strong global advocate on AIDS issues including stigma, HIV prevention, access to treatment and care, human rights, empowering people living with HIV, education, and the threat that Tuberculosis poses to people living with HIV. Mr. Zulu himself was affected by TB and campaigned for increased resources and improved programs for TB and TB/HIV co-infection.

Mr. Zulu also founded the Positive and Living Squad—the first Group of People Living with HIV in Zambia which effectively launched Kara Counseling one of Zambia's first non-governmental organizations. For this effort he won the *It Works Award* from the Norwegian Government.

“Many of us at UNAIDS and the international AIDS movement learned from Winstone more than two decades ago that AIDS has a human face—and that everything we do on AIDS is about people: their ability to love and be loved, to protect and be protected and to live fulfilling lives,” said UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe. “We will miss him so much.”

**Winstone was the co-founder with Mary Chidgey of Ranchhod Hospice and Orphan Care in his hometown of Kabwe, Zambia. He was instrumental in arranging for our (CUF) partnership in 2003 and continued to enthusiastically welcome us on our visits and offer gratitude for all of our efforts to provide assistance.**

Winstone will be remembered as a singular voice that advocated effectively for the prevention, treatment, care and support in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS.



Allida Plumer, Hospice Nurse, Mary Chidgey and Winstone Zulu, co-founders of Ranchhod Hospice and Orphan Care, and Carla Feldhamer. Photo taken in March of 2004, during first visit to Ranchhod Hospice in Kabwe



Winstone speaking to the Ranchhod community on World AIDS Day 2007.



Winstone with his wife, Vivien, and sister, Mathilda in October 2010.

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## CUF REGULAR PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

**CUF MEN'S ALLIANCE** For more information, please contact Bill Rose at 351-1474, or Charles Ruffner at 687-2819.

**WOMEN'S GATHERING** This group is NOT meeting this month, as the Women's Retreat is this month, on November 11, 12, & 13<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW HUMANIST FORUM** *This group meets on the third Sunday of each month at 12:15..* **Meets this month on November 20.**

**SISTERHOOD OF STITCHERS** *This group meets weekly on **Fridays** at 11:00 a.m., in the Commons area. (Note date change.)* All are welcome, from persons learning knitting or stitching crafts to those well practiced and knowledgeable. Come to work on your projects, learn from others, share your ideas, and enjoy the camaraderie! For more info, contact Pam Jacobini at [PJacobini@siumed.edu](mailto:PJacobini@siumed.edu) or Gloria Smiley at [smileyspins@yahoo.com](mailto:smileyspins@yahoo.com).

**CUF DRUMMING GROUP** *This group meets on the third Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the Commons.* **Meets this month on November 19.** For more information, contact Debbie Czarnopys-White at [bdcw@frontiernet.net](mailto:bdcw@frontiernet.net).

**MINDFULNESS MEDITATION** *This group meets every Saturday in the Fellowship Commons from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.* If there are other activities scheduled in the Commons, we meet in the RE area. For more information, contact Joy Price at 457-2405 or [joyfully2356@yahoo.com](mailto:joyfully2356@yahoo.com).

**THE AWAKENING HEART DHARMA GROUP** *This group meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Commons at 7:00 P.M.* Insight Meditation, study, and discussion in a free flowing format. Everyone welcome. For more info, visit [www.shawnee-dharma.org](http://www.shawnee-dharma.org) or contact Jo Kilmer at [kilmer@shawneelink.net](mailto:kilmer@shawneelink.net).

**DREAMWORKS** *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00 noon.*

**Meets this month on November 6.** Utilizing Jeremy Taylor's insights and techniques for dream understanding, we will share and discuss our dreams in a non-threatening and respectful environment. Direct questions to Nillofur Zobairi at [cadfael07@yahoo.com](mailto:cadfael07@yahoo.com) or Janet Harris at [jelizah1949@yahoo.com](mailto:jelizah1949@yahoo.com).

**ROUNDTABLE READERS** *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month after the Sunday Service at Noon. Meets this month on November 27.* The November book selection for the Round Table Readers is The Proud Liberal by Mark Mathabane. **We will not meet in December** because of the busy holiday season, but we will reconvene in January to discuss Cutting For Stone by Abraham Verghese, which is a very long book anyway. Everyone is welcome at our meetings, even if you have not read the book, but it's much more interesting if you have. Snacks are always welcome too!

**SCIENCE IN SOCIETY** *This group meets some Fridays of the month in the Fellowship Commons at 5:00 PM.* Contact Gina Paul at 351-1064 or [rpaul@siumed.edu](mailto:rpaul@siumed.edu) if you have questions.

**VIDEO CIRCLE** *This group meets on the third Friday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 7:15 PM. Meets next on November 18.* For more information, contact Amy Weber at [amyweber1@msn.com](mailto:amyweber1@msn.com).

**UNITARIAN FOLK ORCHESTRA** *practices at 10:00 a.m. Saturdays, at the Fellowship.* For info contact Judy Aydt at [aydt@siu.edu](mailto:aydt@siu.edu).

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## **Cousin Andy's Concert Series – November Schedule**

Fri., Nov. 4	TRET FURE, COGS Fellowship Hall - 7:30 - 10:00 PM
Fri., Nov. 18	KRISTA DETOR, Yellow Moon Café, Cobden - 8:00 - 10:30 PM

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Back by popular demand, it's:

### **Dispatch from Siam**

(A CUF UU's Adventures Abroad)

By Joseph Robbie

Hello Southern Illinois! Yes, I'm still alive and well, and I'm back in the pages of CUF Links to share with you some details of my fantastic, if sometimes troubled, life.

I escaped the deserts and dangers of Saudi Arabia on 2 July, and landed in Chiang Mai, Thailand (less than an hour's flight north from Bangkok), on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. As you know, all alcohol is illegal in Saudi, so I was really looking forward to my first beer in a long, long time. My German friend here (we were born in the same city, in the same year!) picked me up from the airport and asked what I would like to do first. Beer was the answer. But guess what? It was Election Day, so no booze of any kind was to be bought anywhere in the country! We don't want drunk voters, do we? No...But what a start. Geeesh.

We drove to his apartment complex. where he had a booked a hotel-style room for me - \$12 per day with TV and A/C. To mollify me. and to toast a proper welcome, he fixed us a couple of gin and tonics, which helped take the edge off. Wolfgang then began what was an unending flow of useful advice to get me set up and under way with my new life. If you're going to just take a chance and jump into an unknown foreign country and culture, intending to stay there, nothing beats having a friend in the know who is concerned about your welfare!

'Wolli' fixed me up with my townhouse (\$240 unfurnished), helped me buy a bed, refrigerator, hot plate, microwave, sofa, TV, etc., got me set up with a bank, and dealt with my getting some money here from Carbondale (Old National Bank doesn't do international money transfers, I found out). While I was waiting for my cash to arrive (one month), my 30 day tourist visa was about to run out. So he drove me up to the infamous Golden Triangle, where I crossed over into Burma for two hours in order to get a fresh visa upon my return. What an inconvenient hassle! My dollars arrived two days later. Then I was able to obtain a 3-month 'retirement' visa. So, I was initially set.

More to follow...coming up in future issues: religion, culture, shopping, food, medical issues, nature, politics, relationships, crime, travel, etc. in Siam.

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## **WHO'S THE EDITOR??**

**Cheryl Robinson** will still be the Editor for the **December CUF Links**. (One more issue.)

After that, Mary Sullivan and Candy Davis have graciously offered to co-edit our newsletter, starting with the January issue!! Thanks for volunteering to share your skills with us, Mary & Candy!

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**CUF LINKS HARD COPIES** are available at the Fellowship on the visitor table.

**Deadline for December CUF Links: Thursday, December 22. Thanks in advance for honoring this deadline during this very busy holiday month!**

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship,  
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www.cuuf.net, [carbondaleuu@frontier.com](mailto:carbondaleuu@frontier.com)  
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

**"A candle loses none of its light by lighting another candle."**

**- Anonymous**

**Let us be thankful for all the Love and  
Good in our lives!**