



CUF Links

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

A Welcoming Congregation

a member congregation of the unitarian universalist association

Volume 08, Number 4

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE On Loaves and Fishes



You might well remember the Gospel stories of the loaves and fishes. These stories must have been a real favorite of the early Christians, because they appear again and again in the four Gospels!

For anyone who doesn't know it, the basic story is this. A lot of people follow Jesus out into the countryside to hear him teach, and then they start to get hungry. Jesus asks the disciples what food is available, and it turns out

that there is a young boy who has had the foresight to bring some food with him. He doesn't have much, but he does have a few loaves or bread and some dried fish. So Jesus blesses the bread and fish, and directs his followers to pass them out among the crowd. Everyone eats till he or she is full, and the leftovers fill a dozen baskets.

What do we make of this story? Some may find it a proof of Jesus' divinity, but I find it a proof that the willingness of one to share can inspire others to share. If a thousand people followed Jesus out into the countryside, I have to believe that more than one of them brought some food along. And I can understand that, until the first person shared, it was hard for anyone else to do so. We see the limits of our own resources, and it is easy to believe

that they are not enough to make a difference in this huge world. I can understand that attitude. I feel that way myself sometimes. It may be human nature to do so.

And then, the young boy offers his few loaves and fishes. They clearly are not enough to feed the crowd, as the disciples point out, but in another sense, they are. They are enough to inspire others to share what they have brought. The baskets are passed around, and those folks who had brought food put some of theirs into the baskets, rather than taking some out. The boy's willingness to share gave them the opportunity to share in their turn, and there proved to be enough for everyone.

Someone had to take the risk to share first, to inspire the others. That has happened here in our community, as well as in Biblical times. Many have shared to make the work of our congregation and the growth of our Unitarian Universalist movement possible. We can see the tangible impacts of their generosity, and we can feel its less tangible impacts in our sense of community, held in our hearts and our souls.

And now it is our turn to share. As our annual stewardship campaign kicks into high gear during April, I invite you to inspire others to generosity on behalf of our Fellowship and our larger Unitarian Universalist relationships. Do you have a loaf of bread you can share, or a dried fish or two?

With deep gratitude for all that our Fellowship has shared,

Bill S.

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carbondleuu@verizon.net -- Yolana Presley, editor
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services begin at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

April 6 **Bill Sasso: “Building Interfaith Bridges”**

What is interfaith work? Why is it important? What can it do that folks of a single faith tradition – for instance, Unitarian Universalism – can’t do for or by themselves? As Carbondale’s “Interfaith Week” begins, Bill will share from his experiences of interfaith work.

April 13 **William Schulz: “After the Ecstasy, the Laundry”**

We welcome to our pulpit the Rev. Dr. William Schulz, who has served as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and as Executive Director of Amnesty International USA. Plan to be join Rev. Schulz as he explores why UU values are so critical at this particular point in our national life. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service.

April 20 **Our High School Youth: “Tolerance and Intolerance”**

Our youth will share from their personal experiences around religious tolerance and intolerance. This Sunday will include our Social Action Offering, with proceeds going to the Hands of Hope Clinic in Marion. Matt Sronkoski will coordinate this service.

April 27 **Bill Sasso: “An Ethic of Relationship”**

One of our Unitarian Universalist principles affirms justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Are these three values sufficient? Do they complement one another, or conflict with one another? Are there other values – perhaps honesty? – that ought to be in the list? Bill may not have the answers, but he’s been working hard on the questions!

And coming up . . .

May 4 **Graduation and Affirmation Sunday**

FROM THE OFFICE

by *Melanie Bray*



April is my favorite month. I love the beginning of the spring season, when everything becomes new again, colorful growth crawls out of hiding and the days are much longer. I always feel somewhat rejuvenated and ready to do some “spring cleaning” in the yard, the house and even here at the fellowship office. I will be making some minor changes in

the fellowship office space, moving things around a bit, making things flow better for office staff and hopefully others that use the space.

Speaking of spring cleaning! Next time you are in the building take a minute and check out the lost and found drawer (located under the computer by the window) It contains many interesting items, such as several pairs

of reading glasses , a beautiful scarf/wrap, various sun glasses and hair clips, gloves and my favorite- a baby doll missing a leg! All items left will be put in the yard sale in June.

I must continue to remind everyone to update the office with any changes to you personal contact information. Let me know by calling the office at 529-2439 or email carbondaleuu@verizon.net. As I mentioned in last month’s spotlight interview about the communication committee – communication is the backbone of this congregation and I strive to keep all of our information current.

Keep in mind while you are spring cleaning this month that there are many items needed for the nursing home that flooded, the ongoing supplies for Zambia, and the donations for the New Day prison ministries. One person’s trash could very well be another person’s treasure.

Hope this new season finds you ready for many new challenges!

~*Melanie*



OPEN MINDS

Meetings begin at 8:45 AM in the Fellowship Commons

April 06, Open Minds TBA

April 13, Open Minds TBA

April 20, *“The Lives of Stars”* from Carl Sagan’s *Cosmos* video series...*All life on Earth is connected with the evolution of the Cosmos. We are all “star stuff.”* Using computer animation, Sagan shows how stars are born, live and die. Cosmic rays emanate from exploding stars cause mutations in beings of Earth. In a simple manner, he examines black holes, an Earth’s “last perfect day”. Bob Camp will coordinate the discussion following the video. All welcome.

April 27, Open Minds TBA

The Open Minds team invites your presentation of a program on any Open Forum date. Contact Dave Christensen or Bob Lembcke with your idea.



At this year’s Women’s Retreat, a good time had by all.

Dollars and Sense - A Finance Update

by Ed Phillips, Treasurer

CUF is in excellent financial health! Through February (the 8th month of our fiscal year) income for Annual Operations is just where it should be. Our committee chairs are excellent money managers and have kept expenses about 7% below plan. We recently paid-down \$12,500 on our mortgage which is now less than \$140k. We have a nice reserve “nest egg” for the unexpected challenge or opportunity and we have money in an endowment fund that is expected to grow when we formalize a new Endowment Committee.

On January 1, 2008 we began using a new Non-Profit version of QuickBooks accounting software to track our funds. A Carbondale CPA has become our professional accounting guide. Providing assistance to several religious organizations is Joyce Fligor’s personal “mission” beyond her “9 to 5” accounting profession. We have dollars in next year’s budget to maintain her consulting services.

The new software slightly rearranges some of our Annual Operations accounts. The major change is to lump all payroll into a single category that is consistent with industry and accounting practice. The Committee Chairs have been using the revised approach when preparing next year’s budget.

Next year’s budget was prepared using a “zero based budgeting” approach with committees providing detailed information about what they will do with each dollar. This required more work by the committees but it helps everyone understand the rationale behind all our expenses.

All key financial decisions of the Fellowship flow through the Finance Committee. Each committee member also has an individual role. Terry Bowman is the income manager (and is awaiting Stan Aydt’s able assistance in the

near future). Dave Christensen has accepted responsibility for our inventories. Toby Saken is leading the effort to prepare a Finance Manual. Joe Schmit is becoming a “chief trouble shooter” and currently is the committee’s representative for an effort to clarify the purpose and spending procedures for reserve funds.

MemInfo is the software we use to record pledges. That’s Terry and Stan’s role. After we get the money in MemInfo there is a system by which it “talks” to QuickBooks.

The accuracy of our income records is quite high thanks to the diligence of our “counters.” These are the individuals who Sunday after Sunday count, record, and count again to ensure we properly understand the purpose of your donations. Please thank Debbie Czarnopys-White, Chrystal Parker, Cheryl Schmit, Natalie Trimble and Nillofur Zobairi for their dedication. You can also thank them by clearly listing on the memo line of your check “pledge,” “capital” or the other intended purpose.

We do not publicize financial reports because of CUF confidentiality guidelines. The member’s webpage does contain these reports and reports from the Minister, DRE, and the Treasurer’s narrative explanation of our finances. Included in the dollar reports are Annual Ops monthly statements, and Balance Statements in Excel format. If you have difficulty recalling how to access the member’s webpage see a member of the Finance Committee who will give you a business card with access information.

If you have questions about our finances or financial processes please ask a member of the Finance Committee. The more you know about this stuff, the better we like it!

FROM THE PRESIDENT



This Fellowship started on a journey in 1996 to build a building. It ended up being so much more!

During our journey, I have gotten to know so many caring and generous people. I witnessed the generosity of time and talent and treasure. When called on to take on a specific task, members rose to the occasion and exceeded my vision of what could be accom-

plished. My life has been richer for being in a community so rich in spirit.

I also got a chance to meet some very competent people who were made available to us because we had always been generous in supporting the UUA. There was Larry Wheeler, consultant, John Buhrens, President of the UUA, Helen Bishop, Central Midwest District, Margaret Beard, consultant for the UUA, and many others.

The one I remember vividly is Rem Stokes. He was a UUA consultant sent to us by the Central Midwest District of the UUA. He prepared us for our first Stewardship Drive. He taught us how to fund our dreams.

I learned much about money and its value, or the relationship of money to my values! He said that he operated from a saying he heard from a Rockefeller. "Save 10% of whatever you make for a time when you are not working. Give away 10% of what you make so that you know you have contributed to the common good." I immediately

reframed tithing as an imposed rule to a personal value, which I practice today.

I also learned about "angels", individuals with access to significant sums of money to contribute. He said we needed at least 3 to build a building. I indicated that I knew of possibly one member who fit this criteria, but only one. By the end of the capital drive, we had 5 angles donating, covering one third the cost of the building.

Most of us are not angels, in the sense of having large sums of money to donate. But, in our own right, we are also angels. We understand what the Fellowship means to us and support the Fellowship at a level that feels right to us. As we pass through the front doors, we feel ownership, commitment and belonging to this special community. We feel a stewardship towards the Fellowship, supporting the community that supports us as we act on our values.

As you attend a small group or welcome a visiting steward for an individual visit, you will have an opportunity to reflect on what the Fellowship means to you. You will be informed of the growth goals for the coming year, as well as the budget necessary to support growth and continuing projects. Finally, you will be asked to decide how you will support this Fellowship in the year to come.

In addition to treasure, I hope your support includes sharing your time and talent in one of the many ministries, activities or services this Fellowship offers. I hope you are able to find a way to put your values into action. This is a place where there are plenty of opportunities to do this.

Jerry Molumby, President

From The Stewardship Chair

by Mary Campbell

As I sit down to write this column, the final arrangements are being made for the Stewardship campaign Kick-Off event. It is Saturday April 5th and starts with a dessert buffet at 6:00pm. Our community shares many fun and entertaining times together. We hope you will join us for this musical and funny community celebration.

Everywhere you look someone in the Fellowship is volunteering. We have such a variety of activities. Members can lead a group, be in one or several musical opportunities, teach, garden, greet, serve on a committee, represent the Fellowship in a community group or activity ETC so many choices. Your contributions of time and talent are appreciated. Once a year we ask the members of the Fellowship to support our various programs and goals with a financial pledge. If you have not yet signed up for a group meeting, there is still time. If you prefer a one to one contact, please contact me--mspurple1999@yahoo.com or 618-521-0851. Your generous contributions of time, talent and finances creates a dynamic, evolving community. Thank you.

Joyfully yours, *Mary Campbell*
Chair Stewardship Campaign

April Social Action Update

by Jess Jobe

The April Social Action Sunday collection is set for Sunday, April 20 and proceeds will benefit Hands of Hope Family Clinic in Marion. Hands of Hope provides free diagnostic and treatment services to low-income, working, uninsured families and individuals in Williamson, Franklin, Saline and Johnson Counties. The clinic is staffed entirely by volunteers, with the exception of the director. The clinic office is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with doctors seeing patients on Tuesday evenings. The clinic is located at 801 N. Market Street, Marion.

The March Social Action Sunday collection benefiting the Abundant Health Resource Clinic in Jackson County garnered \$419 in donations from the congregations. Thank you to all who gave for their generosity.

In these four "pilot" months, the Social Action Sunday collections have been well received by the congregation and much appreciated by the non-profit organizations selected. I hope the congregation will elect to continue the practice, as local health, social service and other charitable

continued on page 5

April Social Action Update, continued...

by Jess Jobe

organizations fill so many community needs and do so much with relatively little. I'm proud that our congregation has been a part of supporting these organizations.

Thank you to everyone who submitted Rural King receipts—we should receive a check for about \$25.

Lots of Good, Lots of Fun!

The social action committee has its own small account, with funds generated mostly by the annual CUF yard sale. So far this year, we've used those funds to support the upcoming Mel White Soulforce presentation at SIUC, William Schultz's upcoming talk during Interfaith Week, the needs of relocated residents of the flooded Cache Valley assisted living center, and elevator repairs for the Good Sam Food Pantry at UBC as well as support the work of

the Zambian Hospice and the New Day Prison Ministry. In Fall 2008, we hope to sponsor a diversity workshop at the Fellowship. The yard sale is a lot of work, for a lot of people—but it certainly does a lot of good! Stay tuned to future CUF Links and Sunday announcements for information on how you can have a lot of fun helping with this year's yard sale, set for Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14. We'll need help the whole week leading up to the sale with set up and pricing, as well as on sale days.

The next Social Action meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, April 27 immediately after services in the RE wing. Come help plan for the fall diversity workshop and the yard sale! New ideas and new faces welcome!

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR



He's everywhere! He's on television, he's on envelopes I receive in the mail, and a quick search on the internet showed endless citations. I'm talking about John Adams, Unitarian, and the second President of the United States. He is featured in a mini-series on HBO, and I've seen numerous postal stamps in the mail featuring a quote

attributed to him: "Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write." (I like that!)

I always find historical figures more interesting when I get some insight into what it was like during their time. To learn a little personal information, maybe about their habits, hobbies, family, community, and personality goes a long way in understanding what made them memorable. It brings them to life in a way that just reading of their accomplishments does not. That's one reason I'm trying to watch the mini-series when I get the chance.

I don't know about you, but I quite frankly stumbled onto Unitarian Universalism. I may share that story another time, but let's say it was just luck that found me in the old Unitarian Fellowship building 19 years ago. And it took me a long time to begin to realize just how many notable Unitarian Universalist there have been (and are). In the hallway by the bathrooms there is a poster of "100 Unitarian & Universalist Who Made a Difference." Take a look at the poster sometime.

This year I was pleased to have been able to see Doro-

thea Dix brought to life by Lois Hayward, and Margaret Fuller by Rev. Bill Sasso. Other notable Unitarian Universalist that I have some knowledge of include: John Dewey, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott, Ray Bradbury, Norman Cousins, Charles Dickens, Robert Fulghum, Buckminster Fuller, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Paul Newman, Beatrix Potter, Pete Seeger, Benjamin Franklin, Adlai Stevenson, Charles Darwin, James Reeb, and scores of others. I even found a reference to one of our current members (can you find who it is?).

So how did the people listed above, and the great many others, lead lives that have left us honoring their memory? I suspect it's a number of personal qualities and events, but I also suspect they led lives in keeping with William Ellery Channing's suggestion that we "Live your lives as if what you do makes a difference." (paraphrased) I also believe that our children can be difference makers if we challenge them, as John Adams said, "Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write."

In closing I'd like to share thoughts from one of my favorite writers.

*"I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge.
That myth is more potent than history.
I believe that dreams are more powerful than facts.
That hope always triumphs over experience.
That laughter is the only cure for grief.
And I believe that love is stronger than death."
--Robert Fulghum, Storyteller's Creed*

Live your hopes,

Roy Sumner,
Director of Religious Education

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, April 8th, as part of Interfaith Week, the Fellowship will host a viewing of *"Ties That Bind,"* a documentary film on interfaith relationships. Following the film, we'll offer a meal and opportunities for interfaith conversation here in our own community. Please plan to attend, and to invite friends and acquaintances from other faith traditions. We plan to view the video at 5:30, followed by the meal and subsequent conversations. For more information, please contact Bill Sasso (529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com).

JUNE YARD SALE: I guess spring is in the air and people are in the mood to go through their belongings. This year's UU social action yard sale is scheduled for June 13th and 14th at the fellowship....so sort and save and plan to donate and or help with the sale and setting up. I may have a somewhat warped sense of humor but some of us actually think it is fun in a crazy hectic sort of way. The money earned allows us to continue the work we are doing locally and internationally in social justice work. contact jess jobe: jesj62901@yahoo.com or carla feldhamer: hospice88@aol.com

VOICES OF TRANSGENDER: April 17, 7:00pm at the Student Center Ohio room. During "Awareness Week" at S.I.U., the Southern Illinois Transgender Support Group will be staging a Presentation followed by a Panel discussion. We will explore the lives, struggles and beauty of the Transgender and Gender Queer Community. The Panel will be discussing: Coming out, oppression, unemployment, harassment, internal struggles with identity, hopes, fears, dreams, humorous and positive experiences. Friends and family, Allies. etc. We will also answer any questions from the audience. We are very excited about this event and the possibility of collaboration, dialogue and community building. Contact krissysummers@hotmail.com or Southern Illinois University GLBT Resource center <http://www.siu.edu/~glbtrc/>

UNA-USA will present "Thinking Ahead", a DVD viewing of a presentation made by Ted Daley, a United Nations and global government advocate, at the Citizens for Global Solutions Convention in Minneapolis in October 2007. This will be held in the Fellowship Commons on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. 457-7396 or 529-2034

4th ANNUAL COMMUNITY FEST Saturday, April 5, 7:00 P.M. GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH The fourth annual Community Music Fest. No admission fee. This year our total offering will be given to the Kill Cancer Foundation. Our sacred/secular concert will once again spotlight individual and group musicians from southern Illinois, with a variety of instrumental and vocal renditions, capped with a Community Choir made up of people who love to sing. If you would like to participate, come to GUMC Saturdays March 29 and April 5, at 10:00 a.m. for rehearsals. Any questions? Call 457-8785

GLBT AWARENESS WEEK 2008

Monday – April 14 - Rev. Mel White (minister who worked for Rev. Fallwell until he came-out) 7:00pm Student Cntr. Ballroom D

Tuesday – April 15 – Mock Wedding (to underscore current civil union legislation in Springfield) Time TBA on steps of Shryock

Wednesday – April 16 – SRN Meeting 6pm – Student Center

Thursday – April 17 – Homo Acts (come and see the homosexual agenda in action) 11am – 2pm? Free Forum area
--Voices of Transgender (*detail on left*)

7pm Student Center Ohio Room

Friday – April 18 – Kiss-In (awareness exercise on GLBT people showing public affection) Noon – Student Center

Spotlight Interview - Building and Grounds Committee

by Melanie Bray

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning when I arrive for my work day here at the fellowship, I always smile as I walk into the building. I am so lucky to come to work in a place that is so beautiful. I love the natural light that is abundant with all the windows and skylights. I like that the building is located in a nice quiet neighborhood. I even showed off the building and office space to my parents when they were visiting from Florida. This is a place to be proud of! This congregation has invested well and has created a place and space that is distinctive and unique in our community.

The fellowship building is the focus of my interview this month. I met with Loren Cocking, co-chair of the Building & Grounds Committee to talk about what it takes to care for this

building and the surrounding property. Loren and George Feldhamer are the co-chairs of the committee but many others in the congregation have valuable skills and are involved, such as Tom Robinson, Bob Lembcke, Susie Phillips, Barbara Lesar, Chris Mack, Charles Ruffner and Joe Schmidt.

When we gather in the building for services or other functions we rarely look around and think about all the work it takes to keep this building functioning properly. Take some time to look around next time you are here and ponder what it takes to handle the health of the building and surrounding area with all the repairs, all the lighting, the fire alarm system, the complete sound system, all of the tables and chairs, the appliances in the kitchen, all of the supplies for the cleaning service and tools needed for

Spotlight Interview, continued...

by *Melanie Bray*

such repairs. This is a big job and someone's got to do it!

The Building & Grounds committee meets regularly but normally just stays in communication about the needs of the building. When a light bulb in the parking lot needs replaced, I call Loren. It soon is miraculously working again. When the "fire window" between the kitchen and the commons area needs reset – I contact the B & G committee and it is taken care of. We have a great team that seems to be doing a great job in protecting your investment!

How can each member of this congregation help to maintain "your" Fellowship building? Loren indicated that participation in the "work days" is essential to the overall well being of this building. There are normally two workdays each year (Fall and Spring) that are scheduled. Lists are created and duties assigned so that everyone chips in and does "deep" cleaning, repairs, landscaping, and basic maintenance. Keep your eyes peeled for

the date of the next congregational work day and contribute some time and "elbow grease" to help this committee with its large task!

Also, if you ever notice something that is broken or is in need of attention, please bring it to a committee member's attention immediately. Just like at our own homes, problems are best solved as soon as they arise, so call Loren (457-7279) or George (457-8606) and let them know what the building or grounds need.

This building and the surrounding property are this fellowship's largest investment. It is an asset that is intended to serve this congregation for many generations. Let us take time to reflect and enjoy not only on the outward beauty of this place, but appreciate and understand the inner workings that are just as important. Thanks to the committee for all you do!

CUF CLASSIFIED ADS

Approx. 228 of **U. California Berkley Wellness Letters** (vol. 5 #1 - vol. 23 #12) and 216 **Johns-Hopkins Health After 60 Letters** (vol.1 #1 - vol.19 #12) at 5 cents per issue or \$8 for each set. Russ Trimble 549-3405.

Fair Trade coffee, tea chocolate, nuts or cranberries are available from our Fair Trade coordinator. Contact Janet Harris to order or see what she has in stock after services on Sundays in the Commons.

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 20-23, 2008

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/>

You don't have to be UU to join us.

Current list of group/program/committee leaders

AIDS/Africa Partnership: Carla Feldhamer
 Art/Aesthetics Committee: Barbara Lesar
 Building and Grounds Committee: Loren Cocking (bldg) & George Feldhamer (Grounds)
 Buddhism Study & Practice Group: Judy Carter
 Bulletin Board: Lois Lembcke
 Campus Unitarian Universalists: Bridget Shepherd
 Caring and Sharing: Cheryl Robinson
 Carol's Lunch Bunch (women's lunch group): Mariann Douglass
 Chalice Lighters (Fundraisers): open
 Chalice Lighters (Sundays): Roy Sumner
 Choir: Geri McKee
 Committee on Ministry: Joyce Webb, Joe Schmit and Matt Stronkoski
 Communications Committee: Yo Presley
 Community Forums: Bob Camp
 Covenant Group Ministries: Bill Sasso
 CUF Links (monthly newsletter): Yo Presley
 Denominational Affairs: open
 Dreamwork: Janet Harris
 Finance Committee: Ed Phillips
 Greeters & Coffee Hosts: Joyce Webb
 Health Ministry/Congregational Nurse: Vennie Anderson, RN
 Hospitality Committee: Janet Harris & Patsy Maxwell
 Humanist Group and Roundtable: Bob Camp
 Interfaith Council: Ken and Kathy Starbuck
 Intergenerational Potluck: Roy Sumner
 International Student Coffee Hour: JoAnn Nelson & Nillofur Zobairi
 Library Coordinator: Janet Levie
 Mailing List Manager: Melanie Bray

Membership Committee: Cathy Kline
 Music Committee: Alan Christensen
 Nominating Committee: Dave Clark, Alan Christensen, Jan Eisenhard, Mary Campbell and Susie Phillips
 Open Minds: Dave Christensen & Bob Lembcke
 Order of Service: Russ Trimble
 Pastoral Care: Bill Sasso, Coordinator
 Personnel Committee: George Feldhamer
 Press Release Coordinator: Melanie Bray
 Prison Ministries: Lois Hayward & Karen Swenson
 Program Committee: JoAnn Nelson & Janet Harris
 PSI Symposium: Astrid Mosley & Mary Campbell
 Religious Education Committee: Roy Sumner
 Round Table Readers: Janet Levie
 Sisterhood of Stitchers: Elaine Seymour
 Social Action Committee: Jesslyn Jobe
 Stewardship Committee: Mary Campbell
 Sunday Services Committee: Samir Aouadi
 Supper Club: Janet Banerjee
 Transgender Support Group: Krissy Summers
 Unitarian Recorder Ensemble: Judy Aydt
 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: Amy Weber
 Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office: Dave Christensen
 Unitarian Folk Orchestra: Charlie Maxwell
 Video Circle: Amy Weber & Bob White
 Web Page: Yolana Presley
 Weekly Bulletin: Russ Trimble
 Welcoming Congregation: Judy Groskind
 Women's Retreat: Pam Jacobini & Tami Frank

CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Study Groups:

ADVENTURES IN PARENTHOOD: An interactive exploration of the joys, the sorrows, and educational aspects of being a parent, coordinated by Bill Sasso and featuring presenters on relevant topics. This program will be offered from 10 to noon, on the following Saturdays: February 2nd, March 22nd, and May 3rd. Childcare will be available. To register (or for more information) contact Bill Sasso (529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com).

Ongoing:

BUDDHISM STUDY & PRACTICE GROUP *This group meets on the first and third Sundays in the Fellowship Commons at 7:30 PM. For more information: www.shawnee-dharma.org or Judy Carter at 529-3110.*

April 6. We will be discussing topics for future programs. Everyone is welcome.

April 20. To be announced.

THE DREAM WORKSHOP. *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00ish.*

April 6. This month we invite everyone who is interested in sharing their dreams in a warm and supportive atmosphere to join us.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COFFEE HOUR. *This event takes place every fourth Friday of each month at the International Student Annex on the SIU Campus at 3:00 PM.*

April 25. Our Fellowship hosts the International Coffee hour once each month. Come and meet new friends from around the world. Bring cookies and drinks to share. Contact JoAnn Nelson or Nillofur Zobairi for more information.

HUMANIST GROUP. *This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM*

April 9, "Caged: Our Prison System." Lois Hayward is a human rights and prison reform advocate. She is the Fellowship's representative of UU Prison Ministries. After a short video, Lois will describe her work with this organization in efforts to halt the documented, systemic abrogation of human and civil rights that permeate the administration of "justice" in our penal system. She and others in our community have demonstrated compassionate attention and actions to prison inmates and their families. A "Q&A" session will follow her presentation. Newcomers always welcome. Bring a friend.

HUMANIST ROUND TABLE. *This group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM*

April 23, "A Way of Looking Within: Theravada Buddhism." Buddha is considered by many as one of the first Humanists. Group member, Joy Price will teach us how to use the vipassana (insight) meditative techniques that help calm and focus the mind by directing the rhythmic movement of the breath.

A regular meditative practice can develop deep concentration and insight. Continued practice can lead to a mindful, compassionate way of living a life of freedom in the real world. (And you won't be "zoned out") Dress comfortably! Come, bring a friend and support Joy! Call Bob Camp for additional information.

PSI SYMPOSIUM. *This group meets the second Sunday of the Month in Room 06 at Noon*

April 13. Information concerning the topic this month will be published in the weekly bulletin.

ROUNDTABLE READERS. *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month in Room 05 after the Sunday Service at Noon*

April 27, Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder.* This nonfiction book promises to be very thought provoking. It is an "inch thick caution against raising the fully automated child," according to the New York Times, and an "absolute must read for parents," according to the Boston Globe. The author places a telling pair of quotations before the Table of Contents: one from Walt Whitman about a child going forth into nature, becoming what he observes, and one from a contemporary fourth grader, "I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are."

SCIENCE IN SOCIETY. *This group meets some Fridays of the Month in the Fellowship Commons at 5:00 PM.*

Contact Gina Paul at rpaul@siumed.edu or 351-1064 if you have questions.

SOUTHERN IL TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP. *This group meets the second Monday of the month in the Fellowship Commons at 7:30 PM.*

April 14. Monthly meeting. Contact Krissy Summers at krissysummers@hotmail.com for more information.

CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS, continued...

VIDEO CIRCLE *We are happy to report that Amy Weber and Bob White have volunteered to jointly lead the Video Circle. They will provide more information later.*

YOGA FOR ZAMBIA. *This group meets on the third Sunday in the Fellowship Commons from 12:30 to 2:00 PM April 20, An hour and a half of Yoga starting at 12:30 after the service and coffee in the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship Commons. Bring a light snack and water (also available in the water fountain). There is a SUGGESTED only donation of \$10.00 which will go to the Zambia Hospice Project. Mats available for those who need them. (Bring your own if you have one.)*

Sharing & Caring

by Cheryl Robinson

To Our Members Who are Octogenarians and Nanogenarians - Fran and Tom Dickey are interested in interfacing more often with members who are in their age group, to share perspectives on life and aging, exchange resource information, and to touch base occasionally with friends. This could perhaps be done in a Support Group, which might meet occasionally at the fellowship, with

members car pooling or arranging outside transportation if necessary. Alternatively, or in between meetings, perhaps members could agree to phone a different member of the group each week in turn, to touch base and catch up with each other.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Fran Dickey at 549-3987.

Ranchhod Hospice Update

The hospice is very busy as usual. We have been working with Marie Stopes International for several weeks and now have introduced Women's Reproductive Health into the program. There have been several workshops introducing the caregivers here and on outreach to Family Planning choices. Nurses, Cherie and Janet, are attending a two-week workshop learning how to insert Jadelle and IUD's for birth control. We hope to start the actual prescribing in April and there seems to be a great interest.

We also had a short workshop given by Dr. Tim Meade from PCAZ, (Palliative Care Association of Zambia), on pain management and prescribing opiates, so we now have a small stock on hand. Everyone is very nervous about using them. Very soon we will have a stock of oral Morphine. I am hopeful that the visit in July by the Palliative care Professor from Galway University Nursing School will further implement the use of Morphine.

The renovation of the bathroom facility at the Children's Centre started yesterday. We had to give the children the week off, but sent them home with a good food parcel. We are painting the classrooms at the same time.

There was a good response to the school fees collected by Allida in Southern Illinois. We helped 32 girls in Caritas Catholic School. I haven't the final numbers from the community yet as Chisomo and Gabriel are still putting the report together. The money helped a lot of kids to continue at school. All secondary School fees increased this year. Everybody is very grateful to you all for your effort in collecting the money.

Mary Chidgey,

Director of Ranchhod Hospice and Orphan Care Program.



Zambian child at the Children's Centre

There is an **on-going collection** of certain supplies that can be placed in the box labeled Zambian Partnership located underneath the information table by the kitchen.

We no longer are collecting empty medicine containers. We are collecting "READING GLASSES" of various strengths. Glasses cases are also appreciated. Donations of men and women's new underwear and nightwear in sizes small and medium are always welcome and much needed. Children's underwear and clothing in good condition are also important. The patients also love to receive wide-tooth combs and hair picks. Donations of yarn, thread, sewing supplies, knitting and crochet needles etc. are used daily by The BUSY BEES... doing work to raise money for their families.

“Making God’s Love Visible”

Interfaith Week 2008

Schedule of Events

Please plan to attend these activities during Interfaith Week, and support us by telling your friends about this unique series of events.

This is an abbreviated schedule. Please see the Carbondale Interfaith Council website at www.cdaleinterfaith.org/ for complete listings.

Founded in May, 1971, the Interfaith Council has worked to promote understanding and collaboration across the boundaries of faith. Its efforts have helped to create and sustain Good Samaritan Ministries and the Ralph Anderson Interfaith Dialogue series.

For more information about the Council, please contact: Bill Sasso, 2008 Council President 618-529-2439 bsasso@juno.com

Interfaith Week 2008 Awards Banquet featuring Rev. William Schulz

Saturday, April 12 – 6 p.m. banquet dinner, 7 p.m. program begins. Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave. Banquet tickets: \$12 per student, \$20 per adult, open to public at no charge for program seating after 7 p.m.

Keynote Address: William Schulz, former Amnesty International Director for twelve years and (previous to that) as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will speak on *“Restoring America’s Credibility: Human Rights and Interfaith Relations in a Post-9/11 World”*

This address will outline the reasons for the decline in the international reputation of the United States, especially its reputation for human rights leadership, and what can be done to restore it. Dr. Schulz will place particular emphasis on the importance of eschewing religious stereotypes and rebuilding interfaith connections.

Dr. Schulz brings to Carbondale a long history of interfaith involvement and a world perspective, with personal

engagement in Amnesty missions to Liberia, Northern Ireland, and other countries. His new book, *The Future of Human Rights: US Policy for a New Era* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007), will be available for sale and signing.

Contact: Ken Starbuck, (618) 942-3986, starbuck@midamer.net

Ebru Marbling 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave.

Interfaith Week Art Show Opening 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 6, Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave.

“Photoshop Jesus” Noon to 1 p.m. Monday, April 7, UCM Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale

“Ties That Bind” Tuesday, April 8 – 5:30 p.m. film, 6:30 p.m. dinner., Unitarian Fellowship, 105 N. Parrish Lane, Carbondale

Abrahamic Dinner 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, SIUC Recreation Center’s Alumni Lounge

Interfaith Labyrinth Walk Noon, Thursday, April 10, Labyrinth Peace Garden and Interfaith Center, corner of South Illinois and Grand Ave.

Interfaith Music Coffee House 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 306 W. Monroe St.

Church Women United World Hunger Sale Noon - 6 p.m. Friday, April 11 and 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 S. Washington

“Our Faith” Children’s Art Activities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12, Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave.

CUF BYTES

Campus Unitarian Universalists is now officially a Registered Student Organization at SIU thanks to the efforts over the last several months of Bridget Shepherd, Maggie Mosley, Tim Shepherd, Karen Gallegly, Matt Sronkoski and Yo Presley.

For our kick-off event, we baked cakes to donate to the Co-op Cake Walk Benefit for the Women’s Center.

Having an RSO associated with our fellowship allows us to reach the SIU community in new and creative ways. If you, or someone you know, is associated with SIU in any way and would like to participate in this new organization, contact any of the above persons.

A Note From the Editor

The deadline for the May issue of CUF Links will be **Thursday evening, April 24th**. You may leave items for the Newsletter in the CUF Links box in the Fellowship office or email me at: yo@astrosluth.com Pictures are always welcome!

CUF LINKS HARD COPIES are available at the Fellowship on the visitor table for anyone who would like this convenience. *Yo Presley*

