



CUF Links

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
A Welcoming Congregation

- a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist association -

AUGUST 2010

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

8/1 Bill Sasso: "A Universalist Pioneer: Eli Gilbert"

In anticipation of the time-travel theme of this year's Summer Weeklong Awesome Program (SWAP), we'll do a bit of time travel ourselves! We'll go back in time and meet a Universalist pioneer, Eli Gilbert, who traveled with his large family from New England to southern Illinois. We hear about their journey, their lives, and their Universalist religion.

8/8 Bill Sasso: "The Gospel According to Robert (Ingersoll)"

Southern Illinois can lay at least partial claim to one of the 19th century's greatest religious critics, Colonel Robert Ingersoll, who lived in Marion for several years as a young adult. Ingersoll called himself an agnostic, yet he was also someone in whom a rational spirituality took root and grew. Join Bill to learn more about this intriguing figure from our region's past!

8/15 Darren Sherkat: "Bad Samaritans? The Role of Religion in Immigration Issues"

Darren will examine different religious views of controversies over American immigration, and how religious connections, and lack thereof, often influence who goes where, and whether they are welcomed or shunned. This topic will begin our work in response to the Congregational Study Action Issue on "Immigration Justice" adopted by the 2010 General Assembly, our national meeting of representatives of UU congregations.

8/22 Marleen Shepherd: "Making a World of Difference: a View from the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions"

Marleen Shepherd, one of four people from Carbondale attending the 2009 event in Australia, will speak about her experience in Melbourne and worldwide religious trends. She is a ministerial intern at the First Christian Church, and starting in the fall will be a student at Phillips Theological Seminary. She is presently Vice President of the Carbondale Interfaith Council. Ken Starbuck will coordinate the service.

8/29 Bill Sasso: "Unitarian Universalist Integrity"

What does religious integrity mean to you, to me, and to us together? Within the framework of "liberal" or "progressive" religion, how do we offer each other freedom while maintaining a sense of community? Bill will struggle with these and related questions that might bring us closer to a better understanding of the integrity of the Unitarian Universalist religious movement.

And coming up . . .

9/5 The Sharing of the Waters

Our children will join us in this intergenerational service that celebrates our connections throughout the world, sharing waters, rocks, and possibly other items that symbolize our travels. And after the service, plan to attend our annual CEDAR LAKE beach picnic!

OPEN MINDS

This presentation/discussion program meets at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday in the Commons Area. Topics “To Be Announced” in weekly bulletins this month. Contact Terry Elliott at elliott1@wildblue.net if you would like to lead one of these Sunday discussions, or for more information.

THE MINISTER’S MESSAGE

A Teaching Congregation



As we enter the height of the warm and humid southern Illinois summer, it may seem hard to believe that it’s only a few more weeks until school begins. As we struggle in the midst of the heat of summer, each day brings us closer to a new cycle of Fellowship activity. This year’s cycle should be especially interesting – for

the first time in our history, we will serve as a “teaching congregation,” serving as a field site for Paul Kent Oakley, who is studying for the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Beginning in September, and for much of the next two school years, Paul will be our Student Minister on a half-time basis, devoting approximately 20 hours per week to his role here in Carbondale. Sometimes, his main task will be observing, watching us – me as minister, and you as congregation – to understand more about congregational relationships and dynamics. Sometimes, his task will be more active, taking part in meetings, programs, and Sunday services. Sometimes he will be a participant, and sometimes a leader. He will get to try out the

experience of ministry with us, and our task is to give him the space and opportunity to be – and to become – a Unitarian Universalist minister.

While Paul is serving with us half-time, he will also carry a significant course load at Meadville/Lombard Theological School. Much of his academic work will be done via distance learning technology, with telephone, computer, and internet support for long-distance interactions with his faculty and student colleagues.

Nevertheless, there will be several times each year when Paul is expected to travel to Chicago to attend convocations and other programs. We can expect to see him here in Carbondale on most Sundays, and sometimes at meetings during the week, but we shouldn’t worry if he occasionally disappears for a week or two.

Over the next two years, I will meet weekly with Paul, and he will meet monthly with our Student Ministry Committee, consisting of Samir Aouadi, Miriam Link-Mullison, Kathy O’Laughlin, Susie Phillips, Ken Starbuck, and Carrie Vine.

Speaking both personally and professionally, I look forward to having Paul with us over the next two years, and I hope that you do, too! I have

known Paul for several years, and think very highly of his commitment to our faith and his leadership in the Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship. From a professional perspective, I know that I will be stimulated by the experience of working with a gifted student like Paul.

As a congregation, Paul's presence will give us a valuable gift in presenting a concrete example of another Unitarian Universalist ministry – one that is distinct from the way I do ministry. While Paul may be influenced by my ministry here, we must

help him discover his own ministry. As we open our eyes and our minds, I'm confident that we will find gifts that we value in Paul and in his ministry with us.

In the meantime, mark your calendars! We'll hold a special reception to recognize his arrival and welcome him on Sunday, September 12th!

With you in community,

Bill Sasso

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

If you wish to know a little about how the Religious



Education program runs, please accept this invitation to join us on August 28, at 9AM, in the RE commons, for our annual teacher orientation meeting. We'd love to have parents, grandparents, or anyone who has a question or suggestion to come join us.

The meeting will probably run a couple hours. I will arrange for childcare.

Please note that following the Communion of the Waters service on September 05, you are invited to join us as we make one last visit to Cedar Lake Beach. It is a fun way to together say good-bye to summer, and to reconnect for the fall. (Note that in the event of rain or threatened thunderstorms the beach does close without notice, as has happened.) The first Sunday of regular classroom activities will be September 12.

I'm pretty excited about the coming year. Already we have three brand-new volunteer teachers to help share the Sunday morning responsibilities, and maybe one or two more who are considering the opportunity. And helpers are always welcome in the classroom. You do not need to prepare, just let me or one of the RE Committee members know you're present and willing to be of help, and we'll find you a classroom. The RE Committee is Jodi Ruffner (chairperson), Matt Sronkoski, Phil

Beck, Kathleen Ensor, Kathy O'Laughlin, Carrie Vine, and Rose Moroz.

I want to thank those that have offered presentations to the children that have come Sunday's during the summer. We offer a one-room-school format, meeting in the RE Commons. The children have done rhythm & harmony with Pat York, created art with Maggie Dorsey, and practiced cleaning up and sharing recycling ideas with Bill Rose and Janet Harris (after Janet and Bill had trashed the place...). They got to handle bats (the flying kind, but not alive) and learn about the various kinds there are and their particular characteristics, thanks to George Feldhamer. Erin and Doug Troue taught the kids how to make t-shirts with a CUUF logo, and Jan Eisenhard offered a great lesson on diversity that was complimented with the children making their own unique hand puppets. Amy Lawson shared her knowledge and excitement for color, and offered the children present a hands-on opportunity to be creative. Still to come are the Ukulele program led by Judy Aydt, Shelley Hill leading a meaningful hour of yoga, as well as presentations by Samir Aouadi, Jennifer Caudell, and Nila Tanner. If you have something you'd like to share with the children, please keep this opportunity in mind for next summer.

The goals of the Religious Education Program, for our children and youth are:

1. Be able to think for him/herself.

2. Know Unitarian Universalist faith and history, and the tenets of other world religions.
3. Instill in children and youth the sense that they are valued members of the Fellowship's community and that they have ownership in this community.

4. Mindfulness of Life
Working together, we can help our children and youth, and ourselves, achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Roy Sumner

CUF RECEIVES GRANT FOR ZAMBIAN PARTNERSHIP

The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship received an outright Equity and Justice grant from the UU Women's Federation of \$5000.00! The money will be used to set up "The Kabwe Library and Resource Center: Building a Legacy of Literacy". The UUWF expect this grant to be used to support start-up costs for a library/resource center serving the Ranchhod HIV/AIDS Hospice and Orphan Care Center, our partners in Zambia.

Carla Feldhamer, a member of the fellowship and her sister, Mimi Gingold, a library/media specialist will visit Kabwe in September to train a young Zambian woman as the library coordinator. Mimi will also work with the pre-school teachers on using the library materials to enhance their work with the children in preparing them for public school. The books will also be available to hospice patients and to the staff and volunteer caregivers.

This is the second grant that we have received from the UUWF and are immensely grateful. The first grant was used to build a workshop for the "Busy Bees", a group of HIV/AIDS widows and grannies who use the building for income generating activities. Thanks to all of you who donated books and other supplies for our last shipment!

EVENT TO HELP OUR ZAMBIAN HOSPICE PARTNERSHIP...Coming Up:

Dear Members of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship and friends,
A portion of the proceeds from the Fall Runway shows by P.Rath Couture will be donated to
The Zambian HIV/AIDS Partnership.

The Fall Shows are scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2 and Sunday, October 3, in the studio-runway space, 2213 Division Street in Murphysboro. If you are interested, please see the web site P.Rath Couture or prath.net or become a fan on Facebook. To receive an invitation, email your name and address to patti.rath@gmail.com, or telephone P. Rath Couture at 618-203-4574.

"We will consider it a privilege to donate to the Zambian Hospice effort,
and we look forward to seeing you at one of our shows...
with an even greater goal than Fashion in our hearts and minds." Thank you...

- Patricia Prevedell Rath

FELLOWSHIP ARTIST SERIES

Last fall and winter, the Program Committee surveyed the congregation to find out areas of interest. We found that many of the returned surveys showed an interest in workshops, displays, and presentations by local artists. Several people volunteered their talents or their homes for tours. After several months, the Fellowship Artist Series has begun.

We will be highlighting a local artist, most of whom attend or belong to the Fellowship, every fourth Wednesday of the month. It is generally held in the Fellowship Commons, from 6:30/7:00 to 8:30. Light refreshments will be served. The artist/s will decide the format for the evening. It is amazing the variety of talents we already have been able to showcase! Thus far, we have had a glass blower, a fiber artist; we toured the home of a collector of folk art from the southern and southwestern U.S. as well as folk art from the Inuit peoples of Eastern Canada, and our featured artists have displayed many acrylic paintings, and objects made of found items. In August, we will have a guest artist, in September, a potter, and in October, a duo will perform many instruments. We would like to feature a full range of artists, both visual and aural; dramatizations, dance, photography, architecture, gardens; we are open to many venues.

If you know someone or are someone who would like to participate in this series, please contact any member of the Program Committee: Jo Ann Nelson, Nillofur Zobairi, Inge Rader, Karen Gallegly, Pam Jacobini or Janet Harris.

THE JULY CUF ARTIST – LOIS LEMBCKE

The July CUF Artist Series program featured CUF member Lois Lembcke, in an exhibition of some of her art and crafts. In addition, she conducted an experiential art workshop designed to awaken, unlock and stimulate the creativity spark that often lies dormant in everyone.

AUGUST CUF Artist Series: August 25, 7:00 PM. R. Michael Fisher; more information later.

\$\$\$ and Sense

What follows is an overview of our financial situation as of June 30th, end of Fiscal FY10:

- **Liquid assets** (cash, securities): \$92,944.
- **Mortgage debt:** \$123,690. We will renew our term mortgage within the next 60 days. There will be \$3,700 in the capital fund to pay-down the debt for a new mortgage of \$120k.
- **Annual Operations FY10 results:** We ended the year \$2,707 (1.1% of plan) “in the red.” The budget included planned use of \$6,869 in Reserves, and another \$2,707 was used to cover the negative cash flow.
- **Reserve fund:** Current Reserve is \$47,466 dollars. Over the last six fiscal years (FY05 through FY10) the year-end better/worse than plan results for our Annual Operations budget resulted in a total use of \$12,277 in Reserves.

- **Pledge payments:** Here is our track record of pledges received compared to plan:

	Membership*	Planned Pledges	Paid	Variance
FY04	142	\$137,333	\$131,183	95.5%
FY05	166	\$157,000	\$159,617	101.7%
FY06	177	\$167,731	\$167,716	100.0%
FY07	178	\$165,000	\$168,039	101.8%
FY08	188	\$175,905	\$172,901	98.3%
FY09*	188	\$175,815	\$172,733	98.2%
FY10*	176	\$167,200	\$167,815	100.4%
	total:	\$1,145,984	\$1,140,003	99.5%

"Paid" pledges include new members who joined during the year.

- **Social Action donations.**

Income for these donations is from once-a-month special collections, fund raisers, grants, etc:

CUF Social Action Donations FY10

	Date		Amount
1	9/20/2009	Bald Knob Cross	\$116.50
2	10/18/09	UUA Association Sunday	\$247.00
3	11/22/09	So. Illinois AIDs Project	\$262.56
4	12/20/09	Bethel AME - Feed My Sheep	\$291.00
5	12/24/09	Good Samaritan Ministries	\$223.15
6	1/17/2010	Haitian Relief	\$1,687.00
7	2/8/10	Good Samaritan Ministries	\$552.00
8	3/22/10	Teen Reach	\$182.00
9	4/9/10	Easter Basket	\$363.25
10	5/23/10	Cardboard City	\$1,251.50
11		(50% Good Sam, 50% Women's Cntr)	
12	6/20/10	I Can Read Program of So. Ill.	\$237.00
13	Yr to date	Feed My Sheep CUF expense	\$1,496.36
14	5/20/2010	New Day Prison Ministry	\$2,238.86
15		AIDs Partnership	\$11,017.27
		Total	\$19,876.95

The FY09 total was \$15,435.45; and FY08 was \$19, 234.

- **New Treasurer** – Lois Stewart has assumed the Treasurer position. She is a Certified Public Account with over 25 years experience. (And she has a wonderful smile!) She retired last year from

her position as the financial head of Transcraft, a manufacturer of truck trailers. CUFTreasurer@gmail.com remains as the best option to contact her. She and Income Manager Stan Aydtt are already hard at work adopting our new office software, Servant Keeper, to accommodate our donation records.

The last three years have been a great learning experience. Thanks for your patience! - Ed Phillips

CUF REGULAR PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

WOMEN'S GATHERING The August Women's Gathering meets on Wed., August 18, at 7:00 p.m. at CUF. Contact Cathy Kline at klinejc@earthlink.net for more information.

SISTERHOOD OF STITCHERS *This group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., in the Commons area.* 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 or Gloria Smiley at smileyspins@yahoo.com.

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.

BUDDHISM STUDY & PRACTICE GROUP *This group meets on the first and third Sundays in the Fellowship Commons at 7:30 PM.* **Meets this month on August 1 and August 15.** Meditation, chanting, study, and discussion in a free flowing format. Everyone welcome. For more info, visit www.shawnee-dharma.org or contact Judy Carter at 529-3110.

DREAMWORKS *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00.* **Meets this month on August 1.** Using Jeremy Taylor's technique, we share and discuss our dreams in a respectful, safe, and comfortable environment. For more information, contact Nillofur at cadfael07@yahoo.com or Janet at jea49@Care2.com.

PSI SYMPOSIUM *This group meets the second Sunday of the Month in Room 06 at Noon.* **Meets next on on August 8.** We start at noon with light refreshments. Please bring a dish to share. For more info, contact Mary Campbell at 521-0851 or mspurple1999@yahoo.com.

ROUNDTABLE READERS *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month after the Sunday Service at Noon.* **Meets this month on August 22.** The book selection is The Bookseller of Kabul, by Asne Seierstad. The Norwegian journalist went undercover in a burqa, living for 3 months with Kabul bookseller Sultan Khan and his family in the spring of 2002. She has written one of the best books of reportage of Afghan life after the fall of the Taliban. All are welcome! Please address questions or suggestions to Janet Levie at jmlevie@verizon.

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 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 August 20.** Movie selection to be announced. Free popcorn! Contact person is Amy Weber at amyweber1@msn.com.

UNITARIAN FOLK ORCHESTRA practices at 10:00 a.m. Saturdays, at the Fellowship. For info contact Bill Sasso at bsasso@juno.com.

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

Deadline for September CUF Links: Wednesday, August 25.

Thanks in advance for honoring this deadline.

Send your articles to Cheryl Robinson at cherrob1@msn.com or to Melanie Bray at cufvolunteers@verizon.net **on or before August 25.**

– Cheryl Robinson, Editor

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship,
105 N. Parrish Lane, Carbondale, IL 62901
618-529-2439 www.cuuf.net, carbandleuu@verizon.net
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

In these dog days of summer, remember:

*“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes under the trees on a summer’s day,
listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky,
is by no means a waste of time.”*

- John Lubbock