



## THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### Time for the Next Step

Last Spring, we took the first step. We began to track the Sasso/O'Laughlin household's use of some significant resources – natural gas, water, and electricity. We asked some of you to join us by tracking the use of some or all of those items within your own homes, and several Fellowship members have

done so. We were hoping that the simple act of tracking our use of these resources would increase our family consciousness of the use of resources, and thereby we'd begin to use them more responsibly.

We also got out our records for 2006, and so we can now compare our use of resources in 2007 with use the previous year. And comparing 2007 with 2006, what did we find? How much difference did "simply paying attention" make at my house?

Well, unfortunately, not very much! Our use of electricity in 2007 was down, but less than two percent, while our use of natural gas was up (though less than a single per cent). Our use of water was down almost 12%, but we have to admit that our vegetable garden was a lot less successful than in years past. Those two facts may well be related.

So we have realized that we need to take some more steps. In October, rather than driving to Wisconsin for a UU ministers meeting, Bill took Amtrak to Chicago and hitched a ride the rest of the way with a colleague – he was actually happy to have a

rider with him! In November, we purchased two more energy-efficient appliances: a clothes washer and a hot water heater. The next step after that will be to replace some large picture windows with new ones that will be much better insulated. That should happen this month. And we have a hunch that the next step after that will be to reduce heat loss through our chimney and fireplace. After that, we're not sure what the next step will be, but we feel confident that it will appear in its time.

Why do we bother? From disappearing polar ice to sweltering summers here in southern Illinois, from reductions in irreplaceable fossil fuel stores to vanishing drinkable water supplies, from issues of overpopulation to inequities in access to resources, we can see that our society's current lifestyle needs to change. By taking steps now – even the modest steps we've taken – that change moves forward.

As Bill wrote in his column last May, we begin with the first step. Sometimes, the journey that we need to travel seems so overwhelming that we don't believe that we can undertake it. Sometimes, that's how we feel about global warming and our ability to have an impact on it. But wherever we are – however far from the destination – we know that we can take at least one more step in the right direction. And we have usually found that, after we take that first step, another step that we can take appears. And after that step, another will appear.

We take the step that is currently before us, and another possible step appears. In our house, it is time for the next step. Might that be true in yours, as well?

Yours on the journey,

*Bill, Kathy, and Elena*

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 The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

# SUNDAY SERVICES

Services begin at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

## February 3                    **Andrea Stader and Maria Johnson: “Music That Made a Difference”**

In recognition of Black History Month, Maria and Andrea will offer us spirited renditions of some of the music that expressed the energy and emotion of the tumultuous 1950s and 1960s. We'll examine where the music came from, and what it meant, as well as feeling its power and appreciating its messages. As part of the Souper Bowl of Caring, the proceeds of our offering will go to Good Samaritan Ministries. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service.

## February 10                    **Samir Aouadi and Kim Asner-Self: “The Many Faces of Discrimination”**

Samir, who has lived in North Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North America, will talk about discrimination from personal observations and experiences in these different parts of the world, and share the conclusions he has drawn from them. Kim, who has lived in Turkey, Romania, Gabon, and the U.S., and has worked to promote cross cultural awareness, skills, and knowledge, will offer additional comments on discrimination as a human condition.

## February 17                    **Celebrating Our Children: Religious Education Sunday**

Since last September, the children of our Fellowship have been learning about Unitarians and Universalists, about other faith traditions, and about how to make a difference in our world. In this intergenerational service, each of our classes will share its insights and challenge us on these topics. Bill Sasso and Roy Sumner will coordinate this service, and a special potluck meal will follow the service – please check the notice about the potluck elsewhere in CUF Links! Due to the intergenerational nature of this service, it will not include announcements.

## February 24                    **Bill Sasso: “The Mutuality of Caring”**

This service will examine the nature of caring at several different levels. What does it mean to care about someone, or to allow someone to care about you? We'll consider these questions both on a person to person level and within the structure of our community. We will recognize three of our Fellowship's “caring ministries:” Caring and Sharing, Health Ministry, and Pastoral Friends. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service. Please note that a congregational meeting will follow the service.



## OPEN MINDS

Meetings begin at 8:45 AM in the Fellowship Commons

**February 3, Thom Hartmann a Modern Day Thomas Paine, Part 1.** Bob Lembcke will coordinate the discussion.

**February 10, Thom Hartmann a Modern Day Thomas Paine, Part 2.** Bob Lembcke will coordinate the discussion. This is a video interview of Thom Hartmann. It will be divided into two programs. He is a prolific author and advocate for progressive and humanistic causes. Thom is an American broadcaster, and a three-time Project Censored Award-winning New York Times best-selling author. He is a lay scholar of the history and textual analysis of the United States Constitution, electronic voting fraud, and environmental issues such as global warming. He is the nemesis of neo-con Rush Limbaugh and others. Thom Hartmann's “*Screwed*” was a New York Times best seller. His latest to follow that successful venture is *Cracking the Code: How to Win Hearts, Change Minds, and Restore America's Original Vision*. He presented a plan for how liberals can compete with conservatives in presenting their political message to gain attention. Mr. Hartmann explored different methods of personal communication to assist in debate.

**February 17, Cosmos, Carl Sagan “The Backbone of Night”** The earliest humans were perplexed by the stars and they attached meanings to them in an attempt to understand their significance. In this installment of the series Cosmos, the immensely popular PBS show hosted by astronomer/author Dr. Carl Sagan, viewers examine these early endeavors to comprehend the night sky. The stars were thought to be campfires in the heavens, and the great expanse of stars known as the Milky Way was the “backbone of the night.” Dr. Sagan goes back to his childhood elementary school where the question “What are stars?” is the subject of discussion. Bob Camp will offer commentary and coordinate the discussion following the video.

**February 24, Global Warming: A Nation Under Siege,** We are at the crossroads of the most significant crisis of modern times. Two profound, life-changing events – the rapid depletion of fossil fuels and rising sea level from the warming of the earth's atmosphere – are converging to dramatically alter our future. In a UCTV lecture Edward Mazria, founder

**OPEN MINDS** continued...

of Architecture 2030, unveiled a new study of sea level rise depicting the potentially calamitous coastal and national impacts of these events. Learn of the historic role we must play in addressing this crisis and a solution that is based on available means and measurable results. Open Minds Team will coordinate the discussion following the viewing.



Membership Party: T-shirt fun

**FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIR**

by *Mary Campbell*

The role of the Stewardship committee is to conduct the Fellowship's annual financial campaign. I want to thank all of the Fellowship members and friends who have been active stewards during the past year. Stewardship challenges us to commit to and support that which is of value. As stewards of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship you have shared your time, talents and financial support with the Fellowship, local agencies, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and national and international concerns.

It is that time of year when the membership provides input as to how we as a community want to use our time, talent and finances. Many of you participated in the December congregational meeting where we identified eight priorities for the Board of Trustees to consider in the budgeting pro-

cess. This year the stewardship visits will be conducted in small gatherings and for those who can not attend a gathering you will be contacted for a one on one visit. At this time you will have an opportunity to contribute feedback concerning the Fellowship as well as make a financial pledge.

The kick off event is Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Fellowship. So mark the date now on your calendars. It will be an evening of fun, food, and entertainment for everyone. The campaign offers many opportunities to share your time and talents and have fun with a community of great people where talent is appreciated. To participate in the stewardship campaign, contact me at [mspurple1999@yahoo.com](mailto:mspurple1999@yahoo.com) or call 521-0851.

**FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

I was looking over the column I submitted last month. Did you see it? It had a list of things that Directors of Religious Education would like to see attained by an 18 year old, who had grown up in a Unitarian Universalist religious education program. It was quite a diverse and challenging list of accomplishments and attributes, and exemplary for not just

an 18 year old, but for anyone. How do you stack up on that list (you can look the list up from the column in our archives)?

As I've mentioned before, religious education takes place all the time, and not just for an hour each Sunday morning. Our bright and attentive children pay attention to everything, and are constantly learning how to ask meaty questions. They learn from their friends at school and in the neighborhood. They learn from family, and aunts and uncles and grandparents. They hear the news and read from a variety of sources, not the least of which is the internet. And they learn from watching and interacting with you.

On February 17 we are going to have our annual Reli-

gious Education Sunday service. Each class is going to tell you a little about what they've done so far, and how they feel about things. I'd like this year to feel like we are celebrating our children. Honoring them for being with us, and for, well, being themselves. Each of them is also going to receive a gift that Sunday, meaning, if you want to see what they received you'll have to attend.

Another reason we'd like you to attend on February 17, is that we are having a potluck after the service. This is an opportunity for you to get to interact with the children and youth. I might even conjure up a game, the point of which is for you to match parents with their children. Maybe you can even take the time to explain to a child or two, what it means for you to be a Unitarian!

We have had several of you join our kids in their classrooms, and I want to continue to extend an invitation for any of you who might want to join us some Sunday morning. Also, please feel free to join us Ice Skating, February 9, at Forest Park in St. Louis. I will get out more details in the weekly E-bulletin about this event. And of course, mark June 13 and 14 on your calendar. That is the weekend we will be camping at Lake Glendale (just East of Vienna). Even if you don't want to camp, come and spend part of the day with the group.

Continually learning with you,

*Roy Sumner*, Director of Religious Education

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



When we started planning to build a new building, we were encouraged to plan it for the people who were to come, and for our children and grandchildren. There are many individuals who would love to be part of a stimulating community, but do not know of us. There are many searching for meaning but have not been able to find a community to support them on their

journey.

Every year, many of these individuals come to check us out. Many become familiar with us through our web site before walking through the door. And we are ready for them. We provide a warm greeting to everyone walking through the door and pay attention to the new visitors. We greet them at the end of the service and invite them to stay for coffee. Many members make a point of introducing themselves. We invite them to come back.

Our Membership committee is making sure we maximize opportunities to engage those who have taken the time and courage to come to check us out. But it is more than the membership committee. It is every member taking the time and effort to extend a hand of welcome to guests that makes this an inviting community. These guests come

back and frequently become members, sharing their talents and interests with us, making us the vibrant community we strive to be.

I want to thank the Membership committee for the work they do. I also want to thank all the members who take the time to meet with guests and facilitate their journey toward membership.

We are a growing congregation. I recently sent a letter to the congregation asking their participation in changing the Fellowship bylaws. As we grow and look toward the future, we need to make sure our foundation is solid and meets our needs. The Bylaws committee has worked hard to solicit feedback from a broad cross section of the Fellowship.

One of the major changes is to incorporate a Foundation into the Fellowship structure. This will be a vehicle for individuals to channel their assets when they no longer need them, providing revenue for future charitable projects. I like the idea that I can leave behind some of my accumulated assets that will fund good works for decades after my death. Since I can't take it with me, I'm glad there is a way to continue to make the world a better place.

I hope that you will become informed, ask questions and participate in voting for the proposed Bylaw changes. If you have a question, please ask one of the people who have worked on the document. This is the future of your Fellowship. Please be informed, and vote!

## Spotlight Interview

by *Melanie Bray*

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, I am going to interview a member of the congregation that is involved with a committee or program and write a brief column in CUF Links every month. It is my goal that we all learn a little more about what is going on inside and outside of this congregation.

My first interview was with Cathy Kline, Chair of the Membership Committee. Cathy has been the chair of the committee since May 2007. She is joined by other members, Julie Arendt, Judy Ayt, Janet and Ban Baneerjee, Beverly Howie, and Chris and Joan Juul. This committee meets monthly but often communicates throughout the month by email.

The main goal and the most important task of the membership committee is to offer hospitality with sincerity and warmth to all visitors. This includes greeting and welcoming visitors as they enter the fellowship, share information that is provided on the visitor's table, offer a name tag, and encourage them to sign the guest book. It is important to continue this hospitality throughout the service and during the coffee hour.

Cathy said that it is important that all members help with this process. Take time to introduce yourself to visitors, welcome them and make them feel "noticed".

The membership committee is responsible for designing and presenting an orientation program that helps new members become familiar with many aspects of this fellowship as well as understanding Unitarian and Universalist history and the seven UU principles. The first of such programs was held in October of

2007. Six new members and five visitors attended the two-part program. There were ten experienced members that participated and represented the fellowship. The committee has redesigned and condensed the orientation program to one part to be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 2:00 – 5:00pm. Invitations will be mailed soon.

Cathy and the entire committee were thrilled to achieve the goal of re-establishing the discussion about a Wayside Pulpit and directional sign at the corner of Parrish Lane and Old Rt. 13. Erecting a Wayside Pulpit was one of the congregation's top priorities for the next fiscal year! They offer a thank-you to Jerry Molumby for taking this interest to the board for consideration. Think of the many ways these two items will increase and peak interest in our fellowship!

Finally, the membership committee has future plans to establish a visitor's library and a mentoring program. The committee also wants to reinstate sending welcome notes to all visitors. For this, they will probably need a few volunteers!

I counted 27 new members over the last calendar year. I know many churches are experiencing low numbers of new members at this time. I think this speaks volumes about our Membership Committee's commitment and devotion! If you have any input, suggestions or would like to be involved, please contact any of the committee members.

Thank you for taking time to speak with me Cathy. I wish you and your committee success in the upcoming year!

## FROM THE OFFICE

by *Melanie Bray*



This year is off to a busy start!

I have settled in to my tasks here in the office and have started to take on more responsibilities. I now update the online calendar every Friday at the same time that I make the list of activities to hang on the board in the lobby. Yo has done a great job of keeping the calendar current but it now makes

more sense that I do it and she didn't seem to mind giving away the task! On most days I have the upper hand over the copy machine and the computer will always be an ongoing learning process. I am working with Judy Ayd and Vennie Anderson to come up with a more efficient way to maintain the member directory. I have also been working with Russ Trimble and learning to create the order of service for your Sunday services. I enjoy laying out the bulletin every week and trying new ways to keep everyone informed! Please send me any digital photos that you would like to see in the

“Picture of the Week” section. I like working the hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am – 1pm. It has been consistent and it seems that many of you are starting to get used to having someone in the office on those days to contact if you should need anything.

Spring is shaping up to be a very busy season here at the fellowship. The CUF scheduling calendar, aka “The Big White Book”, is filling up fast. We seem to be renting out the building more this season, so please make sure to take time to write in or update your upcoming programs, meetings and/or functions. Remember to write your reservation in pencil and leave a contact name and number.

I will be attaching an updated member directory to next week's bulletin. Please let the office know of any changes that you have once you see your name in print. The best way to contact me is through email at [cufvolunteers@verizon.net](mailto:cufvolunteers@verizon.net).

I look forward still to meeting members and I am starting to understand just how productive this congregation is! I am proud to tell people that I work for the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship!

*~Melanie*

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### Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship Policy on Political Activity at the Fellowship

The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship both respects the separation of church and state, and affirms and promotes the right of conscience and use of the democratic process within our larger society. Especially during an election season, these two commitments can sometimes seem at odds with one another. To help everyone understand what types of activity are and are not appropriate, the Board of Trustees has adopted this “Policy on Political Activity at the Fellowship.”

The Board actively encourages non-partisan programs and events that support informed participation in the democratic process. Such activities include voter registration, “Get Out the Vote” drives, encouragement to vote in the Fellowship's various communication channels, advocacy on specific issues, and other non-partisan voter education efforts.

The Board regards the following activities as partisan and therefore not appropriate:

- Political Fundraising: No fundraising for a political party or candidate will be allowed within the Fellowship property.
- Political Endorsements: Neither the Fellowship nor its lay or professional leadership will endorse an announced or potential candidate for office, or a political party or movement.[1]
- Political Donations: The Fellowship will not make donations or loans to political campaigns, parties, or specific candidates. The resources of the Fellowship will not be used on behalf of a political campaign or candidate.

- Political Advertising or Signage: Signs or other advertising for candidates or political parties will not be posted on the Fellowship property. No Fellowship communication – the Order of Service, Bulletin, CUF Links, or any other Fellowship publication – will include advertising for or endorsement of a political party or a candidate for office. .
- Targeted Voter Registration or Election Support Activities: Any voter registration drive, or “Get Out the Vote” effort undertaken by the Fellowship or groups within it should address the entire community/region, rather than any specific group within the community. For instance, a voter registration drive may not restrict itself to people of a particular party affiliation, age, socioeconomic status, etc.
- Political Labor: The Fellowship will not organize groups to work for any political campaign or candidate.
- Distribution of Partisan Political Materials: There will be no distribution of partisan political materials on the Fellowship property.

Anyone considering circulating a petition at the Fellowship should consult with the Minister, the President, or the Vice-President before doing so to ensure that the petition is in accordance with this policy.

[1] As private individuals, leaders of the Fellowship may endorse candidates, parties, or movements in the other contexts of their lives. However that endorsement may not be made in the name of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship or in a letter to the editor signed (for example) as “Minister, Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship.”

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday, February 3rd, our Fellowship will participate in the Carbondale Souper Bowl of Caring. Please plan to give as generously as you are able! The proceeds of our offering will go to Good Samaritan Ministries. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to "Good Samaritan Ministries," not to CUF. Thanks so much for your support!

*"... even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." (Brad Smith, 1990)*

The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual fundraising campaign that supports homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other service organizations throughout the United States. Here in Carbondale, 100% of all funds raised go to Good Samaritan Ministries, a project of the Carbondale Interfaith Council, providing shelter, food, and counseling for the homeless, the near-homeless, and their families. Good Sam offers emergency shelter, referral services, food supplies, a soup kitchen, and other emergency assistance to those in serious need. In 2007, Good Sam provided 5,475 nights of shelter, served over 25,000 meals, and distributed over \$150,000 in food supplies!

**A COMMUNITY FORUM/Town Hall Meeting: COOL CITIES CONVERSATION:** Thursday evening, Feb. 7th here at the Fellowship. Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole has agreed to join us for a conversation on the status of the Mayor's Agreement on Climate Change, which he signed last Spring. Plan now to attend! Bill Sasso, will moderate the Community Forum.

### WINTER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Saturday, February 16, 2:00 to 5:00 pm, Fellowship Commons. Have you joined the Fellowship recently? Are you thinking of becoming a member? Then this program is intended for you! Our goal is to help you learn more about what Unitarian Universalism is, how this particular con-

gregation works, what we offer in our programming for adults and children, and to answer your questions about the Fellowship. Invitations will be mailed soon. Child Care will be provided. Contact Cathy Kline, Membership Chair 457-7885 or [klinejc@earthlink.net](mailto:klinejc@earthlink.net) or Melanie at the Fellowship office 529-2439.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY POTLUCK

You're invited! As a special way to celebrate the children and youth of our Fellowship, we'll follow our RE Sunday service on February 17th with an All-Fellowship Potluck meal! There will fun activities in which we match the children with their parents! We'll interact over yummy dishes with the children and youth. As you decide which dish to bring to share, keep in mind the potluck won't happen until after the service. It might also be an opportunity to pull out that old kid-friendly dish you haven't prepared in years (ie. peanut butter and jelly, ants-on-a-log...). For more info, or to volunteer to help, contact Roy Sumner ([rdsumner@hotmail.com](mailto:rdsumner@hotmail.com)) or Bill Sasso (529-2439 or [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com)). Plan to be there!

CUF Women & Friends: The **CUF ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT** is fast approaching, and if you haven't yet marked your calendars, do so. The retreat will be held at the Little Grassy Methodist Camp off of Giant City Road, February 29 - March 2. Brochures will be mailed to you if you don't pick one up after the Sunday Service. The brochure will include registration and other details. The retreat is planned; however, we need some help in other areas. We need someone to purchase snacks/drinks (you will be reimbursed), type up the satisfaction questionnaire and to stay and help clean up. If you can help with any or all of these tasks please contact Tami Frank [tami@c-infinity.net](mailto:tami@c-infinity.net) or Pamela Jacobini [pjacobini@siu.edu](mailto:pjacobini@siu.edu) as soon as possible. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## The Faith Club

*a short book review by Ken Starbuck*

A couple months ago Lois Hayward spoke to me about a book she had been reading, and that she thought might be of interest to those involved in interfaith dialogues. The book is about three women in New York City who had been meeting on a regular basis since 9-11-01, to discuss their different religious backgrounds and experiences. The read was a fascinating experience on my part, but required some patience with religious language and concepts. I came to the conclusion that it might be helpful for CUF members in preparation for Carbondale Interfaith Week, April 6-12, and especially for the interfaith dinner and table discussion at CUF on Tuesday, April 12, following the showing of *"Ties That Bind."*

*The Faith Club* (available from Amazon for \$12.00) is about three years of intimate sharing of feelings and religious confusion following the destruction of the New York

Trade Centers, and was written by three mothers in their late thirties and early forties. Ranya Idliby was at the time a non-practicing Muslim, Suzanne Oliver an active Episcopalian, and Priscilla Warner a Reformed Jew. The book is a contribution to the interfaith dialogue that is taking place all around this nation. There are many illustrations of how difficult it is to connect with real people and disconnect with the religious and cultural stereotypes we bring to those relationship.

The book is not without flaws, and often confines the religious discussion to the three Abrahamic faiths. Still the material is definitely fresh and relevant, and makes great bedtime reading. More balance could have been achieved with the addition of a Unitarian-Universalist voice and perspective, and how the 9-11 experience has affected non-believers.

## February Social Action Update

by Jess Jobe

February's Social Action Sunday Collection is set for Sunday, February 3 and will benefit Good Samaritan Ministries. This collection is a familiar one to most of us, as it's the annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection. Across the country, communities collect money for homeless shelters and food pantries on Super Bowl weekend. You'll likely see Saluki athletes out at grocery stores collecting donations all Super Bowl weekend and the Sunday collections at many local churches will also be a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please give generously to support Good Samaritan Ministries, which offers shelter, food, emergency assistance and case management services to the homeless or needy in Carbondale. All cash contributions will be donated to Good Samaritan. If donating by check, please address your check to Good Samaritan Ministries.

And for another word on Soup, thank you to everyone who brought in food for the Carbondale Mosque's Food Pantry in January. With energy and grocery prices skyrocketing, the need for food pantries is growing. Look for our next food drive, to benefit Good Sam food pantry, in the summer.

Thank you also to everyone who contributed to the January Social Action Sunday collection, benefiting The Lighthouse Shelter of Marion. \$391 was collected!

Is it Spring yet? If you're looking forward to warmer, sunnier, days like I am, maybe you would be interested in helping clean up Big Rock Adopt A Highway spot sometime in March. Just planting that seed, so to speak. (I struggle with subtlety sometimes...) Stay tuned for more information about a date for this in the March newsletter.



Membership Potluck

## New Day Prison Ministries

by Lois Hayward

The first men to be incarcerated in Tamms Supermax Prison arrived there in March of 1998. Upstate organizations such as The Tamms Committee, The John Howard Association, and Uptown People's Law Center are planning 10th Anniversary events to call attention to conditions Tamms. We have been invited to participate.

Of course I would like to see Tamms closed down, but that is not a realistic hope at this time. Too many things would have to happen first, such as making plans for humane housing of criminally insane men. Transferring men to old prisons with somewhat primitive conditions--Pontiac, Menard, and Stateville, for example--is an option, but not a solution. And after having it designed and built at a cost of \$73 million just ten years ago, the Department of Corrections is not likely to blow it up and walk away.

I would like to see Tamms advocates center on two issues: one, access to adequate mental and physical health care for the men at Tamms; and two, more educational opportunities and incentives for the men there. A major issue is that Tamms was built as a disciplinary prison to which men would be sent for having broken rules elsewhere in the system. They were to be there for a year or two, but some men have been there since it opened and many for more than two years. I would like to have help doing some computer research on how the original rules and procedures were actually worded. Please call me if you could help with this.

Currently we're co-sponsoring another art contest at Tamms. We provide books for inmates and libraries there,

and we have helped one person work on his high school diploma by correspondence. We send money so that men can buy thermal underwear, better shoes, Walkmans, and postage if they want to send letters beyond the three write-outs they are allowed each month, etc. This year we will try to co-sponsor a bus to bring inmates' families from Chicago to Tamms for a visit. (There is no public transportation from Chicago to Tamms, and many families cannot drive because they cannot afford gas.)

We are still closely cooperating with the Family Services Coordinator at Dwight and corresponding with women there. In the spring we will be doing an anthology of writings from Dwight. In April we will provide enough books so that each child visiting his or her mother during National Library Week will be able to choose a book to take home. Later on we will be providing sandbox toys for the Children's Day Camp there. We collect personals, clothing, jigsaw puzzles, and board games year-around for Dwight. (We have a collection box under the table in the Commons.)

New Day Prison Ministries does not meet on a regular basis, but we do ask Fellowship members for various kinds of help throughout the year. If you would like to be involved and yet not committed to a rigid schedule we would like to put your name on our call list. To do so please e-mail Lois Hayward (lolohayward@verizon.net) or call me at 549-5265.

## CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS

### Study Groups:

**EVENSONG**, a series of structured explorations and sharing of individual experience, facilitates personal sharing and develops deep listening skills. In doing so, it builds personal relationships and encourages spiritual and theological reflection in a group setting. Evensong will be offered eight consecutive Tuesday evenings, 7:30 to 9 pm, from January 8th to February 28th. Registration is encouraged. To register (or for more information) please contact Bill Sasso (529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com).

**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).

**THE HUMAN SPECTRUM:** The Welcoming Congregation Committee invites you to attend this ongoing exploration of the gender and sexual continuums. Guest speakers will discuss issues that challenge individuals who are Gay (January 7), Lesbian (February 4), and Bisexual (March 3). The talks will be held at the Fellowship from 7 to 9 PM the first Mondays of each month and will include time for questions and lively discussion. Mark your calendars! For more info, contact Judy Groskind (985-5007) or Bill Sasso (529-2439).

### Ongoing:

**THE DREAM WORKSHOP.** *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00ish.*  
**February 3.** 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.*

**February 29.** 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*

**February 13,** *“Is Humanism a Religion?”* Bill Sasso This question to some is controversial. John Dewey described Humanism as our “common faith.” Julian Huxley called it “Religion without Revelation.” The first Humanist Manifesto spoke openly of Humanism as a religion. Many other Humanists could be cited who have claimed that Humanism is a religion. In fact, claiming that Humanism was “the new religion” was trendy for at least 100 years. The Supreme Court in 1961 ruled that Secular Humanism is a religion. Some Secular Humanists have completely reversed their strategy, and claim that Humanism is not at all religious, but is “scientific.” However not all Humanists disclaim religion. Join us to see how Bill Sasso views this controversy.

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

**February 27,** *“Under the Glass Ceiling: Civil Rights Denied”* Laraine Wright. March is Women’s History Month. Our presenter, Laraine Wright, will present a program designed to raise consciousness about women’s issues in the work place. The central theme of her program will be her perceptions of unfair hiring practices and possible violations of Federal law relating to women applicants and appointees for corporate administrative positions, but most especially those at local universities and colleges. She will be making a short presentation to the BOT of SIUC on this issue and will appreciate our input in refining her presentation. There is still much to be done!

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

**February 10.** Information concerning the topic this month will be published in the weekly bulletin.

## CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS continued...

**ROUNDTABLE READERS.** *This group meets on the forth Sunday of the month in Room 04 after the Sunday Service at Noon*

**February 24.** Discussion of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. It is the second novel by Khaled Hosseini, the author of the international best seller *The Kite Runner*, and is dedicated to the women of Afghanistan.

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

**February 23.** Discussion of Parts 3 & 4 of *The Weathermakers*. This is a great book about climate change! Feel free to bring potluck snacks. Contact Gina Paul at [rpaul@siumed.edu](mailto:rpaul@siumed.edu) or 351-1064 if you have questions.

**TIBETAN BUDDHISM STUDY GROUP** *This group meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Commons at 7:00 PM. For more information: [www.shawnee-dharma.org](http://www.shawnee-dharma.org)*

**February.** We are currently studing a teaching by the Dzogchen Ponlup Rinpoche, "*Mind Beyond Death.*"

**VIDEO CIRCLE.** *This group meets every 1st and 3rd Friday in the Fellowship Commons at 7:15 PM*

Continuing with select films devoid of bad language, unnecessary violence, explosions or cruelty to men, women and children. We try to create a few hours away from the trauma of the daily news. We have shown a variety of foreign and domestic films – in short – good storys, good direction and good acting. **Free popcorn!**

**February 1.** Double Feature!! "*The Man Who Planted Trees*" an award winning French animated film followed by the documentary "*Winged Migrations.*" Four years in filming, it traces the migrations of several bird species, some flying thousands of miles.

**February 15.** "*Mon Oncle,*" (my uncle) a French film directed by Jacques Tati. A classic comic satire on French technology. Full of sight gags that will have you laughing long after the film is over.

**YOGA FOR ZAMBIA.** *This group meets on the third Sunday in the Fellowship Commons from 12:30 to 2:00 PM*

**February 17,** 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.)

## CUF BYTES

### UU HOSTS NEEDED FOR NATIONAL MEETING

The National UU Global Aids Coalition will have its first retreat for the steering committee in Carbondale. So far we have people coming from Oregon, Washington state, D.C. and maybe other places. Carla Feldhamer is a member of this coalition. Jerry Molumby will be helping them to re-examine their mission and plan their future direction. The retreat will be held on March 8th at the Fellowship. Carla is looking for a couple of persons to volunteer to do home hospitality for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights of that weekend. An open house potluck reception will be held at the Feldhamer's home on Sat. evening of March 8th. Drinks will be provided. You are all invited to meet these UU's that are so devoted to the AIDS pandemic. Reception will be between 7:00 and 9:30 PM. Please call Carla at 457-8606 or e-mail at [HOSPICE88@AOL.COM](mailto:HOSPICE88@AOL.COM) if you would like to host someone.



The 2008 Membership Party

### CUF CLASSIFIED ADS

#### Valentines Day is Feb. 14th!

Remember your sweeties with Fair Trade chocolate, nuts or cranberries (tea and coffee also available). Valentine's Day Special- 5 minis for a dollar. Contact Janet Harris to order or see what she has in stock after the service on Sunday.

## Impressions of Zambia

by Debbie Czarnopys-White

Upon arriving at Ranchod Hospice that first Thursday, my able guide, Carla, led me on a tour of the facility. I was introduced to the men and women patients in the wards. They were in various stages of illness and hopeful recovery. I met the staff working that day but came to understand that there was a very wide network of caregivers and community workers also. Very subtly, I thought, we ambled over to the school for the AIDS orphans who have lost either one or both of their parents. The stealthiness ended abruptly when the children saw us and our cameras. We were entertained by their songs about AIDS and about Christmas.

The lifestyle between Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia, and Kabwe was completely opposite.

Although there were some businesses in the town of Kabwe, many of the people there had trekked in from their mud-brick, grass-topped round huts. This also includes many of the staff members at Ranchod who arrive daily for work. People in Zambia as well as probably all of Africa do not die of AIDS by name. They contract either malaria, tuberculosis, or a long-term undefined illness. The stigma of being identified as having AIDS is very difficult for the individual and becoming ostracized often begins with the family members. TB is actually being diagnosed as the biggest killer in many African countries. Malaria follows closely behind and even young children were being diagnosed with the illness while we were there. As we arrived in Zambia at the beginning of their summer season, it was also the beginning of the rainy season.

Imagine roads completely composed of "nice" finely-grained, slick clay which turns into mush with each day's accumulation of rain. People living in village huts had to continually dig drainage ditches away from their homes. Of course, these also became part of the road as there was nowhere else for it to go. Being driven to work in range-rover type vehicles and even the use of 4-wheel drive did not guarantee safe arrival at a destination. So, each day was an adventure just getting down to a hard-surfaced road. And we were the more fortunate ones in a vehicle. Most other traffic was on foot.

Two days of medical outreach were conducted while there. The first day, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) was promoted through the use of native music and two young men promoting the testing offered. People attending the local food market also took advantage of the freely offered testing. If indicated positive, the person was advised to get retested in three months to confirm. People also received counseling, whether HIV positive or not. The second day was a general medical assistance day and medications were distributed as well as VCT being conducted. About 150 people were treated for various illnesses. Nurses Carla and Cherry kept up the good cheer while doling out medical supplies. Being invited to help weigh the babies, I stepped up to the challenge and the scale hanging from



a tree branch. After a little effort getting the moving legs into the canvas bag with leg holes, the babies were successfully though not happily weighed. Most understandably cried, but a few were very stoic about it and it reflected in their pictures. Very small but meaningful portions of mealie meal (ground maize meal) were distributed to those in need. This second outreach day, medical stations were set up where the road literally ended. It was obvious that people had to walk distances to come and participate. Some villages may have been close, but the majority probably involved walking long distances and usually with many small children.

Distribution of the nightgowns made by so many Fellowship members began on Sunday, before the celebration of World AIDS Day. Women of the hospice wards received a new nightgown and many preferred to choose their own colors. Men received AIDS Day t-shirts and were also very proud and appreciative. As the staff, caregivers, and community workers gathered, they also received an item of clothing designating the event. Each group represented from the staff, caregivers, and community workers to the street boys presented their story in meaningful song. The grandmothers group, the Busy Bees, also participated and sounded very good. The remaining nightgowns were later distributed in Christmas packages along with hygiene items and the men received similar items. So now we're all out and ready to start sewing again - right?

The Christmas party for all the school children occurred at the second school for preschoolers and first grade preparation in Chililalila. Over 200 children attended and all received a gift of clothing and a small toy. One small toy included in many packages was a cloth gingerbread doll, stuffed with craft cotton batting. We finally depleted the entire quantity made by local volunteers and are looking to start up again. Two staff members, along with Carla and myself spent about two days making sure that all of the children were accounted for in gifts. Most took their gift package home still wrapped to share with their extended families. A hearty meal was provided to all and even the children outside the gate got a package of biscuits and a sweet treat. The children were full of excitement and joy at finally being able to produce their holiday play and songs. The angels were the most beautiful I'd ever seen and the Christ child was a girl (about time!).

The Busy Bees group was engaged in making school uniforms. They took a break in their native craft-making to start outfitting the children for the school year starting in January. The heavier duty machines were the Singer treadle-type variety and one electric machine was usable. The other was still there in body, but the spirit had left with the broken parts. The ladies helped fill the neck coolers that were started earlier at the Women's Retreat. They filled them with the water-absorbing crystals and sewed the opening shut. Leaving the bottle of

remaining water crystals there and a pattern, they will now be able to continue making these very helpful medicinal aids. They help bring down temperatures of the patients. Toward the end of our time, and being careful not to introduce anything resembling witchcraft, I found an opportunity to teach a breathing and energy cleansing technique that seemed to catch on pretty well. They were still found practicing it in the mornings before we left.

Ranchod is not self-sustaining and relies on heavily on donations, as do all of the hospices in Zambia. With donations received, the ward patients receive daily meals, medical assistance and supplies, and the children receive two meals a day, medical assistance, and basic schooling. People in outreach areas receive medical assistance and small food supplies as available. Restrictions being placed by some agencies only hurt the people who need help most. Ways are constantly being explored for additional funding and support.

I found the people of all ages very open, accepting, and respectful. I learned the Zambian handshake and some energetic Zambia dances. Hopefully, I also learned to smile more, even at strangers, laugh lots more, and enjoy the gift of every moment.



RECORD DONATIONS SENT TO OUR PARTNER IN ZAMABIA: \$13, 929.25 total. \$9,070 to Ranchhod Hospice and Orphan Day Care and \$4859.25 was collected by Allida Plumer for the orphan school fees program. All of this would not have been possible without the generosity and compassion of this fellowship. Thank you all.



## INTERFAITH WEEK ART EXHIBIT: Call for Submissions

The Carbondale Interfaith Council announces a call for artists to participate in a juried exhibition that will be held at the Carbondale Civic Center through the month of April in honor of Interfaith Week, which will be celebrated April 6-12, 2008.

Artists are invited to present actual works for review by a diverse committee of jurors who will make selections based upon excellence of execution and responsiveness to the theme: "Celebrating Carbondale's religious diversity and honoring 25 years of interfaith dialogue and cooperation."

Jurying will take place from 3-6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18 at Hickory Lodge, 1115 W. Sycamore, Carbondale.

Jurors will photograph the presented works, and artists will be notified of the jury selections by email or phone on or before March 21. Artists whose works are selected will be asked to deliver them to the Carbondale Civic Center on March 31 between 8 and 9 a.m. and to retrieve them on Wednesday, April 30, between 8 and 10 a.m.

Submissions must be two-dimensional (or low relief) works not to exceed 48" x 60" or 15 lbs. An artist statement specific to the piece must accompany each work. All accepted works must be insured by the artist.

Artists should refer technical questions to Carbondale Community Arts at (618) 457-5100 or [cca@neondsl.com](mailto:cca@neondsl.com). Questions about Interfaith Week may be directed to the Rev. Bill Sasso at (618) 529-2439 or Marleen Shepherd at (618) 521-3541

### "Our Faith" Children's Art Exhibit Interfaith Week 2008

Southern Illinois children of all faith groups are invited to participate in the Interfaith Week 2008 Children's Art Exhibit, "Our Faith," which will be on display during Interfaith Week, April 6-12, 2008.

Children of all ages are invited to create any type of art that reflects their own traditions or the theme of Interfaith Week 2008: "Celebrating Carbondale's religious diversity and honoring 25 years of interfaith dialogue and cooperation."

Art pieces should be ready for display by March 31 and accompanied by a brief statement from the faith group explaining the works. Those who wish to participate can contact Marleen Shepherd at (618) 521-3541 or [zion.road@gmail.com](mailto:zion.road@gmail.com).

## Current list of group/program/committee leaders

Art/Aesthetics Committee: Barbara Lesar  
 Committee on Ministry: Joyce Webb, Joe Schmit and Matt Stronkoski  
 Finance Committee: Ed Phillips  
 Nominating Committee: Dave Clark, Alan Christensen, Jan Eisenhard  
 Personnel Committee: George Feldhamer  
 Building and Grounds Committee: Loren Cocking (bldg) & George Feldhamer (grnds)  
 Bulletin Board: Lois Lembcke  
 Canvass (Stewardship) Committee: Mary Campbell  
 Caring and Sharing: Cheryl Robinson  
 Chalice Lighters (Sundays): Roy Sumner  
 Chalice Lighters (Fundraisers): open  
 Choir: Geri Mckee  
 Communications Committee: Yo Presley  
 Covenant Group Ministries: Bill Sasso  
 CUF Links (monthly newsletter): Yo Presley  
 Denominational Affairs: open  
 Email Bulletin: Russ Trimble & Melanie Bray  
 Greeters & Coffee Hosts: Joyce Webb  
 Health Ministry/Cong. Nurse: Vennie Anderson, RN  
 Hospitality Committee: Janet Harris & Patsy Maxwell  
 Interfaith Council: Ken and Kathy Starbuck  
 Library Coordinator: Janet Levie  
 Mailing List Manager: Melanie Bray  
 Membership Committee: Cathy Kline  
 Music Committee: Alan Christensen  
 Open Minds: Dave Christiansen & Bob Lembcke



Order of Service: Russ Trimble

Pastoral Friends: Bill Sasso, Ken Starbuck, Matt Denis, Lois Hayward, Cheryl Robinson  
 Press Release Coordinator: Melanie Bray  
 Program Committee: JoAnn Nelson & Janet Harris  
 Religious Education Committee: Roy Sumner  
 Sunday Service Committee: Samir Aouadi  
 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: Amy Weber  
 Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office: Dave Christensen  
 Campus UU: Bridget Shepherd  
 Web Site: Yo Presley  
 Weekly Bulletin: Russ Trimble  
 Welcoming Congregation: Judy Groskind

### Special Interest Groups--

Carol's Lunch Bunch (women's lunch group): Mariann Douglass  
 Community Forums: Bob Camp  
 Dreamwork: Janet Harris  
 Humanist Group: Bob Camp  
 Intergenerational Potluck: Roy Sumner  
 International Student Coffee Hour: JoAnn Nelson & Nillofur Zobairi  
 PSI Symposium: Astrid Mosley & Mary Campbell  
 Prison Ministries: Lois Hayward & Karen Swenson  
 Round Table Readers: Janet Levie  
 Social Action Committee: Jesslyn Jobe  
 Sisterhood of Stickers: Elaine Seymour  
 Supper Club: Janet Banerjee  
 Tibetan Buddhism Study Group: Steve Blache  
 Unitarian Folk Orchestra: Charlie Maxwell  
 Unitarian Recorder Ensemble: Judy Aydt  
 Video Circle: Victor DeGraff  
 Women's Retreat: Astrid Mosely & Tami Frank

### A Note From the Editor

The deadline for the March issue of CUF Links will be **Thursday evening, February 21st**. You may leave items for the Newsletter in the CUF Links box in the Fellowship office or email me at: [yo@astrosleuth.com](mailto:yo@astrosleuth.com)  
 Pictures are always welcome! *Yo Presley*