



CUF Links

Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
A Welcoming Congregation

- a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist association -

March, 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

3/6 Bill Sasso: "Jane Addams and the Ethics of Welcoming"

In recognition of Women's History month, let's consider the lessons we might learn from Jane Addams, founder of Chicago's Hull House and the first U.S. woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Her life was one of service, and learning, and offers us an example of meeting people where they are, understanding others as a form of individual growth, and valuing the gifts that each possesses.

3/13 Deb Czarnopys-White: "Women's Contributions to History and Spirituality"

Join Deb and other women from our Fellowship as they cover women of history who have made influential changes and those who have touched us in spirituality.

3/20 Paul Kent Oakley: "Expanding Our Sense of Mission - Young Adults Without Children"

If you look across the faces in the Fellowship Hall on a Sunday morning, you find one group is usually underrepresented: young adults without children. We might think that this is because most young adults aren't very religious. But what if that is not really the reason? Are we up for the challenge of reaching out to this demographic? Our Social Action offering will go to the Murphysboro Food Pantry.

3/27 Bill Sasso: "Who Owns This Fellowship?"

What does a sense of "ownership" mean to you? Is it a positive feeling, or a contest of wills and possessiveness? Join Bill to help him explore who might be considered the "owner(s)" of this religious community, and what that ownership might entail! Our children will be with us in the opening of the service.

. . . and coming up . . .

4/3 Bill Sasso: "Where Do You Focus Your Energy?"

OPEN MINDS

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

Contact Terry Elliot at elliott1@wildblue.net for more information on topics, TBA in this month's weekly bulletins, or if you would like to lead one of these Sunday discussions.

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"In Case You're Curious . . ."



We have entered a new cycle of planning for our Fellowship, and I want to thank all of you who have participated in February's cottage meetings as part of that process! We're also reviewing what we have accomplished in terms of the priorities that we set in 2006.

At our congregational meeting on December 12th, and again at our "make-up" meeting on January 23rd, I summarized what the Board of Trustees feels that we have accomplished. I also invited your feedback on the same question: "How well have we done on the goals we set five years ago?" I thank all who have completed one of these surveys! Here are some of the more interesting results. While recognizing that we can continue to improve in any dimension of the life of the Fellowship, let's look at what we have done best.

While the Board was quite positive about our progress in developing our religious education program, the congregation gave it the only "perfect score" in the entire survey, so this objective got the most favorable score received. Clearly, we value not only our children, but also the efforts of our religious education leaders and teachers! We value our adult educational opportunities as well, with both Board and congregational feedback matching closely to give our "Rainbow of Programs" the second most favorable score. Kudos to our Program Committee and other program leaders for their work! The third most favorable score – again with the congregation's opinion closely matching that of the Board – went to "supporting new UU congregations" in Cape

Girardeau and Mt. Vernon, an area where many members of our Fellowship have given of their time and resources to assist in the development of these new UU neighbors.

There was consensus on what we did not accomplish, too. We clearly have not created the campus presence at SIUC that we planned to do, nor have we achieved the diversity as a congregation that we had hoped to experience. With respect to diversity, however, the Board gave us partial credit for progress in this area, perhaps thinking of diversity in diverse ways, while the congregation felt that we had made little progress in this. Another difference in the Board/congregation responses appeared with respect to the objective "strengthening our growing Fellowship." The congregation gave this a more favorable rating, perhaps focusing on how we have worked to strengthen relationships, while Board's lower rating may have reflected the fact that the number of our members has remained flat over the past five years. Both Board and congregation, however, agreed that we had much more to do in terms of increasing UU visibility in our community and region.

In the next few weeks, I'll be sharing a more detailed summary of these results with the Strategic Planning Committee and with the Board of Trustees. If you would like to receive more information about this, please let me know!

Again, thanks to all the participants in this year's strategic planning process!

Yours into the future,
Bill Sasso

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR



I believe the Religious Education Sunday service, this last February 6, went a long way toward answering the question, “Just what goes on in the RE Program”? Besides Sunday morning classes, there is a dizzying array of activities and events throughout the

year. Just for example, we participate in the Martin Luther King Celebration, go ice skating and roller skating, visit and take supplies to the Humane Society, make Easter Baskets for at risk kids, build a cardboard city to bring attention to homelessness, participate in the annual Graduation Sunday, Mother’s Day, and Thanksgiving Bread service, maintain a garden, have a Vision Quest, collect food from the Farmers Market, Trick or Treat for UNICEF, have a weeklong summer program, bake bread for Good Sam and the Women’s Center, put on a Holiday Play, help clear trails, visit the Cache River, go camping each June, and sometimes we visit other churches in town to see what they are like. When it was all displayed and discussed at once, wow, a lot really happens!

And you all have a standing invitation to jump in and be a part of this excitement. Any Sunday during the school year, you are welcome to come and join a class. You don’t have to prepare in advance, just let Roy or any teacher know you are

available, and we’ll steer you to a room. Help is always welcomed!

I also wanted to give you a heads-up that I’m going to be posting a sign-up sheet for our “Summer Sundays” part of the year. Beginning May 29, until about September 4, we will be having our one-room-school setup instead of individual classes. The kids that come during this summer period will all gather together in the RE Commons for one big class. Since our teachers will be taking a well deserved break, we rely on members to come in and share an hour of their time with the kids. Last summer we had presentations on bats, yoga, color, art from recycled treasures, the UU ukulele group, recycling made easy and fun, drumming, having fun with electricity and science...basically, the hobbies and passions of our members. It’s always an awesome experience for the kids, as well as the adults that come and share their loves and talents.

If you attended the Religious Education Sunday service, you saw the future of Unitarian Universalism. These children and youth thrive on the interactions they have with every member of this Fellowship, they look up to you as models, and they appreciate any time you can offer them. After all, in so many ways, we’re a really big family, and we’re all important.

Sincerely,

Roy Sumner

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE – April 9th, 2011!

Put it on your calendar, your phone and/or whatever electronic device that you use. It is the date of the Fellowship Annual Event. There will be food, entertainment, special activities for the children and a good time for all. We come together as a community and kick off our annual Stewardship Campaign. It is our way to do fun’ raising.

I hope you have all participated in a Strategic Planning gathering. Having a congregational structure, the Fellowship is governed by its members. The hopes and aspirations of the members are formally gathered every 5 years (this year) to create a roadmap for the future. The Strategic Plan will be a guide for the Fellowship over the next 5 years.

The Board of Trustees is designated, by our Bylaws, to provide direction for the Fellowship, implementing goals flowing from the Strategic Plan. Staff provide service to the Fellowship in specific areas. And members volunteer their time and talent to carry out many other services and functions that make this Fellowship such a vibrant community.

The Board will be creating a Stewardship budget at their March board meeting. This has been drafted by the Finance committee, taking into account the ongoing needs of the Fellowship – building, staff and program. I hope every committee has provided feedback to the Finance Committee about their needs for the coming year.

The Stewardship committee is preparing material to make sure that the every member of the congregation is fully aware of the needs of the Fellowship. It is planning the Annual Event and it is outlining a process for receiving a pledge from every member in a timely fashion. Ideally, each member will be fully knowledgeable of the needs of the Fellowship and make a pledge consistent with their understanding of being a good steward.

The most critical question for each member is “What is the value of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship in my life?” The member then converts this into a specific dollar amount that becomes their pledge. When all of these are added together, they will represent the collective value we place on the Fellowship. Practically speaking, it will tell us if we will be able to function at the level projected in the Stewardship budget.

Please study the materials that will be made available to you over the next month. They will let you know what the Fellowship needs and wants to accomplish in the coming year, the past pattern of pledging and guidelines for giving that reflect stewardship.

Over my 15 years in leadership roles in the Fellowship, I have marveled at how this congregation has participated and supported the Fellowship financially. They know that the Fellowship is very important to them and that they are the ones who make it great through their time and talent and money.

Be informed. Be committed. Be a steward!

Jerry Molumby, Stewardship Chair

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Got an idea for a Sunday Service? Want to get the ball rolling? Plan to attend our "Sunday Service Workshop" on Thursday evening, March 3rd, at 7:30 pm to work on elaborating it into a more concrete proposal! Sunday Services Chair Darren Sherkat and Bill Sasso will help you explore the nature of your idea(s) and identify their possibilities, as well as offering resources and experience in shaping an idea into a service. For more information, contact Darren at sherkat@siu.edu or Bill at bsasso@juno.com or 618-529-2439.

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Let's Explore A Chosen Faith! Bill Sasso will facilitate a six-week workshop on Forrest Church and John Buehrens' book A Chosen Faith, which explores Unitarian Universalist values and their application to our

lives. We will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning March 29th and ending May 2nd. Participants will need to register and to acquire a copy of the book. The book is widely available, and Bill has a few copies available. Please register no later than noon, Sunday, March 27th. To register, or for more information, contact Bill at bsasso@juno.com or 618-529-2439.

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"The Perversity of Diversity?" On Friday night, April 29th, 2011 UUs from across our District will gather at the Chateau Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, Illinois for a District Assembly key noted by the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed. With "The Perversity of Diversity" as this year's theme, attendees will have the opportunity to focus on the challenges and obstacles we UUs face as we strive to become a more diverse and inclusive faith. Want to participate? More information is available at <http://www.cmwd-uua.org>.

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Church Women United's World Hunger Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 8-9 at the Newman Catholic Student Center, 715 S. Washington, Carbondale. The sale hours are 12 noon to 6 pm on Friday and 8 am to 1 pm Saturday. The live auction will be held Saturday at 10 am. featuring antiques, collectibles and much more, including beautiful limestone planters. Gorgeous hanging and bedding plants from McNitt's Greenhouses will be sold on Saturday. Sandwiches and baked goods will be sold both days. Donations of usable items of all sorts are needed – household items, electronics, furniture, books, toys, jewelry and clothing. Donations of baked goods, plants, and auction items are especially welcome. If you have something special to donate that might be considered for the auction, please call Chair Margie Parker by March 30! All donations can be taken to the Newman Center on Wednesday and Thursday April 6-7. Volunteers are needed April 6-9; for more info, contact Margie at 549-7193.

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NEXT RALPH ANDERSON INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

The next Ralph Anderson Interfaith Dialogue will be on Monday, March 21st (7:30 PM) at the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship. The subject will be "Religious Perspectives on the Environmental Future of Our Planet". David Christensen will start the discussion with an overview from his recent book on overpopulation, and we will have responses from Christian, Jewish and Muslim perspectives (Father Roger Karben, Dr. Sam Goldman and Imam Haqq). Please plan to join us. For more information contact Ken Starbuck, cubrats@frontier.com or 942-3986.

RECENT MONTHLY SOCIAL ACTION OFFERINGS

Our February **Social Action "Souper Bowl" Offering**, to benefit our local **Good Samaritan Ministries** collected **\$843.79**. How SUPER is that??

Our **Social Action Offering for March** will take place on Sunday, **Mar. 20.**, and will be donated to **Murphysboro Food Pantry**. They are a great local organization, that supplies food for approximately 20,000 people every year. They really need our help, so let's all donate all that we can!



pat humphries & sandy o

emma's revolution

*"Bold, profound, moving, hilarious
and transformative."*

Award-winning, internationally
touring songwriters in the
tradition of Pete Seeger,
Phil Ochs and
Holly Near.



*Co-sponsored by Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
and Cousin Andy's Coffee House*

Saturday March 5 @ 7pm

Zambian HIV/AIDS Program Benefit

Reception/Silent Auction & Concert

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, 105 North Parrish St.

\$15 advance/\$18 door/\$10 students

Adv tix at <http://emmasrevolution.com/live/> or Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

emmasrevolution.com

"If I can't dance I don't want to be part of your revolution." -emma goldman



MEMBERS SECTION

ABOUT ONE OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS...

Meet Sylvia, Bryn and Andrew Sharp!

One of our newest members, Sylvia Sharp, joined the Fellowship at the end of January. She and her family – husband Andy, daughter Bryn, and son Andrew – moved here from Colorado about three and half years ago, when Sylvia and Andy joined the SIU School of Medicine. She originally came to the Fellowship seeking a place where her children would find a sense of community and spirituality, and found that she felt welcomed herself. She feels that we're a good fit for all of them – engaging, thought-provoking and willing to accept the “non-conformer.”

Sylvia's family life includes not only her spouse and children, but their two dogs and six cats, as well. They have hopes to acquire some chickens in the near future. Her professional life is centered on education and science (biology), which are both very important to her. In both the personal and the professional dimensions of her life, Sylvia tries hard to make the decision that she feels is the right one, even when it may not be the expected or the conventional choice.

Sylvia may be unique in the Fellowship as the only one of us, who as a six-year old, rode off on her pony on a solo camping trip! She was only a year old when her mother died in childbirth, and it was six years later when her father remarried, so while her father and older siblings worked and ran the family dairy farm, young Sylvia often found herself left to her own devices. She thinks that this aspect of her childhood may be the basis for her commitment to be as present as she can be for her children, Bryn and Andrew.

Please keep an eye open for Sylvia, Bryn, and Andrew, and offer them each a warm welcome when you meet them!

ABOUT ONE OF OUR LONG-TERM MEMBERS...

Ten things you (probably) don't know about me – SANDY CHARLSON:

1. Has taught in the School of Art and Design since January 1989.
2. Likes to read non-fiction and favorite news source is either Jim Lehrer or Jon Stewart. Can't decide.
3. Knits, crochets, and quilts in spare time.
4. Has no spare time.
5. Doesn't mind that really.
6. Was on the synchronized swim team in college and a lifeguard in high school and college.
7. Took tap and modern dance lessons from 4th grade throughout college - thought about it as a career.

8. Likes to garden, hike in the woods, camping and canoeing, hanging out on the deck and watching the stars.
 9. Grew up as a Lutheran and Methodist, but feel as if I've been a Unitarian Universalist at heart all my life.
 10. Drinks Hershey's syrup straight from the bottle!
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CUF HOST MANAGER and CUF EVENT HOST(S) POSITIONS OPEN

The CUF Board of Trustees remains committed to offering the Fellowship facility to outside groups as a community resource, but has become aware of specific and significant concerns related to use of our building by outside groups.

These concerns include situations where an outside group has (1) arrived early and began setting up for its event, disrupting scheduled Fellowship activities, (2) failed to leave the building secure (e.g., doors unlocked), (3) failed to clean the building appropriately or to replace the furniture where it belongs, and other issues that have interfered with our use of the building, as well as the plans of the outside groups themselves. In order to help outside groups use our facility, to their own satisfaction as well as ours, the Board voted at its February, 2011, meeting to create a "host" system, where these outside groups will pay an hourly fee to use the building. These fees will enable us to compensate CUF members who serve as "hosts" for these outside groups, including one "host manager" who will recruit, train, and coordinate "hosts." We encourage interested members of the Fellowship to consider applying for these positions!

Here are the specific duties of hosts and the host manager.

Duties of the **Host Manager** include: recruiting and training event Hosts; coordinating events with the office manager; providing host coverage to non-member events; providing back-up when necessary or desired; reporting building issues to BOT and either recommending return or forfeit of security deposit. Qualifications include good organizational skills, good communication skills, and ability to train others on building systems.

Host duties include: giving access to the building to non-member rentals; providing guidance on use of building; noting current condition of space being rented; being present during entire event; instructing renters on clean up and restoration of space; securing and locking building. Qualifications include good communications skills and the ability to learn our building systems.

We are seeking to fill these positions from within our congregation.

If you are interested in a more detailed job description/ pay scale, etc. please call or email Yolán Presley. (astrosleuth@gmail.com - 457-0458)

CUF REGULAR PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

CUF MEN'S ALLIANCE *This group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at CUF.* Emphasis in on men supporting each other through life's milestones and ongoing challenges. For more information, please contact Bill Rose at 351-1474, Or Charles Ruffner at 687-2819.

WOMEN'S GATHERING *This group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at CUF.* **Meets this month on Wed., Mar. 16.** Join us for this wonderful fellowship of women! 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.

CUF DRUMMING GROUP *This group meets on the third Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the Commons.* **Meets this month on Mar. 19.** For more information, contact Debbie Czarnopys-White at bdcw@frontiernet.net, or call 787-2929.

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.

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

DREAMWORKS *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00 noon.* **Meets this month on Mar. 6.** Using Jeremy Taylor's view of dreams, we share and contemplate our dreams in a non-threatening, comfortable, and we hope enlightening manner. For more information, contact Nillofur at cadfael07@yahoo.com or Janet Harris at jea49@Care2.com.

ROUNDTABLE READERS *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month after the Sunday Service at Noon.* Round Table Readers will meet on Sunday, March 27. Please address questions or send book suggestions to Janet Levie at jmlevie@frontier.com.

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 Mar. 18.** For more information, contact Amy Weber at amyweber1@msn.com.

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

Cousin Andy's Spring Schedule March 2011

Since so many CUF members are regular attendees at Cousin Andy's Coffeehouse, we are publishing the March schedule for your convenience:

March 4 – **Doug E. Rees**

www.dougerees.com

Sponsored by Cousin Andy's at Yellow Moon Café, Cobden

This veteran singer-songwriter from Jackson, Missouri is a real crowd pleaser. Doug fuses folk, country, blues and pop together to create his unique sound. As it says on his website, "A Doug Rees show resembles a conversation between friends." So come join us at the Yellow Moon in Cobden this week, and plan to try some of the Moon's excellent food! Music will begin around 8:00 PM.

March 11 – **Gina Forsyth**

www.ginaforsyth.com/

Cousin Andy's Coffee House (in Carbondale location)

An award-winning singer/songwriter, violinist and guitarist, her southern roots dig deep into the soul of American culture and bloom forth in the form of pertinent, powerful lyrics that rest on the branches of vivid melodies. Steeped in a wide array of influences, Gina has successfully linked the traditional to the contemporary, the erudite to the instinctual and the accomplished to the unrefined. Doors open at 7:00 PM; music starts around 7:30 PM.

March 18 – **Joe Crookston**

www.ioecrookston.com/

Cousin Andy's Coffee House

In the last three years Joe has won just about every award given in the world of singer-songwriters. He is artful, intense, and often transcendent ...imaginative, funny, and very engaging. If you love a moving song and magical madness, Joe delivers it all –the music, the lyrics, the energy, and the passion for exceptionally well written songs. Doors open at 7:00 PM; music starts around 7:30 PM.

March 25 – **Jay Howlett**

www.blahblahwoofwoof.com/jayhome.html

Cousin Andy's Coffeehouse

Jay is an accomplished performer, an award winning singer-songwriter with a powerful baritone voice and talent for storytelling. Jay writes simple honest songs about life in and around America and the experiences that bring us together and tear us apart. You could call him a troubadour; a storyteller or a performing songwriter, but whatever he is, Jay always finds his audiences. Doors open at 7:00 PM; music starts around 7:30 PM.

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

Deadline for March CUF Links: Friday, Mar. 25.

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship,
105 N. Parrish Lane, Carbondale, IL 62901
618-529-2439

www.cuuf.net, carbondaleuu@frontier.com
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

***"We either make ourselves miserable,
or we make ourselves happy.
The amount of work is the same."***

- Carlos Castaneda