



CUF Links

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

A Welcoming Congregation

a member congregation of the unitarian universalist association

Volume 08, Number 5

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE SIGNATURE STORIES



Early in April, I attended a continuing education program for ministers and lay leaders. Some of the skills we talked about are so simple that it's easy to take them for granted. For instance, we talked about the stories that each community tells about itself. Usually factual (at least in large part), these stories hold up certain values that the congregation embodies, or important episodes in its history.

They present an understanding of the good times and the hard times, of the experience that has been shared in the process of creation of a community.

The program leader, Alice Mann, called the particular stories that a congregation celebrates as most essential its "signature stories." These stories hold the feeling, the sense of the community in a way that Board meeting minutes rarely capture. Stories capture the fun and the faithfulness, the hope and the effort that hope motivates, and the sense of call that earlier generations felt and acted upon. They can celebrate the community's "glory days," or they can keep some folks from getting "too big for their britches." These signature stories may not, in fact, tell who we are, but they certainly tell who we think we are!

Stories from the past live in the present. Even today, stories from a generation ago can serve as gateways into the congregation. There is a real sense in which we enter the community of this Fellowship by learning its stories. People who don't know the signature stories of this congregation may be members in the formal sense, but they remain "outsiders" in at least one important sense.

Alice Mann's comments about stories have challenged me to reflect on a trio of questions:

What stories of this Fellowship are most important to our sense of ourselves?

How do we make it possible for newcomers to learn these stories that are at the center of our sense of this community? In other words, how do we share these stories?

How can we be intentional about preserving our signature stories for the future?

I've heard stories about this Fellowship since before I arrived in Carbondale. I've heard stories of checking for Unitarians in card-index boxes at Southern Illinois University, and of youth sitting in at segregated lunch counters here in Carbondale. I've heard stories of carrying the chalice flame across town from one building to another, and of carrying compassion and love to those suffering from AIDS in Zambia. I've been a small part of a few stories myself, like the Empty Bowls campaign on behalf of Good Samaritan Ministries, Rainbow Café, and the beginning of the Mt. Vernon UU Fellowship. As I see it, these are some of our signature stories.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services begin at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

May 4 Graduation and Affirmation

To honor the achievements of all of our graduates, we dedicate this Sunday to consider graduation as one of our society's major rites of passage. Parents of those graduating from 8th grade will "affirm" their children, while several of those graduating from high-school will speak for themselves. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service.

May 11 Mother's Day Flower Service (Outdoors at the Fellowship)

This favorite annual intergenerational service will combine two themes: the impact of motherhood and the sharing of flowers as an act of community. Weather permitting, we'll use the terrace for the service, so bring flowers to share, blankets, lawn chairs, sunscreen, and suitable headgear! In case of rain, we'll stay inside. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service. Please note: there will be no "live" announcements at this service, so please get your info to Russ Trimble so it can be included in the order of service!

May 18 Recognizing Our Members

Have you "signed the book" and become a member during the past year? Or did you do so sometime in 2003 or 1998? If so, please plan to attend this service because we'll be celebrating your presence as part of the Fellowship! Whether you're a member or not, you'll enjoy hearing two of our most senior members comment on the Fellowship's changes over the years. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service, which will be followed by our congregational business meeting.

May 25 Debbie Czarnopys-White "Reflections of Germany's Generations - WWII and Its Lessons"

The program will discuss a few actions of WWII in Germany, the aftermath, and the sentiments shared by the host family of our former exchange student, Patrick Seydholdt, while visiting in 2007. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service, which will be followed by our annual Memorial Day Sunday potluck picnic on the Fellowship lawn – bring a dish to share, a picnic blanket, and your sunblock!

And coming up . . .

June 1 Terry Bowman on "A Hot World and a Green Sanctuary"



OPEN MINDS

Meetings begin at 8:45 AM in the Fellowship Commons

May 4, Dave Christensen, *"The Food and Water Crunch"*

May 11, Reggie Robinson, *"The Race Concept and the Problem of Human Suffering"*

May 18, Cosmos: *"Edge of Forever"*, Video series by Carl Sagan, Discussion will be coordinated by Bob Camp who will offer additional commentary. We live in an expanding Universe. Will this universe continue to expand or will it collapse upon itself? Astronomers are lining up. Which will it be? All welcome, especially newcomers.

May 25, Open Minds topic TBA

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



The Reverend Dr. William Schultz addressed the congregation on April 13th during his visit to Carbondale's Interfaith Week Celebration.

Signature Stories, continued from first page by Bill Sasso, Minister

Beginning this summer, and over the next year, I'd like to work with others in the Fellowship to make sure that we keep our stories present and accessible to all. Are you interested in this? If so, I invite you to help by (1) pointing out stories that you think we ought to preserve and celebrate; (2) suggesting those who can share them, perhaps from different perspectives; (3) identifying ways in which we can keep these stories alive within our Fellowship; and/or (4) volunteering to help!

Perhaps this could be a first step toward updating our Fellowship's official history. Our last published history tells our story up to 1993. In case you haven't noticed, a lot has happened since then!

Yours in celebration of the past (and the future, too),

Bill S.

Copies of both of Rev. Schultz's talks are available on the literature rack at the Fellowship.

Membership Committee News

by Cathy Kline, Chair

ORIENTATION PROGRAM, Saturday, June 7 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Have you joined the Fellowship recently? Are you thinking about becoming a member? Then this program is for you! Our goal is to help you learn more about what Unitarian Universalism is, how this congregation works, what our programming offers for adults and children, and answers to your questions about the Fellowship. The program will be held at the Fellowship with childcare provided. Invitations will be mailed soon. Contact Cathy Kline if you have questions or would like an invitation.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS - The Membership Committee welcomes Rob Gallegly and Carolyn Davis.



FROM THE OFFICE

by Melanie Bray

It is hard to believe that this is the May edition of CUF Links. Where does the time go? This month is traditionally very busy with final exams, proms, graduations, mother's day celebrations and Memorial Day gatherings. I hope this month is full of exciting activities for you and your family.

Would YOU be interested in volunteering in the office for a few hours a week? I have a few projects that I could use help with every week. I am looking for someone to come in on Wednesday afternoons and copy, fold, address and mail out the weekly bulletin (about 1 hour of your time). I would love for a volunteer to make up,

as we need them, our member and prospective member packets that we keep on hand. Let me know if you are interested! Training is absolutely FREE.

Summer is approaching and I know many of you will be traveling. Please let me know if your ongoing meetings and or groups are taking time off in the summer. I am working on summer scheduling and I need to know if your group is going to meet at the regular times. You can call me at the office 529-2439 or email me at carbondaleuu@verizon.net.

As always, please let me know of any changes or updates for the membership directory.

~Melanie

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR



1. What do you say when someone wants your cheese? 2. Why did the cake go to the doctor? 3. What do goats sit on when they're watching a baseball game? 4. What do you call an elephant that is a skin doctor? (Answers are at the bottom) Chances are good that if you've spent much time with children,

you've been fortunate to get to hear gems like the riddles above. Among the many skills I enjoy observing our children master, I'm always thrilled to watch them hone their story and joke telling skills.

There is just so much growth that takes place in the course of one year that at times I have to just stand quietly and marvel. Some have gone from having to be carried, to toddling hurriedly along like shoppers the day after Thanksgiving. Others have gained the confidence to perform in public for the first time, either lighting a chalice, singing, or playing an instrument. Some have grown a foot in height, gotten a drivers license, or moved successfully from the nursery into the pre-kindergarten.

And I also marvel at the growth of our teachers, especially those first-timers. I suppose it could be a little intimidating entering a room full of bright Unitarian Universalist children. I remember Steve Hammett telling me the first time he taught the high school class he was asked to share his philosophy of education, how he thought his life had gone so far, and what his immediate plans were to improve on the snacks being offered! I'd like to take this time to thank Steve and all the others that have volunteered their time, talents, and sense of humor with our children and youth. I've often witnessed in the course of one short

year, the transformation from lacking confidence and experience, and fearful of failing teachers, into confident, gifted, and glowing teachers who had by far the best stories to tell around the campfire. And I've appreciated the artful embellishment of the stories as I've heard them repeated.

I have seen how well our program works when we have a full compliment of teachers; that would be at least three teachers per class, who teach on a rotating basis. I've also seen the stress on those teaching when there are only two rotating. It's a big, very big, difference. We are ending the year short teachers in Pre-kindergarten, 2nd grade, and high school. When I ask for your help, please consider that it's not forever, but the memories will be.

I'd like to now thank this year's volunteer teachers. They are Joyce Shepherd, Karen Puharich, Kim Powell, Jodi Ruffner, and Shari and George Burruss. Thanks also to Aaron Wheatley, Michelle Jackson, Angela Chen, Matt Schlesinger, and Holly Dotson. Thanks to Kathy O'Laughlin, Rose Moroz, Phil Beck, Amy Weber, Pat York, Sandy Charlson, Miranda Mapps, and Matt Sronkoski. I know you made a difference in my life, and the feedback from the kids is that they might take most of you off probation next year (kidding!).

And finally, thanks to everyone in the Fellowship who supported our children and youth as they grow. Keep in mind that you are always welcome to join us, for we are all in this together.

Gratefully,
Roy Sumner,
Director of Religious Education

You thought I forgot, didn't you? The answers are: 1) "I'm sorry but that's nacho cheese." 2) Because he was feeling crummy. 3) Bleat-chers. 4) A pachydermatologist. (Source: *Highlights*, May 2008)



Our High School Youth Presented a Sunday on "Tolerance and Intolerance" by separating us into Theists and Atheists but Joyce and Nicholas were not about to choose one side or the other.

May Social Action Update

by Jess Jobe

We're going to begin planning for the CUF Social Action Yard Sale. The sale dates are Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June, 14 (times are TBA but probably 2-6 on Friday and 7-noon or 1 on Saturday) and we have various fun jobs for everyone! If you want to help but can't make our meetings, please let me or Carla Feldhamer know what you might be able to help with. Here's some of the work to be done:

- publicize the sale
- donate items in early June (wait until notice goes out, as we store items in the RE and don't want to be in the way of the kids and teachers until the regular season ends).
- mark items the week of June 9-13, set up the rooms with clothes etc.

- pick up clothing racks, hangers week of the sale
- run the cash box
- have a lemonade stand (if RE kids are interested and available-proceeds would go to the RE program)
- CLEAN UP!

The sale dates unfortunately conflict with the family camping outing, so I know some of you who worked at the sale last year might not be available this year on sale dates, but most of the work is in the set up and pricing, so any help people can give earlier in the week is great too.

Thanks for your consideration!

UUA Announces Green Sanctuary Program Changes

April 16, 2008

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Ministry for Earth and the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), we are delighted to share some exciting news. Starting this July, the UU Ministry for Earth's successful Green Sanctuary Program will start to be managed by the UUA as a part of their Congregational Services program.

The Green Sanctuary Program (see http://uuministryforearth.org/grs_overview.htm), created and nurtured by the UU Ministry for Earth, has seen exponential growth in recent years, indicating a deep longing by congregations to put their values into action in regard to their Earth concerns. We are proud of the congregations who have taken the work to heart and used the program to challenge themselves to a deeper commitment to a sustainable and just world. After years of dedicated stewardship by the UU Ministry for Earth board, volunteer Regional Coordinators, and congregational activists, this vital program will become the first UUA program devoted exclusively to Earth concerns. The phenomenal success of the Green Sanctuary Program represents the power of committed Unitarian Universalists to transform themselves, their congregations, and their Association.

This transition will allow the busy Ministry for Earth leadership to cultivate important new environmental justice issues and to support UU congregations with congregational resources and training. It will also allow the Green Sanctuary Program to benefit from additional staff and financial resources through our national Association.

UU Ministry for Earth is now moving into a new phase of its work, developing new partnerships and deepening its commitment to bring our religious values into effective and transformative work for justice and sustainability.

We wish to thank the UU Ministry for Earth members, board of directors, and director Rev. Katherine Jesch for their hard work developing the Green Sanctuary Program into a nationally recognized example of spiritually-engaged ecological sustainability. Let us take a moment to recognize and celebrate the success of this remarkable program even as we look to expand its reach to more congregations.

In Faith,

Barbara Ford
Board Chair, UU Ministry for Earth

William G. Sinkford
President, Unitarian Universalist Association

<p>For information on the CUF Green Sanctuary Committee contact Debbie Czarnopys-White, bdcw@frontiernet.net, or 618-787-2929.</p>
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Spotlight Interview - Caring and Sharing Committee

by Melanie Bray

If I were to ask you what our Fellowship's "Ministries of Caring" are, would you be able to tell me? There was a Sunday Service that focused on the Ministries of Caring back in February – ringing any bells? I will help you. The Ministries of Caring at our fellowship are: The Health Ministry, the Caring and Sharing program and the Pastoral Friends program.

Today, I am going to focus on the Caring and Sharing program. I interviewed Cheryl Robinson, the coordinator of the Caring and Sharing program. Truth be told, we conducted an interview via email because of our busy schedules and the impending newsletter deadline!

The Caring and Sharing program is more of a "team" instead of an actual committee. So, what does this team do? This program provides help for members who may need some small acts of assistance while going through a difficult time, physically or emotionally, such as those recently home from the hospital, recovering from an accident or following a profound loss. It has been described as a program that provides many concrete, nuts and bolts services that helps in a temporary crisis such as: providing meals for the family, grocery shopping, occasional transportation to medical appointments, picking up a prescription, watering lawns, even walking your dog! This assistance is typically temporary – although occasionally the program can meet longer care needs.

Who is involved? I was impressed with the list of vol-

unteers that have signed up to help each other in others time of need. The fellowship has more than 25 members that have volunteered to help on this team. Because of the number of people involved the tasks and services are spread out within the group so the assistance can be "shared" by the group. Caring and Sharing team members are located throughout the region - Murphysboro, Carbondale, Marion, Herrin and Carterville areas. So, most of our members could be served by someone close by! The Caring and Sharing team consists of: Samir Aouadi, Kim Asner-Self, Roberta Blankenship, Lilly Brown, Karen Gallegly, Lois Hayward, Jess Jobe, Joan Juul, Helen Nall, Frank Nall, JoAnn Nelson, Donna Mann, Laurie McGregor, Rose Tunks-Moroz, Kathy O'Laughlin, Darby Ortolano, Karen Puharich, Jodi Ruffner, Bill Sasso, Cheryl Schmit, Matt Sronkowski, Dawn Taylor, Natalie Trimble, Russ Trimble and Joyce Webb.

The success of this program depends on you asking for help when you are in need of assistance and other members recognizing those in need and informing the team that their services are desired. When times get tough we could all benefit from leaning on friends and receiving these acts of kindness. This team can not care or share if they don't know about your needs – so don't be afraid to ask for help!

This fellowship is pro-active in helping the local community, the health and welfare of our planet, sharing our resources with those even across the world – and just as important, we take care of each other.

Our STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN '08 KICKED OFF with a Carnival and dessert buffet. Many thanks to all who made this a memorable evening!



MC Matt Sronkoski and Chair Mary Campbell



Juggler Tim Shepherd



A very SWEET evening. Kickoff '08

A Note From the Editor

This Summer there will be CUF Links! It will be smaller and Melanie and I will be co-editors. The deadline for the June issue of CUF Links will be **Thursday evening, May 22nd**. You may leave items for the Newsletter in the CUF Links box in the Fellowship office or email me at: yo@astrosleuth.com or Melanie at: carbondaleuu@verizon.com Pictures are always welcome!

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

Current list of group/program/committee leaders

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

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

CUF CLASSIFIED ADS

FREEZER: large free-standing Kenmore Frostless. 71" H x 32" W x 29"D, 20 cubic feet plus door storage. Approx. 7 years old. \$200.00 OBO. Great condition – clean, efficient, well maintained. Have truck can haul with your help. Extend your garden season all year long. Nancy & Terry Bowman 687-1367

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

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

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

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

CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Study Groups:

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

Ongoing:

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

May 4. Meditation, Chanting, Study, Discussion in a free flowing format. Everyone welcome.

May 18. (ditto above)

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

May 4. This month we invite everyone who is interested in sharing their dreams in a warm and supportive atmosphere to join us.

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

May 14, Nillofur Zobairi "*War and Peace: Early Childhood Literature, Concerns, human rights, and truth*". Presented by Nillofur Zobairi, SIUC Early Childhood Educator

"It is natural for parents and society to want to protect young children from the horrors of war and violence. Even the knowledge of such horrors, some believe, should be kept from the young. Yet is this realistic, ethical, truthful, even humane, when so many of the world's children experience war's consequences daily and at first hand? One way to bridge the gap between truth and reality without desensitizing young children or traumatizing them is to use quality children's literature--specifically picture books. The combination of art and story in these books can speak to young children as well as to older children and adults."

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

May 28, "*Democracy Alla Turca: Road to Sheria-Lite*", Sedat Sami, an emeritus at SIUC engineering faculty, frequently visits his native Turkish homeland. Sami will give a preview of his soon to be completed book. Discussion will follow his presentation. Call Bob Camp for additional information.

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

May 11. Information concerning the topic this month will be published in the weekly bulletin.

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

May ??. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*, by Barbara Kingsolver, with Steven L. Hopp (her husband) and Camille Kingsolver (her daughter). It is a book about food and Kingsolver's family's experiences with it, after moving from Arizona to rural Virginia and vowing to eat locally grown food or learn to do without.

The exact meeting date will be decided at the April meeting.

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

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

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

May 12. Monthly meeting. Contact Krissy Summers at krissysummers@hotmail.com for more information.

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

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

May 18, 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.)

