



CUF Links

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
A Welcoming Congregation

- a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist association -

October 2009

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

10/4 Bill Sasso: "Peacemakers in Our Traditions: Adin Ballou"

As our Association revisits a proposed Statement of Conscience on "Peacemaking," Bill will lead us in a review of significant "peacemakers" in our Universalist and Unitarian traditions. Adin Ballou, a 19th century Universalist preacher, and founder of the Hopedale community, offered a powerful and realistic approach to nonviolence. Join us to learn more about his ideas and his attempts to put them into practice!

10/11 Bill Sasso: "The Book of Job and Ennobling Suffering"

We turn to the Hebrew Bible's Book of Job, continuing our exploration of significant examples of suffering in the western canon. Is Job's suffering "ennobling," in the sense that it connects him more closely with those around him, including those who cause and allow it, or is it some other form of suffering?

10/18 Bill Sasso: "Association Sunday"

As the focus of our service, we'll revisit the principles by which we join with a thousand other Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations in a process of mutual support, assistance, and challenge. What does it mean to be a UU community? What do we give, and what do we receive? And how can we help our movement reach others who may need it as significantly as we do? The proceeds of our Sunday offering will go to the UUA as a special offering in support of the growth of our movement!

10/25 Ken Starbuck & Dave Christensen: "Parliament of World Religions"

David Christensen and Ken Starbuck will present a coordinated program about The Parliament of the World's Religions. David will speak about the Parliament's history which had its 1893 origin in Chicago, with the archives housed at Morris Library. Ken will speak about the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions to be held in Melbourne during December, and the present goals of that organization.

And coming up . . .

- 11/1 Members of our Communications Planning Group will share ideas and inspirations about our ability to create our own "Next Generation Community."

OPEN MINDS

meets at 8:45 AM in the Commons each Sunday

October 4 - "Journey on the Rhine" with Bob White. Many photographs, interesting observations and impressions. Find out if the sirens of Loralie Rock induced him to take a swim. Q&A session will follow.

October 11 - "Tibet and the Dalai Lama" with David Christensen. This leader of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, lives in exile in India. He has hopes of returning home some day. Presently he is advocating for his homeland to become an autonomous region of China. Discussion follows.

October 18 - "Places in My Mind" - Joyce Webb. Joyce will lead us on a journey through her memories which were significant mile posts for her family and friends. This is part of our series of "This Who I Am and This is What I Believe" (People who have made a difference to impact quality of life for humanity in general) Q&A will follow.

October 25 - "The Panic is On: The Great American Depression as Seen by the Common Man" Presenter, Bob Lembcke. Was this a deja vu moment in time? This is part one of a two part DVD presentation, which uses movie tone news selections from the 20's, 30's and 40's. Included are clips of rag time music, brother can you spare a dime, beggars, millionaires gone bust... vast movements from south to north, dust bowl migrations to California to find work, and how many new millionaires made their fortunes off the backs of the poor. The second part will be shown and discussed in December.

******The presenters of Open Minds have the option of making any changes to the subject or content of their program. Descriptions are variable representations. Newcomers are always welcome to our inter-generational meetings. Bob Lembcke is Programming Coordinator. For more information contact lobob1@mchsi.com or terrinina@verizon.com.**

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

We're Better Together!

This past June, at the end of our Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly, the Reverend Bill Sinkford's eight years as President of our



Association ended. Some of us remember Bill's visit to Carbondale in November, 2004, when he spoke at the dedication of our (then-new) Fellowship building. Like many who have the opportunity to speak frequently in public, Bill Sinkford had several "trademark" expressions. My favorite of these was "We're better together!"

I think Bill is right – we are better together! But why? What does it mean to say that "we're better together?" It might be that working together, we can do more than any one of us can possibly do alone. That's true, and it's clear that there is so much work to do! The values we "covenant to affirm and promote" in our UU principles remain

ideals rather than reality, and each one of us has a role in bringing them closer to fulfillment in our own lives and in our nation and our world.

It might also be that we bring different individual perspectives and experiences to that work. We are better together because we try to listen to each other. We try to understand insights reflecting the intuitions and realities that others share. We try to honor the truth of our own consciences without assuming that it is the one and only accurate way of looking at the world. As we listen to each other, and to sincere voices from "beyond our walls," we come to a deeper appreciation of the complexity of issues facing our nation and our world. To understand and resolve conflicts like those about healthcare, Iraq, and Afghanistan (just to name a few!), we need to work together, both with those who share our values and with those who see the issues differently.

As a nation, we need desperately to address these and other critical issues, and we need to do

so together. We must not use their complexity as a convenient excuse to turn our back on them. We need to address the immense loss of life and human suffering that our military presences in Iraq and Afghanistan cause, just as we need to remember the tragic impacts of terrorism, and to prevent further terrorist acts. We need to develop a sense of fairness and responsibility in access to quality healthcare here, within the United States, and to create a healthcare system that embodies both fairness and responsibility.

The current controversies about healthcare seem to me to suggest a third sense in which we are better together. Health seems to me a collective quality – one that applies to a community, or a region, or a people, rather than to an individual! As

we care for others, we take care of ourselves! We grow better together as we help to care for each other, to heal each other!

Our new UUA President, Peter Morales, has specifically pledged to carry on Bill Sinkford's work in the sphere of public advocacy. I'm grateful to Bill for what he has accomplished, and to Peter for his promise to continue and extend that work. We, too, have a role in this effort, and I am grateful to you – to each of you! – for your parts in our shared work to become "better together!"

In the spirit of community,

Bill Sasso

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

"That's so gay!"

How many times a day do you hear, "that's so gay?" Apparently, 9 out of 10 high school students nationwide reported hearing "that's so gay," or "you're so gay," at school, and it's not a compliment.



For almost a year now, I've served as a board member and treasurer of The Rainbow Café. And though I've taught the Our Whole Lives sexuality program four times, and had great discussions with our youth, I have to admit that I was still in the dark about just how hostile high schools can be for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth. And you see, "you're so gay" isn't a comment hurled just at suspected gay or lesbian youth, it's a derogatory rock aimed at any target.

About half our current members have joined since the move into this building, which I believe was March, 2003. So it's safe to say that over half of you were not here when we completed the UUA requirements, and received the "Welcoming Congregation" designation in June, 2000 (do you know what that means?). And with that being the case, I thought I'd give everyone a little history of

our role in combating homophobia and injustice, and of serving a population of youth in our midst.

In addition to becoming a Welcoming Congregation, we (along with The Church of The Good Shepherd) were instrumental in the creation and support of, The Rainbow Café. The Rainbow Café is the only safe and welcoming environment, in southern Illinois, for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered high-school-age youth, their friends, and those questioning their orientation. Rainbow Café rents its own space, has a half-time manager, a Board of Directors, and about 22 volunteers whose work and dedication has served hundreds of youth. This year we are planning to participate in the Lights Fantastic parade -- though we won't have a float, we will be walking with banner and lights.

Some of the first youth to participate have grown into adults, and have chosen to give back by becoming volunteers. It's common to hear the youth comment that Rainbow Café is a place (sometimes, the only place) where they can be themselves, where they are accepted and cared for. One commented that it was the place that made him strong enough to endure high school.

I believe it is in keeping with my covenant with this Fellowship, as Director of Religious Education, to

serve these youth by donating my time to the Rainbow Café Board. And I am especially pleased to be a member of this Fellowship, which stepped up and contributed in a concrete way to help provide a sanctuary, and support, for so many youth in our area. If you would like to learn more about Rainbow Café, please see me. You can

also learn more about Rainbow Café by visiting the website (rainbowcafe.org), or by calling 521-2328.

With Sincerity,

Roy Sumner, DRE

CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY is a Unitarian Universalist adult curriculum focusing on five major questions: Who am I? How do I know? Who or what is in charge? What is my purpose in life? and What does my death mean? These five big questions form the framework of the course; at each meeting, we will deal with one of these questions. Our Fall, 2009, session will meet Wednesday evenings, 7:30 to 9 pm, from October 14th to November 18th. Registration by Sunday, October 11th is required; each session requires advance preparation. To register, or for more info, contact Bill Sasso at bsasso@juno.com or 529-2439.

SUICIDE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: *This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Fellowship, at 7:30 pm.* Judy Ashby, MS, LCPC, facilitator. This group, serving those who have lost a loved one to suicide, is open to parents, children, spouses, partners, siblings, grandparents, relatives, friends, co-workers, and others. This supportive experience will offer safe and understanding conversation about loss and healing as participants open their hearts to grief and growth. **Meets next on Tues., Oct. 13th.** For more information, contact Bill Sasso at 529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION *This group meets every Saturday in the Fellowship Commons from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.* If there are other activities scheduled in the Commons, we meet in the RE area. For more information, contact Joy Price at joyfully2356@yahoo.com or 618-457-2405.

BUDDHISM STUDY & PRACTICE GROUP *This group meets on the first and third Sundays in the Fellowship Commons at 7:30 PM.* For more info: www.shawnee-dharma.org or Judy Carter at 529-3110.
Oct. 4th - Meditation, Chanting, Study, Discussion in a free flowing format. Everyone welcome.
Oct. 18th - (ditto above)

THE DREAM WORKSHOP. *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00.*
Meets next on Oct. 4th.

HUMANIST ROUND TABLE. *This group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM.* Bob Camp, terrinia@verizon.net and David Christensen, davechris@mchsi.com.

October 14 - "New Directions for Anthropology" - Presenter is Candy Davis. "Anthropology holds up a great mirror to humans and lets them look at themselves in their infinite variety" (Kluckhohn, 1944). Anthropologists use a scientific approach to produce useful concepts about humans and their behavior. When applied, these concepts can be used to solve problems. From archeologists, linguists, ethnologists, and forensic re-constructionists, to those who study humans as biological organisms on an evolutionary path, scientists are dedicated to an unbiased understanding of human diversity. "Aye that's the rub." Candy will help us understand how this is done, and share some new insights and discoveries about this fascinating field of knowledge that is her special passion... besides music that is! Discussion will follow her presentation.

October 28 - "How to Create a Client State: Effects of Globalization, Privatization and Neo-Liberalism on the Turkish Economy" - Presenter is Sedat Sami, author of "Silent Capitulations: The Kemalist Republic Under Assault" and many mechanical engineering publications. He is a retired professor emeritus at SIUC. The IMF expects the Turkish economy to contract to nearly double in 2009, compared to the Turkish government estimate. Yet Turkey ranks 4th in the world in number of billionaires, just behind Russia. Banks, conglomerates, and big oil dominate the economy...sound familiar?? Added to this economic disaster is the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Turkish political life. It paints an uncompromising picture of a regime determined to appease European skeptics of Turkish admission to the European Union by capitulating to their demands on all fronts. What would Kemal Attaturk and his allies do? Discussion will follow the presentation.

The Humanist Round Table is exploring interest in an evening venue for those who have daytime responsibilities. If you are interested, or think you might be interested, contact Nick Eastman at eastmann@peacemail.com, John Junge at jpjunge@gmail.com, or Bob Camp at terrinina@verizon.net. (Daytime Humanist Round Table continues unchanged.)

PSI SYMPOSIUM. *This group meets the second Sunday of the Month in Room 06 at Noon. Meets next on Oct 11th at noon.* Please bring a dish to share. The program starts at 12:30pm. Dr Annette Vailancourt will present a program on EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques). For more info, contact Mary Campbell at 521-0851 or mspurple1999@yahoo.com.

ROUNDTABLE READERS. *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month in Room 05 after the Sunday Service at Noon. Meets next on Oct. 25th.* The book discussion group will meet to select new titles for 2009-2010. Suggestions at the meeting will be entertained, but contacting Janet Levie (jlevie@onemain.com) in advance will give more opportunity for checking availability of the book(s). All interested are welcome!

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.

VIDEO CIRCLE *This group meets on the third Friday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 7:15 PM. Meets next on Oct. 16th.* Free Movie, Free Popcorn and Free Drinks!! Please plan to join us. Contact Amy Weber at amyweber1@msn.com with questions.

UNITARIAN FOLK ORCHESTRA practices at 10:00 a.m. Saturdays, at the Fellowship. For info contact Charles Maxwell at cmaxwell@siu.edu.

Given the upcoming "political season" - the Board of Trustees wanted to remind everyone of our

Policy on Political Activity at the Fellowship:

The Carbondale 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, socio-economic 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, 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 signed (for example) as “Minister, Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship”.

New Day Prison Ministries - submitted by Lois Hayward

Last spring, after 8 years of corresponding with and visiting inmates at Tamms Correctional Center, I realized that I could not continue. My mission kept expanding until I had over 20 men there I was writing to, about half of whom I was visiting on a rotation schedule. The word spreads fast. Many of the men had friends who needed help, and even though I learned to say no, I didn't learn soon enough. I was exhausted. It was very hard for me to take this step.

Still, I look back on these years with great satisfaction. I was able to provide considerable help and felt very much appreciated. I had no idea our criminal justice system was in such disarray. I had only fuzzy ideas about what real poverty and neglect and abuse could do, until I came into this kind of contact with it.

Today I received some wonderful news relating to Tamms. Having in mind the Tenth Anniversary of the opening of Tamms, The Tamms Ten Year Committee, based in Chicago, decided to make a big push for change. Miracle of miracles, Governor Quinn and Director Randle listened--and have promised ten specific changes. I can't spell them all out for this article, but they include the following: Before being sent to Tamms, each inmate will have a Transfer Review Hearing, and it will be recorded. Each person sent to Tamms will be given an estimate of length of stay, and will be told what he can do to be transferred out again. Medical and mental health exams will be given on arrival and departure. Inmates who achieve a high level of compliance will be allowed some phone calls. Inmates will be allowed to take the GED exam at the prison. As of this date, 45 men have been transferred out of Tamms, and this is only the beginning. My job now is to follow up with advocacy. I hope to be able to bring various proposals to you from time to time.

We are continuing our work at Dwight. We work closely with the Family Services Administrator and she tells us things are so tight with the budget cuts that she cannot give the inmates all the personals they need. So once again we are asking for donations of shampoo, conditioner, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, deodorant, and lotion. If you travel we will be happy to have the small items motels and hotels give away. Please place your items in NEW DAY plastic box under the table near the kitchen door. We have completed

work on an anthology of poems and prose by women at Dwight. Copies will be available at the Fellowship in October. All proceeds will be used for other projects at Dwight. We deeply appreciate the donations of various kinds you have made over the years for our work at Dwight!

Update on Ranchod Hospice and Orphan Care

In 2006, The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship received a grant from The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation to build a permanent workshop for the BUSY BEES. These women are all widows or grandmothers responsible for the care of many children. This workshop has allowed them to increase their productivity and income. Following is a brief update that I received from Gabriel Kasaila, the manager of Ranchhod Hospice:

"The Busy Bees have maintained their goal of generating a voice and economic support for grandmothers to increase their quality of life and level of support they can provide to the orphans and vulnerable children in their care. Thus outlined below are the main activities conducted by the Busy Bees in the last six months: The piggery is doing fine; they have so far sold two piglets to their fellow grandmothers in Makululu compound. Currently the pigs are twenty-five [25] – nine [9] females, one [1] male and fifteen [15] piglets. Members of the Busy Bees take turns to ensure that the pigs are feed and the environment is clean. Following the funds received from SLF for starting sausage production, the busy bees have purchased most of the items needed for the production, and thus this project will begin as soon as they secure a room. Busy Bees continue to make various saleable items, which are sold locally. They have also sold various items to USA through friends living in USA.

Right off, over the past six months Ranchhod Children's centre provided its services to sixty two {62} children and Chililalila centre served a total of seventy two {72} children. These children come from vulnerable/poor households. The majority of guardians are grandmothers and most of them suffer from infirmities of old age and deprivation. Some of these grandmothers are just too old to engage in income generating activities and also receive no monetary support of whatever kind. Both centers remain open from Monday to Friday, 8 hrs – 16 hrs providing nutrition, education, health and psychosocial support. These services are not only provided to children in the day care centers, we have extended this care to identified children in need in the different communities that we are reaching out to. Our Children Centers also participated in the child health week for children below five years, by vaccinating them against polio and providing them with vitamin A and giving them de – worming tablets. All the children with health complaints were attended to and given medication; we also bought sweaters for all the children to protect them from the cold weather.

Greatest successes over the past six months: The building of a counseling room, which was officially opened on the 6th of June by Kara Counseling executive Director Ms. Judith Kumwenda, has expanded the hospice. This room has also been used as an outpatient clinic; we continue using this clinic as an opportunity for discharged patients to come back to the hospice for check up and to receive support and reassurance. The patients who have been tested in the hospice have used the clinic for medication and support before and after they have been initiated in to an ARV programme. We have also bought 96 bicycles for our home-based caregivers, for their transport during the community activities. An Irish group called ZAMDA funded the construction of this room and purchased the bicycles for HBC. Through our partnership with the Hospice of Southern Illinois and The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, we also continue receiving various donations and support. We've also continued receiving support from some volunteers who have previously worked with us. These include students from university college Galway. We continue working hand in hand with home-based care in uplifting the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. We have recruited 50 male caregivers, thus following this recruitment the hospice has seen a rise in men willing to access our services. We have managed to train and empower all the newly recruited male caregivers with the basic skills of palliative care. We have also been able to train 20 caregivers, 1 social worker and 1 nurse in trauma-focused cognitive

behavioral therapy. This therapy has been given to children who are traumatized. So far 201 children in Kabwe completed assessments; 128 children meet criteria and 56 children have been assigned to therapists. On the 28th of April, we received a representative from Stephen Lewis Foundation-Ghana Matolengwe- who came for an assessment. The assessment lasted for two days and indeed it went well, as the representative really admired and thanked us for the work that we are doing.

Greatest Challenges: Demand for our different services is increasing, thus we continue facing the challenge of explaining to different people in need as to why they cannot all be enrolled in our programme.

Of course, funding remains the biggest challenge to sustain all the people who are most in need of our services. We still maintain our policy of 'returning people to life', hence to achieve this we need funds to procure nutrition supplements, medicines, and of course funds to pay our dedicated and committed staff members. We have also continued seeing deaths in people who are HIV positive because people tend to seek treatment when it's too late. Thus we continue fighting against stigma and discrimination and encouraging people to go for VCT to ensure that treatment is commenced early to those who are tested positive. Getting to Our Outreach areas by road has not been easy, due to the bad roads caused by the heavy rains. But we continue to go to the areas that we can reach.

Success Story: Merub Kateu was first admitted into the Hospice on 28th January 2009. Three year old Merab lived with her mom in Makululu Compound. She is the last born of a family of 8. After being sick for a while without adequate care, a community caregiver from Chililalila HBC took her up with home visitations. She mostly remained at home under the care of her elder 13-year-old sister or neighbors, as her mother spent most of her time at Lukanga Fishing Camp, 53 Kilometers away. She was extremely malnourished with a big belly, was coughing a lot, abdominal swelling, sores around her mouth and ears. The Social Worker and Caregiver referred her to the Hospice for admission. On admission, she weighed 10kg, a diagnosis of Herpes Simplex, Respiratory Tract Infection and Severe Malnutrition and Anemia was made. She settled into the Pediatric Unit and from the beginning ate well; she was given frequent high protein meals and plenty of fluids. The Herpes Simplex, RTI, and anemia were treated successfully. With permission of her guardian, she was counseled by the pediatric counselor, using age appropriate words. She was then tested and was found to be reactive. By 7th February, her weight was 14kg. On 10th Feb. she was taken to Chreso Clinic and booked to begin Anti Retroviral Treatment on Feb 24th. Her body weight on 23rd Feb was 21 KG. She attended the ART clinic on 24th as arranged, and was initiated on ARVs. Her mother was not cooperative, and despite several Counseling sessions was reluctant for her daughter to start treatment, eventually agreeing, but she also pushed for Merab to be discharged home, as she was finding it difficult to visit as well as do business at the fishing camp. She took her home against medical advice. We sent a referral to the Social Worker and HBC requesting them to visit her frequently and monitor her progress. By 23rd of April she had regressed considerably, so the Social Worker and Caregiver referred her for readmission. On admission she was found in very poor health, coughing, fungal scalp infection, and undernourished. Her primary caregiver at home was her 13-year-old sister, her mother spending most of her time at the fishing camp. It seemed that she was not taking her ART regularly, as her condition had deteriorated since she was taken home from the Hospice end of Feb. Her weight was 24kg. She was reinitiated on ART on 28th April, and a day later her mother requested for her discharge. She was discharged and her mother promised that she would attend the Chililalila Daycare Centre daily for care and support. She is attending everyday; she was reviewed at the Hospice on June 2nd, she is taking her medication daily, and her weight was recorded at 27kg. She had a minor Herpes infection on her nasal area, which was treated."

Present CUF Projects Regarding its Partnership with Kabwe, Zambia:

- The NIGHTGOWN PROJECT coordinated by Debbie Czarnopys-White. There have been several sewing days at the home of Kate Heis, producing nightgowns for the female patients at the hospice. They are extremely well received by the women. NEXT SEWING DATE IS OCTOBER 3RD...MORE INFO TO COME.
- We have been collecting supplies of medical equipment and books to send to Ranchhod on a free shipment, which will leave in November. Carla Feldhamer has been OVERWHELMED BY THE

GENEROSITY OF THE FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS and others in the Carbondale Community. THANKYOU ONE AND ALL FOR YOUR GIFTS OF COMPASSION AND SUPPORT!!!! Supplies or monetary donations have also come from 1st Unitarian Church in Cincinnati, Hospice of Southern Illinois, The Uniform Shop on Reed Station Road, Friends of the fellowship, long time Benton resident and supporter of the partnership, Mr. Gene Alexander, friends from around the country, SIU students and many more. WE NEED HELP PACKING AND DOING INVENTORY OF THE DONATED SUPPLIES, WHICH ARE BEING HOUSED AT THE "FELDHAMER WAREHOUSE". The first packing day is scheduled for October 8th....WE WILL ALSO BE PACKING ON OCTOBER 10TH, 11TH AND THROUGHOUT THE NEXT WEEK....PLEASE NOTIFY CARLA AT hospice88@aol.com or 457-8606 if you can help even for a couple of hours.

-Plans are being made to have a major fundraiser in February. We are hoping to bring "Emma's Revolution" to Carbondale to perform a concert followed by a silent auction. Cathy Kline, Debbie Czarnopys-White and Carla first heard this group at the International UU Women's Convocation and they are tremendous.

The next **RALPH ANDERSON INTERFAITH DIALOGUE** will be on "Torture & Accountability – Where Do We Go From Here?" The event will be held on Monday, October 5, 2009 – 7:30 PM, at The View Baptist Church (1201 S. Giant City Road). Richard Whitney, Civil Rights Attorney, will make the initial presentation. Member of the interfaith panel will be the Rev. Sam Foskey, Imam Haqq and Steve Low.

There will also be an Interfaith Dialogue on Monday, October 19 – 7:30 PM, on "Greed, the Economy, and Religion 2". The event will be held at The First Presbyterian Church (310 S. University Avenue). Father Roger Karban will explore Pope Benedict's latest encyclical "Love In Truth". Members of the interfaith panel will be the Rev. Janice West, Imam Haqq and Sam Goldman.

Contact Ken Starbuck for more information: e-mail (cubrats@verizon.net) or phone 942-3986.

Fair Trade News and Information...

Many of you have asked me about why there is no Equal Exchange chocolate for sale. First, let me assure you it is coming soon. To keep the chocolate from melting, Equal Exchange must ship orders via UPS 2nd Air Service between May 1 and October 1, which results in a significant price increase. Knowing how much we all love our chocolate, I decided to see what the added cost would be. Four cases (48 bars) normally cost \$120 (\$2.50/bar). Summer shipping costs pushed it to \$150; therefore, I would have had to raise the prices to \$3.25 just to cover costs. I decided just to wait until prices return to normal before making an order. Many of you have told me your favorite kinds, and I'll have all of them available for sale as soon as my order arrives after the 1st. If you haven't tried Equal Exchange chocolate before, you might not be aware of this void, this missing puzzle piece of your life. Of course, I am kidding, but as a chocolate lover (a.k.a. human being) myself, I can honestly say it is some of the best I've tasted.

To all the tea drinkers, the approaching cool weather brings both chocolate and the perfect temperature and setting for a warm cup of tea. Imagine early sunsets, fires in fireplaces, and a whistling kettle. If this sort of thing is your...well, cup of tea, then Equal Exchange has just the products. I have some first and second flush Darjeeling in 3oz canisters for \$6.50. I was just looking at some retail sites, and they are selling this exact product for \$13-\$15. The second flush is highly prized as the best crop – something about the concentrated flavors during that time of year. The tea comes from the Pashok Cooperative in the Himalayan heights of Darjeeling, India. The cooperative uses the added revenue from EE's Fair Trade practices for a variety of educational, environmental, and community development initiatives. What's not to love? - Nicholas Eastman (eastmann@peacemail.com)

Note of Thanks from Daughter of Claribel McDaniels:

"I want to say 'thank you' to the members of the Unitarian Fellowship. I know that the wonderful exhibition of my mother's tapestries would not have happened without the Fellowship's instigation and support. Mother would have been pleased with the beautiful display. I found the exhibition very special because of the variety of pieces and the expert way they were displayed and lighted. Since I went away to college, I had only seen new pieces rolled out and displayed on the floor when I came home from vacation. How nice it was to see them this way! Sincerely, Alice (McDaniel) Blount"

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW CUF MEMBERS ...

Our very newest member (September, 2009) is Chris Weston, 1210 Schwartz Street, Carbondale, IL. His spouse is Heather Weston. Welcome, Chris!

And...learn more about a member who has been around for some time: Vennie Anderson (2002):

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

1. When I was 16 years old, I had a job as a nurse's aide.
2. As an undergraduate at SIU in the early 60's, my major was linguistic anthropology.
3. When I went to nursing school in St. Louis, I was one of 3 non-Lutherans in a class of 97 at the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing.
4. Born and raised in Herrin, I have lived in Centralia, Nashville, Harrisburg, Marion and Carterville – all in IL.
5. I collect Barclay Winter Figures.
6. I have six cats (and one dog).
7. I collect Godzilla and other old movie monster figurines.
8. I paint in oil and have sold several paintings.
9. I am a certified advanced open water SCUBA diver.
10. I have been to all of the continents except Africa, and plan to go there as soon as I can.

Share ten things (– or even five!) about yourself with your fellow members!

Don't be shy - we would love to keep getting to know you better!

Send to the editor at cherrob1@msn.com.

A letter (and blogsite) from our CUF members in Cyprus! Samir Aouadi writes:

Hi everyone:

I know, most of you haven't heard from me for a long time (some of you for years). I just wanted to update you with what is going on with the Aouadi family.

I am currently on sabbatical in Nicosia, Cyprus. We moved to Cyprus the end of June of 2009. The kids will be going to the American Academy in Nicosia starting Spetember 1. We went to Alanya, Turkey last week and we had a lot of fun. Alanya is in the Turkish Riviera and the kids loved it so much. They played a lot at the hotel and went on go karts, camel rides, swam in swimming pools, beaches, and lakes....Cyprus is more of a desert. It is extremely expensive and people are not as friendly as in Greece or Turkey because of the conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots...It is still a good experience and a good location to travel to nearby countries.....We have started a blog and the web address is the following:

<http://aouadisincyprus.blogspot.com/>

We would love to hear from you. Take care everyone.

- Samir Aouadi and Dawn Taylor family

Second installment from our CUF member currently working in Saudi Arabia... You will remember that our previous CUF Links editor, Joe Robbie, was suddenly called up for a job in Saudi Arabia last February. He is sharing with us what his life has been like since then:

Dispatch from Arabia

Part Two

by Joseph Robbie

So...I had 27 hours to get my act together and make my flight from Marion to Saudi Arabia. This is when the Carbondale UU Fellowship really came through for me. Bob Camp, Cheryl and Tom Robinson, Darby Ortolano and a few other angels pitched in and cleared out my rental apartment of all my stuff in my absence. Some of the furniture was sold and the rest of my worldly possessions were moved to a nearby storage facility. That entailed a lot of time and hard work. I will never forget this glowing example of 'a friend in need is a friend indeed'. Thanks again, guys.

With that major worry mitigated, I proceeded to deal with my landlord, the utilities, the goodbyes, and my packing. I only took one large suitcase on my way to change homes, change continents - change my life. The landlord gave me a ride to Marion airport, and then I was on my way.

About 24 hours later, the Saudia Airlines plane touched down in Riyadh. It was February 26, and it was hot. After clearing the passport control, customs, and immigration, I was met by a couple of my new bosses and transported to the ROC compound, my new home. The compound is surrounded by high walls, blast barriers, razor wire, watch towers and machinegun nests – real cozy. Not.

My apartment is a three-bedroom shared place, although for the first three weeks I had it to myself. It's a European-style accommodation with normal toilets (and a bidet) and central air. My bedroom is okay and there are a washer and dryer in the "maid's room" (no, we don't get a maid). The compound houses about 300 American guys – no women or children allowed (it's too dangerous).

Most of the men are retired military vets and the job of this company is to modernize and train the Saudi National Guard, the King's private army. Osama bin Laden has a particular hatred of this company as they help to protect the Royal Family, which he would like to bring down. I've heard it argued that the work of this company in particular led to the events of 9/11. They got bombed here in 2003 with ten dead. I, of course, am just an English teacher, and we are generally looked down upon and discriminated against by the real warriors.

The weekend here is Thursday and Friday, so I had the next day off.



This was followed by three days of inprocessing, consisting of another complete physical exam, the issuance of my military-style uniforms and ID cards, various seminars and cultural awareness training, drivers license test, security briefings, etc.

Then I got my first taste of the actual job site, about a 25-minute drive away. I work from 5:30 am to 2:30 pm, nine hours a day, five days a week. Hence, I have to get up every day at 4:00 am. That's four o'clock in the morning!!! I've always been an early riser, but this is really a bit over the top. I always have to set two alarms just to make sure I don't slip back into dreamland. By the time I get off work, it's the hottest part of the day, and venturing out of the air-conditioned apartment is really not an option.

To be continued...

CUF LINKS HARD COPIES are available at the Fellowship on the visitor table.
Deadline for October CUFLinks: Fri., October 23. Please honor this deadline.
Send your articles to Cheryl Robinson at cherrob1@msn.com or to Melanie Bray at cufvolunteers@verizon.net on or before Oct. 23. Thanks! – Cheryl Robinson, Editor

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The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

*An inspirational thought: "There is a choice you have to make,
in everything you do. And you must always keep in mind,
the choice you make, makes you. - Anonymous*