



## SUNDAY SERVICES

**December 2            Dave Christensen: “Liberation Theology and A Challenge to Uus”**

Dave (and other UU members on a “Witness for Peace” mission) learned first hand about Liberation Theology in Nicaragua in 1985. Come hear Dave talk about it and bring Liberation Theology “up-to-date” in context of the liberal politics in Latin America during recent decades. Dave’s message is another in our minister’s series on “Liberal Religion in the Twentieth Century”.

**December 9            Jodi Ruffner and Bill Sasso: “A Dialogue on Theology of Gratitude”**

In this season between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, it makes sense to consider where gratitude is present in our lives and our theology. Join Jodi and Bill as their dialogue explores the pros and cons of gratitude as the central value in our Unitarian Universalist religious movement.

**December 16           Children’s Holiday Program (intergenerational)**

Each year the children of our Fellowship share their special insights into the holidays of the winter season, and this year promises to be both energetic and creative as we recognize the holiday celebrations of different faiths. There will be no live announcements in the service – please make sure to get your info to Russ Trimble so it can be printed in the order of service! Bill Sasso and Roy Sumner will coordinate this service.

**December 23           Bill Sasso: “The Shortest Day, the Longest Night”**

As the end of the year draws near, as the days grow short and the temperature falls, as the dark and chill of the season surround us, how do we take care of ourselves? What are the special gifts that the winter solstice brings us? How do we open ourselves to these possibilities?

**December 24           7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**

All are invited to join in this evening service of traditional readings and carols as we re-visit the story of Jesus’ birth! This is also a special time to welcome back our college-age students and young adults. If you know a college student or young adult who might like to participate in this service, please contact Bill Sasso! Light refreshments will follow the service. No live announcements – make sure to get your announcement info to Bill S. for inclusion in the order of service!

**December 30           Valerie Mapstone Ackerman: “From Jeremiad to Justification: Moving Liberal Religion from Continuous Complaint to Right Action”**

Even the most casual observer of current social, political, economic and ecological world must note millions of problems. We could spend millennia lamenting the state of things---or we can start now to formulate a theology of action that can shift the state of the world. A former social worker, parish minister, and chaplain, Valerie spends her time writing and causing social unrest. Her son, Nathan, currently lives in Carbondale, and she is especially excited to be visiting the town that was once home to her idol Buckminster Fuller. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service.



## OPEN MINDS

**December 2, “Globalization and Women’s Lives in Bangladesh”** Presenter Kathy Ward, Sociology Professor SIUC will share her experiences in Bangladesh, funding education and skill training for women that had been in the sex trade or very low wage garment trade jobs. Ward received a Fullbright Fellowship grant that enabled her, accompanied by her mother to engage in this commendable work. Discussion will follow Ward’s presentation.

**December 9, “Cosmos: Blues for the Red Planet”** Carl Sagan’s great gift video series to the universe will continue. Mars is visited through the lens of the Lowell Observatory, Viking spacecraft and the genius of Carl Sagan’s mind. The myth of canals is exploded but what are the possibilities of using the frozen polar ice caps as a water source for escapees of our global warming? Bob Camp will coordinate the discussion and offer additional commentary.

**December 16, “Issues Round Table”** Bring clippings, articles, personal research and reflection of current issues of concern to share, listen and learn (even pontificate/rant rave) All opinions respected and welcome. Open Minds Team will facilitate this session.

**December 23, Share Shop of Christmas Joy,** Blessings, Memories, Poems, Traditions, Stories. All welcome! (cookies, goodies... UMM)

**December 30,** We will not meet formally



## THE MINISTER’S MESSAGE

### What Is the Spirit of This Season?

As I write, Thanksgiving Day is close upon us, so by the time that you read this the Christmas season will be in full tilt. The season comes fast upon us, and what are we to make of it? Is it the season of a small rural community struggling to bring in a harvest lest they

perish during the winter, filled with gratitude for the earth’s bounty? Is it the season of those who have lived here for centuries acknowledging the common humanity and apparent good will of new neighbors, even though their culture, customs, language, and skin color are different? Is it the season of hope symbolized by a flame flickering in a lamp long after it should have gone out for lack of fuel? Is it the season of a child born in a humble manger, of shepherds mingling with kings from afar? Is this the season of love that each newborn brings to those who hold the child close?

Or is this another season altogether? Isn’t this the season in which we seek to buy the affection of those we love with the biggest and most expensive gift? Isn’t this the season in which competition for the latest, greatest technological gadget turns to violence in shopping malls as we fight over who gets the last X-Box in the store? Isn’t this the season in which we embrace conspicuous consumption as a personal devotional practice? Isn’t this the season when we embrace “Shop till you drop” as the mantra that guides our daily living? Isn’t this that season as well?

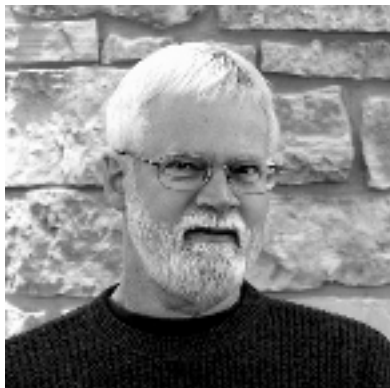
At the risk of over-simplifying, we might call the set of aspirations described in the first paragraph the “connective spirit of the season,” and those in the second paragraph the “commercial spirit of the season.” You’ve probably figured out that I prefer to regard the season as embodying the connective spirit, even though I do like to give and receive gifts (in moderation). After all, at its best, the giving and receiving of gifts can be an expression of mutual love and caring, so long as we focus on the generosity of the giver and the act of giving rather than on the material aspects of the gift as an object. Giving and receiving gifts can indeed connect us to one another. The best gifts are those that do connect us, and we often find that they are treasured for years, far beyond their commercial value.

So as you do your holiday shopping, I encourage you to shop mindfully, and to seek out gifts that strengthen your most valued connections of love and caring. Be flexible in your concept of shopping, for not every connective gift can be bought in a store or on-line. The best gift might be as straightforward as a note of appreciation to a friend or relative, a work by a favorite artist, a project or game jointly undertaken with an eager child, or a visit to a neighbor. I invite you to take the challenge of this kind of shopping!

I also encourage you to consider doing some of your shopping at the Alternative Gifts Fair, to be held at the Carbondale Civic Center on Sunday afternoon, December 2nd (watch for more details). If you know someone who has more than enough “stuff,” and who has a favorite cause or charity in this area, the Alternative Gifts Fair gives you a convenient opportunity to honor that person and their

favorite cause as a Christmas gift. It's a great way to honor the connective spirit of the season, and to help one (or more) good cause!

With deep appreciation for your participation in and support of this liberal religious community, I am yours in the (connective) spirit of the season, *Bill S.*



## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

I have always enjoyed entertainment that could incorporate multiple levels of messages. When visiting my daughter lately, her boyfriend received the entire collection of the Twilight Zone episodes,

which I remembered loving as a youngster. Then lately, with a bit of Twilight Zone eeriness, I turned to the last page of the UU World and see an article about Rod Serling and Twilight Zone. I thought Twilight Zone was great at providing a bit of sometimes scary settings and characters, mixed with an ending that always seemed to leave me to fill in the rest story, usually with a moral message that dealt with prejudice of one form or another.

Beginning about Halloween each year, I start to notice that at the same time the days are getting shorter, the things I have to do increases. Before you know it, Thanksgiving is upon me, with competing pressures to make time for family, friends, shopping, travel, and to keep in mind the real reason for the seasons as Christmas gets a day closer each day. I could almost imagine Rod Serling smiling as I try to manage my increased obligations, make lists of who to buy for or send cards or letters to, and keep a cheery attitude as the car repair expense puts a big dent in what I had planned for gifts.

Whew, time to remind myself of the advice I often give to others in similar times – it's all about a healthy balance. Time to keep in mind that it's important to enjoy the shorter days because that's when rest takes place, and that making plans to travel during unpleasant weather is as good a time to travel as any. That taking time to show others how much I appreciate them is a good thing to do always, but it doesn't have to be restricted to just buying stuff if I choose to be creative.

Of course it's a good time to give thanks, but it's also a good time to actually do something, preferably with others, like baking bread for unknown strangers, or buying a coat and socks for an anonymous person identified as in need. So, like Twilight Zone, if you're creative, and have a good attitude, you can take the mission of giving and incorporate giving in a wider sense, and think about the season on multiple levels. We can spend time with our children, and explain what the people outside stores ringing bells are doing, how we can look locally for presents so the local crafts persons can make a living, and how thinking of others doesn't have to be restricted just to family.

In this season of increased pulls and tugs, and less daylight, I wish you balance. I wish you peace, happiness, fulfillment, and a healthy appreciation for each day.

Best of all to you, *Roy Sumner*, Director of Religious Education

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 The Rev. William Sasso, Minister



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I believe in setting goals in whatever endeavor I undertake. For me, goals act as a guide for planning and decision making. They are helpful to determine whether a particular action will bring me closer to the goal, or move me further away. Will my purchase of a new car this year allow me to go on the trip I planned?

The Board of Trustees has been working on goals this fall. This is the first time in the last decade that a formal set of goals has been set for the Fellowship. (See below) Over the last decade, the Fellowship has had its vision shaped by a new minister, a new building, a new office assistant and a Challenge Grant to pay down the mortgage. The first three were in Strategic Plans and we tackled them as the time was right.

Prior to last year, the planning process consisted of the Finance committee polling the committee chairs about their needs in the coming year, factoring in any big change facing the Fellowship and drafting a budget for the board to review. This budget was then used for the Annual Pledge drive. When the pledges were tallied, the Finance committee would adjust the budget and forward it to the board, which would review it and forward it to the congregation for approval at the Annual Congregational meeting in May.

Last year, in addition to the above process, the Congregation was asked to rank the suggested areas of expansion in the coming year. In a March Congregational meeting, members heard the rationale for the suggested changes and prioritized its wishes. The top two priorities were the Office Assistant and a Long Term Maintenance fund, which were built into the final budget.

This year, on December 9th, the Congregation will be asked to indicate its priorities for the next year. (An announcement and narrative description of the process are being sent under separate email.) These priorities, along with the requests from the committees and a review of current financial obligations, will be used in the development of the proposed budget for FY 09 (July, 08 - June 09).

This process puts the members of the congregation FIRST, asking for their priorities. The Finance committee will review the current obligations, anticipate normal growth, reflect the priorities of the Congregation where

budgetary support is required, and draft a budget. The Board will review and decide on a budget for the Stewardship Campaign. The members of the congregation will respond through their pledges. The Finance committee and Board will develop a budget that reflects the priorities of the Congregation and its commitment to support them. The Congregation will then adopt a final budget at the Annual Meeting on May 4, 2008.

This process is democracy in action. It makes the wishes of the Congregation the driving force of the Stewardship Campaign. Also, some of the ideas coming from the Congregation might include little or no financial resources, such as a men's retreat or activating an RSO on campus. These can be included in the goals for FY 09.

By the way, the FY 08 Goals the Board has identified are below. They have been listed using categories taken from the Strategic Plan.

1. Stronger and Deeper Community
  - \* Realize a net 5% increase in membership
  - \* Assure a deliberate integration of new members
  - \* Assure transparency and communication in decision-making
2. Personal/Spiritual Growth
  - \* Reallocate ministerial effort toward personal/spiritual growth
3. Enhanced Religious Education
  - \* Plan for RE consultant in FY 09
4. Social Action
  - \* Donate a collection one week per month to a charity (Congregation to vote)
  - \* Promote participation in local social action by members
5. More Visible UU Presence
  - \* Continue to support Mt. Vernon and Cape Girardeau

### Infrastructure Goals

- \* Assure that Office staff person is up and running
- \* Achieve Stewardship target established by Congregation
- \* Finalize By-law revision

The above list of FY 08 goals is not exhaustive. It lists goals that the Board saw as important for providing stability and growth for the Fellowship. Many of the activities

taking place in the Fellowship do not have goals, as they are fully integrated into the structure of the Fellowship.

I hope that many members of the Fellowship actively participate in the planning process described at the beginning of this column. The Board and Finance committee are very interested in knowing the priorities of the Congregation and incorporating them in the planning process.

In Stewardship, *Jerry Molumby*. President



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 12:00 noon

\*Social Action Proposal

\*Prioritization of Goals for Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009

Finger Food Pot Luck

Babysitting provided.

(details by separate email / post)



### Current list of committee leaders

Art/Aesthetics Committee: Barbara Lesar	Order of Service: Russ Trimble
Committee on Ministry: Joyce Webb, Joe Schmit and Matt Stronkoski	Pastoral Friends: Bill Sasso
Finance Committee: Ed Phillips	Press Release Coordinator: Melanie Bray
Nominating Committee: Dave Clark, Alan Christensen, Jan Eisenhard	Program Committee: JoAnn Nelson & Janet Harris
Personnel Committee: George Feldhamer	Religious Education Committee: Roy Sumner
Building and Grounds Committee: Loren Cocking (bldg) & George Feldhamer (Grounds)	Social Action Committee: Jesslyn Jobe
Bulletin Board: Lois Lembcke	Sunday Service Committee: Samir Aouadi
Canvass Committee: Mary Campbell	Supper Club: Janet Banerjee
Caring and Sharing: Cheryl Robinson	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: Amy Weber
Chalice Lighters (Sundays): Roy Sumner	Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office: Dave Christensen
Chalice Lighters (Fundraisers): open	Wayside Pulpit: open
Communications Committee: Yo Presley	Web Site: Yo Presley
Covenant Group Ministries: Bill Sasso	Weekly Bulletin: Russ Trimble
CUF Links (monthly newsletter): Yo Presley	Welcoming Congregation: Judy Groskind
Denominational Affairs: open	Special Interest Groups--
Email Bulletin: Russ Trimble & Melanie Bray	Round Table Readers: Janet Levie
Greeters & Coffee Hosts: Joyce Webb	Carol's Lunch Bunch (women's lunch group): Mariann Douglass
Health Ministry/Cong. Nurse: Vennie Anderson, RN	Humanist Group: Bob Camp
Hospitality Committee: Janet Harris & Patsy Maxwell	PSI Symposium: Astrid Mosley & Mary Campbell
Interfaith Council: Ken and Kathy Starbuck	Women's Retreat: Astrid Mosely & Tami Frank
Library Coordinator: Janet Levie	Kaleidoscope: Bob Camp
Mailing List Manager: Melanie Bray	International Student Coffee Hour: JoAnn Nelson & Nillofur Zobairi
Membership Committee: Cathy Kline	Choir: Geri Mckee
Music Committee: Alan Christensen	Prison Ministries: Lois Hayward & Karen Swenson

## Health Ministry Corner

by Vennie Anderson

### Are You SAD? Seasonal Affective Disorder could be more than just the “wintertime blahs.”

Seasonal Affective Disorder, also called SAD, is a form of depression associated with the changing of the seasons. While most commonly associated with the onset of fall and winter, there is also a rarer form of SAD that occurs in some individuals when the weather turns warmer in spring and summer. Most of what is known about diagnosis, treatment and prevention pertains to fall/winter onset SAD since it is the most common form.

Possible causes posed for SAD include genetic predisposition, age (SAD is uncommon in people under the age of 20), and our body’s natural chemical makeup. Some researchers suspect the reduced level of sunlight in fall and winter may disrupt the circadian rhythm, the physiological process that helps regulate the body’s internal clock. Some researchers theorize SAD may be tied to decreased levels of melatonin, a sleep-related hormone that has been linked to depression. Still other researchers suggest a lack of serotonin, a natural brain chemical that affects mood, may play a role. Reduced sunlight can cause a drop in serotonin, which could lead to depression.

Treatments for SAD include light therapy, medication, and psychotherapy. Light therapy is based on the fact that increased sunlight seems to improve symptoms in many sufferers. Because evidence is currently anecdotal rather than based on clinical trials, the FDA has not approved

light therapy as a specific treatment for SAD. Medications may benefit some people suffering from severe SAD. Several antidepressants have FDA approval for treatment of SAD. Antidepressants may take several weeks to take full effect, and several different medications may need to be tried before finding one that works well with the fewest side effects. Psychotherapy can help individuals identify and change negative thoughts and behaviors that may be aggravating SAD as well as assisting individuals to learn ways to cope with SAD and manage stress.

Prevention may be possible in some persons who are susceptible to SAD. As the days get shorter, making a point of getting a few minutes of daily exposure to outdoor light, even on cloudy days, may be beneficial. Although not FDA approved, light boxes or lamps with full spectrum bulbs offer potential prevention or remedies for milder symptoms with virtually no ill effects.

During the cold, rainy, chilly days of fall and winter most people experience some days when they feel “down”. However if you find yourself feeling down for days at a time and can’t seem to get motivated to do normal activities, it’s important to consider seeking medical advice. This is especially true if you are also experiencing disturbance in sleep patterns and appetite and thoughts of hopelessness or even suicide. Help is available to deal with feeling SAD, regardless of the time of year.

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## From the Office

by Melanie Bray

I hope Thanksgiving was special for all of you this year! Everything is running smoothly in the office. I want to offer a few reminders during this busy holiday season.

~ Update any personal information that has changed (email, address, phone number)

~ If there are any changes in the building schedule let me know or write it in the big white book on the office desk. Some of the “ongoing” meetings have been canceled or changed during this month; make sure you indicate this in the scheduling book.

~ Check out the lost and found drawer in the office (interesting items!)

I have combined a list of current committee “chairs” and/or contacts for your use. I have personal contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) in the office - or use your congregation directory if you need to contact these various committee members.

I hope you all have a safe and blessed holiday season! ~Melanie

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## December Social Action Update

Submitted by Jess Jobe

Happy Holiday season everyone! Whatever you celebrate this fall and winter, I hope you'll be able to reflect on what is good in your life and in the world, and also on how we can all make the world better in simple ways. Thank you to all of you who have participated in this year's **Spirit of Christmas program**, a collaborative effort by Carbondale churches to brighten the holidays of area kids, seniors, and others who could use a lift this season. Please remember to turn in your Spirit of Christmas gifts at the Fellowship no later than Sunday, Dec. 2. Special thanks to Angela Chen and Matt Schlesinger, who have coordinated the Fellowship's participation this year, as well as Nan Sorrel and Kathryn Jaehnig, who've agreed to help Angie and Matt get the gifts delivered to Joan Hart, the overall Spirit of Christmas coordinator for the Interfaith Council.

Do you know someone who truly doesn't need another sweater? Is it you? Another opportunity to give instead of receive is coming up, with the annual **Alternative Gift Fair**, organized by the Church of the Good Shepherd. This year's Alternative Gift Fair is set for Sunday, December 2 from 2-5 p.m. at the Carbondale Civic Center. The Alternative Gift Fair features opportunities to give charitable contributions in honor of a friend or family member, or just because, to a number of local and international charitable organizations. Some of this year's worthy causes include Rainbow Café, Good Samaritan Ministries, Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale, PAWS animal shelter, Heifer International. Fair trade products are usually available at the fair as well, along with children's activities. We're pleased that

the Fellowship's social action fund was able to contribute to funding this year's event.

**Allies for Justice:** Several members of the social action committee met on November 4 to discuss ways we can best partner with others in our community to address racism and classism. We haven't solved the puzzle of racism, but our discussion is leading us towards thinking of how we can approach other faith groups about working together to address community needs, such as the Carbondale Mosque, and also how we could potentially help with ongoing community programs such as the African-American Museum of Southern Illinois. We want to approach these ideas slowly and deliberately, and perhaps also be more aware of our own tendencies to jump in too fast and too strong and "fix things" without truly partnering with others. This discussion and planning process is ongoing, and will be continued at our next Social Action committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 28 after services. We welcome and could really use more input from other Fellowship members. Since every member of the Fellowship plays some role in the social action efforts of the Fellowship, it would be great to have more people at the committee's table!

### December Social Action Calendar:

In addition to Spirit of Christmas, don't forget the annual Christmas Eve collection, with money collected at that service to be given to a TBA local charity. Contact Bill Sasso for questions, suggestions, etc.

## Announcements

**Deb Czarnopys-White and Carla Feldhamer** will be in Zambia from November 27th to December 12th. We will be delivering all of the nightgowns, medications and other donations to the Ranchhod AIDS Hospice and Orphan Care Center. We will be celebrating World AIDS Day with them on Sunday Dec. 2nd so please think of us on that day. Love and Thanks to all!!!

**Matt Sronkoski** has recently been appointed to join Joyce Webb and Joe Schmit on the Committee on Ministry (CoM). The CoM meets periodically to offer their counsel and insight to Bill Sasso regarding both the overall ministry of the Fellowship and Bill's professional role within that larger ministry. If you have ideas and suggestions, Joyce, Joe and Matt will be happy to help you find the most appropriate forum in which to share them!

The next **Ralph Anderson Interfaith Dialogue** will be on *"Images of the Divine"*. This conversation will focus on different ways the major world religions portray the encounter with God or the Sacred, in time and space. The event will be held at the Carbondale Mosque (530 N. Wall St.) on Monday, December 3 at 7:30 PM. Presentations will be made by Imam Haqq (Islam), Rev. Roger Karban (Christian), Sam Goldman (Jewish) and Jim Hanson (Buddhist), followed by audience participation. Ken Starbuck will be the moderator. The Carbondale Interfaith Council sponsors the dialogues. Everyone is welcome, and attendance is free. Contact Ken Starbuck for more information: e-mail (starbuck@midamer.net), or phone 618-942-3986

## CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Special:** The **Welcoming Congregation Committee** invites you to attend an exploration of the gender and sexual continuums. Guest speakers will discuss issues challenging those who are Transgender on **Monday, December 3 from 7 to 9 PM** at the Fellowship. Future programs will occur on the first Monday of the month and include: Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual topics. Contact Judy Groskind (985-5007) or Bill Sasso (529-2439) for more information.

**Developing:** We are in the process of developing a Town Hall Meeting on increasing grass roots support of the United Nations and their peacekeeping efforts. Early conceptualization is as a **Community Forum** at the Fellowship in March. If you have ideas, consider joining our development team. Dave Christensen, Olga Weidner, Joy Price, Bob Camp and you!!! Call one of us.

### Ongoing:

**THE DREAM WORKSHOP.** *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00ish.*  
**December 2.** 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*

**December 12.** Nominations for Issue/News Discovery of the Year. What, Why chosen. If you send your nominations to Bob Camp ahead of time, he may have a background video or clips available to show. example: Drum Beat to Bomb Iran Nuke- sites and Republican Guard Bases or Pakistan Slides into Chaos or video of Las Vegas Debates, or Mohammed Yunus, Nobel Laureate 2006(Banker to the Poor) All are welcome.

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

**December no meeting, resumes on January 23.**

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

**No Meeting December 9th.** A congregational meeting is scheduled for that date. We will meet January 13, 2008. Information concerning the topic will be published in our next newsletter.

**ROUNDTABLE READERS.** *This group meets once a month in Room 04 after the Sunday Service at Noon*

**December 2.** Discussion of the book: East of the Mountains by David Guterson, author of Snow Falling on Cedars. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome. For more information, contact Janet Levie at (618)833-4971.

**SCIENCE IN SOCIETY.** *This group meets the some Fridays of the Month in the Fellowship Commons at 4:30 PM.*

Please watch the Bulletin and your order of service for December's meetings.

**TIBETAN BUDDHISM STUDY GROUP** *This group meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Commons at 7:00 PM.*

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

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

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

**December 6. Thursday (this week only - not on Friday)** A Pixar Short Film Documentary on how computers advanced the art of Animation.

**December 21.** "Amazon: Land of the Flooded Forests" a relaxing nature film to beat the holiday stress!

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

**December 16,** An hour and a half of Yoga starting at 12:30 after the service and coffee in the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship Commons. Bring a light snack and water (also available in the water fountain). There is a SUGGESTED only donation of \$10.00 which will go to the Zambia Hospice Project. Mats available for those who need them. (Bring your own if you have one.)

## CUF BYTES

**Clean Out the Kitchen Day will be Dec.1** at the Fellowship. Please take home dishes and food which have been left from different activities. If you have something coming up please label the food which needs to stay. It has been wonderful having food at coffee hour. Please consider sweeping the rug and cleaning the linoleum after coffee hour. (Especially if you bring the food.) Food ground into the rug is more difficult to clean. Thanks so much, The Hospitality Committee...always looking for more helping hands!

**Spirit of Christmas gifts** must be returned by Dec 2nd!!!!!!!!!!!!!! to the Fellowship. The committee that distributes the gifts has them sorted and distributed by Dec 6th. So it is essential that the gifts be to the Fellowship by Dec 2nd. Thanks, Mary

**Guest at Your Table:** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest at Your Table campaign has begun. If you would like a collection box so that your spare change can help UUSC change the world, pick one up by in the lobby. We encourage you to return the boxes (or a check for your donation) after Christmas. Thanks for your support of the UUSC!

**Coffee, tea, herbal tea, chocolate, pecans and cranberries** will continue to be on sale in the Fellowship Commons on Sundays after the service. With the holidays coming think fair-trade products as gifts and to serve for special meals. Share your bounty with small farmers in North, Central and South America, Ceylon, India, South Africa, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

**Sierra Club 2008 Calendars** are available, both wall calendars, \$12, and engagement calendars, \$13, both \$1 less than at stores. Help Sierra Club and get a beautiful calendar for yourself or as a gift. Call Clara McClure, 618 457-2025. [pippin1983@earthlink.net](mailto:pippin1983@earthlink.net)

## RSO Forming

Help spread the UU message to the students of SIUC! We're forming a UU Registered Student Organization (RSO), and any assistance from members of the Fellowship would be greatly welcomed. Our hope is that the RSO and the Fellowship will form a mutually beneficial relationship, with the Fellowship providing support and guidance, and the RSO being both a source of new members as well as a place for young UUs to learn about leadership and organization. Activities for the RSO could mirror the programs we have at the Fellowship: discussion groups, presentations, service projects, etc. With university funding, the RSO could also sponsor workshops and bring in guest speakers.

We've got a few things accomplished:

We got three students to act as officers. In the spirit of UU, we tried to have the names of the officer positions be nonconformist and have a more egalitarian tone to them than traditional titles, while at the same time being descriptive of the roles. Bridget Shepherd is the Convener, Tim Shepherd is the Ballyhoo Artist and Maggie Mosely is the Record Keeper.

We have a Faculty/Staff Advisor. Matt Sronkoski has kindly volunteered.



We have the necessary paperwork, and just need to get a couple of signatures before we turn it in.

We are working on revising the current constitution. If anyone wants to help with that, email Karen Gallegly [randkgallegly@verizon.net](mailto:randkgallegly@verizon.net) or Bridget Shepherd [femwtch@siu.edu](mailto:femwtch@siu.edu).

This will be a wonderful resource for students wanting to explore their spiritual alternatives. Let's get this RSO going so that students won't have to be stuck in the gridlock of conventional religion. UUs go spiritual off-roading in biodiesel-powered SUVs!

## About the “Street Boys” in Kabwe, Zambia

*Submitted by Pat York*

The \$300 we raised through Girl Scout cookie and music CD donations plus a huge dose of good ole CUF generosity will go a LONG way to further provide safe shelter for orphan boys, and training in home construction. Here is what the coordinators said about our donations:

“The donation of \$150 will go a long way in procuring of the needs to the emergency night shelter. Please pass our heart-felt happiness to all the people who made a donation to the activities of these vulnerable children. Thanks once more and be assured that the money will be put to good use and intended purpose.”

*Sydney Mushanga*, Coordinator for Sables

“Thanks very much for the donation of \$150, and the work you put in for hosting the fundraiser. The money will be well used for sure. The rains have started so construction is a bit tricky; think of building in a water soaked farm field in southern Illinois. Makes my little truck work overtime. All the best and once again thank you very much.”

*Tom O’Hern*, Coordinator for Project “37 & More”.

### A Note From the Editor

In the spirit of the season and in the continuing effort to facilitate better communication within our Fellowship, I have provided an alternative CUF Links format for this month. In addition to the usual on-line version, December CUF Links is also available as a .pdf document.

Personally, I do not like to wait for a .pdf document to load before I can read the information but I know that it can be easier to print and will maintain it’s formatting. A .pdf document requires that you have Adobe Acrobat (a free program) loaded on your computer. I’m sure most of you have this already. Please let me know if you want to continue to have CUF Links available as a .pdf document.

I would also like to know if the Fellowship is interested in having a private Email List where a dialog on the issues of the day can be discussed and reviewed. An Email list is a way for the congregation to communicate via email on issues relating to Unitarian Universalism and Fellowship matters. Simply put, an Email mailing list is a group of people who exchange messages as a group via email. On announcement lists, only one person can send messages and everyone else receives them, creating an email-based newsletter (the UUA-L list is of this type). On discussion lists, any subscriber can send messages that are received by all the subscribers, creating an email-based conversation. The UUA has over 250 lists of this type. Email lists are a great way to receive announcements or participate in online discussions.

An email list costs nothing to subscribe to. To subscribe, participate, and sign off, all you need is an internet connection and an email address. There are three types of list we could potentially have:

**Open to the Public:** anyone can join.

**Closed to the Public:** Members must subscribe and be approved for membership.

**Moderated:** Lists that are for announcements only (for example, the UUA-L list is for announcements from the UUA) or that are filtered through a moderator who can reject messages that don’t match the criteria for the list.

Many UU churches already do this. If you would like to see an example of a site that is not private you can follow this link: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUCA\\_2030s/messages](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUCA_2030s/messages) (Note: this is a Yahoo group - we do not have to use Yahoo)

If there is interest in this, I will call a Communications Committee meeting in January to discuss it.

Merry Yule, Happy Solstice, *Yo Presley*