



# CUF Links

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

*A Welcoming Congregation*

a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist association

**May 2009**

**THIS IS THE LAST CUF LINKS UNTIL AUGUST!**

Have a great summer!

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

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

### **5/3 Graduation and Affirmation Sunday**

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.

### **5/10 Mother's Day Flower Ceremony**

This favorite annual intergenerational service will combine two themes: the impact of motherhood and the sharing of flowers as an act of community. Roy Sumner 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!

### **5/17 Member Recognition Sunday**

Have you "signed the book" and become a member during the past year? Or did you do so sometime in 2004, 1999, or 1989? 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 valued 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.

### **5/24 Bill Sasso: "Conversation with Lincoln: Accepting Responsibility"**

The Memorial Day holiday is said to have begun here in Carbondale, at the behest of John A. Logan, in recognition of the lives lost during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln, perhaps more than any other single person, might be considered responsible for the suffering caused by that war. Did he accept that responsibility? And if so, how did he make sense of it? Bill will examine Abe's thoughts and feelings, and explore what they may say to us today.

### **5/31 Bill Sasso: "Tongues of Flame"**

On Pentecost Sunday, we'll consider the New Testament story of the descent of the tongues of flame on Jesus' disciples. Does this significant episode in the story of Christianity speak to us as Unitarian Universalists? And if so, just what might it say? Join Bill as he explores these questions!

And coming up . . .

6/7 Jesslyn Jobe: "Bread for the World"

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## OPEN MINDS

meets at 8:45 AM in the Commons each Sunday

**May 3** - "Eyes Wired Open Video Series" - Bob Camp, presenter. Investigative reports.

**May 10** - "Growth Syndrome" – David Christensen, presenter

**May 17** - "West Meets East China Travelogue" - Vennie Anderson

**May 24** - "Eyes Wired Open Video Series" - Bob Camp, presenter

**May 31** - "War Crimes Déjà vu - an Indictment of George W. Bush and Co-Conspirators" – Paula Bradshaw & Rich Whitney, presenters

### And for June and July...

**June 7** - "Arable Land and Digestion" - David Christensen, presenter

**June 14** - "Therapeutic Programs for Troubled Youth" - Kris Juul, presenter. Slides and discussion.

**June 21** - "Eyes Wired Open Video Series" - Bob Camp, presenter

**June 28** - "Reiki: A Passion for Healing" - Debbie Czarnopys-White, presenter

**July 5** - "World, National, State & Local Issues and Solutions" (bring a list) - Open Group Discussion

**July 12** - "Our Congregational Nurse " (Exact title to be determined) - Vennie Anderson

**July 19** - "This is Who I Am Series - This is What I Do & Why; This is What I have Learned About Myself & Others" - Jerry Molumby, presenter

**July 26** - "Eyes Wired Open Video Series" - Bob Camp, presenter

**August 2** - "Discover Your Passion" - Debbie Czarnopys-White, presenter

**August 9** - **Brainstorm Session for Future Programs** - share ideas, volunteer to present a program, invite a speaker.

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## THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

by Bill Sasso

### On "Emergence" and "Emergency"...

Lately, I've been thinking and working with members of the Fellowship on two different concepts that have almost exactly the same name: (1) emergence and (2) emergency. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday before Earth Day, Chris Lant and I spoke on the work of Fritjof Capra, a theoretical physicist whose work informs our understanding of the interactions between different forms of life. I find Capra's book [The Web of Life](#) fascinating, in terms of its descriptions of these interconnections. One of the concepts that most intrigues me is that of the emergent properties of systems.

One aspect of "emergent properties" is captured in the familiar maxim that "the whole is more than the sum of its parts." But there is a second aspect as well, in that sometimes we humans create a system anticipating that it will have some "designed properties," capabilities that we want from the system – the house we construct to shelter us from the elements, the vehicle we use to transport us, or the clothing we hope will keep us warm. Often we succeed in creating systems that provide these designed properties: shelter, transportation, and warmth. But with the concept of "emergent properties," Capra calls on us to recognize that these humanly created systems – like those created by forces of nature itself – often exhibit additional

properties beyond those for which they were designed. These properties “emerge” from the systems. For instance, global warming is not a social outcome we humans created intentionally (a designed property), but rather an emergent property of a lifestyle that includes extensive use of fossil fuels, ongoing deforestation, and high consumption of certain meats (as well as many other factors).

Our task as human creators is not to abstain from the creation of systems in order to achieve designed properties (assuming that the properties are themselves meaningful and valuable), but rather to begin now to consider two factors which have not received the consideration they require. First, we need to look at all the products of our systems as we design them. We can no longer be casual about “waste products.” Rather, we need to emulate the systems that succeed within Nature, systems where the waste produced by one system is a valuable input resource to another. Second, we need to pay attention to the actions of systems so that we observe their emergent properties, because many systems – whether their origin is by human design or natural process – create products and conditions that may be harmful to our one and only biosphere. Whether others exist somewhere in the universe or not, our responsibility is to take good care of this one!

Because we can’t predict emergent properties, we can’t always prepare for them. We can, on the other hand, prepare ourselves for possible “emergency” events: such as tornados, earthquakes, medical emergencies,

and so on. With a task force that has included Vennie Anderson, Miriam Link-Mullison, Yo Presley, Tom Robinson, and Roy Sumner, I have been part of a process that has developed a simple set of emergency response plans for these and other events that deserve some preparation on our part. I’m deeply appreciative of the time and energy these folks have offered to help us be as ready as we can be, should an emergency situation occur at our facility.

You may have seen some of the “designed products” of this process, such as our automatic external defibrillator (AED) mounted on the wall near the Fellowship Commons bulletin board, the emergency response guides posted on bulletin boards throughout the building, the AED training sessions, and the emergency response training sessions. And in the next month or so, we will hold at least one “weather emergency drill” as part of our Fellowship’s Sunday morning. (You have been warned!).

And this process includes its own “emergent properties.” You may have some suggestions about how we might better prepare for emergencies in general, or for some particular form of emergency. I invite you to pass these suggestions on to me, and I will do my best to route them to a group or person within the Fellowship that is best able to consider and implement them! If you can, I’d prefer that you pass them to me as email – thanks!

In the spirit of emergence, (signed) Bill S.

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## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

*by Roy Sumner*

It’s not easy, but it is certainly worthwhile. I’m talking about offering the Our Whole Lives sexuality program for middle school students.

It takes the support of the Minister, the Board, the Fellowship, and especially the parents, to make the program possible. Offering our youth a chance to discuss openly, factually, comprehensively, and safely, something that will be a part of themselves their entire lives is a big responsibility. I can’t tell you how many adults I have had tell me how much they wish they could have had this opportunity. They wish someone could have given them accurate information, and helped them understand that our sexuality is something

that can be a healthy part of what makes us who we are, and helps to make us whole.

If you ask our youth what they learned in the 12 or so meetings we’ll have, I’m hoping they will tell you two things. One is that the program helped them enhance their communication skills, and two, that they know how to make better decisions. While we covered a wide range of topics, we always came back to learning how we could communicate better, and how we can make our own best decisions.

We have ten middle school students, and two freshmen, in our group of youth. They are at an age of

development where they will impress you with the things they have already experienced, witnessed, discussed, or thought about. They are articulate, and seemed to enjoy the company of their peers as they explored issues where there are no right answers. They are respectful of others opinions, but be sure, they are more than willing to share with you what they think and feel. They recognize pressure, media's not so subtle messages, the unfairness of life, and they have little patience for hypocrisy. But they're still youth, and that transition from child to adult is still full of danger.

We are fortunate to have had the capable assistance of Laura Herzog, Judy Groskind, and Marleen Shepherd who helped me offer this program. We are also grateful to Ruth Minor, RN, from the Jackson County

Health Department, and to our GLBT community members that visited us as a guest panel, and shared their stories with us. And lastly, thank you parents for showing your support for this wonderful program. For caring enough to see that your youth came each meeting, and for taking turns providing youth a lunch each Sunday. And for me, I enjoyed getting to know these wonderful youth better, and being a witness to their enthusiasm (lots of energy still), and their being able to open up and share as a group and grow. Yes, it was certainly worthwhile.

Sincerely,  
Roy Sumner, DRE

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## FROM THE OFFICE

*by Melanie Bray*

The problem with communication ... is the illusion that it has been accomplished.  
- George Bernard Shaw

What do we accomplish with our communication methods here at the Fellowship? Are we communicating to our members, friends and community effectively? Are we under any illusions when it comes to our communication? How can we ensure that we are conveying information and producing the results we intend to?

The Communication Planning Committee is working towards the goal of answering these questions and more. We need to have the right information to "evaluate" our effectiveness. We need feedback to know how it is that you receive information from our fellowship. We need to know what methods we use to communicate actually work and what methods do not. The only way to understand how we are doing and where we need to go is to ask you, our members, for

your honest feedback and evaluation of our current communication system.

Questions like...

Do you read the weekly bulletin?

How often do you visit our website?

Is the online calendar helpful?

Are there ways to communicate with each other that we haven't thought of?

The Communication Planning Committee is in the process of compiling a survey that will give us this valuable information. Please take time to complete this survey when it is available later this month. Please be honest – you will not hurt anyone's feelings! Besides the satisfactions you will get by helping devise the fellowship's future communication plan, there will also be some fun incentives offered for your input and participation!

We want no illusions!

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## May Social Action Update

*by Jess Jobe*

Thanks to those who worked at Feed My Sheep in April: Chris Bauer, JoAnn Nelson, Frank Nall, Astrid Mosely, Richard Norman, Jess Jobe and Chef Bob

White. Special thanks to the wonderful cookie bar bakers of Kathy O'Laughlin's Girl Scout troops. The

girls made enough bars to serve everyone, including volunteers!

May's Feed My Sheep date is set for Tuesday, May 5 and our volunteers are: Frank Nall, Gina Paul, Olga Weidner, Carla Feldhamer, Jan Eisenhard, JoAnn Nelson and Bob White.

Yard Sale Meeting! The yard sale is set for Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13. We have lots of work to do before, during and after the sale. To help, please attend a Yard Sale Planning Meeting on Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at CUF. If you'd like to help but can't make the meeting, don't worry. Sign up sheets for helping will be made available later in May or you can contact Jess at [jesj62901@yahoo.com](mailto:jesj62901@yahoo.com) Look to future

announcements in the order of service and weekly email bulletins for the dates donated items may be brought in—please do not bring anything in yet!!

Social Action Sunday: Our Social Action Sunday Collection for May will occur on Sunday, May 17 and will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale. The Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale provides valuable youth development programs and activities for children ages 6 to 18 years of age. Volunteer opportunities abound at the Boys and Girls Club and interested individuals should contact the Club at 457-8877. Please make checks payable to Boys and Girls Club of Carbondale or BGCC.

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## CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming:

**MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE** - May 10th we will celebrate Mother's Day. If all goes well the service will be held outside. REMEMBER to bring cut flowers that the children can give to moms. There will be a light potluck during coffee hour. Please bring a bowl of fruit, a platter of crackers, some cheese or whatever appeals to you (choose one).

**SAVE THE DATE!** - A Green Music and Storytelling Evening! -- On Friday evening, May 29th, the Fellowship will host a special intergenerational event featuring Jim Scott, UU folk musician and storyteller. Jim was one of the founders of the Green Sanctuary program, and has written several of our favorite hymns. The details haven't all been worked out yet, but we're hoping to serve a dinner as well as celebrate an evening of environmental stories and music. For more info, or to volunteer to help, contact Bill Sasso at [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com) or 618-529-2439.

**HOLD THIS DATE, TOO!** Hey all! You won't want to miss the **Annual Father's Day Weekend Campout** at Lake Glendale Recreation Area on the Shawnee National Forest on June 19th and 20th! We rent Duck Bay group camp right on the lake with a picnic shelter and fireplace. Saturday night dinner is a potluck. Optional activities include swimming, boating (kayaks, canoes, fishing boats), hiking or biking, visiting Golconda Chocolate Factory, hammock naps, fireside chats and lots of play, etc. etc. It is even fun for folks that would like to visit during the day and return home! Friends and family are welcome, the more, the merrier!!!! A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and RE Commons. You do not have to sign up, but it shows who is coming. Don't let lack of equipment stop you either. Please contact Pat York at [patyork@verizon.net](mailto:patyork@verizon.net) or someone else on the list! Thanks!!!!

### Ongoing:

**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. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and will meet next on Tuesday, May 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. For more information, contact Bill Sasso at 529-2439 or [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com).

**MINDFULNESS MEDITATION** *This group meets every Saturday in the Fellowship Commons from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. (We will meet in an RE classroom if a larger group needs the Commons 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 information: [www.shawnee-dharma.org](http://www.shawnee-dharma.org) or Judy Carter at 529-3110.*

**May 3** - Meditation, Chanting, Study, Discussion in a free flowing format. Everyone welcome.

**May 17** - (ditto above)

**CIRCLE OF RENEWAL** *This group meets every third Wednesday of the month, at the Fellowship, from 7:30 to 9 pm. **May 20** - we use music, prayer, readings, and silence together to create a spiritual focus. This intentional experience is open to all who come in respect and trust. For more information, contact Bill Sasso at bsasso@juno.com or 618-529-2439.*

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

**May 3** - Dreamworks will have its first session of 2009. Please join us for an exciting look into Lucid Dreaming. Never heard of Lucid Dreaming? Have ever become immediately aware that you are dreaming while in the middle of a dream? If the answer is yes, you have been a lucid dreamer. Many levels of lucid dreaming are possible, ranging from a very dim awareness to a level that the dreamer is in complete control over his or her actions within a dream. The information gained can have a tremendous value in problem solving, conflict resolution, and personal insight into areas usually beyond our level of consciousness. You may have the capacity to experience this valuable resource. Some well known practitioners of lucid dreaming include Jesus, Mohammed, Guatama Buddha, John the Devine, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Nostredamus, Buckminster Fuller, Edgar Cayce, Chief Crazy Horse of the Lakota Tribe, Don Juan Castenada, and many shamans, prophets and dreamers throughout the centuries. Discussion & Q & A will follow the presentation. Printed guides will be available for later efforts, and there may be time for a few exercises to simulate the experience. Handouts for participants. Presenters will be Bob White, Reiki Master, Educator, Healer, Master Gardener, Naturalist, Graduate in Economics at Purdue University; and Bob Camp, Public School and collegiate teacher educator, administrator, retired Psychotherapist specializing in Crisis Intervention

**HUMANIST ROUND TABLE.** *This group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM. Coordinators: Bob Camp and David Christensen*

**May 13** – “Google Earth and the Need for Religion” – David Clarke, presenter

**May 27** – “Hard Times from the Great Depression” – Harland Lee Taylor, presenter

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

**May 10** - Contact Astrid Mosely at astrid.m@verizon.net for information.

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

**May 24** – Will discuss Howard Zinn’s Passionate Declarations: Essays on War and Justice. The book is available in paperback with a new preface by the author. Zinn critiques what he calls “American orthodoxies”, which have a chilling effect on our ability to think independently and to become active citizens in the struggle for peace and justice. These include justifications for war, cynicism about human nature and violence, and pride in our economic system, among others. For more information, contact Janet Levie (phone 618-833-4971).

**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.

**SISTERHOOD OF STITCHERS.** *This group meets every Tuesday in the Commons at Noon. Contact Elaine Seymour: sapodedo@gmail.com if you have questions.*

**VIDEO CIRCLE** *This group meets on the third Friday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 7:15 PM.*

**May 15.** Selection to be announced later. Contact Amy Weber at amyweber1@msn.com with questions.

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## **A Note from the Editor**

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

There will be no CUF Links during the summer months of June or July. The newsletter will resume in August!

- Cheryl Robinson

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**Zambia Nightgown Project Converts T-shirts to Nightgowns** - Through Mary Campbell, we've been connected with Kate Heist of Sew Decor. Kate has offered surplus t-shirts for Zambia, some of which have already been sent to the Street Boys Program. There are MANY remaining, and Kate has offered to work with us to convert the t-shirts to nightgowns by adding material on the bottom half. Pockets and decorations can also be added with your imagination. The date is **May 30**, time: 9:30 a.m. or later, place: Sew Decor, 31 Hwy. 127, Alto Pass. Kate's phone is 967-6070. She has a great working area, industrial machines, a long cutting table, a machine that can cut through several layers of material, and one good iron. Workers for the day can bring their own sewing machine if desired, help cut material, or just be creative in helping in any way. Busy hands make short work - right? Please let me know if you're planning to come and we'll try to carpool. I told Kate I'd let her know how many to expect, so please mark your calendar and let me know SOON! We have LOTS of material - just need creativity. Contact Debbie Czarnopys-White, 618-787-2929.

## **CUF Links: Group/Program/Committee Leaders**

AIDS/Africa Partnership: Carla Feldhamer  
Building and Grounds Committee: Tom Robinson  
(Bldg) & Al Babbitt (Grounds)  
Bulletin Board: Lois Lembcke  
Campus Unitarian Universalists: Herman Peterson  
Caring and Sharing: Cheryl Robinson  
Carol's Lunch Bunch (women's lunch group): Mariann  
Douglass  
Chalice Lighters (Fundraisers): Bill Sasso  
Chalice Lighters (Sundays): Roy Sumner  
Choir: Geri McKee  
Committee on Ministry: Joyce Webb, Joe Schmit &  
Matt Sronkoski  
Communications Committee: Yo Presley  
CUF Links (monthly newsletter): Cheryl Robinson  
Denominational Affairs: Bill Sasso  
Dreamwork: Janet Harris  
Endowment Committee: Jerry Molumby  
Finance Committee: Ed Phillips  
Green Sanctuary: Deb Czarnopys-White  
Greeters & Coffee Hosts: Joyce Webb  
Health Ministry/Congregational Nurse: Vennie  
Anderson, RN  
Hospitality Committee: Janet Harris & Patsy Maxwell  
Humanist Roundtable: Bob Camp  
Interfaith Council: Ken & 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 & Rob Gallegly  
Men's Retreat: Bill Rose & Charles Ruffner  
Music Committee: Alan Christensen  
Nominating Committee: Jean Bernstein, Dave Clark,  
Alan Christensen, Jan Eisenhard & Janet Harris  
Open Minds: Bob Lembcke  
Order of Service: Russ Trimble  
Pastoral Care: Bill Sasso, Coordinator  
Personnel Committee: Miriam Link-Mullison  
Press Release Coordinator: Melanie Bray  
Prison Ministries: Lois Hayward & Karen Swenson  
Program Committee: Janet Harris  
PSI Symposium: Astrid Mosley & Mary Campbell  
Religious Education Committee: Matt Sronkoski  
Round Table Readers: Janet Levie  
Sisterhood of Stitchers: Elaine Seymour  
Social Action Committee: Jesslyn Jobe  
Stewardship Committee: Jerry Molumby  
Sunday Services Committee: Samir Aouadi  
Supper Club: Janet Banerjee  
Buddhism Study & Practice Group: Judy Carter

Unitarian Recorder Ensemble: Judy Ayd  
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: Yolán Presley  
Weekly Bulletin: Melanie Bray  
Welcoming Congregation: Jean Bernstein  
Women's Retreat: Pam Jacobini

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-- Cheryl Robinson, Editor  
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister