



MAGNET

ALEXANDER'S MEANDERS

Wow! What a great Congregational Meeting we had in May. I am so excited about the four goals we passed, about the fact that the minister now has a mandate, and that the lay leadership has stepped forward to see these goals through. I especially want to thank George Rourk and the Goals Committee for seeing this process through...

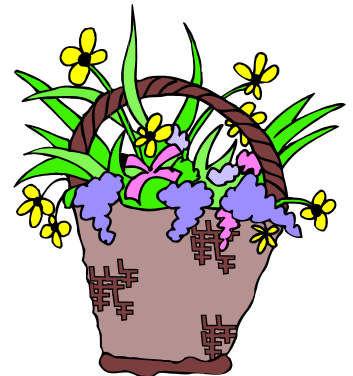
On a similar note, have you noticed that the subject of interfaith work has been in the news more frequently lately? I still rest with the conviction that Unitarian Universalism is the best-suited organization to do this work, and in that vein I am looking to build serious interfaith relationships between UUCF and other faiths in our area. I am excited that the group heading up the Founder's Festival for us will use World Religions as their theme, that the adult Ed committee is putting together another World Religions panel for its Fall kickoff, and that we have an important conversation about reconsidering the sources of wisdom that inspires our mission at UUCF.

In a completely different vein, please note that Sunday, June 12th, is our first single service of the year. We will celebrate flower communion, so please bring to share a flower and memory of someone who has passed on. It is important, on occasion, to keep alive the memories of those now parted but who once helped shape who we are and the lives we live. Also on June 12th, the Fellowship of the Strings will be with us to provide our music.

Finally, Remember that UUCF is not closing for the summer, but will have vital Sunday programs and children's RE throughout the summer months. I will be away on vacation from July 1st through July 31st, which means I will be available for emergencies only (death and hospitalization). If you need me, contact either Mary Mancini in the church office or George Rourk. They will know how to contact me.

Namaste!

Alex



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In life, the difficult periods are the best periods to gain experience and shore up determination. As a result, my mental status is much improved because of them.

The Dalai Lama

Life is a process of meeting and solving problems. Solving problems is a way that we test and develop our spiritual muscle.... Problems often come to us in the form of crisis.... Rather than pray for a life that is problem-free, ask for one that is solution-full.... Instead of requesting that God remove the mountain before you, seek the strength to climb it. Remember that the best students always get the toughest problems. Love the problems you have, and their priceless gifts will be yours.

*Listening to Your Inner Voice
by Douglas Bloch*

When we started our fall session of Religious Education last September, we were trying to think creatively to solve two big problems. We were suffering from very unstable RE attendance and the teacher frustration, which accompanied that. Our solution was to completely revamp the program for students in elementary school. We changed our format from classes determined by grades to a multi-age chapel service followed by a range of activities designed to appeal to various ages, genders, and learning types. Our teachers became facilitators and activity area leaders. Chapel services were led by the DRE and we invited guests from the congregation. We called the new program “Art and Soul” because we would spend the year looking at various art forms to do our soul work.



Our first theme was the joy of giving and we used the story of the quiltmaker’s gift to explore why it feels better to give than to receive. In the Winter session, we tried to figure out what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist here at UUCF. We used photography and conversation to learn about ourselves and about the adult members of our church. Now in the spring session we are trying to “find art in nature” and to figure out how to live our seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle. As we search for the connections between ourselves and the natural world, we are looking at the plants in our woods, at the four directions, the four elements, the four seasons, at the animals who live in our world, and at the wisdom and artwork of the Native Americans.

On June 5, the animals of the world will be our guests in RE. On June 12, the start of our 10 am services, we will celebrate a traditional UU Flower Communion in our chapel. Every child is asked to bring a flower to share. On June 19, our annual Rites of Passage intergenerational service will honor our high school seniors, our OWL graduates, our RE Teachers and our new UUCF members. Preschoolers will attend their own class this day.

On June 26, our summer RE session will begin. Led by Deb Christiansen and Karen Schnell-Goldberg, summer Sundays will consist of a story and discussion under the Council Tree in the front yard. Then the children will plant, water and weed their garden and also tend to the Pet Memorial area up in the corner of the woods. They will also help to water the new trees, which have been planted in our church woods. On inclement days there will be crafts and games indoors.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

EXECUTIVE EXCURSIONS



Here we are again...moving into our summer season of single services (I just love alliteration), and making way for new leadership in the executive board and committees. The rhythm of life at UUCF is exciting and so full of promise (and action!). Our foundation feels so strong, especially felt if you heard Art Morrill's comments at the May Congregational Meeting and our potential

is palpable especially when you look at the vitality of new interest groups, new UU classes, reinvigorated committees, and the thought-provoking and soul-searching sermons this winter and spring.

I feel a great momentum building in our little church in the woods. So many have played a part in getting it started and so many more of us have to play our part in keeping it going and coming to fruition (whatever that fruit may look like!). I, for one, will continue to be an active player, obviously in other roles, to help make UUCF the church home and family we want for the betterment of ourselves, our community, our world.

I want to take the occasion of my last President's column to thank all of you who have supported me, challenged me, reminded me, been patient with me, and perhaps changed their mind about me (in a good way). Most of all, I always felt your love. I feel honored and grateful that you trusted me to care for and love all you, as well. I ask that we continue to bestow the new leadership and each other the same care and attitudes. After all, we're all volunteering for love.

Yes - life is good, when we can remember to notice it.

Joyfully yours,
Brenda Anderson
Lame Duck UUCF President

On **June 12th, from 11:30—12:30**, all newer RE parents are invited to meet with the DRE and some RE Committee members to learn more about the program. Please join us! Child care will be provided.

*Kathy Silver, DRE
Karen Schnell-Goldberg, RE Chair*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

If you find that your family is missing their church connection this summer as you are traveling around, you might log onto the web site of the Church of the Larger Fellowship at www.clfuu.org. Here you will find resources for religious education and lifespan faith development, including "kidtalk". Of course, you should always feel welcome to visit any UU church you might pass by on your vacation. Sometimes visiting other churches is a good way to learn more about what is really important in Unitarian Universalism.

Anyway, have fun! Be safe! And don't forget to check in once in a while!

Have a great summer- Kathy

SPECIAL EVENTS



Welcoming Congregation Upcoming Events Come show that LOVE makes a family!

Michigan Pride '05 - Rally and March in Lansing on **June 25**. We're getting a group together to attend this rally. Meet us at 9:30 AM to car-pool, on June 25 in the parking lot adjacent to UUCF, as there is a wedding taking place at the church that day. Their web address is: www.michiganpride.org. For more info call Diane Nolan or Connie Porter.

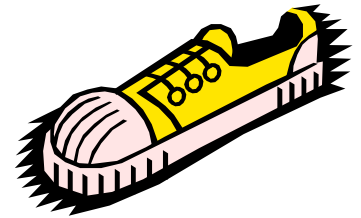
Together in Faith 2005 - This is a national, multiracial, multigenerational conference for everyone, creating LGBT affirming communities. There will be a reception with food and entertainment on **Friday, Aug. 5 at 7PM**. The conference takes place **Aug. 6-7** from 8:30 AM-6 PM at Eastern Michigan University. Presenters include Rev. Meg Riley (from the UUA), Swami Durga Das, Rabbi Michael Lerner and many more, with about 25 different workshops to choose from. The cost is 75.00 for one day or 150.00 for both days. The cost includes breakfast and snacks. Bring a sack lunch. For more info, call Amanda Sharrai. Or check out their website at: www.togetherinfaith.com.

We welcome you to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, June 15 at 6 PM in the Marge Brown Room. We are a congregation that publicly and successfully welcomes bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people. We **are** a Welcoming Congregation!

Questions? Janet Barna

UUCF Walking Team:

The walking team continues to meet on Sundays at 10:15 and returns in time for the 11 am service. When UUCF goes to one service, we will meet at 9 am to walk before the service. We also meet on Wednesdays at the Campbell's house and go through the fence to walk in Maybury State Park. The wildflowers have been beautiful. After the walk we have dinner which has been a substantial salad and pizza or a healthy, low-fat alternative.



The events we are participating in during June include the Dexter-Ann Arbor Run/Walk on June 5 and the Solstice Run/Walk in Northville on June 25. Join us when you can. Call Peg Campbell or e-mail if you have any questions.

Senior Art Exhibit for Travis Faber

Travis Faber, graduating this June from Walled Lake Northern High School, is exhibiting his artwork in Adams Hall through the month of June. Travis will study art at Wayne State University in the fall and plans to transfer to Columbia College in Chicago to finish his BFA.

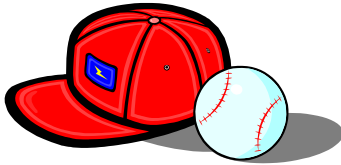


MORE ... SPECIAL EVENTS

Let's Go Out to the Ball Game!

Please join us on our annual UUCF trip to Comerica Park to watch the Tiger win another one (we hope). There will be a great fireworks display after the game as well. We'll be going on **Friday the 15th of July** to see the Tigers play the Kansas City Royals. We have 25 club level seats reserved (section 334 near where we were last year, a little closer to home plate!). Ticket cost is \$23 (same as last year). Please sign up on the sheet on the Social Events Bulletin Board in Adams Hall and get your money to George Rourk.

George Rourk



The Mystery Book Club

will meet on Monday, **June 27**. We meet for dinner at La Shish (12 Mile and Halsted) at 5:30 and at the church for the book discussion at 7. If you can't join us for dinner, join us for the book discussion. The author we will be reading in June is **Donna Leon**. Leon's books take place in modern day Venice presenting not only a fascinating mystery but a look at life in Venice through the eyes of police Commissario Guido Brunetti. We will read one or both of the following, *Death at La Fenice* (the first in the series) and/or *Acqua Alta*.

*Sincerely,
Helen Head*

You're All Invited!!! - Annual Summer Picnic

Sunday
August 7, 2005
About 11:30 AM

We'll gather at Shiawassee Park in Farmington, following the 10 AM service. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, paper products, plastic ware and soda will be provided. Bring a dish to share. R U up for a game? Bring your softball or tennis equipment for a friendly game with all those interested. There's a great children's playscape in the park. Lots of good conversation and catching up with one another.

*Questions? Janet Barna,
Social Events Committee, Chair*



Have you read a great book you'd like to pass on?

Here's a novel idea! Read a book, register it online, then "release" it into the wild for someone else to enjoy. BookCrossing.com has this really cool system all set up. All you have to do is put a tracking number on a favorite book, then leave it somewhere in public for someone to find, read, and enjoy. Then they can journal about it on the site and "release" it for someone else. So far nearly 2 million books are out there being tracked!

Daytimers

We had our Daytimers meeting on May 19, the third Thursday of May. Dot Baggett furnished the dessert which was a delicious blueberry cake just out of the oven which she served with vanilla ice cream, a real treat. Dot said she got the cake recipe from a member of our church, Clara Vincent, who has passed on.

We talked about planning some outings for later this year. One idea was to go to the Henry Ford Museum in cold weather, perhaps in November and also to take an outside outing in the nice fall weather, perhaps a trip to Hidden Lake Gardens south of Ann Arbor.

At the **next meeting** we will meet at the church as usual at 12:00 pm on the third **Thursday, June 16**; but then we will drive to Heritage Park in Farmington to enjoy our bag lunches outside as a picnic. Nancy Bailey will bring some homemade lemonade, and Pat Blackard will bring the dessert. While at the park we will visit the nature center. Those who wish can also walk the nature trails. We invite anyone age 50 or over to join us on June 16.

Swap your stuff!

June 25th, Adams Hall before & after 10:00 am service. Gently used and new items only. Drop it off on a table in Adams Hall. All items that are not swapped will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Any questions contact: Karen Schnell-Goldberg, Julia Petro, or Betty Marshall of the Green Sanctuary Committee.

Thanks from Doug

My heartfelt thanks to all of you who sent cards, flowers and UU Warm Fuzzies, It's really nice to have a loving, caring church family.

Doug Callow

Volunteers Needed

The **Farmington Founders Festival** will run **July 14th through the 16th**. The theme of our booth this year will be "World Religions" based on the symbols represented in our church window. We would like to have at least two people in the booth at all times during the three days. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sally Richards. Or call

*Thanks
Sally Richards*

New Members—the Bays

The **Bay Family** (Marc, Jeanie, Asel-8, & Merrick-4) live in Farmington. Married 12 years, Marc is originally from Windsor, Ontario and is in Product Design for motorcycle apparel. He enjoys sci-fi novels, sci-fi movies, ambient music, and motorcycles in his spare time. Formerly in Marketing/Graphics, then teaching, Jeanie is currently enjoying her time as stay-at-home mom. She enjoys art, travel, scrapbooking, fitness, and volunteering with Girl Scouts. Ansel and Merrick are their gems from Kazakhstan and they enjoy all things active! The family feels "right at home" at UUCF and is excited to be here.

THE DISHWASHER WILL BE TURNED OFF DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS DUE TO THE HEAT GENERATED BY THE DISHWASHER. SO IT'S BACK TO PAPER CUPS FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS.

A short reminder to all of us to remember to keep those pledge payments coming throughout the summer!



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“Green” Issues



UUCF is now the proud "owner" of two miles of I-696 from Halsted to Farmington Roads. Our first trash pickup will be after service on **Sunday, July 10**, with July 17 as our rain date. All participants must attend a brief safety meeting, where supplies will be provided and "rules of the road" covered. This will be at **11:30** (yes --after coffee) on pickup day in Marge Brown or a classroom. Remember to wear **LONG SLEEVES AND PANTS, STURDY SHOES, A HAT, WORK GLOVES AND SUNSCREEN !!!!** If you have your own reflective vest, please bring it , as well as your water bottle.

Our first outing will comprise folks 18 years of age or older. Later we hope to expand to those 15-18. Many thanks to all of you who have signed on to participate. We look forward to a very successful event. If you have not yet signed up , but would like to help, please email me or call.

Julia Petro



Church Woods Stewardship

Thank you to all the people that helped out at the last work party: Hannah Donnigan, Julia Petro, Barbara Rice, Ann Ford, Dayna Eglinton, and Aaron Sleep. We made a dent in the Garlic mustard. There are 2 work parties planned for **June, one on the 12th and one on the 19th**. We will begin working after the first service. The focus for June is Buckthorn removal. Please join us if you can.

What to Bring: Gloves, Shovels, Rakes, Saws, Chainsaw

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UU CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

25301 HALSTED,
FARMINGTON HILLS 48335
(248) 478-7272

E-Mail –
info@uufarmington.org

UUCF Website: <http://uufarmington.org>

Listen to sermons via the Internet:

<http://sermons.uufarmington.org>

Church Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday—8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Alexander Riegel, *Minister*

Kathy Silver, *Director of Religious Education*

Diana Munch, *Music Director*

Mary Mancini, *Office Administrator*

Noreen Palmer & Sally Richards, *Magnet Editors*

Magnet E-Mail: magnet@uufarmington.org

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Next Magnet Deadline:

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