



MAGNET

EXECUTIVE EXCURSIONS

The past month we have been dealing with a number of issues related to our aging building. Our last water bill indicates we have a significant leak somewhere in our water system. Tom Bjorklund, our Buildings and Grounds committee chair, is working with Mike Dunaway, Art Morrill, and Mary Mancini to understand the source of this problem. Also, as many of you have observed, we are in need of repairs and a new coat of paint on our meeting house. We're obtaining quotes on that job.

One of our four Goals is the upgrading of our facility. This takes both our time and money. In the past few years we have not been giving enough attention to our facilities. We have not had many members on our Building and Grounds committee and we have often cut our maintenance expenditures to balance our overall budget. We now need to change that. To those members who have an interest and/or skills in this area, please contact Tom or myself. We need you!!

We also are dealing with the wonderful problem of not having enough meeting space for a number of our programs. Other than the Meeting House and Adams Hall, we do not have any space appropriate for more than about 15 people. The success of a number of our programs (Life Long Learning Forum, Nietzsche's Nook, Enneagram classes, and our new RE Sunday morning format) has often resulted in groups of 25 and larger. Last spring, the Board, after consulting with Rev Alex, Kathy Silver, and some members who understand our buildings construction features, decided to expand the Marge Brown room by removing the wall between the Marge Brown room and Rev Alex's office. We are planning to do this in the next month or so and do some modest refurbishing of the room as well. If you would like to hear more about this project, please contact me.



Some comments on General Assembly in Ft Worth. Kathy Silver; Linda and I represented UUCF at GA in late June. Kathy made a presentation at a plenary session representing LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association), the UUA national organization for our Directors of Religious Education. Kathy is the newly elected treasurer of LREDA. Congratulations Kathy!!

Linda and I attended a lot of workshops, lectures, and some services. It's wonderful to be together with 4,000 other UU's. You realize how truly diverse and talented we are as a denomination. This was my fifth GA. I always leave inspired and proud of being a part of UUCF and our national movement. Next year GA is in St Louis . This is as close to us as it will be over the next four years. Please consider attending.

One last item - the Executive Board has decided to hold our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. I wanted to bring this to your attention as this is a change from the past.

George Rourk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Well, my summer break is not going exactly as I had planned and I imagine that some of you are also coping with the unexpected. Two days ago our 36 year old mare, Vega, had to have a loose tooth removed, and she had an over-reaction to the tranquilizer that the vet gave her. She fell down in her stall and couldn't get up, though she tried and tried. Each effort made her more and more exhausted and, by the time we had assembled a team of strong people to help her stand, she didn't have any strength or will left. During the night, she continued to make sporadic efforts to get herself up and she gratefully ate all of the carrot pieces that we were feeding her, to keep her spirits up and her body hydrated. She rested for hours with her head in my daughter's lap. She was still down the following morning.

Again we assembled a group of friends and helpers. A massive chain was placed around a ceiling rafter in the barn and the vet created a sling around Vega using a heavy strap, which he tied around her front and back ends. With helpers on all sides, Vega was winched up until we could straighten her legs underneath her body. Then the winch was released an inch at a time, until the horse could begin to support her own weight. It was terrifying and dramatic, and it worked!! We kept her standing in the sling for another hour to make sure that she would be safe. Then we led her, wobbly and hesitant, out to the field where she could enjoy some grass and a nap in the sun, standing up, of course.

She was down for 22 hours, a very long time for a horse to be off her feet. I know that she feels battered and bruised from all of the handling and her own unsuccessful attempts to stand. She has abrasions where the straps rubbed her elderly, delicate skin and where she fell against the floor and walls so many times. However, as soon as she was on her feet again, she became a different horse. She perked up her ears and opened her eyes wide and looked very glad to be alive.

So instead of leaving for our California vacation on Friday morning, we were part of a large group effort to give an old horse another chance at life. I'm so thankful for the many neighbors and friends who came to support Vega during her crisis. The whole experience has been a reminder of what is most important in life. Our CA friends were very disappointed when we called, and said that we wouldn't be attending their daughter's wedding. But they understood the importance of taking care of an old friend who really needed our love and attention.

I was going to use this space to tell you about Religious Education in the fall, but my mind and heart are too full of the past 48

hours to write about much else. Our plan is to explore the sources of our living tradition. We will be learning about world religions, humanist teachings, earth-centered spirituality and the prophetic words and deeds of our religious ancestors. We'll be instituting a new e-mail registration form and looking forward to playing on our new swing set. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks. I hope that you are surrounded by your loved ones and enjoying the warm weather.

*A grateful Kathy Silver
Director of Religious Education*



RE's Summer Project

*Have you noticed that the Swing Set is gone? Have you noticed the huge vine that was on the fence and tree are gone? The sand box has some new sand and toys? Well, that's what some of the RE volunteers have been doing, cleaning up the play ground and getting ready for a new swing set. And it's here! **We need some volunteers to help put it together**, so the kids can have some summer fun. Thanks to everyone who's worked on the project so far -*

Leah Baker, Deb Christiansen, Bob Guzick, Barb Eglington, Pat Blackard, Betty Hatton, Alec Scarlet & Rick Berger-Munson.

Karen Schnell-Goldberg

IDEAS ...THOUGHTS ... JOYS ... SORROWS ...



Member Musings

Being a member of this society carries with it the responsibility of volunteering your time. There are a number of members at UUCF who are over 60 years of age. Many of these members have also been with the church for many years. These are the people who volunteered to do the highway clean-up on July 10, which was completed on July 17 because the heat cut their time short on July 10. There were a small number of members under the age of 60 who also helped and we thank you for your time.

In this same time frame, we also needed volunteers to man the UUCF booth at the Farmington Founders Festival July 14, 15 and 16. The breakdown of volunteers by age for this effort was about equal for people in their 40's, 50's and 60's, and one volunteer in her 20's. Both of these events took place in 90 degree heat.

Now don't get me wrong there's nothing fluffy about our seniors. Many of them are vibrant, energetic, and active. They don't let any moss grow under their feet. They are truly movers and shakers, and we are lucky to have them as part of our congregation. But you know what, it's time the rest of us stepped up. I know you're busy with school, soccer, dance lessons, base ball games, swim meets, and music concerts. And if you don't have small children, I know you're busy too. But guess what, our seniors have busy lives too. They've got a social life, friends, hobbies, part time jobs, and their extended family.

So next time UUCF is looking for volunteers, think about giving a few hours of your time. On some of the jobs your children can even help out (such as with the highway clean-up, church woods or other working parties). And the next time you see a senior, thank them for all they have done and continue to do for our church.

Linda Rourk, Membership Chair

*Many thanks to **Rick Berger Munson** and **Alec Scarlet** for coming to UUCF on Friday, July 29 to unload a delivery truck containing a new swing set for the RE playground!*

***Thanks guys** for all your help on such short notice!!*

HONORABLE ORDER OF THE RED VEST

Nineteen people attended the Red Vest get-together at Union Lake on July 20th. Eleven were swimmers and the rest were just rowdy. It was agreed that the sages of UUCF would lead a discussion group once a month to cover a variety of subjects. This will not be a forum to vent one's spleen but a learning and informative process open to debate. If it proves successful, it may become weekly.

Scribe, Bud Baggett

The **Red Vest Society** will head a discussion group on Sunday, **September 18th**, after the last service. The topic will be "**The Patriot Act**".

(If not the Patriot Act, then how do we defend ourselves?)

Wood Workbench Available

This fall we would like to do a thorough cleaning of our garage, and we are offering for FREE to anyone who is interested a homemade, sturdy and heavy workbench that my father made and used when he was alive. This workbench has been in this garage for many years. My father used it for many purposes, particularly for woodworking. The workbench is 38" high and the top of the bench is 21" deep and 60" wide. Attached to the top is a heavy vise. At the bottom of the workbench is a shelf that is the same size as the top.

If you are interested, please call us. Since the workbench is heavy and pretty large, you would have to bring a truck, large van, or a trailer to pick it up. Call Paul and Nancy Bailey. Thanks.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Welcoming Congregation Upcoming Events

***Come show that LOVE
makes a family!***

- **Together in Faith 2005 -**

This is a national, multiracial, multigenerational conference for everyone, creating LGBT affirming communities. There will be a free reception with food and entertainment on Friday, Aug. 5 at 7PM. The conference takes place Aug. 6-7 from 8:30AM-5PM at Eastern Michigan University. There will also be a concert taking place on Aug. 6 at 7PM for an extra fee of 15.00. Presenters at the conference include Rev. Meg Riley (from the UUA), Swami Durga Das, Rabbi Michael Lerner and many more, with about 25 different workshops during the day, to choose from. The cost is 75.00 for one day or 150.00 for both days. The cost includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. For more info, call Amanda Sharrai @ 734.761.8283 ext. 3. Or check out their website at: www.togetherinfaith.com.

- **Welcoming Congregation Refresher Course** - We earned the status of Welcoming Congregation in 2000. We are committed to keeping the goals, set forth from that two year long process, in motion. In order to ensure this, we are going to offer a refresher course of some of the original classes that were attended by some people in this church back in 1998, the classes are open to all members and friends of UUCF. These classes will take place on **Sundays from 12:30-2:30PM**. The dates we have set for these classes are **Sept. 25, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, and Oct. 23**. Grab a bagel and coffee or brown bag a lunch, if you prefer. Our plan after these classes will be to present "Living the Welcoming Congregation" in January 2006. This series is a continuation of the original curriculum and will enable us to continue our development of this program, and better serve the community.
- **Welcoming Movie Night - Friday, Sept. 30 at 7:30PM**. The movie we will feature is "Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End". Monte Bramer's "Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End" is a powerful record of a life devoted stub-

bornly, even heroically to self-expression. An openly gay poet and novelist, Monette (1945-1995) won a National Book Award in 1992 for his memoir *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*. At that point he had already lost two lovers to AIDS and was terminally ill himself. *Becoming a Man* was designed to be the book Monette had longed to read as a young gay man, but couldn't find, because it didn't yet exist; a plain-spoken account of shared experience that rang true and offered useful advice and reassurance. His first work of non-fiction, *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* (1990), is an account of his life with his longtime companion and his lover's illness and death. It is often cited as the first book about AIDS to cross-over strongly to straight readers. Monette equated the AIDS Plague with the holocaust. "I'm not dying of AIDS", Monette insisted, "I'm dying of homophobia". The movie won the Sundance Film Festival Audience Award for Documentary in 1997. We are asking for a 2.00 donation to cover soda and snacks.

We welcome you to attend our next committee meeting on Wednesday, **August 31 at 6:30PM** 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!**

Pot Luck Dinner with Bonfire

Your Social Events Committee is planning a pot luck dinner in Adams Hall followed by a bonfire in the lower parking lot on Saturday, September 10 (please park on the upper lot).

We hope you will join us. No need to sign up. Just bring one of your favorite dishes, your drink, and a lawn chair. For your dish, please label what it is along with your name (this is useful information for those with allergies). Your children are very welcome at this intergenerational event as are your musical talents. Please bring your dulcimer, your guitar, your flute, or whatever instrument is transportable.



Let's start gathering at 6 PM with a planned start for dinner at 6:30 PM.

Linda Rourk, Social Events

Mom2Mom sale



What is it? Basically it's a sale with just baby & kids stuff. Individuals rent tables from us to sell their own things, and we also charge admission to the public. Many churches, community organizations etc. have these sales to raise money. They have a large following because moms know that they can go there and find great kids stuff that is inexpensive and of good quality.

Why have it? To raise money to upgrade and repair playground and equipment and at the same time to become more visible in the community.

I believe that of significant importance to young families seeking a church community is that that community address not only our personal, communal, and spiritual growth but also has safe, fun, stimulating programs and facilities for our children. Our playground is lacking, especially in the "safe" category. We can do this bit by bit without straining the "bigger" budget by taking part in smaller fundraising efforts like this one.

How do we make money? By renting tables and clothing racks space, charging admission to the public, bake sale and refreshments.

Kelly Carpenter-Crawford and I are targeting **Saturday Sept. 24th 8:30 am till 4:30 pm** for the day of the sale with set-up happening Friday night Sept 23rd.

What small part can I do? This will not be a whole, whole lot of work if we have about 10-12 volunteers:

- Two to take cash at the door
- Two to take care of the area where large items are for sale
- Two or three to man the bake sale/refreshment counter
- Two to give sellers and others a break from their tables
- Input/help with table/clothing rack rentals
- Ideas/materials for perhaps the RE kids to make signs
 - Bakers of goods/ knower of good deals on snacks



We already have our first volunteer to co-ordinate the bake sale/refreshments!! Thank you so much Valerie Kosaka. You can contact her if you have interest.

If anyone wants to help out with this project in any small way you can contact Kelly or me. Also there will be a sign-up sheet in Adams Hall along with a flyer.

*Leah Baker
Kelly Carpenter-Crawford*

MORE ... SPECIAL EVENTS

**You're All Invited!!!
Annual Summer Picnic
Sunday
August 7, 2005—About 11:30AM**

We'll gather at Shiawassee Park near downtown Farmington, following the 10AM service. The park is located at the corner of Farmington Rd. and Shiawassee (north off Grand River). 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. Northwest Church was invited to join us, though their picnic happens to be the same day, so maybe next year. Questions? Janet Barna, Social Events Committee

Thank You Volunteers!

The Farmington Founders Festival booth was manned by **July 14th through the 16th**, by Julia Petro, Gwen Foss, Barb Eglinton, Linda Brown, Tom Bjorklund, George Rourk, Jim Berry, Millie Foss, the Hurst family, Cassie Hartley. If you did not receive your complimentary UUCF T-shirt, please contact me.



Thanks—Sally Richards

Walking Team Resumes in September: The UUCF Walking on Sundays at 10:15 from the church and 6 p.m. Wednesdays from the Campbells at Maybury Park, Northville beginning September 7. Hope you can join us for comradery, exercise and on Wednesdays, dinner. We also plan to have the team enter a walk sponsored by MADD walking on Saturday, September 24 in Lake Orion. More details next month. If you have questions call **Peg or Ron Campbell**.

LIFELONG LEARNING FORUM UPDATE

Mark your calendars for our Fall Kick-off Program on Thursday Sept 22nd for what we hope to be the beginning of many World Religion and interfaith programs. Our Sept 22nd program will focus on **"Do All Paths Lead up the Same Mountain: Searching for Common Ground Among the Major World Religions."**

In the meantime please consider joining us for our regularly scheduled ongoing programs:

The Friday Night film series continues on **August 5th 7:15 pm sharp** with another selection by and hosted by Alex Riegel. The movie selection is **"Immortal Beloved."** The Net Flicks summary:

Through a series of flashbacks, director Bernard Rose investigates the artistic and romantic passions of Ludwig van Beethoven (Gary Oldman). After the master composer's death, a lifelong friend (Jeroen Krabbé) finds a letter mentioning Beethoven's "immortal beloved," and he sets out to discover the identity of the apparent muse. The film's finale features a magical encapsulation of Beethoven's life and loves set to his "Ode to Joy."

Consider joining us, won't you - and bring a friend. Suggested donation is three dollars. Snacks and Soft drinks provided.

Nietzsche's Nook meets Sunday **August 14th**. We will meet in the Marge Brown room at 11:30 AM. Please remember to bring yourself a bag lunch. The reading assignment for August is Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. All interested parties are invited to attend. No previous attendance is required. Facilitated by Rev. Alexander Riegel and Professor Jim Berry.

Thanks for your support and interest

Vanessa Baber

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newsletter Article

July 14, 2005

Contact: Randy Block, 248-549-5170

**MICHIGAN UU JUSTICE NETWORK GETS GRANT
& SEEKS TO HIRE STAFF**

The Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN), a state-wide network of UU social justice advocates, was awarded a \$10,000 grant in July as a first of a multi-year commitment by the UU Service Committee (UUSC) to expand the Network's capacity to empower and activate UU's for justice in Michigan. *The Network is seeking to hire a part-time Justice Network Coordinator to help implement the following goals:*

- Forward justice issues and service information to activists in Michigan UU churches;
- Empower UU's and others to influence Michigan legislators on justice issues;
- Organize one or more justice event that can be replicated in other areas;
- Build and make more visible UU power by recruiting people to join the MUUSJN; and
- Promote communication between UU activists in Michigan through development of a website, a list serve and teleconferencing on justice issues and activities.

For more information on the MUUSJN's mission and history of achievements, visit its page on the web: www.northwestuu.org/ocial_justice_network.htm

A candidate for the Justice Network Coordinator position should have at least a four year degree or equivalent experience, have computer and Internet skills, to be a self-starter with an ability to work collaboratively, a valid Michigan driver's license and a passion for working for justice. For more information, call Randy Block, MUUSJN Network Manager, at 248-549-5170.

Daytimers

In June we went to Heritage Park in Farmington Hills to have our bag lunches as a picnic in the park. Pat Blackard brought various delicious pastries for our dessert, and Nancy Bailey provided the lemonade. We were lucky to have a cool day, rather than one of those hot days we had this June. After we ate our lunches, we went to the new Nature Center in the park where we enjoyed seeing a variety of birds, baby squirrels and chipmunks eating the birdseed that was in the feeders. Some of the birds seen were cardinals, red-breasted grosbeaks, and hummingbirds. After visiting the Nature Center, some of the group took walks on the trails in the park.

In July we met at the church and had our bag lunches with Bette Christie providing tasty cream puffs and strawberries for our dessert. Dolores Garden joined us for the second time (she also went to Heritage Park with us). Welcome to our group, Dolores! Mary Hurd



brought in a copy of the seventh edition of her college textbook called "Formwork for Concrete" which was published recently. Over the years the seven editions have had 120,000 copies printed which have been used by colleges, labor unions, and technical schools. She told us that she has been revising this textbook since around 1953, and now she is retiring and has to figure out, like the rest of us Daytimers, how to best use her retirement time each day.

Dolores Garden brought in an article about the MSU Tollgate Center in Novi. I would like us to think about having our bag lunches there in September. The center is on an old farm and has various gardens to explore. I will call them, but I'm pretty sure they have picnic benches, and we could have our bag lunches outside. The center is on 12 Mile Road.

For our October meeting I suggest that we think about an autumn outing perhaps to Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton or some other outside venue. Bring in your suggestions. We could either have our usual bag lunches at a picnic table, or we could eat out at a restaurant on the way to the park.

From your leader Nancy Bailey

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Campaign team for the 2006 canvass has been making tremendous progress over the last months. The General Gifts chairpersons, Linda Rourk, Hank Holst and Paul Denawetz, have filled the 12 positions of Canvass Captains and those folks have started recruiting the general canvassers. If you were part of the Stewardship campaign last year and had a good experience like most folks did, let Linda, Hank or Paul know that you are interested in helping again.

Why are we putting the team together so early? One reason is the number of people we need. The campaign had more than 60 members directly involved last year!! Also, training will take place in early September so we need for people to schedule their calendar. Your participation would require approximately 2 hours of training time in early September and then 6-8 hours of home canvas visit time in October. Less than 10 hours of commitment and involvement and most of that with your fellow UUCF friends and members. We really hope you will consider being involved!!

The business of directing the yearly pledging process has taken many forms over the years, with the Stewardship canvas a different and very powerful way of connecting with each member. We are ALL responsible for helping to insure the vitality of the future of UUCF with our annual pledges. For more than 155 years, members of this church have annually made pledges of financial commitment. This yearly process should not be something to dread or shun but a time to powerfully assert your support for the strength of Universalist Unitarian values and beliefs and your part of the life of UUCF.



*Barb Eglington and
Peter Travis*

*2006 Co-chairs,
Stewardship Campaign*

BOOKS ABOUND

Skip Rosenthal, owner of Books ABOUND (and banjo player at UUCF once or twice while Suzanne was Minister) is retiring from the book business. His store is located on Grand River in downtown Farmington adjacent to the Civic Theater. Big close-out sale starts August 1st. He wants to clear everything out in 30 days. Mon—Thurs 10 AM—7 PM, Fri & Sat 10 AM—9 PM. Please let book lovers know about this sale.



Susan Lightner

NEW MEMBERS

Natalie Capudian

Natalie lives in Canton with her puppy. She is engaged to be married. She attends Schoolcraft College where she is majoring in counseling with emphasis on addiction. In her free time she enjoys roller-blading. Natalie enjoys UUCF because she feels really connected with the services and the messages they convey.

Lisa Hinchman

Lisa lives in West Bloomfield with her husband, a sales manager with an auto supply company, and their three children ages 11, 9 and 6. She is a psychiatrist who practices part-time. Her interests include singing, genealogy, gardening and environmental and population issues. She has been attending services at UUCF since last October and feels uucf is most suited to her philosophically.

Needed: Writers Like You

Would you like to read another of Bud Baggett's home-grown stories? Or some of Janet Barna's very unique and personal poems? And Kelly White might provide more insight to her special life.

The 2006 creative writing booklet will contain new works by UUCF veterans, but what would make the edition even better would include a writing by you. Most everyone has a short story, poem or excerpt from a longer work that could be shared with church friends. Please give real consideration to submitting one or more of your inspiring pieces.

Place your entry in the Artists Group mailbox in the church office or give to a member of the Writers Group. The deadline is September 25, 2005.

Jack Olds for the Writers Group

A LIBERAL VOICE OF
REASON IN FARMINGTON
FOR OVER 150 YEARS

"Green" Issues



Church Woods Stewardship

We have taken a break for the month of July, but have work parties planned for August. Work Dates: August 14 and 28 after service. We will be doing the usual things: Removing invasives, clearing the path, and watering young trees. Please come and join us. What to Bring: Gloves, Shovels, Rakes, Saws, Chainsaw

On Sunday Aug. 7 we have arranged for a WAM crew (Weekend Alternative for Misdemeanants) to move the buckthorn that was removed by members to be hauled to the parking lot for chipping on Wednesday Aug 10. WAM is program that provides nonviolent misdemeanor offenders the opportunity to perform weekend community service work at local non-profit organizations rather than serving a jail stint.

Green Sanctuary—We haven't been running the dishwasher during the summer. We would like to encourage everyone to bring in your own mug for coffee and take it home with you to wash it there. We are recycling office paper and plastic juice bottles. Please don't throw these items in the trash. There is a box in the office for office paper and a bin beside the refrigerator for bottles.

We are very happy (and relieved) to report that our first **MDOT Trash Pickup** was a success—in spite of the heat and humidity ! 19 hardy folks filled 100 bags with trash and several bags of returnables and recyclables. It was very satisfying to see the difference we made in "our " section. Kuddos are due to **Brenda Anderson, Bud Baggett, Leah Baker, Nancy Bailey, Paul Bailey, Pat Blackard, Linda Brus, Paul Denawetz, Hannah Donigan, Barb Eglinton, Ann Ford, Gwen Foss, Betty Marshall, Pat Morrill, Jack Olds, George Rourk, Karen Schnell-Goldberg and Aldo Vagnozzi.** Well done indeed !

Our next --and final for the year--pickup will be at 8 am on two Sundays in **September--the 11th and the 18th.** Please mark your calendars and feel free to join in for either or both days. Thanks again.

Julia Petro

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

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Next Magnet Deadline:

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