



# MAGNET

## The View From The Pew

I don't suppose that the title of this piece, *The View From The Pew*, was actually meant to be taken literally, but it can be. What do we see, sitting in the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning? We members and friends of UUCF are fortunate to be able to see both our own historic meeting house and the beautiful patch of Michigan woods in our care. Woodlands creatures might slip into view at any time: squirrels, rabbits; I even saw a coyote once. In the summer, the light under the trees is cool and green; in fall, tinged with the vivid tones of the leaves. Winter views are stark and angular, and in spring the mist of new leaves echoes our awakening senses. Therefore, the View from the Pew encompasses not only our church family and cherished objects, but also grounds us in the seasons of the natural world.

As I write this, the wind is blowing fiercely, but the grass in my yard is not only green but is getting long. Clearly, the worst of the frigid weather is behind us. Winter in Michigan is long, dark, and cold, and spring bursts on the scene in an almost surreal explosion. The sound is muffled at first, as first one bird and then a multitude arrive to create an early morning exultation, but by the time the first crocus and forsythia show their colors the roaring of spring is unmistakable. For me, to whom winter brings the blues, the arching of

green in the garden tastes like nectar from a peach, like clear water in the desert, like life. Through winter's gray cold, it is hard to see the turning of the season without the arbitrary dial of a clock or calendar. With spring, the ticking of the earth's clock becomes audible. Now is the time of daffodils; a few weeks will bring lilacs to my yard and trilliums in the hundreds to my favorite woodland path. In late June, the daylilies that are now just wind-whipped blades will bloom yellow and orange in the sun.

Of course this is religious. What else could it be, when awe for the turning of the wheel of seasons awakens in me a desire to reach out and touch the world? With the coming of warmer weather I will lace on my running shoes again, trails in the woods will beckon, and digging in the garden will sound like fun. As a lifelong UU, I know that this contact with the natural world is the way I most clearly see the divine spark that interweaves all living things. If That which is called God is reflected in every daisy and blade of grass, then spring is the time when my candle is lit again.

-Valerie Kosaka



## From the Director of Religious Education



*Let the winds lift your banners from far lands, with a message of strife and of hope:*

*Raise the Maypole aloft with its garlands that gathers your cause in its scope...*

*... Stand fast, then, Oh Workers, you're ground,*

*... Together pull, strong and united:*

*Link your hands like a chain the world round,*

*If you will that your hopes be requited.*

*When the World's Workers, sisters and brothers, ... Shall build, in the new coming years,*

*A lair house of life—not for others, For the earth and its fullness is theirs.*

*Walter Crane, The Workers' Maypole, 1894*

Whether your celebrating the Pagan ritual of spring & fertility, or standing in solidarity with immigrants and workers' rights we invite you to join us on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> after each service outside for a dance around the Maypole!

Since the fall, meeting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade Journeyer's group has been such a pleasure for me. Now after seven months, it is time to recognize their accomplishments. These six children have a much better understanding of our seven principles and will now have an easier time explaining their religion to their peers. Join us in celebrating Asel, Charlie, Dane, Ian, Kaley, Marissa- they deserve your praise! Please join us at the 11:30 service and coffee hour on May 20<sup>th</sup>; for lots of treats, even the guest speaker on Buddhism, will share something special to recognize the beginning of an important journey.

Also, come to church on May 27<sup>th</sup>! For what has become the annual Memorial Day Picnic & Church Ground Clean Up. This year we invite all church members and friends to join us after the service outside. We will roast hot dogs and work as a community to clean up our space. Jack Olds will also lead a special "Message for All Ages" this day.

Our middle school group is exciting to watch grow this year. Having their own classroom means so much to them. They feel more mature and also recognized by the larger church. They are now interested in taking on more responsibility and doing some of the things the high school group is doing. To get started seven of them spent the night at church a couple weeks ago, with brave volunteers, Wendy and Hank (Thanks). Last weekend Karen (Thanks also) took 2 of the girls to a Middle School CON (Conference) in Indiana. Wow, I wish I could have bottled the energy they came back with- I'm sure you'll here about it at Joys and Concerns on Sunday!

The RE Committee and I are already preparing for summer. This summer we are encouraging all youth to stay connecting to your church friends. There will be special programming for all age groups. There will also be weekly opportunities for adult guests to visit. Let us know if your interested & we'll give you more details!

In Peaceful Songs and Stories, Jennifer A. Teed

### **APOLOGY TO LISA HINCHMAN**

Lisa is a hard working member of the RE Committee, through some electronic error, her name didn't appear in last months Magnet with the other RE Committee members.

Thank you Lisa for your hard work and understanding.

## Executive Excursions

by George Rourk  
May 2007



When Reverend Alex left on his sabbatical leave last January, he asked us to give some thought to the question – **“What kind of church do we want to be?”**. This question recognizes that we have a membership of about 200 and we offer over 40 different activity areas where we can become involved. Each of us joined UUCF for a reason (or number of reasons). These activities provide a means for each of us to develop/express those reasons which brought us here. Typically our involvement expands our life’s experiences with new friends, new ideas, new opportunities to help others, ways to support the Unitarian Universalist movement as well as support UUCF.

People who study churches call a church with 150-400 members and 30+ activities a “Program” church. Smaller churches are called “Pastoral” churches and larger churches have further categorizations. These distinctions are important because the size of a church, not just the wishes of the congregation, determines a number of important characteristics of the church and to a great degree determine the role the minister is able to play. By definition, UUCF already falls in the “Program” category.

The Executive Board has been considering Reverend Alex’s question. As part of this process we have read a book called “Raising the Roof – the Pastoral to Program Size Transition” by Alice Mann; an excellent book on this subject. We are now at the point where we want to share with you some of our thoughts about our present status, our future, and hear what you think. We will start this process at our upcoming Congregational Meeting on 20 May at 6:00pm. We do not have a lot of required business to conduct at this meeting and we will take advantage of that to include a Board presentation on the question of “What kind of church do we want to be?” We will have some time after the presentation for discussion.

We are also going to have a potluck dinner after the Congregational Meeting (about 7:15pm). Hopefully some of the dinner discussion will be about our feelings relative to the presentation. We will have child care available during the meeting and we will also have someone in the kitchen with the warming oven going for the hot potluck dishes. We look forward to many of you being able to join us at the potluck.

Our expectation is that you will think about this question and discuss it with your friends. We will be having a second potluck dinner on Saturday evening, 9 June to once again discuss this question with each other and allow each of us to fill out a brief questionnaire that will let the Board better understand how each of you feels about **“What kind of church do we want to be?”**

Please try and participate in this process as the more informed opinions we have, the more clearly we will understand how to plot our course for the future.



# Daytimers

The Daytimers, the seniors social group, at UUCF had its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 19, in Adams Hall. 17 of the regulars attended and Pete Foss joined us - for a total of 18. Welcome, Pete. We hope you come back next month. We meet the third Thursday of every month at noon. If you are age 50 or older, come join us. We bring brown bag lunches from home.

Toni Davis brought the desserts - homemade chocolate chip cookies and a specially-created angel food cake. Thank you, Toni.

As usual we went around the table with each Daytimer telling us of anything new or interesting that had happened during the past month. We all enjoy hearing the particulars on each other's lives.

Next month on Thursday, May 17, we have an outing planned. We wanted to have lunch at the Oakland Community College Orchard Lake campus restaurant run by their culinary arts department, but the restaurant is closed until September, so instead we will meet for lunch at the Family Buggy Restaurant at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road (SW corner). We'll meet there at 11:30, and those who want to carpool can meet at the church at 11:15. I'll make a reservation for our group.

After lunch we are planning to go over to Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum to play (for quarters) the various historical mechanical marvels that he has there. There is no extra charge for us to go there because we will supply the quarters from the Daytimers treasury. I hope everyone will go to MMMM and see what the place is about. It is on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

I will contact each Daytimer on Monday, May 14, to find out who wants to carpool from the church to the restaurant and to Marvin's Mavelous Mechanical Museum.

Submitted by Nancy Bailey



## RED VEST

On Sunday, May 6th , the Honorable Order of the Red Vest Will hold it's ceremony. If you wish to join and are at least 59 years old, please contact Bud Baggett at the church.

If you have already notified Bud please remind him again—he has a short memory.

## From the VP of Finance

I saw it for myself at the Service Auction. The wonderful generosity of so many. So now is the time to turn some of the same generosity to pledge paying. We still need to run our day to day operations and your pledge payments are what we use to pay everything including staff. So put your pledge in the mail or in the plate to keep us running on more than empty.

Marsha McCullough

VP, Finance

## NOTICE - MAY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**20 May at 6:00pm**

Something different this time - we will be having a family potluck dinner after the meeting (about 7:15pm). We'll have someone in the kitchen keeping the warming oven going for the hot potluck dishes.

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

## Crop Walk



The 22nd annual Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield CROP WALK will be on Sunday, May 6 at 1:30pm. Registration will start at 1:00pm. This is a 6.2 mile (10K) walk starting at First Methodist Church in downtown Farmington (across from Starbucks). Free Starbucks coffee and Panera Bagels will be served during registration. A 2 mile mini-walk will also be offered. All walkers will receive CROP WALK T-shirts.

Money raised goes to Church World Service and 25% to be split between four local charities: Salvation Army, Neighborhood House, Baldwin Center and St. Alexander's Food Cupboard.

Children are welcome to walk, as well.

Walkers, please see Pat Blackard for pledge forms as soon as possible.

## Upcoming Services

We are very excited about our lineup of guest speakers for May! We start out the month with an important message from the Welcoming Committee about becoming an ally for our LGBT brothers and sisters. On Mother's Day we are delighted to welcome back Michael Krieger to tickle the ivories and share his singing talent and joy with us. On the 20<sup>th</sup> we will learn about Nichiren Buddhism from Keith Beber. UUCF members Al and Carol Carpenelli practice this style of Buddhism with Keith. We will also be graced with the tremendous talent of another pianist, Yuki Mack, Keith's wife. We wrap up the month with a thoughtful talk from Bud Bagget on "The Soul". We ought to be feeling some warmer weather by this time, but don't play hooky from church to enjoy the weather. You won't want to miss these services.

**May 6** - "The LGBT Community and Their Allies, Working Together".

What does it mean to be an ally? Is it important to actively show support to our LGBT brothers and sisters? How can we do this in our everyday lives? Answers and insights will be forthcoming!

**May 13** - "Music Service" On Mother's Day we will be blessed with a visit from our former music director **Michael Krieger**. Michael is a singer, piano and guitar player and songwriter, and he continues to share love through music around Southeast Michigan. Come and enjoy heartfelt, uplifting songs of hope with plenty of opportunity for singing along.

**May 20** - " Nichiren Buddhism " A lay led humanist sect of one of the world's oldest religions. Detroit area men's division leader, Keith Beber takes to the pulpit to share the history, faith principles and practices of Soka Gakkai International. Keith's wife, Yuki Mack, nationally recognized pianist, joins Diana in providing a special music program.

**May 27** - "The Soul" Bud Bagget will guide us through the question: "Can hundreds of millions of people be wrong?"

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### From the Music Director



Yuki Mack, Steinway Artist, will be our guest musician on May 20th.

The UUCF Chorus will be singing on Sunday, May 27th with  
Renzo Hutchinson, Celtic flute.



The Welcoming Congregation Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. This committee focuses on making our GLBT members, friends and visitors welcome and on informing the entire congregation of GLBT oriented events at church or in the larger community that they might find of interest. We will be presenting another Coffee House on July 28. We will also be planning other future events such as possible workshops, movie nights, and participation in local Pride events. All UUCFers are invited to participate in committee meetings. For more information contact Millie Foss or Terie Spencer at the church.

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### SENIOR SINGLES

A new group for the 50-plus crowd will hold its first meeting May 10, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Do you need someone to talk to? Try us out—coffee and conversation is the opening theme, but the emerging group may well find added directions.

For information call Bev Mannheimer or Barry Brown at the church.

Submitted by Mary Hurd. Call me if you need further information.

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### **From The Social Event Committee**

Does your calendar get quickly filled up with activities? Are you the type of person that likes to plan ahead? If you answered yes to either one of these questions, you will want to save the following two dates in your calendar.

**Detroit Tigers: Friday evening, July 20**

**UU Picnic : Sunday afternoon, August 5**

More details to come at a later date.

## *Thank You*

*Thank you to everyone who sent flowers, visited, called, or sent cards while I was in Beaumont Hospital having my gall bladder out. Your concern was much appreciated. Hopefully, I won't be back in the hospital for a long time to come.*

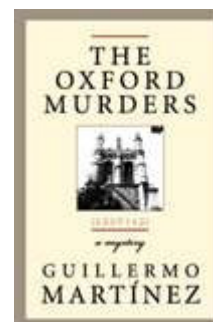
*-Barb Windsor*

## **Lake Geneva Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly**

often referred to LGSA, has moved about 40 miles north from Lake Geneva to the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, which is just 2 miles north of I-94 along Wisconsin Highway 67. The owners of campus where we have held our summer assembly since 1946 changed their mission, greatly down sized their housing and the camp is no longer available to us.

If you have wanted to go to LGSA during the Fourth of July week and couldn't because of the lack or quality of housing, too many hills and/ or non private bathrooms, this year is for you. LGSA is now Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) and will be held at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. MUUSA is held July 1-7, 2007. Only the name and location has changed, all of the wonderful programs and people will be at remain.

You can access and download the 2007 MUUSA brochure at [www.muusa.org](http://www.muusa.org), or contact Susan Porter at [msrporter@aol.com](mailto:msrporter@aol.com) or 317-251-7346.



**The Mystery Book Club** will meet on Monday, May 21. We

meet at Panera (12 mile and Halsted) at 5:30 for dinner and at the church at 7 for the book discussion. This is the third Monday as the fourth Monday was Memorial Day.

The book we are reading is *The Oxford Murders* by Guillermo Martinez. Math and murder mingle in this intriguingly mystery. When an Argentine math student at Oxford discovers the smothered body of his landlady, conventional wisdom points to a family member. But then renowned logician Arthur Seldom, author of a book on the mathematics of serial killers, tells of a strange note left in his mailbox indicating the murder is the first of a series linked by a mysterious pattern.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

Each year the Nominating Committee has the task of seeking qualified individuals to fill open positions for the UUCF Executive board, Standing Committees and other required positions. This slate is presented for Congregational approval each year at the May Congregational Meeting (May 20, 2007).

This year's Nominating Committee is pleased to present a (nearly) completed slate for your review and consideration. (See chart). Please look over the impressive list of volunteers who take on leadership positions to keep our church vibrant and strong – and consider giving them your support at the upcoming Congregational meeting.

### EXCITING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE!

Did you go to the Auction this year? If you did, you most likely had a wonderful evening – with wonderful food, decorations and a high-energy atmosphere. This wonderful event was put together by one of the most energized committees of UUCF – The **Fundraising** Committee.

This great group of folks is looking for someone to step-up and take on the role of chairperson. And because the committee is highly functioning, the chair's job would be a breeze – some administrative duties, and a chance to work with a great group of people.

If interested, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee or the Fundraising Committee.

Sincerely,

The Nominating Committee: Peg Campbell, Jim Tedesco, Nancy Hayden and Leslie Travis.

POSITION	NAME	STATUS	TERM
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD:</b>			
<b>President</b>	<b>Linda Brown</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	1 year ending 6/30/2008
<b>Vice President Administration</b>	<b>George Rourk</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	2 year ending 6/30/2009
<b>Vice President Finance</b>	Marsha McCullough	Fulfilling current term	2 year ending 6/30/2008
<b>Corporate Secretary</b>	<b>Vanessa Baber</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	2 year ending 6/30/2009
<b>Moderator</b>	Renzo Hutchinson	Fulfilling current term	2 year ending 6/30/2008
<b>STANDING COMMITTEES:</b>			
<b>Denominational Affairs</b>	<b>Sly Porambo</b>	<b>Nominee (re-up)</b>	2 year ending 6/30/2009
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>TBD??</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	2 year ending 6/30/2009
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Paul Denawetz</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	2 year ending 6/30/2009
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Leah Baker</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	2 year ending 6/30/2009
<b>Building and Grounds</b>	Joe Burchill	Fulfilling current term	2 year ending 6/30/2008
<b>Program</b>	Barb Eglington	Fulfilling current term	2 year ending 6/30/2008
<b>Religious Education</b>	Karen-Schnell-Goldberg	Fulfilling current term	2 year ending 6/30/2008
<b>Social Events</b>	Mary Smith	Fulfilling current term	2 year ending 6/30/2008

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## IN OTHER NEWS



### Happy Membership Anniversary!!

	Yrs of Membership	Date Joined
Patricia McLane	28	5/20/1979
Gwen Foss	25	5/9/1982
Susan Breen	22	5/12/1985
Joni & James Tedesco	22	5/14/1985
Justine Raymond	11	5/5/1996
Lisa & Bill Hayhow	10	5/4/1997
Sally Richards	8	5/9/1999
Valerie Kosaka	5	5/1/2002
Michael & Shannon Harney	5	5/14/2002
Lisa Hinchman	2	5/1/2005
Melissa & Robert Hollmeyer	2	5/21/2005
Leah Baker	2	5/22/2005
Jeanie & Mark Bay	2	5/22/2005
Mary & Jay Smith	2	5/22/2005
Julie & Noal McDonald	2	5/22/2005
Patrick Laird/Maureen Linker	1	5/1/2006
Kathy Gray	1	5/21/2006

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**Church Office Hours:**

Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Next Magnet Deadline:**

May 27, 2007