

UUC VOICE

January 22nd, 2010

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock

221 Dean Street, Woodstock, IL 60098

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OUR INTERIM MINISTER BEGINS

The Rev. James Hobart is our new Interim Minister and Rev. Dan Larsen is our Community Minister, both are here on a half-time basis

If you have any questions, please contact Don Metivier (815-334-0015) or Marcia Johnson (815-337-0297) for more details.

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE – SUNDAY 10:45 A.M.

JANUARY 24th

Gail Wells will be speaking about the “Spirit of Life”. Just what is the "Spirit of Life" and do you have it? We sing the words every week but do you live it? If you don't have it, can you find it?

JANUARY 31st

“Celebration of Ministerial Transition”. We will celebrate the installation Rev. James Hobart as Interim Minister & the Rev. Dan Larsen as Community Minister of our church. Tom and the Adult Choir will sing. Jim, Dan and the Rev. Ian Evison, (UU District Congregation Staff) will speak.

FEBRUARY 7th

Sujatha Peradenye of the ‘Blue Lotus Temple’ will be speaking on “Finding Happiness and Contentment” this service will include a period of meditation.

HAITIAN RELIEF

We are asking all of our members to contribute relief funds for Haiti, in response to the earthquake there. Our church is accepting donations up through this Sunday January 24th which will be forwarded to a Relief Fund jointly sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The Hobart's and the Larsen's have both pledged \$250; the Discretionary Fund has added \$500 and so far the congregation has matched this with \$1000. Let's add another \$1000!

Please make out a generous check to the church with a note for “Haitian Relief” and either mail it in this week or bring it this Sunday, January 24th to church.

SEX OFFENDERS PROGRAM

The church council is sponsoring a meeting on Monday, February 1st, at 7:00 p.m. at church to obtain more information on a Sex Offender Program which has requested the use of the church facilities to hold a weekly small-group meeting for sex offenders living in McHenry County. All of our members who are interested and have questions are urged to attend.

At the last council meeting a motion was passed to study the program in this way. On February 1st we will invite members of the Congregation to meet with Linda Rowlette, the social worker who would be facilitating the group with time for both questions and discussion.

Members will be invited to send their questions or comments directly to Don Metivier, Council Moderator, to dmetivier@sdind.com .

At the February 16th, (Tuesday), Church Council meeting, members will further be invited to come and share their thoughts and questions. At that time the Council will decide how to proceed. Options could include: approve the group; obtain further information and feedback; or schedule a congregational meeting to vote on this matter; or other options.

The council realizes the sensitivity of this issue and the strong personal feelings, one or both ways, our members might have.

We want to take the necessary time to reflect as individuals and a congregation and are committed to taking the time.

The brief outline of the program is as follows; weekly meetings on Sunday evenings in the Parsonage when nothing else is scheduled in that building; 5-7 sex offenders who are on parole and have been released from prison; monitored with electronic tracking devices; counselors will be present before, during and after the group; sponsored by a psychologist in Rockford and a cooperating Social Worker from McHenry County.

If you have further questions now you can contact me or the Council Moderator, Don Metivier.

Dan

LARSEN'S ON VACATION

Dan and Pat will be on vacation in Mexico between Friday February 5th and Friday February 19th. They have also moved into their new home at 643 Schumann in Woodstock. They will be without internet for a few days so if you need to contact Dan, you may call his new home phone number, 815-338-2234.

SEASON FOR NON-VIOLENCE

The Community Ministry committee, as part of their peace and justice outreach, would like to invite you join us in celebrating The Season for Non-violence, January 30th through April 4th.

The Season for Nonviolence was established in 1998 to honor the 50th and 30th memorial anniversaries of Mohandas K. Gandhi and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. offering a ten week period to learn from their lives and teaching and the contributions of kindred spirits over the decades.

The intention is to help create a society that honors the dignity and worth of every human being through education, inspiration and cooperative action. It is based on the belief that each person can move the world in the direction of peace through their daily nonviolent choice and action.

Each week for nine weeks between January 30th and April 4th, we will place in the Sunday bulletin a week of daily reflections for you to consider and share with others. We will be placing two weeks of reflections in each UUC Voice.

Nonviolence begins by learning how to be less violent and more compassionate with ourselves. We learn by building courage to speak and act with respect, honor and reverence for our own being.

We invite you to join us in this conversation.
Sue Rekenhaller

20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

It has been 20 years since Tom Steffens joined the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock, first as a church member, then as organist and in recent years, choir director. To celebrate this anniversary, he will be giving a concert on Sunday, February 21st, at 7pm, at the church.

Tom will be joined by 7 friends who will help him fill the evening with jazz and musical theatre favorites, some Irish/Celtic tunes and even an original composition or two.

This is a concert for all of you. Please come and help me celebrate this anniversary. A reception will follow the concert.

AUCTION 2010!

It is time to gear up for **Auction 2010**. Woodstock UU Church is holding a family friendly fun-filled night on **Saturday, March 6th** as a main fundraiser for the church. To make this a real success we need everyone to participate by;

1 - DONATING AN ITEM: Art, furniture, gift basket, dinner party, fishing outing on your boat, bake a birthday cake, etc. Have some nice antiques in the basement? You can set a minimum bid price as well as a reserve price below which you will not donate the item.

2 - OFFERING A SERVICE: such as 'computer troubleshooting' service for 2 hours, 'rake leaves' for up to 4 hours, help to de-clutter a closet, 'handyman at your service' for 1/2 day.

3 – WANT AD'S. If you have a request for a service that you think a member might be able to donate? You can create a customized WANT AD. As an example, we currently we have a **Want Ad**:

Kitchen Repair Needed - Elizabeth Dimond needs someone to install a new faucet in her kitchen and check and seal any mouse entry holes under appliances and she will donate \$60 to the church, all supplies provided.

So put on your thinking caps and get creative!!!

4- Volunteer

We are looking for volunteers to help on the day of the event. We need help with making and donating of food for the appetizers and desserts, cases of wine, setting up and cleaning up the silent auction tables, babysitting children, selling raffle tickets, etc. If you can help out, please let us know now so we can begin preparations.

We also need you to help spread the word and get friends and neighbors to come out and have fun (and spend a little \$\$). We sent out packets with donation and volunteer forms via snail mail earlier this month and there are extra forms in the church office and in the lobby area after Sunday church services.

*Turn your forms in as soon as you can, so we can start publicizing all the cool items and getting more people excited. If you have any questions or want to e-mail your information directly, please contact Shelly Nicholson at (815) 322-2533 or snichol33@hotmail.com

GREEN SANCTUARY- FILM FEST

The Green Sanctuary will be having a 'Film Festival' on Sunday, February 28th The Festival will present several films that offer great insight and information into a variety of important environmental issues. The program will begin at 2:00p.m. And will run until 9:00p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The films that will be presented are at 3:00p.m. - "Tom Berry – The Great Story" a documentary
4:00p.m. - "Dirt" - The earth beneath our feet
7:00p.m. - "The World According to Monsanto" – The giant biotech corporation threatening to destroy the agricultural biodiversity from Hazardous Chemicals to Genetically Modified Seeds.

Between the feature films we will show shorter films from the "Bioneers" Conference (www.bioneers.org) - social and scientific innovators that focus on breakthrough solutions that are inspired by nature and human ingenuity. For more information please contact the church office, 815-338-0731 or Margaret Fox-Hawthorne at 815-943-6828

GREAT CHURCH FUNDRAISER

Gift cards are a great way to help raise money for the church. The process is simple; you choose the gift cards you want to order and fill out a form provided at church. Drop off the form and cash or check (payable to UUC of Woodstock with gift card on

the memo line) to Heather Madaus or Whit Sears after church on Sundays, or mail it to the church by Monday.

You will receive your orders on the following Sunday.

The church makes \$ by purchasing the cards at a discount and you get the face value of your card! Please consider helping us by planning your weekly expenses for fuel, groceries, entertainment, and gift-giving from this list!

Please contact Heather Madaus for online ordering instructions or with further questions at heathermadaus@sbcglobal.net or at 815-509-7862.

USHERS

We are looking for anyone that might be interested in becoming an Usher on Sunday mornings to please contact the church office. 815-338-0731 or office@uucofwoodstock.org

HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION TO MCC

Sue is in need of a ride to MCC on Friday evenings around 6:30 (until spring when she can ride her bike). She would need to be picked up from her home 1902 N. Seminary in Woodstock (near St. John's Church). Sue has a 7:00 p.m. class at MCC.

Please call Sue Resnik at 512 508-5039 if you can help. Thank you!

6th ANNUAL TASTE OF SRI LANKA

The sixth annual Taste of Sri Lanka will be held on Saturday, March 27th, 2010 at 5:00p.m. The evening is a cultural and festive event filled with a variety of entertainment and a large assortment of traditional Sri Lankan dishes. The food will be cooked by native Sri Lankans, including Sri Lankan monks. The meal includes both dinner and dessert dishes as well as beverages. This year's entertainment will include traditional Sri Lankan music. The cost for the evening is \$25 and seating is limited to eighty people.

To reserve tickets please call 815-444-8915

CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting will be on this Sunday, January 24th, at 9:00 a.m. in the parsonage (upstairs this Sunday, due to Youth O.W.L. program).

For more information, please contact Don Metivier 815-334-0015.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, January 26th at 6:00p.m., at the church in the kitchen. Sig Goodwin and Don Metivier will be hosting the group with Chinese Food. Please RSVP the

Church Office, 815-338-0731 or office@uucofwoodstock.org if you can attend. This date was previously on the 19th, but there was a scheduling conflict due to the Church Council meeting.

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The next meeting of the Spiritual Reading Group will be on Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00p.m.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

The Spiritual Practices group will meet on Monday, January 25th at 7:00p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) UPDATES

Joyful Journey Program will begin on Sunday, February 7th. On February 7th the children will meet downstairs in the church at 9:00 -10:30 a.m. and the 6th and 7th grade O.W.L. will be meeting at the parsonage at 9:00a.m.

The following week, February 14th, the Joyful Journey group will meet in the parsonage.

ORA GROUP (OPEN, ALLOW AND RELAX)

The Law of Attraction Group has a new name, ORA (Open, Relax, Allow). The group will still meet in the parsonage but on a different day. The day and time has changed to Sunday afternoons 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. The group will finish the Law of Attraction discussion. Starting February 14th, the discussion will be listening to “Zero Limits” by Joe Vitale audio version. If you are interested in visiting the group, please call Nicette Crawford 815-479-6187.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Lori Burns and Karen Stowe share in the secretarial duties at the church office. Office hours from January 25th to February 5th are as follows:

Monday, Jan 11th: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Lori Burns
Tuesday, Jan 12th: all day – Janet Burns, Bookkeeper
Wednesday, Jan 13th: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe
Thursday, Jan 14th: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Lori Burns
Friday, Jan 15th: 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe