



# Kairos

Newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Church



July 25, 2007

**This Sunday  
The Unfinished Work of  
Susan B. Anthony  
Ed Loomis**

**A look at the uncompleted work of  
Susan B. Anthony and what it means to  
contemporary UUs.**

**Sunday, August 5, 2007  
A Matter of Perspective  
Ed Loomis**

**A look at how personal perspective  
impacts world view.**

**Sunday Helpers  
July 29, 2007**

*Usher(s) ..... Saturday Covenant Group  
Greeter(s)..... Saturday Covenant Group  
Coffee..... Saturday Covenant Group  
Hospitality..... Shari Smallwood  
Welcome..... Eric van Est  
Soundmeister..... Dave Schubert*

**Sunday Helpers  
August 5, 2007**

*Usher(s) ..... ???  
Greeter(s)..... Sandi Campbell  
Coffee..... Jan Cooper  
Hospitality..... Teresa Wilmot  
Welcome..... Jeff Gauger  
Soundmeister..... Paul Dale Anderson*

## Church Meetings and Events

**VSP (Very Special People)** is a gathering of adults for lunch, socializing and a program for members, friends and visitors to the church. VSP meets at 12:30 p.m., **Friday, August 3, 2007**. The program follows at 1:30 p.m. Our own Summer Minister, Ed Loomis will be speaking about prayer. UU minister, Erik Wikstrom, recently authored, Simply Pray: Modern Spiritual Practice to Deepen your Life, a book about prayer and how it relates to our UU spiritual practice and tradition. Ed will review the book and engage us in a discussion of "UU prayer." Menu for lunch: Sharon has planned a Salad Bar with assorted breads and crackers, fresh fruit, cookies, lemonade, coffee and tea. **RESERVATIONS IMPORTANT**. Cost \$5 at door, payable unless canceled by July 29, Sunday. Notify Lori Ann Higgins with cancellations, not the office, please. (See below.) If you have not been contacted by a caller, you may make reservation with Lori Ann Higgins by Sunday, July 29 at 815-316-2569. At your request, she will add your name to our calling list for future VSP gatherings. This month we will seek hosts for future programs. Have you heard a good speaker that would share their interests with VSP? Being a host is not difficult--Pat T. has set up clear directions on what is needed. We are covered through November.

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**Our Mission:** *“We are a liberal, religious community which welcomes all to join in our quest for truth and meaning, dedication to social action and commitment to the Unitarian Universalist principles.”*

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## Our Umbrella

In my message on 7/22 I spoke about our Unitarian Universalist Association umbrella. Under this one umbrella we find pagans, Buddhists, humanists, Christians and various other sub-groups. But I wouldn't call this a melting pot association. In other words, we keep our own beliefs and practices when we gather together. We also come together and effectively demonstrate to the world, in varying degrees, that people of various religious perspectives can not only share the same world, they can share the same worship space. This is one of the things I find unique about our Unitarian Universalist faith.

After that service, some of you told me how you go about fitting yourself into a faith community where the established worship format may not fit with your preference. You noted your tolerance of other people's choices and how you have adapted our worship format to fill your needs, noting that at times some of your needs are met in a religious experience that occurs outside of our sanctuary. But, all in all, by coming together we can work together and support each other.

A certain synergy is created when we gather as a community of faith; a synergy that gives us the power and ability to accomplish more than we could as individuals or as small groups. But during the summer months some of this synergy is lost as we are fewer in numbers. It may require a little more individual effort to make things run smoothly.

A great synergy creating method is connecting and networking with those you do not know. Take the time to strangers as well as your regular friends. I think one of the most potent energy creators is engaging our visitors after the service and in the social hall. Who knows what synergy awaits us as we connect together all of these diverse people.

Sincerely,  
Ed

## Summer Adult RE Classes:

**UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE** - The class will be a broad overview of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the New Testament with special attention to its relevance to Unitarian Universalists. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Connolly Library until August 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Please note that there will not be a class on August 15th because of the board meeting.** Pre-registration is not necessary, just show up for the first class or contact me at the church by phone or e-mail. No books or materials are required for the class.

**A BALANCED LIFE** - The class will focus on how we can create and maintain a balanced life. What are the components of a healthy balanced life and how can we keep them in balance? Classes will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in the Connolly Library until August 14th. Pre-registration is not necessary, just show up for the first class or contact me at the church by phone or e-mail

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I attended UU University in Portland, Oregon June 19-20, 2007. UU University is designed to give lay leaders the opportunity to develop their skills in all aspects of congregational leadership, including finance and membership. The keynote speaker was Gil Rendle who spent many years at the Alban Institute and who has authored a book that I read: "Leading Change in the Congregation". Nancy Bowen, Howell's wife, was a team member at UU University. I took a lot of notes, some of which may prompt some ideas for our upcoming board retreat.

I also attended General Assembly (GA) June 20-22. Sandi Campbell, Teresa Wilmot, and Ron Johnson also attended. This was my second GA after St. Louis, and again it was a very motivating experience. Just being there with over 4,000 UUs in one place makes you realize we are really part of a large association. The UUA has so many programs and resources that we can and should take advantage of. Just talking with other UUs and finding out what they are doing and how they do it is interesting and helpful when considering some of the things that we might consider in the future. Teresa Wilmot came away from GA with a lot of exciting ideas for her role as chair of the Denominational Affairs committee. She is looking for additional members of her committee, so talk to her if you would like to serve on that committee.

Many of you might have read about Jeff Gauger's wonderful promotion to the number one editorial position at a newspaper in Canton, Ohio. I accepted, with regrets, Jeff's resignation from the board at Wednesday night's board meeting. Jeff would have been a wonderful board member. We all wish him the best in his new position. The nominating panel will be making a recommendation to the board for Jeff's position on our board.

This current new church year is an exciting time with the changes that are occurring at our church. We all appreciate the work that the search committee is doing. I thank all of you who pitch in to help with the many things that are happening in the church, such as the renovation of the downstairs. Thank you for your time and effort for the betterment of our church family.

Bob Arevalo

### Summer Minister Office Hours:

Tuesday 10:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday 10:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday- by appointment after the worship service

Please stop and say hello if my door is open. It's best to call and verify that I am available before driving over to the church to see me.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

*Mary Caskey's* sister, Myrta Barlett Nelson died Sunday, July 15.

*Suzanne Cunningham* remains in Swedish-American Hospital while her physicians seek an appropriate treatment for her infection.

*Alice Enichen's* surgery on her spine has been postponed with no new date scheduled yet. She still welcomes calls of support.

*Vivian Johnson* remains at Alden Nelson nursing home and dearly misses church and her church friends. She would enjoy visitors or rides to church.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to: *Norah Bourland* (July 29), *Vidyut Pandya* (July 29), *Shiraz Tata* (July 29), *Sonia Vogl* (July 31), *Nancy Holstrum* (August 1), *Fran Lowman* (August 3), *Stephen Chinn* (August 4), *Peter Bell* (August 4), *Chuck Harker* (August 6), *Norman Erickson* (August 8), *Nina Lindstrom* (August 9), *Charles Barnes* (August 9), *Dorothy Hill* (August 10), and *Cindy Fischer* (August 10).

*Becky Wyant's* son, James, is home from a six year Navy hitch! Yeah!

*Neita Webster* & Darrell Wagner have recently welcomed a new member to their family. His name is Cody and he is an 8-week old chocolate Lab puppy. Since Neita will be retiring on July 20<sup>th</sup> after 37 years in the Chemistry Lab at Rockford Memorial she should have time for a lot of puppy training! Both of these events are joys and concerns for her!

## DID YOU KNOW?

The round stained glass window in the Narthex is a memorial to Axel F. Rehnberg (1883-1966). He was an active member of the Rockford Community. Over the years he served in many civic capacities and on several local boards. His longest association was with the International Order of Good Templars, serving as its president at one time and singing in the chorus for many years. He also sang with the American Union of Swedish Singers, an association that took him back to Sweden several times. In 1958 Mr. Rehnberg was made a knight of the Royal Order of Vasa by King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden. A talented inventor, Mr. Rehnberg and an associate founded the Rehnberg-Jacobson Manufacturing Co. in 1929. His daughter, Lotta Ecklund, was an active member of our church until her death a few years ago. The window was executed by Frank Houtkamp, another church member. It was dedicated on January 19, 1975.

## RE NEWS

**REMINDER:** Our church school program is in recess till fall. *Alison Lakey* is our Summer Program Coordinator, and she can be reached at 815-398-8601.

**Thanks** to *Francie Barnes*, assisted by *Kelly Riney*, for leading the multi-age activity on Sunday, July 15.

**Thanks** to *Karen Freund*, assisted by *Jerri Jones*, for leading the multi-age activity on Sunday, July 22.

## SUMMER PROGRAM NEWS

Summer is a time to relax and take a break! Middle and Senior High church school classes are on vacation, and perhaps you have been on vacation from church. We invite you—and all middle and senior high youth—to join us from some special activities on Sunday mornings, now through August.

**This Sunday, July 29:** Can you use egg cartons, pipe cleaners, toilet paper tubes, and/or other materials to protect a hard-boiled egg when dropped from a distance? We will be looking for the smallest, most lightweight contraption that keeps the egg from breaking/cracking on impact. Come test out your inventive/creative/scientific abilities and learn a little more about animal survival. Bring your own materials, if you'd like (nothing sharp or breakable). For this activity, join the mutli-age group in the Chapel at 10:15 a.m. *Karen Freund*, assisted by *Jerri Jones*, will lead you.

**On Sunday, August 5:** Bring a favorite piece of music to share with the group. (Bring a CD, or bring an instrument if you would like to play the music for us!) How many different styles do you think will be represented? (How diverse is the musical taste of the youth of UU Rockford?) *Laura Houtkamp* will be your guide.

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**KAIROS SUMMER SCHEDULE:** The next issue of the Kairos will be **Wednesday, August 8**. **Articles must be submitted by noon on Monday, August 6**. Articles submitted after the deadline will be added to the newsletter only if space permits. Articles may be submitted by e-mailing your article to [uukairos@aol.com](mailto:uukairos@aol.com). You can also drop off a hard copy of your article at the church office or in the Kairos mailbox (located in the hallway outside of the church office).

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## COMING EVENTS

**CHURCH BRUNCH:** Mark your calendar for **Sunday, August 5** for the next brunch. Menu: Assorted strata (sausage, ham, and veggie made with egg beaters), biscuits and muffins, jams and honey butter, fresh fruits, orange juice, milk, coffee and tea. Cost is \$5.00. We still need one or two volunteers to sell tickets at the brunch.

**NEW TO UU:** Have you visited the UU Church of Rockford this summer? Would you like to learn more about what we are about? Ed Loomis will lead a "New to UU" session after church in the Connolly Library on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Please come with your questions after picking up a drink in Deale Hall.

**RAMBLERS** will click their ruby slippers together, murmur "There's no place like home," and be instantly transported to Aldeen Park, our neighboring land to the north for their next ramble. This will be right after brunch on **Sunday, August 5**, with after-ramble festivities to be determined democratically. For more information, feel free to call Barb Smith, 815-282-9453.

## LIBRARY NEWS

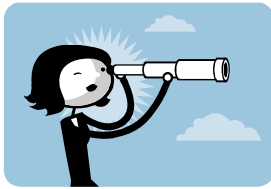
Continuing the interest in Darwin and the conflict over his theory of evolution, the new library book 40 Days and 40 Nights—Darwin, Intelligent Design, God, OxyConfuo, and Other Oddities on Trial in Pennsylvania may be an interesting reading choice. It concerns the causes of and trial in Pennsylvania of an attempt by a school board to force the Dover, PA, schools to incorporate "intelligent design" into its biology classes. (The book was written by Matthew Chapman, a great, great grandson of Charles Darwin.)

Can you answer the following questions? (Answers are on Page 6.)

1. What is the holy book of Islam?
2. President George W. Bush spoke in his first inaugural address of the Jericho Road. What Bible story was he involving?
3. Name the 4 Noble Truths of Buddhism.
4. What are the 7 Sacraments of Catholicism?

Inability to answer similar questions is just one of the arguments Stephen Prothero makes in his new book, *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't*. This is one of the newly added books in the Connolly Library.

Submitted by *Jean Babb*



## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

### “And the Survey Says...”

The Search Committee continues to meet nearly every week throughout the summer. We are nearing the completion of our packet of information to be given to the UUA, who, in turn, will provide our packet to potential candidates.

The Congregational Survey was filled out and returned by 155 members. The committee thanks all who participated. Your responses are invaluable as we complete our packet, part of which is called the Congregational Record.

According to the survey, who are we? All 155 respondents are members; 100 are female and 55 male. 37% have been associated with this congregation 21 years or more; 20% for 11- 20 years; 26% for 3 – 10 years; 7% for 2 years or less. 55% or respondents were 60 years old or older; 37% were between 30 and 59 years old. No one said they were younger than 30, and 8% did not answer the question. The median age or survey respondents was 60 – 69. Thankfully, 72% of the respondents described their health as good or very good. 90% said their sexual orientation was heterosexual; 7% said lesbian or bisexual; 0% indicated gay. All but 2 respondents described their ethnic/racial background as white.

All respondents' education levels were high school or above. 88% had Associate's Degree or above; 8% had a Doctorate Degree. 66% of respondents are currently married; 11% are widowed; 23% have other relationships.

Regarding total gross income, there were 55 respondents (rather than the 155 surveys returned). Of those 55, 67% reported between \$50,000 and \$125,000. 16% said more than \$125,000. In response to our question about beliefs and attitudes, 68% chose humanism; 24% chose naturalistic theism. None of the other thirteen choices received higher than 12%.

More survey results will be published in future issues of *Kairos*. If you wish to view the entire document, check with the church office.

Submitted by *Dick Lake*  
Chairman, Ministerial Search Committee

## GREEN CORNER

Unregulated labeling is a problem. There's no regulation of words like "ecofriendly," "green," and "good for the planet." These types of words on labels are misleading and can be used by anyone. Generally, the more ingredients on a label, the less safe a product may be. (Ever read the Cool Whip label? Yuk!)

The more understandable the ingredients, the safer it probably is. In meats look for labels touting "grass-fed," "no hormones," "no antibiotics," and "no growth stimulants." Don't fall for the term "all-natural."

Submitted by *Jan Cooper*

## EASTER SEALS Farewell...and Thank You!

Easter Seals would like to express its appreciation to you as a congregation for being the home for our Childcare Center for a significant number of years. Many, many children have benefited from the wonderful setting here at 4848 ½ Turner Street. Through the Liaison Committee and other involvements you have provided a substantial amount of support to our Childcare. Thank you.

Easter Seals Autism Therapeutic School in Rockford is set to open this fall. Our main facility at 650 N. Main Street will house the new school alongside our other programs, including our therapeutic, family support, and teen family support services. Having these services in proximity to the school will be a real plus. The remodeling of the building has begun and will be finished in early September.

We wish you well as we both set off in new directions.

Jim Powers

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### SUMMER MINISTER GOES TO MDA JAIL



On August 18<sup>th</sup> our summer minister, Ed Loomis will go to jail in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). In order to spring this jail bird, he will need pledges. If you are willing to help free him and support the MDA please check the folder on the

welcome table in the narthex for details or contact Ed at the church.

## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The "6th Annual Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair" will be held at the Ogle County Fairgrounds (just west of Oregon IL.) [www.illinoisrenew.org/events/fair.htm](http://www.illinoisrenew.org/events/fair.htm)

Saturday, August 11th - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, August 12th - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Adults \$7/day - \$10/2 days

Youth \$3/day - \$5/2 days

Children Under - 12 free



There are many vendors and speaker programs related to green living - that members of this "Green Sanctuary" congregation may be interested in checking out.

Allen & Ruth Penticoff will be camping out at the fair on Saturday night. Anyone else interested in camping out (and listening to folk music jams in the campground) should contact Allen at 815-985-1108. See website for camping details. Reservations required.

To do our part - consider carpooling with fellow UUs. There is a sign up sheet in the church office for registering your interest in carpooling. The sign up sheet will be available at the hospitality table on Sunday August 12th for those who are attending service to see who there may be interested in carpooling to the fair as well. Activities Committee will sort out who can go with who that have signed up in advance of the weekend.

Submitted by *Ruth Penticoff*  
Activities Co-chair

### Answers to Library questions:

1. Quran
2. The Jericho Road is from the story of the Good Samaritan.
3. Life is suffering; suffering has an origin; suffering can be overcome (Nirvana); the path to overcoming suffering is the Noble Eightfold Path.
4. Baptism Eucharist/Mass/Holy Communion; Reconciliation / Confession / Penance; Confirmation; Marriage; Holy Orders; Anointing of the Sick/Last Rites.

## GA 2007: Now is the Time

At Plenary II on Thursday, June 21, President Bill Sinkford introduced a new, comprehensive "campaign to grow our faith," entitled "Now is the Time." I hope you have the time to watch his speech on your computer. Go to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

Click on the left story under the multi-colored horizontal bar, "UUA.org: From Portland to the World." Find in the blue bar to the left, "2007 Event Coverage" and, under that, click on "Audio/Video." In the middle yellow band, find "2004 Plenary II and Open Space Orientation." Under that are two options. I had luck with RealVideo but not with Windows Media. Click on one of those options. By moving the circle in the horizontal bar at the bottom with your mouse, you can move the video to a particular time.

President Sinkford's speech started at 32:50 (32 minutes, 50 seconds into the video.) At 51:58, he spoke to growth in our denomination. We have sustained 1% growth for the past 20 years. "Is the glass half full or half empty? My answer is simply that the glass is not full enough." And, later, "It's not about us; it's about them. We need to open the doors to those folks . . . down in the valley trying to get home."

There are multitudes of people who are not fulfilled by traditional religion or who have frankly rejected their upbringing and feel there is no religious home for them. They may crave spiritual inspiration or the community of a group and think they are alone in the world. We want to introduce them to Unitarian Universalism and invite them to visit our congregations. If we do a good job of welcoming these strangers, they may find here what they need.

The Now is the Time campaign is a five-year fundraising program; one result will be nation-wide advertising to introduce the public to us UU's. We can expect increased visitors here in Rockford. We all need to prepare for this stampede, learning how to be welcoming to people we don't know. We need a welcoming culture -- not just a few people with "Greeter" buttons at the door. Can each of us step out of our comfortable circle of friends to make room for one more? Each of us will have opportunities this coming year to learn welcoming.

Besides growing our numbers, "Now Is the Time" focuses on growing our diversity, growing our witness for social justice, growing our leadership with training for both professional and lay leaders, and growing our spirit by transforming worship.

Look forward to Association Sunday for an opportunity to join your support to the UUA's Now Is the Time campaign.

Submitted by *Teresa Wilmot*

