



# THE PIONEER

September-October 2014

## The Paper Pulpit

the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

### Excerpts from the Homecoming Sunday Sermon

Earlier this summer, the Board had a 2-part retreat, asking three simple questions:

- Where are we going?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know we've arrived?

To answer the first ("where are we going?"), the Board came up with a new Vision Statement, describing who they believe we want to be, who we want to be becoming today, and who we want to be in fact five years down the road. To describe how we will get there, the Board created a list of six high-level priorities. And so we'll know that we're there when we do get there, the Board has a long list of specific measurable goals that we're all going to be involved in turning from dreams into realities.

*As a liberal religious community:*

- *We provide a superior liberal religious education.*
- *We are a visible, leading, liberal voice.*
- *We see ourselves and are viewed as a powerful force for compassionate social justice and liberal religion that resonates with the whole community.*
- *We are a vibrant, caring, supportive, energetic community.*
- *We are excited to belong to UUSG.*
- *Every member is a minister.*

That's the vision.

The priorities that will be guiding the Board's work this year are the equivalent of our New Year's Resolutions. For the Board, the staff, and all the various ministry teams, one way or another everything we will be doing this year will address one or more of these six priorities.

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*In this church year, and forward for as long as it takes, we are committed to:*

1. *making a positive difference in our community;*
2. *improving communications within UUSG;*
3. *aligning our finances to meet the vision;*
4. *increasing congregational engagement;*
5. *aligning our future facility to our goals; and*
6. *staffing and leadership development to support our vision.*

Then we get into specifics, and it starts to get more challenging and more interesting. That's when we all have to get involved, through financial support, regular attendance and involvement in church and religious education and programs and events, finding the special ministry that speaks to you as both a giver and a receiver, within and beyond our walls.

(continued on page 3)

# Religious Education Announcements

## Religious Education Class Topics

The RE classes will study the following topics in October:

### Grades K- 2nd

One Great Web of Life, God is Like the Mother of All, God is Like a Father, Being with God in Prayer

### Grades 3rd-5th

UU Pilgrimages: The Emperor and the Trinity, Michael Servetus, Francis David, George de Benneville, Joseph Priestley

### Grades 6th-8th

Indigenous Religions: The Earth Speaks; Hinduism: One God, A Thousand Faces; Judaism: The Birth of the Abrahamic Tradition and People of the Law Workshop Overview

On Friday, October 10, the Junior High Group will be visiting the Beth Shalom Temple in Naperville at 7pm.

### YRUU: Grades 9th-12th

Planning projects for the coming year (social justice as well as social), welcoming new youth into our community, identifying processes to make the group a success, team-building

## Habitat and YRUU Kick-off Meeting

Everyone (but particularly Junior High and YRUU students and their parents) is invited to a special kick-off meeting this Sunday, September 28 at 12:30pm.

The meeting will begin with a potluck, and then the HFH youth and advisors will tell us about their successful house project this past July. Afterward, advisors will explain to students and parents the YRUU programming for this year.

## Junior High Youth Group

The first Junior High Youth Group meeting is Saturday, October 11 at 7pm. They will discuss field trip ideas that they would like to take as a group. Hope you can make it and give your ideas!

## Corn Maze

The YRUU Corn Maze overnight is Friday, October 24 at 6:30pm. They will be going to Richardson Farm, and the cost for the corn maze is \$15/youth. Please have youth bring extra spending money if they would like to purchase food, zip lining, or other activities. Permission forms and money are due by October 12.

## OWL

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a program dealing with relationships, sexuality, and decision-making for our 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. The OWL parent meeting will be held on Monday, October 27, 7:30-9pm at UUSG.

## Assistant Minister Search Update

The process for finding our new Assistant Minister has begun once again. The Search Committee is collecting the materials necessary for the UUA search procedures.

The Committee members are Jodi Brown, Jenny Montgomery, John Rosenkrans, Molly MacKay Zacker, and Dick Yingst.

Please don't forget to continue meeting your Assistant Minister pledge commitments. By December 31, we hope to have one-third of the total amount pledged in hand.

## Discussion on Dementia

On Sunday, September 28 at 3pm, UUSG's Mental Health Ministry will hold a seminar on dementia and caregiving.

Two mental health counselors will talk about their experiences with dementia: Kim Volk will discuss her father's journey through Alzheimer's disease, and Terri Schade will reflect on her husband's movement through Parkinson's disease and dementia. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the difficult issue of living with dementia.

**(excerpts from Lindsay’s Homecoming Sermon, continued from page 1)**

We need a vital, excited, involved, positively-expectant congregation if we are to have the church, the activities, the larger ministries to the world that we have said we are called to create and maintain.

We are more than what we are currently. We have right now the potential to make an even larger impact upon our world, one another, ourselves. We are capable of both being and receiving great blessings.

*Those who bless the world  
live their lives  
as a gesture of thanks*

the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker,  
“To Bless the World”

So are we called to do.

Peace ~ Lindsay

**Do We Have Your Info?**

The Fall-Winter Directory of UUSG Members & Friends will be available in early October. Check the display in the Common Room by this Sunday, September 28 to make sure that we have your correct contact information.

If you were not in the last directory and want to be in the next one, send your request to Katie Phillips at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) this week.

**What’s That Noise?**

If you are hearing a high-pitched “chirp” in the church, it’s more than likely a carbon monoxide detector that needs its battery replaced. (Our heat and fire detectors don’t chirp – they signal our alarm company and the fire department shows up.)

Carbon monoxide detectors are located in the Common Room, the Potter Room, the Sanctuary, the main floor of Pioneer House, the upper floor of Pioneer House, and the lower level hallway.

Please locate the chirping detector and replace its battery. Fresh batteries can be found in a marked container on the shelves above the work table in the Volunteer Office.

**Circle Suppers**

Circle Suppers are a great way to get to know others! Participating pairs or singles will be grouped with different participants for each of the four suppers, which will be held in January, February, March, and April 2015.

The designated guests at each supper will be assigned the tasks of bringing salad, entrée, or dessert. The hosts may provide appetizers and bread, as well as a place to dine.

If you’re interested in participating, you will be able to sign up beginning October 19.

**Supporting NPR, Supporting UUSG**

UUSG is a Corporate Sponsor of Northern Public Radio, which broadcasts WNIJ (89.5FM) and WNIU (90.5FM). As a sponsor, we can advertise UUSG fundraisers on both stations.

To help us continue this important publicity, we’re asking for your help. Write a check to UUSG with “NPR” on the memo line, and the Communications Team will match your contribution (up to a maximum total match of \$150).

We’ll accept donations through the end of October.

**“It’s All About Me...Being More”**

Registration for the 2nd Annual UUSG Women’s Retreat begins October 1. Space is limited, and openings are first come, first served. The retreat is January 9-11, 2015.

We’re also calling all UUSG female practitioners: are you able to provide massage, Reiki, or acupuncture services?

If you would like more details about the retreat or want to offer your services, contact Samantha Mejia at [womensretreat@uusg.org](mailto:womensretreat@uusg.org).

**Way to Go, Weeders!**

Many thanks to this summer’s weeders: Alistair Betts & Cathy Kern; Elke Chateau; Diane Handler; Becky, Sean, & Cal Hruby; Sally Jones; Karen Laukaitis; Katie Masini; Kathy Meier; Julie Riffle; Llona Steele; and Nancy Steinke.

# Social Justice News

## Friday Flick: *Unacceptable Levels*

At 7pm this Friday, September 26, our free monthly film series will show *Unacceptable Levels*, an important 2013 documentary designed to help us protect ourselves from serious diseases caused by synthetic chemicals affecting our bodies.

We have approximately 200 synthetic industrial chemicals interacting with our cells every single day. To explore different facets of common chemical exposure, this documentary was made in consultation with experts in multiple fields and is guided by a father on a personal journey to bring these issues to light for everyone.

The film's primary goal? To determine whether we can prevent disease before it strikes us.

## Rescheduled: Forum on Making a Difference in Our Communities

On Sunday, October 12 at 12:45pm, the Fox River Valley Initiative Team at UUSG will update the congregation about plans to effect changes in mental health delivery, affordable housing, and workforce development in the region.

They will talk about plans for identifying solvable problems and potential solutions regarding mental health services and affordable housing in Kane County.

They will also share what is happening right now to train people to become skilled manufacturing workers who are in high demand in our counties.

We're working on coordinating childcare (up to age 6). If you would like to request it, contact Jean Pierce at [socialjusticeleader@uusg.org](mailto:socialjusticeleader@uusg.org) by October 5.

## Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In August, we collected \$957 for Pottawatomie Habitat for Humanity.

So far in September, we have collected \$1,016 to provide lunch and supper once a month for our neighbors at Lazarus House. If you would like to support this important local ministry, you can do so this Sunday.

## Commit to Knit

Fall is the perfect time to "Commit to Knit" (and crochet) with soft, colorful yarn. Craft a scarf, hat, blanket, shawl, mittens, socks, or stuffed toys, for the organization Knitting4Peace (learn more about their work by going to [www.knitting4peace.org](http://www.knitting4peace.org)).

This group will meet in the Common Room between services on 1st Sundays. All skill levels are welcome! Beginners are invited to request individual attention. Donated yarns, needles, and patterns are available to help you get started.

For more information, please contact Katherine Lyons at [knitting@uusg.org](mailto:knitting@uusg.org).

## October 19 Day of Service

We'll once again support Tri-Cities CROP Walk, which takes place on Sunday, October 19 at 1:15pm, at the Batavia United Methodist Church.

Here's how you can help:

1. Go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/tricitiesil](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/tricitiesil).
2. Click "Donate" to make an online donation to one of the walkers on our team ("Unitarian Universalist of Geneva").
3. Click "Register" if you want to be a walker. On the next page, select our team ("Unitarian Universalist of Geneva"). After you sign up, send your fundraising link to your friends and family. To get your CROP Walker envelope, please contact Shawn Thornton ([cropwalk@uusg.org](mailto:cropwalk@uusg.org)).

## Friday Flick: *Rise Above the Mark*

October 24, 7pm

With elections approaching, it is important to recognize the responsibility of Illinois legislators in deeply underfunding our public schools.

It would take \$5 billion in Illinois to fund our schools at the point where 2/3 of students without special needs can succeed.

The film features prominent spokespersons for education, including Linda Darling Hammond, Diane Ravitch, and Finland's Minister of Education, Pasi Sahlberg. Join us for this important discussion.

## Green Corner

### 2014 Harvest Supper

Mark your calendars! Our Harvest Dinner is on Saturday, October 25.

The menu will be the same as in previous years: soups, salads, breads, and desserts. People are asked to bring their food at 5:30pm, as we'll begin dining at 6. Once again there will be a speaker, as well as a basket for donations to support a green project selected by the speaker.

Sign up in the Common Room or at [www.uusg.org/harvest-supper](http://www.uusg.org/harvest-supper).

We're working to coordinate childcare for ages 6 and under; if you would like to request childcare, please do so when you sign up. We'll let you know the week before the event if we're able to provide it.

### Ring Around the Planet

On September 21 at 1pm, UUSG members and friends rang our bell for 5 minutes and 50 seconds to participate in the national People's Climate March and bell-ringing. The Green Sanctuary Team and concerned congregation members and friends lined up in the aisle, taking turns with 4 rings each. Thom Thomas held the stopwatch.

They were participating in a global Call to Action on a Climate Crisis: 350 seconds equals the desirable level of CO2 parts per million in the atmosphere, but it is believed the world currently is already around 400 ppm. Other churches participated and all experienced the importance of the Climate Action Call.

UUSG was represented at Sunday's People's Climate March in New York City by Tracey and Kathy McFadden. The march to demand that world leaders take action on climate change was hailed as the largest turnout in history, with over 300,000 people from all walks of life.



### A Photo Directory!

We're doing a photo directory! We'll be taking pictures for the spring 2015 directory every Sunday from October 12 through November 2. The last time we had a photo directory was in the 90's, so it's time.

If you'd like to have your family's portrait in the directory, sign up in the Common Room or at [www.uusg.org/directory-photos](http://www.uusg.org/directory-photos).

You may have noticed that we're doing these photos just in time for the holidays. There is no charge for your photo in the directory, but if you make a donation to the UUSG "Make a Difference" (MAD) Fund, we'll email you a high-res version of the picture to print or post. So get your photo taken in October!

### Circles of Life

It's with great sadness that we report the death of church member Sharon Wiese on September 4.

On Saturday, October 18, we'll celebrate Sharon's life with a visitation at 3pm and a memorial service at 4pm. If you can help with set-up, clean-up, or by providing food for the visitation, please contact Vohny Moehling and Jeanne Neltor (at [memorialservices@uusg.org](mailto:memorialservices@uusg.org)).

### New Team Member

The Green Sanctuary Team has a new member, Jess Holtzapple.

Jess majored in an environmental field in college and is rapidly learning about the team's various activities.

Welcome, Jess!

### Our Herb Garden

Though our desire for herbs continues, the UUSG Herb Garden is just about finished and will be yielding parsley and basil only a couple more weeks.

All are welcome to help themselves to packets of herbs from the herb basket during social hour.

Any herbs not taken will go to the Batavia Community Garden.

### Book Discussion Group

Come join fellow UUSGers for a lively discussion of the book "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain, on Thursday, October 30 at 7:30pm. Sign up in the Common Room or at [www.uusg.org/book-group](http://www.uusg.org/book-group). Questions? Contact Eleanor Hamilton at [adultLRE@uusg.org](mailto:adultLRE@uusg.org).



**Personnel Committee**

We have new Personnel Committee, which has been chartered to advise the UUSG Board on employee policy and to facilitate improved personnel management practices.

Our thanks to the new committee – Bill Pokorny (chair), the Rev. Lindsay Bates (ex officio), Walter Pearson, Neill Shanahan, and Ellie Radvanovsky – for contributing their valuable time.

**Get Involved With Interweave**

Interweave is a local group of LGBTQ members, friends, and allies who meet once a month to have discussions about issues and events interesting and important to the group.

They will meet at the church on Sunday, September 28 at 12:30pm for a brief meeting, followed by social time at the Old Towne Pub at about 1pm.

For more information, contact Lynn Steele at [interweave.leader@uusg.org](mailto:interweave.leader@uusg.org).

**Lindsay’s Reserved Parking Place**

We are aware that parking in downtown Geneva can be a challenge, but please note that the Senior Minister’s parking place is reserved for her at all hours, every day.

She comes and goes at unscheduled times and needs to know she has a place to park.

**“Promoting Practical Goodness”**

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Sherri Casterline, Chuck Lantz, and Vicki Lantz, who made a few improvements in the Conant Room (off James Street) to give that entrance a little more privacy – Sherri made the curtains, and Chuck & Vicki put up the decorative contact paper.

Trish Beckjord, who planted small hostas in the Memorial Garden, adding a lovely bit of brightness between the stones.

Our Hospitality & Fellowship Team (especially Cindy Vacek and Kim Liang) along with absolutely everyone at UUSG who gathered, shared, and helped make our picnic last Sunday an awesome day for all! You were wonderful – bringing delicious food, helping to set up, coordinating games, playing music, sharing books and art, setting up the traveling circus, and cleaning up...amazing. Thank you!

Jim O’Malley, who has been entering and tracking UUSG pledges and donations since 1996. He has been tracking checks and cash donations every week so that those who give to UUSG will have accurate information and the church will have an accurate record of that income. He’s been spending 2-3 hours per week for the last 18 years entering data and depositing those checks. Very dedicated, very awesome!

Our September Lazarus House volunteers: Jean & Lou Pierce prepared lunches; Page Poris, Bill Scown, and Jeannie Scown provided dinner; and Pat Betzen stayed overnight.

Northern Illinois Food Bank volunteers on September 6: Mark Adams; Kevin Beyer & Lisa Gades; Marisa Avellano Garcia; Eleanor Hamilton; Brad & Doris Lipman; Omar & Samantha Mejia; Vohny Moehling; David & Jenny Montgomery; Jeanne Neltnor; Gary & Kathie Noll; Tracy Rosenkrans; Craig & Ilene Smit; Chris Weithers; and David, Julie, Molly, & Zoe MacKay Zacker. They processed 9,000 pounds of corn and almost 14,000 pounds of tomatoes...likely a UUSG record!

Sally Jones for fearlessly digging in to attack the ferocious weeds in the lawn and thus allowing us to avoid use of herbicides

Jeff Stibal, who was again our amazing Technical Director, this time for the WFMT radio broadcast in our Sanctuary on August 30

Our September Greeters: Barb McKittrick, Jim & Pat O’Malley, and all of our last-minute recruits

Our September Social Hour Hosts: the Board of Directors (on August 30), the WOW Team, the Worship Associates, the LRE Team

Our September Counters: Al Drover, Pam Galligan, Karen Laukaitis, Kim Liang, Bill Scown, the Finance Team

**Want to Know More?** Board Meeting Summaries & Minutes: [www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes](http://www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes)  
 Team Reports: [www.uusg.org/team-reports](http://www.uusg.org/team-reports) Financial Report: [www.uusg.org/financial-report](http://www.uusg.org/financial-report)

### Staff Vacation

Our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, will be on vacation Friday, October 3 through Saturday, October 18. She will not be checking email or voicemail during this time. Please plan ahead and contact Katie this week with any items you may need support for while she's gone.

Katie's Office Assistant, Lisa Rittenberry, will handle the Mini-Pioneer and weekly emails while Katie is gone, so please send your submissions to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) by 9am on Wednesdays as usual.

Please note that we have no "substitute Katie"! Office Assistant Lisa Rittenberry has a detailed list of tasks she will be doing, and she will not be regularly checking Katie's email, responding to emails unrelated to the Mini-Pioneer or weekly emails, or taking on additional tasks. If you are not on her list, we're sorry – but you are not on her list.

If something is truly an emergency, get hold of Lindsay (630-464-1668). Only she is authorized to rearrange Lisa's priorities.

### We Need Greeters!

Signing up in advance to be a Sunday greeter is important because:

1. it's a vital part of the Worship Ministry and the Hospitality Ministry, to welcome people into the Sanctuary, hand out the Mini-Pioneers, and answer questions about the locations of washrooms and the Nursery;
2. it lets us put your names in the Mini-Pioneer so that people might remember you;
3. it gives you a chance to start recognizing names and faces;
4. it takes no preparation, just a slightly early arrival (9:15 for 9:30; 11 for 11:15); and
5. it lowers staff anxiety – especially the Senior Minister's, who would take it as a personal favor if you would sign up to greet!

Sign up today at [www.uusg.org/greeting](http://www.uusg.org/greeting).

### New LRE Team Members

The LRE Team would like to welcome Eleanor Hamilton and Chung Liang to the team! Eleanor will be our Adult RE representative and Chung will be our K-2nd grade representative. Thank you for supporting our religious education program.

### What Happens at Board Meetings?

To improve communication, the Board of Directors publishes a summary of each month's meeting (see the article below for information about the September meeting).

For a more detailed description of the Board meetings, see the official minutes online ([www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes](http://www.uusg.org/board-meeting-minutes)). Please note that these are posted later than the summary, after they have been approved by the Board the following month.

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend Board meetings, which are held at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the UUSG Common Room.

### Board Meeting Summary

September 9, 2014

1. Motion passed to present congregation with proposal to change Bylaws at spring 2015 Congregational Meeting. Proposal will eliminate sixty-day requirement before becoming voting member.
2. Motion passed to restart Building Task Force to examine expansion options available to us in our present setting and/or potential building elsewhere.
3. Four motions were passed pertaining to formation of Personnel Committee.
4. Requested Finance Team to model the effect of building expansion on need for additional parishioners and income.
5. Discussed: Finance Report – on-budget for both revenue and expenses
6. Discussed generating new revenue stream via PayPal Giving Fund
7. Discussed communication with congregation about status of Assistant Minister Fund.
8. Reported on Lindsay's efforts to call "vanished members."
9. Reported on Board's progress on October goals.
10. Tabled discussion of communication of FY2014-2015 goals with congregation in lieu of Lindsay's upcoming (September 14) sermon.

## How's Your Standing?

Do you know what it means to be "a member in good standing?" Your congregational voting privileges depend on it!

Everyone who has signed "The Book," whether recently or when Augustus Conant stood in the pulpit, is required to make a "contribution of record" at least once a year to remain a member in good standing.

Please note the key phrase "of record." That means we need to know who made the contribution! Even if you come to church regularly and put cash in the collection basket every Sunday, if the money isn't placed inside an envelope with your name on it, the church has no way of attributing that contribution to you.

Why is this important? Per Article III, Section 2 of the UUSG Bylaws, "A member will be a Voting Member if he or she has been a member for at least sixty days and has made any contribution as recorded by the Treasurer during the preceding twelve months."

Whether or not you are able to commit to a regular pledge, you are always welcome at UUSG. The difference between being a friend of the church and being a member in good standing has to do with your right to vote on congregational issues. Full participation in decisions requiring a voice vote or ballot, such as the election of the Board of Directors, requires membership in good standing. Membership in good standing requires an annual contribution of record.

It may come as a surprise to some that there is a cost to UUSG for every member carried on the books. We pay about \$17 to the UUA and \$23 to the MidAmerica Region annually for each name on our active membership rolls.

The only sure way to count our active members is to associate a record of contribution with their names. **NO SET AMOUNT IS REQUIRED.** We hope you will be as generous as your circumstances allow, but even a dollar bill in an envelope with your name on it will suffice. You will find envelopes in each pew rack. Please place your contribution in the offering basket as it passes or mail a check to the office at P.O. Box 107, Geneva, IL, 60134.

This fall, the Membership Team will send letters to members whose names still appear on our membership rolls but for whom the office has no record of contribution in the past 12 months. This mail campaign will give those who wish to maintain membership in good standing a chance to make their contribution of record before year-end. Those who have not responded to the email by November 9 will be contacted via email a second time.

If we cannot reach you after two attempts, your name will be dropped from the UUSG membership rolls as of December 31, 2014 in accordance with Article III, Section 6 of the Bylaws: "A member who has not made a contribution of record during the preceding twelve months may be dropped from the membership rolls by a vote of the Board of Directors after contacts or attempted contacts to clarify the current status of that member."

Please keep your membership in good standing by making a contribution of record if you haven't done so already! (And if you don't recall if you've a contribution recently, contact our Congregational Administrator, Katie Phillips, at [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org) or 630-232-2350 and she can look it up for you.)

## New to UUSG?

Then join us for our next "New UUs" Orientation Program, which begins on October 19 and continues for the next two Sundays. Sessions run from 12:30pm to 3:00pm.

You'll have an opportunity to discuss personal journeys, ways to get involved, the history of the church and what it means to be a member of UUSG.

You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. A light lunch is included.

We're hoping to be able to provide childcare (up to age 6); let us know if you need it and we'll let you know before the event if we're able to provide it.

Sign up in the Common Room or online at [www.uusg.org/new-uus/](http://www.uusg.org/new-uus/).



## Sweet Summer Music

Late summer was sweetened with the sharing of musical gifts, including pianist Sandra Anderson-Cordogan and her keyboard student, Quinn Welsh. Ruth Cavanaugh led an all-music service with her delightfully Brazilian-influenced trio including soprano Cynthia Spiegel and guitarist Jose Luis Posada. The trio taught us a Liberian folk tune and then brought the entire congregation in on the fun by either signing, singing, drumming, or clapping. What a treat!



Helping welcome the new church year with a buoyant, joyful sound was the UUSG Homecoming Band, featuring Andy Montgomery, Tracy Rosenkrans, John Rosenkrans, Tracey McFadden, and John Towell on lap steel and harmonica, with memorable vocal turns by Andy, John, and Tracey.

Up next was pianist Patricia Arzaga and a winning duo: Seth Prisco played guitar to accompany the lovely soprano voice of Kelly Herz.

Looking ahead, we'll be treated to a variety of vocals and music by a lineup of wonderful artists: Cynthia Spiegel, Anne Heavey, and Ruth Cavanaugh; Geoff Pynn and Amanda Bollero; Tom Zimmerman and Diane Handler; the UUSG Choir along with Tracy Rosenkrans, John Rosenkrans, and Andy Montgomery; and FUUSion, with the vocal ensemble's organizer, Lynn Fisher McCanne, pulling double-duty at the piano.

Our Music Ministry is as diverse as our individual beliefs! To share your own unique gift or provide feedback for the one-of-a-kind ministry, please reach out to Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans ([music@uusg.org](mailto:music@uusg.org)).

## AED in the Common Room

Our new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is now hanging on the west wall of the Common Room (at the north end of the room, between the windows and the armoire).



## Rescheduled: Reiki Share

The Reiki group has moved their 3rd Tuesday Reiki Share to the last Monday of the month, starting September 29. The Share begins at 7pm. Questions? Contact Jeff Stibal at [reiki@uusg.org](mailto:reiki@uusg.org).

## Learning More About...

UUSG's WOW ("Within our Walls") Team is a group of about 85 church members and friends who stand ready to lend a helping hand to anyone within our church family who might need it.

They can run errands, do light work, make meals, or perform other similar chores for an individual or a family that might not be up to doing it themselves due to a death, illness, or any other event.

Just email the Team Leaders, Glenda Peck and George Tattersfield, at [WOW@uusg.org](mailto:WOW@uusg.org) to explain the need and they will make it happen.

## Who Needs a PPG Award?

Our weekly "Promoting Practical Goodness" Award is an opportunity to recognize our fellow church members and friends for the many small ways people give of themselves at UUSG.

If you'd like to nominate someone, fill out a form on the bulletin board in the Common Room or send 1-2 sentences to Katie Phillips ([office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org)).



## Saturday Night Feverish Auction!

### Auction Donations

Please complete the form below, describing a good or service which you will donate to our auction, to be held on November 15.

Some of our most popular contributions are parties – like a Christmas Dinner in July or a Chinese dinner or a card party. Share your passions with the church. Are you a bike rider? Invite others to bid on the opportunity to join you on your favorite path with a stop for ice cream. The sky is the limit! Donate an airplane trip, a painting, a book, tickets, an hour of computer hand-holding, babysitting, show-shoveling – you name it!

Return this form to the basket at the Auction Table in the Common Room or donate an item online at [www.togetherauction.com/uusg](http://www.togetherauction.com/uusg). If you need help donating online, please contact Jean Pierce at [auctionleader@uusg.org](mailto:auctionleader@uusg.org).

### Important Dates

November 2: Preferred final date for submitting a donation form online or in the Common Room

November 9, 9am-1pm OR

November 14, 7pm-9pm: Bring donations to the church

November 15, 5pm-6:30pm: Finger food potluck and Silent Auction  
6:30pm-8:30pm: Live Auction

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a category:  Artwork/Craft  Basket  Clothing/Accessories  
 Education/Literature  Entertainment  Excursion  Food  Jewelry  
 New to You (Gently Used)  Party  Services  Technology  Tickets  
 Miscellaneous

I/we are donating the following item: \_\_\_\_\_

Description (include number of seats/places, if applicable):

Address where guests should meet (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A photo of the item is attached to this form.  I/we could accept one additional person

Estimated value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum Bid (optional): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me to help with a committee

I will bring the following type of finger food:  savory  sweet

Names and ages of children who will be participating in the nursery or the special activities and food for kids: \_\_\_\_\_

## OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Interweave Meeting 12:30 PM YRUU Habitat Parent/Student Meeting 3:00 PM Mental Health Ministry Event: Discussion on Dementia	<b>29</b> 4:00 PM Steeple Walk Planning Meeting 7:00 PM Facilities Meeting-- Proposal Review 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change)	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Geneva History Center Bell-Ringing Tour 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>1</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 8:30 AM Geneva History Center Bell-Ringing Tour 7:00 PM Emer 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>2</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	<b>3</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:30 PM FVJN Event (rooms reserved at 5:30pm)	<b>4</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>
<b>5</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group 2:00 PM Ministry on Ministries Meeting 2:00 PM Private Recital (rooms reserved 1:15-4pm)	<b>6</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM LRE Team Meeting (note date change) 7:30 PM Technology Team Meeting	<b>7</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	<b>8</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 4:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>9</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	<b>10</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM James/Scowden Wedding Rehearsal	<b>11</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 4:00 PM James/Scowden Wedding 7:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
<b>12</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:00 AM Finance Team Meeting 11:00 AM Green Sanctuary Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:15 PM Women's Retreat Planning Meeting 12:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Membership Team Meeting 12:45 PM Forum: Making a Difference in the Broader Community 12:45 PM LRE Fall Playdate for PreK - 5th Grade Families (at Island Park)	<b>13</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	<b>14</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> 9:00 AM Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors	<b>15</b> <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>16</b> Augustus H. Conant Born in 1811 <i>Congregational Administrator on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 11:00 AM Private Meeting 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group	<b>17</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 11:00 AM Private Meeting	<b>18</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM Monthly Day of Service 3:00 PM Visitation and Memorial Service for Sharon Wiese (visitation 3pm-4pm, memorial service 4pm-5pm)
<b>19</b> 8:15 AM Choir Warm-Up 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 9:45 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Team Meeting 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM "New UUs" Orientation Program 12:30 PM Atheism, Humanism, & Life Issues Study Group 7:00 PM Reiki Share	<b>20</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 7:00 PM "Bible Study for UUs" Group	<b>21</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Social Justice Team Meeting (off-site)	<b>22</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 11:30 AM The Luncheonettes (off-site) 4:00 PM Heritage Team Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>23</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM "Feel Good in the Present!" Group Meeting 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	<b>24</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 11:30 AM The Geezers Group (off-site) 6:30 PM YRUU Overnight Begins 7:00 PM Friday Flicks	<b>25</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:00 AM Music Rehearsal 9:00 AM YRUU Overnight Ends 10:00 AM Music Rehearsal 6:00 PM Harvest Supper
<b>26</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hour at 10:30 AM 11:15 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM "New UUs" Orientation Program 12:30 PM Facilities Team Meeting 12:30 PM Interweave Meeting 3:00 PM Mental Health Ministry Event	<b>27</b> <i>Senior Minister on Retreat</i> 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Reiki Share (note date change) 7:30 PM OWL Parent Meeting	<b>28</b> 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	<b>29</b> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	<b>30</b> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:30 PM Book Discussion Group: "Huckleberry Finn"	<b>31</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Church School Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 9:00 AM Private Meeting

**The Unitarian Universalist  
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**Our Staff**

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Lisa Rittenberry, *Office Assistant*

**Our Covenant**

(written in 1842)

*Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world, and of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement, we have associated ourselves together — not as agreeing in opinion, not as having attained universal truth in belief or perfection in character, but as seekers after truth and goodness.*

**Our Mission Statement**

(adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996)

*The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva is a diverse, welcoming community which endeavors to make its Covenant a living reality. We provide religious education and opportunities for spiritual growth. We encourage individual and mutual responsibility as together we work to be a liberal religious voice in the community and a force for compassionate social justice.*

**The next Pioneer deadline is October 27 at 9am.**

Guidelines for submissions are available at

[www.uusg.org/s/Pioneer-Guidelines.pdf](http://www.uusg.org/s/Pioneer-Guidelines.pdf).

Please send all articles to [office@uusg.org](mailto:office@uusg.org).