

Kairos

October 19, 2011 Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church



Our Mission: *Guided by reason and sustained by love, we are a liberal religious community inspiring people to transform our world.*

October 23, 2011

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (Choir)

Sweet Home for Whom?

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson-Doyle

Alabama recently surpassed Arizona as having the distinction of passing the most draconian anti-immigrant law in the country. What is going on? Why should Unitarian Universalists be concerned about this? Why should people who live here be concerned? And what can we do about it?

October 30, 2011

8:45 a.m & 11:00 a.m. (Choir)

Samhain

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson-Doyle

Today we celebrate one of the quarter-turnings of the year; halfway between the Fall Equinox and the Winter Solstice, we mark the harvest and the time, according to the ancients, when the veil between the world of the dead and the world of the living lifts for a night. This year, reflections on what it means to live in the cycle of celebrations and the midst of the seven directions.

Sunday Helpers

October 23, 2011, 8:45 a.m.

Ushers..... Debra & Jessica Harmon
Greeter..... Neita Webster
Coffee..... Ann & Bob Bowling
Guest Table..... Lynn Liston
Worship Associate..... Alice Enichen
Sound Tech..... Leah Krippner

Sunday Helpers

October 30, 2011, 8:45 a.m.

Ushers..... Saturday Morning Covenant Group
Greeters..... Saturday Morning Covenant Group
Coffee..... Susan Halverson
Guest Table..... David Mayhall
Worship Associate..... Youth
Sound Tech..... Allen Penticoff

Sunday Helpers

October 23, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Ushers..... Bill Smith and Cheryl Stockwell
Greeters..... Barb Smith & Sam Spillman
Coffee..... Ann & Bob Bowling
Guest Table..... Anne Marie Marshall
Worship Associate..... Alice Enichen
Sound Tech..... Leah Krippner

Sunday Helpers

October 30, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Ushers..... Saturday Morning Covenant Group
Greeters..... Saturday Morning Covenant Group
Coffee..... Monique Abernathy
Guest Table..... Marak Edlen & Chris Sims
Worship Associate..... Youth
Sound Tech..... Allen Penticoff

Church Meetings and Events



HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT

You can't get enough of some of Halloween movies, so come to church **5:30 Friday, October 28** for some fun. Popcorn and candy will be included.

Sandi Campbell, Activities Committee

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

Saturday, October 29th from 9:30a.m.-2 p.m. This class is for newcomers, visitors, and friends who are interested in getting more involved. Childcare will be provided at request. Please RSVP to the church office: office@uurockford.org or 815-398-6322.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Both your body and your mind will be well fed when you attend the **Friday, November 4** gathering at church of Food for Thought. For the mind, we'll engage in conversation with Rockford Register Star Senior Editor Chuck Sweeny. The topics are up to you. Bone up on local, state and national issues for a lively discussion.

To fortify the body for this encounter, we'll have Sharon's famous ham balls, enhanced mashed potatoes, jello salad, rolls and apple crisp. Veggie alternative available.

Reservations are needed for the noon lunch but not for the 1:00 program. The lunch tab is \$7. If you are not on a call list and wish to join us for lunch, you may reserve with Mary Ellen Haney by Sunday, October 30. (815-399-8490)

Food for Thought welcomes adults of all ages. Join in for stimulating socialization and mental exercise.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE--NPR PLEDGE TIME

It's time to support NPR (National Public Radio) by making a donation through the church in October. When you contribute this way, WNIJ (89.5 FM) and WNIU (90.5 FM) get the financial support and the church benefits by receiving PR spots on the stations. These spots let the listening audience know who we are at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford. To donate, make your check out to the church and indicate NPR in

the memo space. Then drop it in the offering basket or turn it in to the church office.

Submitted by Pam Wilson



LEAF RAKING

You still have time to get out and enjoy the fall, rest those aching muscles and help out the Boston group raise much needed funds for next year's trip. Let us rake up your yard. Contact Steven Hall at 654-0422 or steven@stevenhall.net to schedule a time.

SANCTUARY ART

The fall scene currently hanging in the front of the sanctuary is the work of a local artist: Margo Shryack-Pagh. The medium is batik. The artist characterizes the creation as a "Trickster Triptych." Triptych refers to the three panels. The "trickster" is a coyote that is not depicted, but is the cause of the one panel being fertile and the other barren.

The art work is a gift from the Eliseo family in memory of Delores Eliseo.

Church Family News

We extend our condolences to **Ivonne Spelman** and her son **Alex** on the death of Ivonne's brother, Daniel Barreiro (62), on October 5 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Daniel had idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and was waiting for a lung transplant at the Favaloro Foundation in position #1. In two months no donors came through. Ivonne and Jim ask that everyone consider being donors, since there is a shortage worldwide. Also, certain religious groups (some Christian) consider transplants "Acts of God" and discourage them amongst their congregants. This is senseless since there are many medical interventions that would then fall under this wide category. Cards are most welcome. Ivonne grieves hard since this was her "baby" brother whom she has not seen in ages.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **Nancy Kubitz** (10/22), **Billie Whitsitt** (10/23), **Francie Barnes** (10/24), **Verna Hays** (10/25), **Wendy Larson Bennett** (10/26), and **Diana Creer-Berti** (10/26)!



Matthew's Memo

There is a famous story in the Hebrew Bible about when Jacob was on a long journey and got into a wrestling match at night with a stranger. After they struggled all night, Jacob held the stranger down and would not let him go until he received a blessing. The stranger (God? An Angel?) said, "from now on you shall be known not as Jacob but as Israel." (Israel means one who strives with God.)

I re-heard this story a few weeks ago, and discussed it in the context of what it means to receive a blessing after a struggle. After we have striven for something, or been through a hard time, or worked diligently towards an end, it is good to receive a blessing. This is what things like graduations are about, but in much of our lives we don't have this formal chance.

In some other cultures, there is a strong sense of a blessing, and a re-naming, after a struggle or transition. Some cultures give a new name after coming of age, or parenthood, or after a conflict. I changed my name from Matthew to Matt when I started public school in 5th grade, and I changed it back when I started college. I changed my last name from Johnson to Johnson-Doyle when I got married. My ordination, which added "the Rev.," and my doctoral degree also changed my name in a way. These are important ways for me to remember who I am and what I've done.

If you could choose a name that would bless who you are and what you have striven for, what would it be? Has a change in your life happened that needs to be honored and blessed, so your next chapter can begin? You don't need to wait for the angel to show up and wrestle with – for what is holy is in you as much as anywhere. So go ahead, bless what has been. And renew your journey.

In faith,
Matthew

P.S. I'll be at Wesley Willow Bistro on Tuesday, October 25th at 9:00 a.m. and at Katie's Cup on Wednesday, November 2nd at 4:00 p.m. See you there!



"Te Quiero"

On May 17, 2009, the noted Uruguayan writer Mario Benedetti passed away. His life resembled the lives of many Latin American intellectuals whose political views put them at odds with the military dictatorships that flourished in their countries throughout the second half of the twentieth century. Like many of his

fellow writers, Benedetti spent part of his life in exile because of his political views. Those views find a most elegant expression in Benedetti's literary works. He excelled in all genres, but is best known as a novelist, a journalist, and a poet.

Upon Benedetti's death, one commentator made special mention of the writer's unflinching commitment to the construction of a new society, one in which all persons would live as brothers and sisters, equal under the law and in the eyes of all. This commitment is seen no more clearly than in Benedetti's poem "Te quiero" – a love poem in which the themes of romantic love and patriotic love are finely woven together. The romance of the poem is expressed in the intimacy of the manner of address and the endearing ways in which the poetic voice describes the beloved. The patriotism of the poem is seen in the things that the poetic voice admires in the beloved: working for justice, knowing how to cry out in defiance, sowing for the future.

This Sunday, the Unicantors will sing "Te quiero" as set to music by the Argentine composer Alberto Favero. I want to share with you here the refrain of the poem, as well as a couple of other short excerpts. For those of you who read Spanish, a quick Google search will produce the full text of the poem. For those of you who don't, I hope the following will help you understand and appreciate what you will hear the choir sing on Sunday. The refrain says, "Si te quiero es porque sos / mi amor mi cómplice y todo / y en la calle codo a codo / somos mucho más que dos" – roughly, "If I love you, it is because you are / my love my accomplice and my all / and in the street arm in arm / we are much more than two." The second-to-last stanza of the poem reads, "Te quiero en mi paraíso / es decir que en mi país / la gente viva feliz / aunque no tenga permiso" – roughly, "I want you in my paradise / which is to say in my country / let the people live happily / even should they not have permission to." And finally, a key phrase in the poem is the following: "Te quiero porque tu boca / sabe gritar rebeldía" – that is, "I love you because your mouth / knows how to cry out for rebellion."

The need for a cry for rebellion is not unique to Uruguay in the 1970s and 1980s. Recently in our country, those committed to social justice have focused their attention on the issue of immigration, questioning the justness of laws passed in several states that divide people into "us" and "them" as opposed to uniting all as sisters and brothers. Our services this Sunday will focus on immigration and social justice, and so Benedetti's poem seems a most appropriate musical offering for the day.

May Benedetti's call for justice be heard in all places, both here and abroad, where reverence and justice are reserved not for all, but just for a select few.

Blessings and peace for the week,
Tim

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT . . .

Because of the special congregational meeting this Sunday, October 23, at 10:00 am, the Board Forum will **not** be held this Sunday. We use the Forum to share with you whatever issues the Board is facing. At the moment, our main focus is the Fix It Quick! project. We will be voting to approve this project on Sunday so that we can proceed with the repair of the siding and the replacement of the organ speakers. Please plan to attend the meeting to vote on this important issue.

In addition to your vote, we need your financial support to raise the funds to complete these needed repairs. Please give as generously as you can. Any amount that you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

In faith,

Jan Dunham

A New Leader, Chair, or Coordinator is needed for our "Action for Children Task Force!" How About You?

About a month ago I decided that it was time to step away from the leadership position of "Action for Children." I then called each of the UUsers who had signed the Social Outreach Task Force document last spring, and asked each of these marvelous people if he/she would want to take on this leadership responsibility. All of them said that while they want to continue the work they do, they did not want to add another responsibility at this time.

Several said that they would have no problem in taking a leadership responsibility for the work each of them now does and appropriately communicating with our church leadership and members.

If you might want to take on the leadership responsibility for the Action for Children Task Force, please contact the church office at 815-398-6322 for names and contact information of current members. Then talk with them about what they do and why. And how—as the "Action for Children" leader or co-leader you would support their work, and perhaps, initiate a new activity.

I truly can tell you that you will not find a better group of people with whom to work.

In the meantime, Barbara Oehlke and I are organizing with Mary Fisher (the Director of Nurses for the Rockford Public Schools) the work to again enable we UUsers to create ice bags. Mary plans to deliver soon the bags and towels we will need to create a few thousand ice bags for the Rockford Public School teachers. Can you help?

JoAnn Shaheen

P.S. I hope that each of you understands how much I admire the time and attention, the caring and sense of responsibility you have shown to Rockford's children in your work with

Action for Children these many years. (I know that Tom joins me, too, in saying "Thank you!")

FIX IT QUICK UPDATE!

As you should know by now, the board identified some immediate and urgent facilities needs – in particular, the speakers for the organ system and the exterior siding on the building. These things need to be fixed, and we need your help. In particular, we need your money. **Please bring your checkbook to church on the 23rd and help us fund these repairs.**

We have selected Allen Organ (who made and installed the organ) to replace the speakers. This will cost \$4,900.

We have determined to repair the siding this fall and clean and re-stain it in the spring (it is too late in the season for the staining to dry well now). We think the repair work will cost about \$1,100 and the cleaning and re-staining about \$15,000.

Thus we need to raise at least \$21,000 to pay for these repairs.

This church has made a substantial investment in its music program and its building over the last 45 years. These repairs protect and extend the life of that investment. They ensure that our organ performs as it should and that our building is sound and attractive.

On Sunday, October 23rd, we will raise the money for these repairs. If you cannot come that day, please help us out by sending a check this week to the office. Thank you!

On the 23rd, at 10 a.m., we will hold a special congregational meeting to approve these expenses, as required by our bylaws. This will be the only agenda item for the meeting, and we hope it will be quick (if you have questions, please ask me, Tim, or Dave Schubert in advance!). You will be asked to vote on the following motion:

To approve the disbursement of funds from the "Fix It Quick" Fund Drive to replace 12 speakers for the Organ, to repair the exterior siding, and to re-stain the exterior siding. The money shall be spent as follows:
up to \$5,000 - replacement of organ speakers
up to \$1,500 - repair of exterior siding
up to \$20,000 - staining of exterior siding

Any funds given for this campaign which exceed the amount necessary for these repairs shall be placed in the Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund for future similar needs.

See you Sunday!
Matthew

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Upcoming Events at Womanspace

Introduction to Sacred Sound with Kelly Epperson & Jim Simmons. Wednesday, October 26; 6:30-8:30 in the Fountain View Room. Cost: \$25 (members \$20). Please register by October 24. Tibetan singing bowls have been used for centuries by people of all traditions for meditation, relaxation, music, and personal well-being. Singing bowls offer profound healing vibrations, known as Vibrational Energy Medicine. Learn the history of Tibetan and crystal bowls, plus ways that bowls can be used as a tool for stress relief. A demonstration and hands-on experimentation will be included.

Personal Travel Altars with Norm Knott and Tracy Pease for ages 14–Adult. Saturday, October 29; 9:00am-Noon in the New Dimensions Studio. Cost: \$25 (members \$20) please register by October 27. Before written history people in outlying areas, shamans and other spiritual guides used portable altars to help keep themselves and others on “track”. We will provide tote boxes that can be personalized into your very own travel haven. You may create your interior design with embellishments you and others bring for our potluck supply table (paint, lining fabrics, collage items, ephemera with personal & spiritual meaning, stones, shells, metallic paper, etc.). Then you may add your own personal touches like candles, crystals, books, statuary, prayer beads, and other meaningful things to take with you on the go. Portable altars are great for centering, focusing, meditation, or a spiritual lift when you’re in transit and upon arrival. Or you can set it up on a table in a corner of your house and let the bliss begin! Fee includes some materials.

Blackhawk Sierra Club and Natural Land Institute present An Outing to Help Rock Cut:

Prepare to Get Dirty and Help Clean Up Our State Park

Sunday, October 30, at 12 noon: Meet at the **Concessions building parking lot of Rock Cut State Park.**

Due to state budget cuts, the needs of our state parks have grown.

Besides bellyaching to the politicians (which needs to be done) Blackhawk Sierra Club and NLI are hosting a Sunday October 30 “outing” at Rock Cut, where we will learn more about our crown jewel, honor the staff and then help clean the most used areas of the park.

Pass the word that the meeting place is Sunday, Oct. 30, at 12 noon at the **Concessions building parking lot of Rock Cut State Park.**

For more information: Kim Wheeler Johnsen 815-289-1102 or email kimwjohansen@hotmail.com

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Kairos: The next issue of *Kairos* will be published on Wednesday, November 2. Please submit all articles for publication by noon on Monday, October 31. Articles can be submitted to kairos@uurockford.org.

Worship Attendance: **October 9** (8:45)-50 (11:00)-61, and **October 16** (8:45)-59 (11:00)-60

Unitarian Universalist Church

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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The *Kairos* is published bi-weekly. Articles are to be submitted by noon on the Monday before publication. Articles may be submitted by e-mailing your article to kairos@uurockford.org.

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Church Calendar at a Glance

*(Please keep in mind that the calendar changes on a daily basis and does not show outside rentals.
 To check on the availability of a date please check with the church office.)*

Thursday, October 20

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, HCR

Sunday, October 23

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Childcare, Nursery

8:45 a.m. Worship Service, S

9:45 a.m. Social Hour

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice, HCR

11:00 a.m. Worship Service, S

12:00 p.m. Social Hour

Wednesday, October 26

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting, CCR

Thursday, October 27

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, HCR

Friday, October 28

9:30 a.m. UU Mom's Group, CL

5:30 p.m. Halloween Movie Night, S

7-10 p.m. Youth Group Bonfire, Fire pit

Sunday, October 30

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Childcare, Nursery

8:45 a.m. Worship Service, S

9:45 a.m. Halloween Party! Costumes welcomed.

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice, HCR

11:00 a.m. Worship Service, S

12:00 p.m. Social Hour

S=Sanctuary, C=Chapel, DH=Deale Hall, HCR=Hotchkiss Choir Room, CCR=Caskey Conference Room, OWR=Office Work Room, CL=Connolly Library, N=Narthex, YL=Youth Lounge, WY=Whitney Young Meeting Room(1), MFMR=Margaret Fuller Meeting Room; CB=Clara Barton Meeting Room(2), EMR=Emerson Meeting Room (21), TBD = To be determined

