

## UUC VOICE

February 5th, 2010

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock

221 Dean Street, Woodstock, IL 60098(815) 338-0731 ~ office@uucofwoodstock.org

www.uucofwoodstock.org

### MESSAGE FROM PAT

After experiencing shortness of breath for several weeks, a chest X-ray and CT Scan have shown fluid from the chest cavity compressing my left lung to one-third of its normal size and a mass near the same lung. After visiting a Thoracic Surgeon at Good Shepherd Hospital, we are treating this as a serious problem, cancelled our vacation to Mexico, and are pursuing further medical steps. Part of the fluid has been aspirated and will be tested. Depending on the results a biopsy and surgery may be coming up.

Much is still to be determined but Dan and I wanted you to know ~ it took a lot to make us cancel our annual Mexico trip! This may be minor or major, and we will deal with it. For now, we don't need a thing except that you "hold us in the light," as Jim says our Quaker cousins say.

Pat

Dan and Pat Larsen

[dplarsen1073@att.net](mailto:dplarsen1073@att.net)

815/338-2234

### THANK YOU

The Help for Haiti during the last two weeks; our church has taken up a collection to help relief with the disaster in Haiti. We started with a gift of \$500 dollars from Minister's Discretionary Fund, which was followed by donations from Jim & Nan Hobart and Dan & Pat Larsen of \$250 dollars each. The congregation has generously added to this fund, so that now we are able to give a total amount of \$4839.00 dollars to the UUA/UUSC 'Fund for Haiti'. We want to thank all of our members who contributed to this fund.

### WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 7th - "Finding Happiness and Contentment"

Sujatha Peradenye of the 'Blue Lotus Temple' will be speaking. Carol Alfus will lead. This service will include a period of meditation.

February 14th - "Standing For Loving Ways"

We will have a non-traditional Valentine celebration. Rev. Jim Hobart will be speaking. The church School will perform a song. All Spirit Play children will stay with their parents in the Sanctuary until the children's story and then join the rest of the children downstairs on February 14th

February 21st - "Forgive or Give Up"

Dan will speak about the fallacy of forgiveness and the possibilities of giving up your hurt. In addition Roz Zarecky will speak about the Pagan Group.

February 28th - "A White American Looks at the Black American Experience"  
A Sermon in Observation of Black History Month. Rev. Jim Hobart will be speaking.

## PRELUDE

A while ago I heard a malapropism that prompted my loud and deep laughter. *We have to hit the wall running*, someone said. I wish I could remember the context and the speaker to give credit where credit is due. I can't. I think it is an apt description of what we want to avoid these beginning months of our ministry together at the Woodstock UU church.

We do need to hit the *ground* running. We got off to a good start last weekend. Saturday morning and afternoon about 20 of us, ministers and lay leaders, gathered with Ian Evison of the UUA's Central Midwest District staff for a start-up workshop. We spent time recreating the history of the congregation. We looked at our collective sense of who has first leadership responsibility for 14 different areas of the church life. Is it the congregation, or Dan Larsen, or Jim Hobart? We reached consensus in every area, including agreement that a couple are equal responsibilities. Then each person offered his/her sense of the priority areas. All are important. Three stood out above all the others as our collective judgment of priorities. These are: the ministerial search, stewardship and leadership development. It is interesting that these three were all seen as the congregation's first responsibility rather than either of the ministers' first responsibility. To be sure each of the ministers has support responsibilities in these areas, but the congregation has to step forward first.

During February and March everyone- all of the congregation and both ministers- will have to hit the ground running if we are to be successful in the ministerial search and stewardship. I look forward to working with you in these and other areas of church life.

I have already gotten to know a number of you well enough to remember faces, and names and roles in the church. In the coming weeks there will be opportunities for me to expand my list. Every time I am in Woodstock these opportunities begin Sunday morning. Virtually the entire life of the congregation flows into and flows out of the Sunday worship service. More than any other reason, this is why regular attendance is important for each of us. What we get out of the service is certainly one good reason to attend. An even better reason is what we each bring to our religious community when we come together, and what we together represent and what we can accomplish when we go forth. This lies at the heart of our common liberal religious faith.

James A. Hobart

## WINE AND CHOCOLATE PARTY

It's party time again! Our holiday party in December was a big success! So much in fact that we've decided to have more parties at the church this year. Think of it as an extension of the social hour!

Join us on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm-7 pm (maybe later) in the social room for a Wine and Chocolate Party! Participants are asked to bring a bottle of wine (or other beverage) and something chocolate to share. We're a group of culinary creators (or at the very least, a congregation of good taste

and resources), so let your imagination go beyond chocolate bars and cake. We'll have some tables set for socializing, set the stage for the chocolate buffet and bar. We'll provide coffee and tea (including chocolate versions) and hot chocolate for the kids.

Children are invited. If you are bringing your children, we ask that you bring a little something extra to have on the children's buffet downstairs (juice/treats). We have hired a mother/daughter team to supervise the children downstairs\*.

So come and celebrate Valentine's Day early and indulge your chocolate cravings with us on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the church office to RSVP 815-338-0731. If you have any questions about the party itself, you may contact Lora Cantele at [cantele@ameritech.net](mailto:cantele@ameritech.net) or 815-814-1444.

\*PLEASE NOTE:

We have a mother/daughter team coming to supervise the kids downstairs from 5:00 pm-7/7:30 pm. We are asking the following of the parents to make this a relaxing and enjoyable evening for all:

1) To talk with your children before leaving them with the supervisor about inappropriate language, fighting and running 2) To check in on them from time 3) To leave a donation to help offset the cost of child supervision and 4) Please be respectful of the child care window and collect your children by 7:00 pm and no later than 7:30 pm.

#### REHEARSAL CHURCH SCHOOL

The church school will conduct a rehearsal for their song on Saturday, February 13th at 9:15a.m. (We have to be done at 10:15a.m.) With Tom Steffens. We are asking that all the children attend to practice for the Feb.14th Church Service. Thank you. Any questions, please call Sam Jones 815-382-5571 [samjones@ameritech.net](mailto:samjones@ameritech.net)

#### 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

Auction2010 is coming up sooner than you think!  
SAVE THE DATE - March 6, 2010, 6 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to ensure that the auction fundraiser event on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 is a smashing success! Be a part of the fun - - a guaranteed good time!

Contact Shelly Nicholson if you are able and willing to help out with planning or can lend a hand on the day of the event (815) 322-2533 or [snichol33@hotmail.com](mailto:snichol33@hotmail.com).

Will you need your tires changed after the snow season is finally over, or want someone to clean your windows, prepare your garden beds for planting, or assemble furniture? Go ahead and create an Auction WANT AD - You describe the service and the \$\$ you will donate to the church. Chances are someone in the congregation has those skills and would be willing to do that service.

Do you have something you are willing to donate to the Auction2010 fundraiser event on March 6th 2010? You must submit a form for each donated item so we can include all the relevant information in the auction catalog.

You may turn in all forms at church office, place in the envelope on the board or give them to Shelly after Sunday service. Thank you!

#### NIPPERSINK NICKEL AND DIMERS OPEN REGISTRATION

Nippersink Nickel & Dimers has three open positions for socially responsible investors. If you are interested in joining us, please attend our Open Enrollment meeting on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> (downstairs in the church). You may also contact Sue Eberhardt for more information at 815-337-8137 or [sue.eberhardt@sbcglobal](mailto:sue.eberhardt@sbcglobal)

#### 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.

Film presentations;

2:00p.m. – “Bioneers”

3:00p.m. - “Tom Berry – The Great Story” a documentary

4:00p.m. - “Dirt” - The ‘Earth’ beneath our feet - protecting the ultimate natural resource

5:00p.m. – “Bioneers”

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](http://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

#### MUSIC FESTIVAL

Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening of musical talent by local musicians on Saturday, February 27th. Music starts at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a wide range of genres including: "surf guitar instrumental", pop, folk, bluegrass and much more!

Refreshments will be sold. Proceeds to benefit the Blue Lotus Temple Building fund.

Performances by:

O'Brother	Jano
Shawna Desecki	Tricia
Waves of Destruction	David Hunter
Sean & Karen Slavin	

Location: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock, 221 Dean Street, Woodstock, IL

Ticket Information:

\$10.00 Advance Purchase

\$15.00 at the door

No charge for children 10 years and younger

Mail your check to: Blue Lotus Temple, 520 Devonshire #8 Crystal Lake, IL. 60014

Or call (815) 444-8915 [mail@bluelotustemple.org](mailto:mail@bluelotustemple.org) For more information please contact: Flavia Juergensen at [fjuergensen@mydb3.com](mailto:fjuergensen@mydb3.com) or call (847) 372-4575

## YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be hosting a "Soup Day" on Sunday, March 14th which will be held in the church basement immediately after church. We will be offering an eclectic variety of soups, salad and bread for your enjoyment. Please be generous with your donations as it will be supporting an excellent cause.

We are looking for church members to donate a homemade soup to be offered that day. For soup donations please contact Janet Burns at (847) 542-7678 or at [janetrugi@yahoo.com](mailto:janetrugi@yahoo.com).

This event will serve as the first of a series of fundraisers, the proceeds of which will help fund the Youth Group's mission trip to Mexico this upcoming July. While in Mexico, our youth will participate in laying a water pipeline to a small local school and assisting with improving the living conditions of some houses in the area. This trip will be carried out in partnership with a small non-profit organization Build a Dream. If you have any questions about this project or would like to make a donation to this fund please contact the Youth Advisers, Mary Fleming at 815-814-2054 or Barb Oesterle at 815-814-2058.

## 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.

## KNITTING GROUP

Steve is forming a new small group, focused on knitting and conversation. This group open to knitters at all levels and those who would like to learn to knit. Please contact Steve Lyons at ph. 815-981-0860 [slyons00@gmail.com](mailto:slyons00@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:heathermadaus@sbcglobal.net) or at 815-509-7862.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Adult Discussion Group will meet in the Parsonage Sunday morning, February 7th, at 9:00 a.m. in the parsonage – (upstairs, due to the O.W.L. Class) to talk about Gogol's short story 'The Overcoat'. Is it a great ghost story, or could it be addressing one of the issues raised in "The Big Lebowski"? Regular discussion attendees will be emailed a copy of the story. Anyone else interested in getting a copy, please contact Don Metivier (815-334-0015).

## MEN'S GROUP

On Tuesday, February 23rd, at 6:00p.m., The Men's Group will be meeting at "Pirro's Restaurante", 228 main St (815-337-9100) across the street from the Movie Theater in the Woodstock Square.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) UPDATES

February 7th

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

February 19th and 20th

The Youth group O.W.L. program will meet at 6:00p.m. Friday at the parsonage for an overnight - until Saturday at 4:00p.m.

February 13th

There will be a rehearsal for the Valentine's Day song at 9:15a.m. on Saturday morning with Tom Steffens. We will meet in the church, upstairs until 10:15a.m.

February 14th

Joyful Journey group will meet in the parsonage from 9:00a.m.to 10:30.

The church school children will perform at the 10:45 Worship Service.

All Spirit Play children will stay with their parents in the Sanctuary until the children's story and then join the rest of the children downstairs on this Sunday.

#### OFFICE SCHEDULE

Lori Burns and Karen Stowe share in the secretarial duties at the church office. Office hours from February 8th to the 22nd.

Monday, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Lori Burns

Tuesday, all day – Janet Burns, Bookkeeper

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Lori Burns

Friday, 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

“MAY YOU BE WELL, HAPPY AND PEACEFUL”